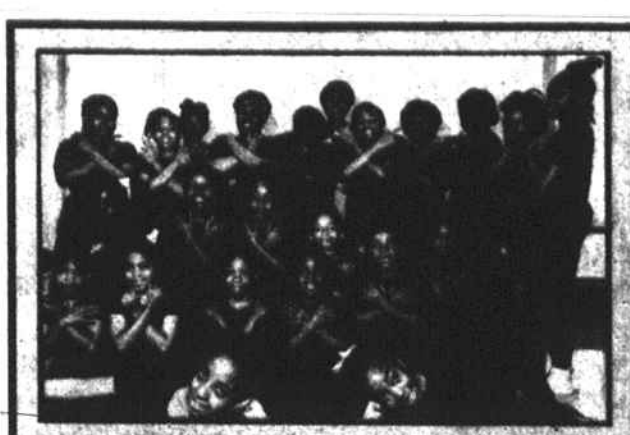




## Polished performer

Young wins gold and silver medals at gymnastics nationals.

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## Youth in motion

Young girls learn art of dance at MLK recreation center.

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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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## Rec centers to close?

▲ Budget cuts threaten to close recreation centers in black housing developments: Aldermen Newell, Womble and Malloy are furious

By SHERIDAN HILL  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Children who spend their afternoons playing table soccer and socializing at four of the city recreation centers may soon be looking for another place to hang out. Aldermen Virginia Newell, Larry Womble and Nelson Malloy hope it won't be the street.

Assistant City Manager Tom Fredericks said the city must trim its \$170 million budget, and is trying to "truly and honestly downsize the recreation program to fit the

needs of the community."

The current parks and recreation budget, excluding \$250,000 for Tanglewood Park, was \$731,550. The animal control budget is \$567,457.

The recreation centers currently being considered in the budget reduction are located in four housing developments and were given to the city by the Winston-Salem Housing Authority in 1989: Morningside, Kingston Green, North Hills, and Northampton.

Aldermen Larry Womble, Virginia Newell and Nelson Malloy argue that the

centers haven't offered aggressive programming to the community.

### Outraged and critical

"It's so sad," said Newell. "There is so little offered for these people to begin with. I've been very critical of the recreation department as it relates to blacks. If they had good programs at these places, there'd be less fallout in the street, less vagrancy, less vandalism, less drug abuse."

Womble expecting several hundred people to turn out at a neighborhood meet-

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Pictured (l-r): Derrick Davis - 13, Woodrow Wilson - 14, Tony Pettigrew - 13, and Vernon Richardson - 11, play checkers and cards at Kingston Greens Rec Center.

## Malcolm X program set

▲ Dr. Alton Pollard said forum will include community panelists and discussions surrounding Malcolm X

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE  
Chronicle Staff Writer

For many years, the quote "by any means necessary" — made by assassinated black leader Malcolm X — has been misconstrued and taken out of its original context, according to Dr. Alton Pollard, keynote speaker at the Malcolm X Day celebration scheduled this weekend.

Pollard, director of the Kemet School of Knowledge and religion professor at Wake Forest University said many people have associated the picture of Malcolm X holding a rifle, which was taken after he had received numerous threats on his life, and his quote, "by any means necessary."

The birthday celebration, free and open to the public, will begin Friday, May 15, at 7 p.m. with a film on

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### Giving back to the community!



Left to right: Awakening Giants President Rasheed Bey and Larry Branch make their presentation at Mayor Wood's office (center) as Ben Piggott and Reginald Fullard look on.

## Lost Legacy donated to rec centers

▲ Entrepreneur donates series of historical biographies of prominent blacks

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN  
Community News Editor

During the 60s, it was "Burn Baby Burn." Today, it's "Build Baby Build." That's the theme in which the local organization, The Awakening Giants, has adopted in the wake of the violence that erupted in reaction to the Rodney King verdict in Los Angeles.

To live up to that theme, the organization is working hard to increase African-American self-awareness and self-esteem in the community in the effort to promote better race relations. And it's getting help from all areas of the community.

Last Wednesday, May 6, Larry Branch, the owner of the Phillips Convenience Stores in the Happy Hill

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## Sumler, Hairston, Womble await decision

▲ After closing arguments on Monday, jury deliberates on conspiracy, extortion, and fraud charges

By SHERIDAN HILL  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Alderman Larry Womble, political consultant Rodney Sumler, and former alderman Patrick Hairston sit in a quiet courtroom, waiting for a jury to determine their guilt or innocence in the seventh week of a political corruption trial.

The jury of five whites, five blacks and one Asian, began deliberations Tuesday afternoon on charges that the three coerced businessmen to donate money to charities in exchange for favorable votes. Sumler faces 27 counts, Hairston faces 19, and Womble four.

Only Sumler and Hairston are charged with conspiracy, which is the

most serious of the charges.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Doug Cannon told the jury in his closing arguments that "Sumler is a man who has studied corruption, could teach a course on corruption, and has a notion that so long as money is not discussed in front of (then alderman) Hairston, everything else is legal."

But Sumler's attorney, John A. Dusenbury, said that no witnesses testified that Sumler ever promised that aldermen would vote a certain way if they hired him, and that there was no evidence of intimidation, "only conjecture, speculation."

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## O.F.F. manager says she won't resign

▲ Minister's Conference supports the Rev. John Mendez, who opposed the appointment of Anne MacLeod, a white female, to manage a program designed for clients who are primarily black

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Opportunities for Families Fund project manager Anne MacLeod said she has no intentions of resigning from her position, following complaints that a black should be appointed to position.

Last week, MacLeod, a white female, was named to head the program which is geared to help teenaged parents and their families — most of whom are African-American — move out of poverty.

"If I believed that an African-American was required to manage this program in order for it to be successful, I would not have applied," said MacLeod, who started the new position on Monday.

"I do believe, however, that there will

be particular parts of this program that will require African-American involvement and cultural sensitivity," she said. MacLeod said that training, which will be a major part of the program, will be handled out of the East Winston Community Development Corporation and involve African-American input. "By no means would I attempt to do that training. We will bring in African-Americans who have those skills that are necessary."

The Rev. John Mendez of Emmanuel Baptist Church spoke out last week against her appointment, stating that the program, geared to blacks, should be managed by a black.

Mendez received support from the Minister's Conference this week at its Tuesday meeting, where MacLeod, assis-

tant county manager Kevin FitzGerald, the Rev. Lee Faye Mack and Doris Bines all attended.

The conference's public affairs committee released a statement and said they are investigating Mendez' concerns.

"The conference voted to support the spirit of Dr. Mendez' concerns and appointed the committee to do a full scale investigation. We began with a face-to-face interview with Ms. Gail Burnette, an employee of the Human Relations Commission, and continued with a lengthy, in-person discussion with Marion Ackerman of the Council on the Status of Women on May 6. Our intention is to speak with as many people involved before we render a final report and plan to issue several such reports as time goes on."

The report stated that "this is not an isolated case of 'Mendez vs. O.F.F. Hundreds of black folk are tired of white so-called liberals pimping poverty in order to profit.'"

The report stated that the Minister's Conference will resist and resent any attempt to divide the black community. Two other issues brought forward were the patterns of upper to middle class white women holding executive positions over social service agencies and the lack of black men in the planning process of O.F.F. and other social service agencies.

Community activists, the Rev. Lee Faye Mack supported the appointment of MacLeod and reassured the community that African-Americans will be involved in all aspects of the project.