



Finding solutions
Community group holds meeting to discuss problems in Davie Co.
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A true legend
Local minister and community leader leaves his legacy.
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Community describes terrifying incidents

Police conduct topic of recent public forum

By Travis Mitchell
Chronicle Staff Writer

The N.C. Human Relations Commission held a public hearing that created images of police dogs attacking African-American babies, black males being preyed upon by police and a police department acting like members of Hitler's military regime, but this meeting was held August 25, 1992—not 1942.

About 300 people attended the public hearing in Winston-Salem State's Anderson Center on Tuesday. City officials including Chief Sweat (briefly) were all in attendance as citizens told the commission tales of terror, rage and bitterness. A few individuals did express support for the department, but the general feeling was one of anger. One man told the commission that he had received a citation from the city for volunteer work that he and

his wife were doing in 1991, but even that was not enough to spare him from police brutality.

"I was walking down the street one day and because of mistaken identity I was arrested," said John L. Hunter. "My arm was twisted behind my back and some muscles were torn, and because of this I have been unemployed, can't work and I have a wife and three children . . . How am I supposed to live off of \$500 a month." Hunter, a Christian who began his statements by quoting verse from the Bible, said that he was tired and angry and wanted some answers. He pulled out four bottles of medication that he was taking and said that although he has received a letter from Chief Sweat about the incident, he has not received any monetary damages.

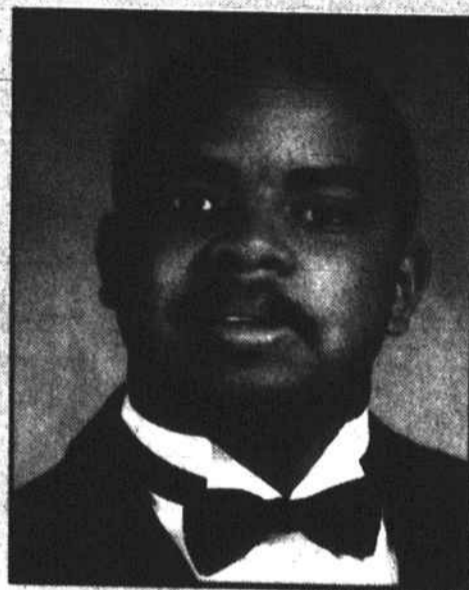
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Mentally handicapped man arrested as he took shortcut thru parking lot

By TRAVIS MITCHELL
Chronicle Staff Writer

A mentally disabled man was arrested early Tuesday morning while coming home from the grocery store.

Charles S. Sample, Jr., 24, who resides in the Little Creek Apartments was arrested around 3 a.m. Tuesday morning as he was returning to his home after purchasing a stick of butter from the 24-hour Kroger Grocery Store on Silas Creek Parkway. Sample said that he was taking a short cut across the parking lot of Hanes Mall when he was stopped by police officers and asked for identification. When he informed them that he didn't have his iden-



Charles S. Sample Jr.
Identification they accused him of trying to break in to Hanes Mall.
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Black leaders say, 'We are fed up!'

By Travis Mitchell
Chronicle Staff Writer

Members of the N.C. Human Relations Commission got an 'ear-full' from black leaders who say they are fed up with the police department's treatment of African-Americans.

Rev. John Mendez, Citizens United for Justice: "If there is racism in the police department, then that officer doesn't stop being racist when he puts on a blue suit and a badge." Alderman Nelson Malloy, North Ward: "We have in this situation a cancer that is eating away at our city — the police department." D. Smith, Urban League: "America is not a big melting pot, as long as you have racism in this country... Just as you recognize a fly in the buttermilk, you recognize me

as an individual by the pigmentation of my skin." Alderman Larry Womble, Southeast Ward: "It was not important that Ms. McKellar had the HIV virus or was a prostitute, but the important thing was that she was a human being and died in the custody of the police department." Walter Marshall, school board member: "My son is a student at Carolina and every time he comes home in his car that I bought, you (the police) stop him. Everyone you see with a Malcolm X hat turned around backwards, riding around with loud music is not a criminal." Rasheed Bey, cultural advocate: "Sweat has a diplomatic flair for turning legitimate complaints from the black community into racially motivated statements labeling them as divisive to the city."

Chief answers critics . . . on page A3

NEWS BRIEFS



Shrine Queen struts

LOUISVILLE, KY. — Janie Hollifield of Huntsville, Alabama, dressed as an Egyptian queen, leads the parade of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine in Louisville last week. The 99th annual convention ended Sunday.

Registration deadline nears

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — The deadline to register to vote for the November 3, 1992 General Election is Monday, October 5. This is the deadline for new registrations as well as for address changes.



It's finally over!

FORT DIX, N.J. — Drill Sgt. Felix Blanco quiets his platoon of recruits after graduation ceremonies for the last basic combat training class at Fort Dix, New Jersey last week. A 75-year-old tradition that began during World War I came to an end last Friday as the last class graduated.

News Briefs
Compiled from staff and AP reports

Shhh! Don't talk about McKellar or racism

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Managing Editor

(Second in a bimonthly series of interviews and commentary)

Leaders in the black community constantly decry the lack of awareness of racial problems in Winston-Salem, and have publicly condemned the actions of police that led to the death of Sheila Ann McKellar who died, bound

and gagged, in police custody July 20, and the subsequent cover-up.

But what does the white leadership say?

Ed Pleasants, owner of Pleasants hardware, president of the Winston-Salem Rotary Club and husband of Northwest Ward Alderman Nancy Pleasants, dodged the question by saying, "I am in a unique position. My spouse is an alderman, and I have to be very careful that I don't step in her domain. I am as

anxious as the *Chronicle* to see a better way of solving problems, and I have some ideas, but I can't go into it."

David Neill, 31, owner of Bob Neill Inc. auto dealership, said he feared commenting because he might be misunderstood. He did say that, "If Winston-Salem is going to move forward, race relations have got to improve. I learned that in Leadership Winston-Salem." Neill described Leadership Winston-Salem as, "the greatest thing that ever

happened to me regarding sensitivity and race relations. I also went through the Share a Ride program with the police department, too, and it was the most unbelievable experience of my life."

Speaking about McKellar's death and preferring not to be quoted, one white male who runs a highly successful business ventured to say, "I happen to know Chief Sweat, and I think that will

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Sumler, Hairston, Mack appeal sentences

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Managing Editor

Appeals have been filed for three local leaders sentenced two weeks ago to prison terms for political corruption.

Political consultant Rodney Sumler has appealed his 70-month prison sentence for extortion and related

charges.

"I'm going to continue to fight until my innocence is proven and my reputation is cleared," said Sumler. He maintains that a tremendous amount of evidence that would have proved him innocent was not submitted.

"They took my records in 1989 and required that an attorney be present before I could look at my

records, but I couldn't afford to pay \$100 every time I wanted to see them." He says his records still have not been returned.

Sumler said his testimony suffered because "I was never prepared to testify, I was on the witness stand for five days, my attorney kept me up all night one night. I tried to be cautious and they tried to show me in the

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Morningside Center stays open . . . for now

▲ Neighborhood children say center is needed

By TRAVIS MITCHELL
Chronicle Staff Writer

Some use it as a meeting place, some use it for fun, some use it for 'something to do' and others use it just to 'chill', but soon the doors at the Morningside Neighborhood Center may be padlocked.

"If the center stays open then all the people in the center won't be on the street causing trouble," said 14-year-old April Penn, a Glenn High School freshman who frequently visits the center.

The Morningside Neighborhood Center was scheduled to close last Friday, because the Board of Aldermen did not appropriate funding to continue operation past September, according to city authorities.

The center was originally the property of the Winston-Salem Housing Authority (WSHA), but in 1987 the Housing Authority decided to turn over operation to the city.

"The housing authorities were the

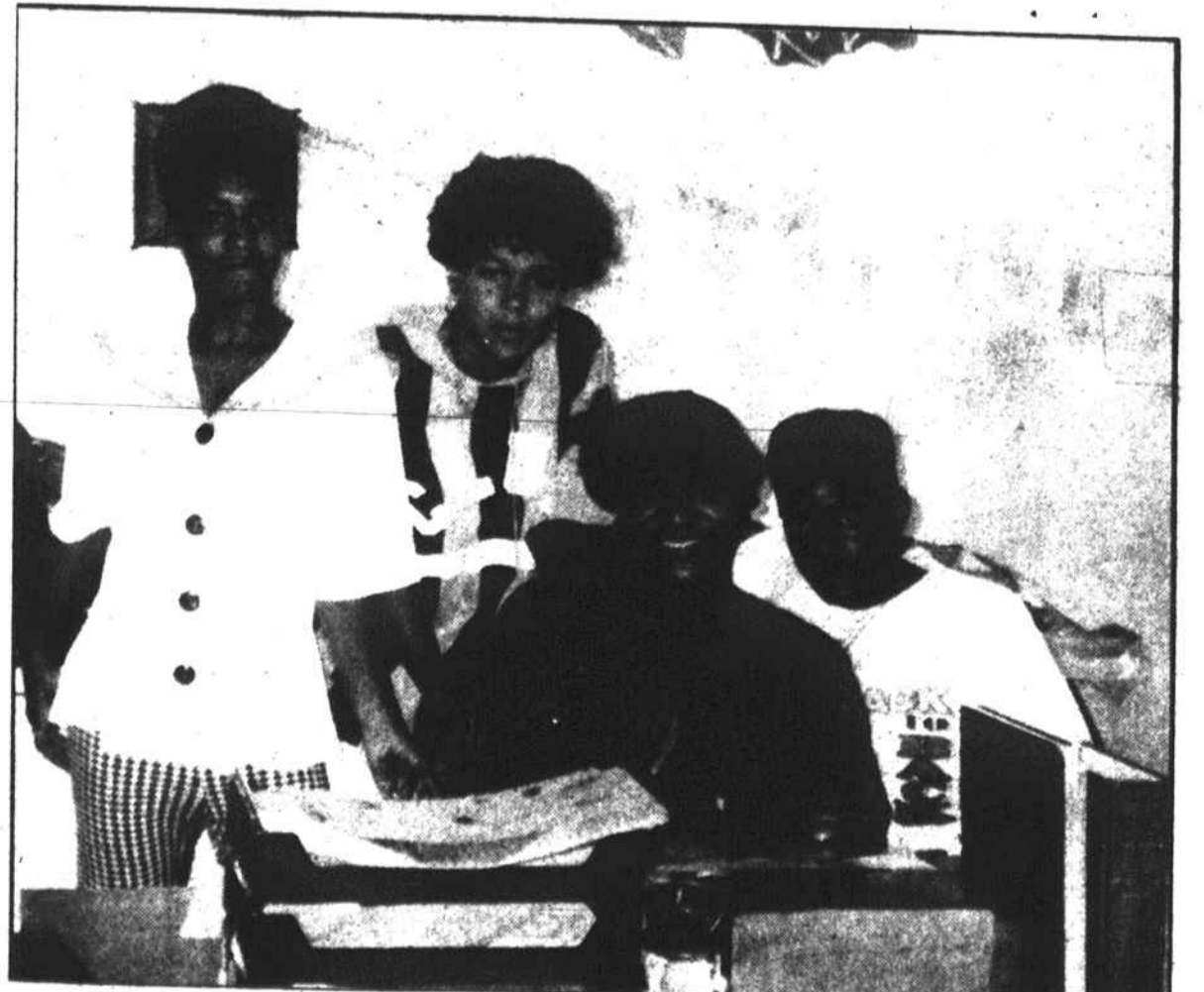
original owners until 1987 and as a part of the agreement with the city," said Winston-Salem Parks and Recreation Director Nick Jamison, "they wanted the option of first refusal (option of continuing the lease)." Southeast Ward Alderman Larry Womble said that he called Housing Authority Director Art Milligan, to see if he could intervene.

Womble also told the *Chronicle* that he would work closely with other city officials to see that the center remains open.

"It's ours (the center)," said Jackie Till President of the Morningside Neighborhood Association, "and we won't let them take it."

According to June Leake, an assistant director of the Housing Authority, the administration has decided to grant the center a 30-day extension at the end of which they will review the attendance numbers and decide the center's fate, but the center's director, Sharon Frazier says

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Morningside Center supporters say they won't let center close. Pictured (l-r) are Brenda Yates, April Penn, Sharon Frazier, and Coni Brown.