



### Top Performance

Two out of three ain't bad! Central State wins NAIA Division 1 again.

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### Deep Thinker

Youth forum explored stereotypes and challenges faced by black teens.

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## Bethania Land Ownership Is Contested By Speaks' Lawyer

▲ Dawson says his client owns most of Byers' land

By SHERIDAN HILL  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

A local attorney has taken issue with a Dec. 3 Chronicle article about a black family whose land ownership is being disputed.

Clay Dawson represents Winifred Speaks, who says she owns most of the land Betty Conrad Byers has lived on for 71 years.

Dawson said the article made it appear that Byers and her son, Ali Shabaaz, were victimized because they are black.

"Poor black people are victimized, but this man (Shabaaz) is using that as a cloak," Dawson said. "In this case, Mrs. Speaks has had her rights taken from her, and that has diminished all of us. Whether it's Mrs. Speaks or Mrs. Byers, we all have the same rights."

Speaks says Byers' driveway runs through her lot in Wedgewood Estates development. Speaks says she owns most of the two acres that Byers believes Byers owns.

Clay Dawson, Speaks' attorney, said there is no question about his client's ownership.

"The plain fact of the matter is Mrs. Speaks has a clear and superior title to the property. Mrs. Byers probably owns two acres. They're just not the same two acres Mrs. Speaks owns."

Forsyth County deeds show Byers' title dates back to 1910. But Dawson said Stokes County records prove Speaks' ownership predates Byers' title. He said he researched Speaks' title back to the 1860s, when the land was then in Stokes County.

Keith Tart, an attorney with Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice, said he began representing Byers in

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(l-r) Sgt. S.A. Hairston, Ofc. P.P. Thomas, and Ofc. T.B. Wilson put the finishing touches on toys they have collected. Just like Santa, officers will deliver their toys to children on Christmas Eve.

## Police Collect Truckload Of Toys For Christmas Eve Delivery

By SHERIDAN HILL  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Santa Claus will be a black man in a blue suit this year for many children.

Winston-Salem police have collected a truckload of new and slightly used toys for area children and will deliver them on Christmas Eve.

Sgt. Steve Hairston, supervisor of the foot patrol in Cleveland Avenue Homes, coordinated the project along with two other foot patrol supervisors: Sgt. K. B. Leonard (Happy Hill Gardens), and senior police officer B.F. Beans (Kimberly Park).

Since Dec. 2, the foot patrols have been cleaning

and repairing toys. Hairston said the foot patrol officers get to know their neighborhoods and see firsthand the needs there.

"We see a lot of people who would not be able to enjoy Christmas like a lot of people do," Hairston said. "We're gonna' make a lot of families happy this Christmas."

Hairston emphasized that the toys are not just for children in the three housing developments, where he and the other two officers work.

"We got a truckload of toys, and on Dec. 24, we're going to deliver them all over the city." He said he is still taking names of families and children to whom they can donate the toys.

## Danek Denies Race a Factor in Appointment

▲ Walsler wants his job in Winston-Salem back

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Recent developments involving a dismissal, a demotion and allegations of racism have produced vacancies in the top two positions at Forsyth County's Juvenile Services.

Although two of the three men responsible for filling those positions disagree on a timetable, the back room process for appointing the candidates is already underway. An interim chief of Juvenile Services, who is white, is on the job. The other position, supervisor of court counselors, will likely remain vacant until the top job is permanently filled, said a court administrator.

The Chronicle reported on Sept. 17 ("Officials say Black Youth Trapped") that each of the 11 counselors in Juvenile Services handles about 50 cases. Out of the 628 cases under supervision by the court counselors, over half - 372 - involve black youths.

One of those interested in the top job of chief court counselor is Dave Speas, a juvenile court counselor with 16 years of experience. Speas is black.

"I have applied for the position and consider myself well-qualified for it," said Speas, who has a masters degree in guidance counseling from A&T State University. Speas is the senior staff member. The staff has no supervisor. He said he wasn't sure of his chances, and didn't know much about the process because "this situation hasn't arisen before."

The vacancies did not occur during Speas' tenure because the Rev. Horace Walsler held the supervisory position and at times served as acting chief throughout most of the reverend's 26 years with Juvenile Services.

Walsler was demoted in late August from supervisor to court counselor and transferred to Lexington because of rules he was accused of violating. Shortly before his demotion, which still "burns" him up, Jim

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## ON THE AVANT GARDE BY TANG NIVRI

### Done Anything For Me Lately?

All of us sometimes lapse into the mind of believing that we deserve to be where we are in life because of something that we have done.

We drive the kind of car we drive, live in the house we live or wear the clothes we wear because we have worked for these things. It was we who sweated the necessary bullets to get that promotion, to win the account, or land that big job. We know what it means to be successful not only in this country - but in life itself. All it takes is hard work, a little luck, and pretty soon you've got it made. "I've got mine, now you go get yours," we murmur as we drive by the near-do-wells.

But most of us don't really deserve what we have - good or bad. Everyone I know wants to be on the plus side of the ledger. Who wouldn't? Who wants to be hungry most of the time? Who wants to wear the same pair of pants and the same shirt most of the time? Who wants to worry where to sleep tonight? Who wants to live in a drug infested neighborhood or to have to constantly choose between paying a doctor's bill or the monthly rent?

How much of where we find ourselves is purely a result of the luck of pure happenstance, hard work, or better yet, the helping hand of somebody else and the grace of God Almighty?

Some of us believe that we've actually hit a

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## Guatemalan Describes Abusive Conditions In U.S. Plants

▲ Workers make \$2 a day for twelve hours

By SHERIDAN HILL  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

To an American chief executive, a "maquiladora" is a special export factory that offers cheap labor and special tariff perks, allowing U.S. companies to compete against foreign companies.

To 30,000 Guatemalan workers, a maquiladora is a U.S.-owned sweatshop where workers, many of them teen-age girls, work 12-hour days for \$2 a day.

According to a Guatemalan woman who visited Winston-Salem last week, many of the women are sexually abused and discriminated against.

Olga Marina Rivas told of working conditions in U.S.-owned factories in Guatemala City.

Jane Albrecht, a Wake Forest professor, sat beside Rivas and interpreted her tale last week, as Rivas explained why she is attempting to organize women workers in Guatemala City.

"As women, they are discriminated against," Rivas said. "They are paid less than men. If they get pregnant, they lose their jobs. So they try not to get pregnant. That's an invasion of their privacy."

She charges that sexual abuse is common. "I know many women who were forced to have sex with their bosses," she said. "Some of them lost their jobs because they refused to have sex with their bosses."

She said most of the managers are white. Rivas, like many Guatemalans, is of mixed Spanish/Indian heritage.

Workers are not given gloves or masks or ear plugs, said Rivas. Workers suffer from insufficient ventilation and poor lighting in the maquiladoras.

The Rev. John Mendez has traveled to many Central American countries and met with Rivas while she was

here. He supported many of her statements about working conditions.

"It's a horror story in itself, what the U.S. has done in Central America. And I'm talking about what I've seen myself," he said.

Rivas said that maquiladoras are exempt from Guatemala's labor laws, leaving the workers at the mercy of the company. Because the main operation of maquiladoras is garment assembly, they are also exempt from paying most taxes.

"There is no benefit to my country," she said.

Certainly, U.S. workers whose jobs are going to

America said 30 U.S. apparel manufacturers have shifted production to Central America in the past two years. At the same time, 58 U.S. plants have shut down, and 12,000 workers have been laid off.

Rivas co-founded a group called Guatemalan Women's Group in Support of the Family. As a method of organizing the women, she visits them at home and shows them government publications that describe their rights as workers.

"They do not know they have the right to be paid the same as men for the same job," she said. "They don't know their bosses don't have the right to mistreat them."

Only about 5 percent of workers in Guatemala City are in unions. Organizing workers in the U.S. or Guatemala can result in being blacklisted - but in Guatemala it can also endanger one's life. Rivas said union leaders receive death threats from the government. Asked how they know it is the government, she answered, "Who else could it be? They are intimately related to the factory owners. I live in constant fear. But still, I go on."

During her 10-day tour, Rivas traveled across North Carolina, meeting with textile and poultry workers. In Rocky Mount, she met with Black Workers For Justice.

"They don't know their bosses don't have the right to mistreat them."

- Olga Marina Rivas



Guatemala are not benefiting from the arrangement. A 1992 report sponsored by the National Labor Committee in Support of Worker and Human Rights in Central

## Interfaith Council Active In Labor Effort

Olga Rivas' trip to the United States was sponsored by the Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America.

Several spokesmen for U.S. garment manufacturers, who asked not to be named, said the visit is a union organizing effort sponsored by Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. But Gail Thares, who founded

the interfaith group ten years ago, disagreed.

"I have no connection with labor unions here," she said. "We just figured that people like Olga should have contact with people here who are being displaced by jobs that are going to Guatemala."

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