



Winston Lake YBA

A young basketball fan and her teddy are hard to separate.

PAGE B3



Holiday Vandals

Head Start director hopes vandals leave them alone for Christmas.

PAGE A11

Winston-Salem Chronicle

75 cents

"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

VOL. XIX, No. 17



Maya Angelou

Angelou Chosen As Inaugural Poet For Clinton Ceremonies

Poet Maya Angelou has been asked by President-elect Bill Clinton to compose an inaugural poem and to recite it during the swearing-in ceremony in January.

Angelou will be the first poet to take part in a swearing-in ceremony since John F. Kennedy asked Robert Frost in 1961.

Board Gives Vote Of Confidence

▲ Griggs says he hired the wrong employee.

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Assistant Editor

The Citizens Coalition for a Better Tomorrow Board of Directors has given its executive director a vote of confidence, amid recent news reports of financial mismanagement.

The board met Sat., Dec. 19 and reviewed an audit of the agency's financial transactions for the past six months.

Khalid Griggs, executive director of Citizens Coalition, said he fired the employee who mismanaged his agency's financial records. According to police records, on Sept. 1, 1992 Griggs filed an embezzlement complaint against his former administrative assistant, Jimmie Lee Wilson.

He also said the amount of money in question is less than \$4,000, not \$30,000 as reported in a Dec. 9 *Winston-Salem Journal* article.

"It was never a large amount," Griggs said. "Our entire budget is about \$90,000."

If a third of our budget were missing, we would have had to close in August."

According to vice chair Mike Crocker, several months ago the board's preliminary look at the agency's financial records showed \$30,000 worth of checks not fully authorized. Of those, all but a few thousand dollars have been accounted for.

The Citizens Coalition is a grass-roots community agency sponsoring such programs as Hire-A-Teen. Griggs is the founding director.

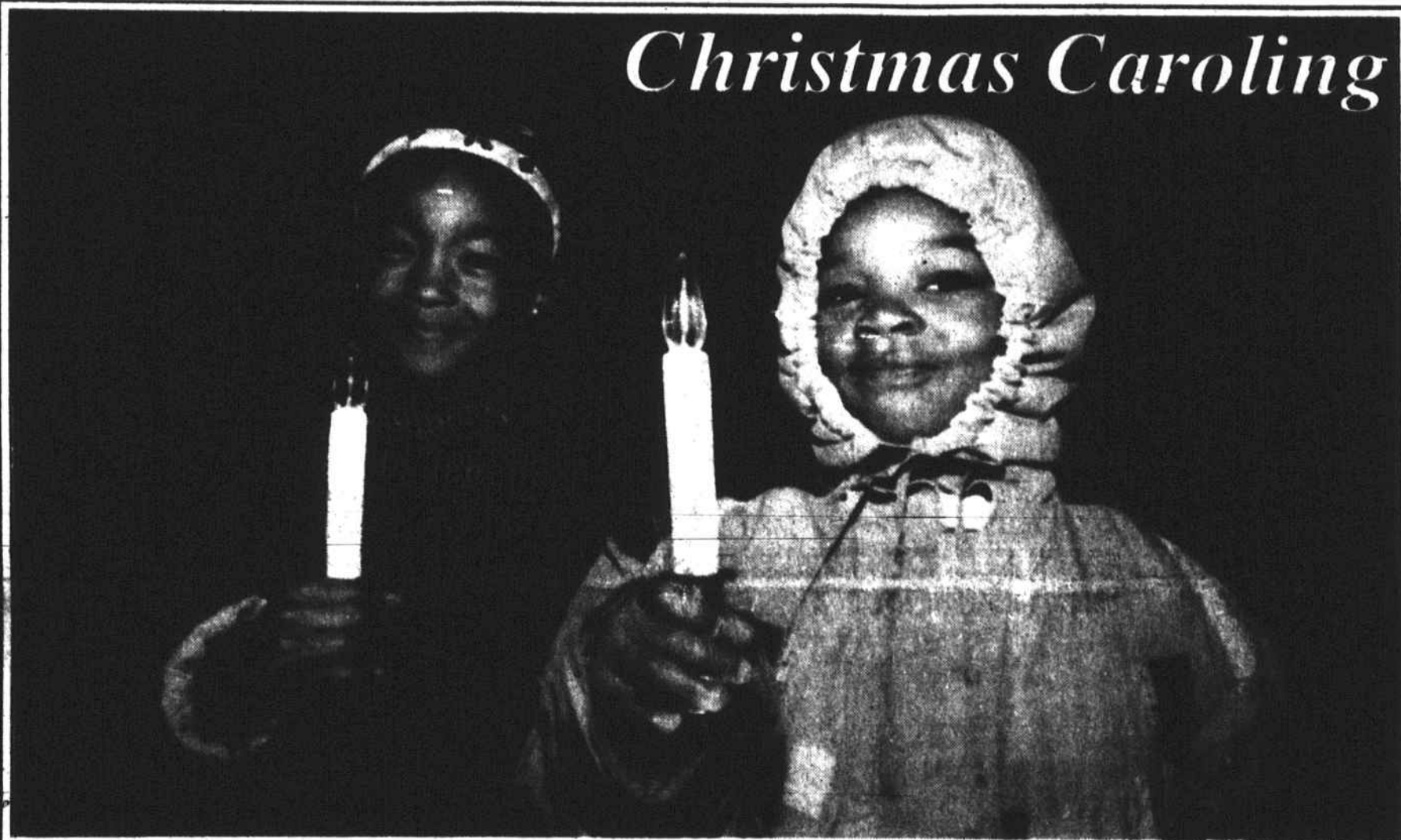
Griggs said that during Wilson's six-month tenure...

Please see page A2



Khalid Griggs

Christmas Caroling



Nefrititi and her friend Lameka Gambrel, were beacons of light as they led a group of carolers along Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in the chilly air of Sunday night. About twenty-five people sang and walked to Sunrise Towers.

Children Carry On Christmas Tradition

The way to pass on a tradition is to make sure the young get involved.

And that's exactly what happened Sunday night when about a half a dozen children showed up at the Winston Mutual Building on Fifth Street to join their elders in Christmas caroling.

The walk, which moved along Martin Luther King Blvd. and stopped at Sunrise Towers, was organized by Joycelyn Johnson, a member of the East Winston Restoration Association, and attended by two couples from the West End Association. The East Winston Community Development Corporation also sponsored the event.

"This is the fourth year we've done this and we're always happy to do it," said Johnson.

It was a chilly evening, but the weather didn't keep the smiles from everyone's faces as they walked and sang and toted battery-operated candles.

"We're just here to show our support," said Wanda Merschall, from the West End Association. She shivered, and wiped away a tear produced by the cold.

In the lobby of Sunrise Towers, the carolers, numbering about 25, sang to a sparse crowd of senior citizens such standards as "Silent Night," "Deck the Halls," and "Away In a Manger."

Outside, the carolers, led by the children, turned off their candles and dashed towards the McDonalds across the street for refreshments.

WSSU Alum Back Blount For Coach

▲ "I would hold a snake for the job," said Kermit Blount.

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Alumni and supporters at Winston-Salem State University took out a full-page advertisement in today's *Chronicle* to show their support for Kermit Blount as the school's next head football coach. Blount was a star football player at WSSU from 1976-80.

School officials, however, have already interviewed Dave Sheppard, who was once an assistant coach at WSSU but is not an alumnus of the school.

The position became available last Friday when Pete Richardson resigned to accept the head football coaching job at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La.

"We're rallying around Kermit Blount," said attorney Larry Little, a WSSU professor and the organizer of the campaign to promote Blount. "He's one of the sharpest football minds we've got, and we can't afford to let him slip away."

Blount, the offensive coordinator in the football program at South Carolina State University, said he is very much interested in the position.

Please see page A2

ON THE AVANT GARDE

BY TANG NIVRI

Colored Lights vs. White Lights!

Silent night, colored lights? Holy night, white lights? Colored lights, white lights...

It all started when my twelve-year-old son and I were putting up our outside decorations. Weeks earlier, I had purchased five sets of white Christmas lights to make our version of the "Festival of Lights."

We designed a beautiful fifty-foot Christmas tree and suspended it in mid-air from the balcony of his upstairs bedroom. We could hardly wait till dusk to see how our tree would gladden through the night.

Dusk finally fell, and we jumped in the van to have a look. It was just as we envisioned. Fantastic, as we rode around the neighborhood looking at it from different angles.

"There it is, there it is," he shouted, as he spotted it from across the valley. We were both excited to see it from such a distance.

As we headed back home, the twelve-year-old said something about the color of the lights.

"Daddy, it would be a whole lot better if the tree had colored lights. I don't like those white lights, daddy."

He was quite insistent about these colored lights.

Well, I wasn't about to let my twelve-year-old son of mine take the joy out of this wonderful Christmas creation. I proceeded to tell him that the colored lights looked cheap.

"No they don't, Daddy. They look pretty. They don't look cheap. You are supposed to have colored lights at Christmas time, Daddy."

I glanced at him, incredulous at his apostasy, and informed him that "just this afternoon, I was at Lowe's department store to buy some replacement lights, and they didn't have any more of the kind of white lights I had bought earlier."

"Sorry, sir, but all we have are the colored lights. We have lots of those."

"Why aren't people buying the colored lights?" I asked, already knowing the answer.

"Well, people don't buy those anymore because, well, look at them, they look so cheap, so cheesy."

My sentiments exactly, as the lady finally found me the last of a more expensive string of white lights.

"I don't care what the lady said. The colored lights are better."

Please see page A2

Happy Hill Store Offers More Than Food

▲ An impossible dream turns into reality.

By KAREN M. HANNON
Community News Reporter

What may have seemed like an impossible dream has come to reality in a neighborhood that continues to have hope.

After over a year of planning and hard work, workers in the Happy Hill Garden Mart convenience store opened their doors at 6 a.m. last Monday in the Happy Hill Gardens community.

By lunchtime, they had already served 100 customers.

Year-long efforts to reopen what was once a neighborhood drug-den have come to a head.

The Happy Hill Garden Mart is not your typical convenience store. Not only does it sell food, drinks, and health products; more importantly, the store is on its way to providing self-empowerment in its own community.

It is established as a non-profit business, managed by...

Please see page A2



Danelia Wright (left), a resident of the Happy Hill Gardens community who also works at the Happy Hill Garden Mart, displays the store's first dollars earned. Others pictured are (l. to r.): Angela White, assistant manager; Scott Fletcher, manager; Bessie Singletary, consultant; and Michael Jefferson, senior clerk.