



## Sharing The Joy

African-Americans are needed to visit first-time mothers.

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## Lethal Weapon

Stage and screen actor Danny Glover performs at WSSU on Jan. 28.

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## Bethania Landowners Won't Talk Now

By SHERIDAN HILL  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

A Dec. 3 *Chronicle* article about a black family in Bethania has incited conversations and arguments across town, and prompted an article in the daily paper — but the landowners themselves don't want to talk about it now.

In November, Betty Conrad Byers and her son, Ali Shabazz, told the *Chronicle* that a white landowner was forcing them to abandon the land they and their ancestors have lived on for 127 years.

Winifred Speaks, the white woman, said she was just trying to sell the land she rightfully owned.

After the Dec. 3 article was published, Speaks' attorney, K. Clay Dawson, said he felt the *Chronicle* had misrepresented the true story about the land.

Byers, 71, will not allow her attorney, Keith Tart of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, to speak with the *Chronicle*. Instead, she gave him permission to speak with the *Winston-Salem Journal*. Byers and her son then

refused to speak with the *Chronicle*.

Speaks' attorney maintains that Speaks has a clear deed to the four wooded lots that Byers says have always been used by her family. Both attorneys agree that Byers' father, William Conrad, left his heirs a clear title to a .67 acre triangular lot.

The Forsyth County Register of Deeds lists a 1900 deed to William Conrad for "2 acres, more or less." The description of the land makes its boundaries difficult to locate. There is also a 1907 deed to William Conrad for the small triangle-shaped lot on which he built a house and raised a family.

Dawson says Speaks has never claimed the land on which Byers lives, nor has she tried to use it. She is trying to sell her four lots, through which Byers has built a driveway. Dawson says Speaks is having difficulty selling her land because of Byers' driveway and the family's attitude toward prospective buyers who venture out to the property.

According to Dawson, the Byers family history is intertwined with

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Byers and her son, Ali Shabazz, refuse to speak with the *Chronicle*.



## ON THE AVANT GARDE

BY TANG NIVRI

### A Man For The Ages

They said he was 81 years old, but nobody thought he was. They said he was pastor emeritus of Mt. Zion Baptist Church where he had served for some 31 years, and still pastors at a little ol' country church in Davie County.

Kelly O.P. Goodwin stood up, like he'd done thousands of times, before a huge crowd gathered for the 13th annual WAAA celebration honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The theme was Strategies for Survival.

I sat back with my three young children, watching, listening, pondering as this grand old man stood and opened his mind's heart, opened his life's treasures and shared them with us.

Wrapped in a beautiful kente cloth; head encircled by locks of beautiful gray hair, looking down over his glasses, he spoke of the power of the mind and of slavery; what it was and what it wasn't.

He is a preacher, but his delivery was not like that of so many others who search for clever words that strain to rhyme. His message didn't stir people to run from the isles declaring, "What must I do to be saved?"

His was not the kind of message that makes people jump and shout and moan. But, in my mind, I shouted, for it was a message that only men who have lived long lives of righteousness can deliver.

Ever so gently, he reminded us to seek the truth of our being. To know ourselves. He reminded us of who we are, of the need to feed our souls and to nourish and replenish the spirit.

He admonished us to never forget the wisdom of who made us, to never lose sight of the ultimate plan for our lives, whatever it might be.

For a brief moment, it looked like the old man almost "got happy," swinging his arms back and forth, rocking in his place on the podium, smiling broadly. He was among friends.

This grand old man stood smiling before us, as one who had dedicated his life in service to others, and who knew that there was still work to be done in the fight for justice, peace and truth.

I envied him that he could stand and look out on a crowd so large, and not have to wonder if life is worth living.

It must be wonderful to walk with the grace and dignity and style of one who knows that God is certain, who is sure of himself because he knows who he is.

Perhaps his message was not so much what he said about life as in what he did with his own life.

"Just be yourself," he said. "You something, ain't you?"



John Hopper joined in the celebration of his ancestors and beat on an African drum. Hopper is a fifth-grader at Moore Alternative Elementary School.

## African Market Intrigues Students

By SHERIDAN HILL  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

The spirit of Africa came to town last week, courtesy of Diggs

Gallery at Winston-Salem State University. Students from Moore and Latham were immersed in African culture: touching sculpture, trying on robes, and eating African

dishes at an African market spread out in the auditorium of Moore Alternative Elementary School.

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## Mortgage Lending: How Banks Try To Insure Fairness

▲ NationsBank "actively looking" for branch site in East Winston

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

PART III

Just what are two of North Carolina's largest banks doing to insure that all mortgage applicants are being treated fairly?

The Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, which became law in 1975, was strengthened by Congress in 1989. It requires mortgage banks to report in detail information about the mortgage loan applications they receive.

That information includes the number of applications from African Americans, and the number that were accepted and rejected. Thanks to the HMDA law, the public now has some idea of who gets mortgage loans. Because of that information, which was reported by *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Chronicle* was able to ascertain how banks were serving their minority cus-

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tomers. The figures for Wachovia of North Carolina and NationsBank reflect room for improvement. Both banks claim that's exactly what they're doing.

Herbert Wayne, a Wachovia senior vice president and head of the mortgage unit's statewide operations, said the bank has started a neighborhood revitalization program that is targeted for low-income mortgage applicants. The bank provides a 30-year fixed rate mortgage and will finance 97 percent of the value of

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## "They Came Out To Honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

▲ "You don't have to reject King to embrace Malcolm," said Judge.

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

They marched, hundreds strong, from Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Martin Luther King Blvd. to the Benton Convention Center Monday morning to commemorate the legacy of a man who aroused the conscience of not only his own race, but of all Americans.

They gathered at the convention center to pray and celebrate, and to hear the thoughts of others on what has been done, and what needs to be done, in memory of this man who ended up giving his life because he raised the nation's conscience.

They went their separate ways an hour or so later, somewhat satiated by

the spirit and camaraderie that enveloped the huge room because of this man who refused to let America continue to turn its back on its racial problems.

That man was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the "they" were the people of Winston-Salem, whose very presence on the chilly streets and in the warm hall of the center was a statement of solidarity for what the civil rights leader left behind.

"We are here to remember a man who helped change the thinking of a whole generation," said Mutter Evans, owner and general manager of WAAA. "He preached universal love and brotherhood."

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On Jan. 18 marchers walked along Fifth Street in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday.