



Days Numbered

Is WSSU Coach Clarence "Big House" Gaines getting the support he deserves?

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Winston Lake Family YMCA and ... school junior varsity highlights inside.

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Winston-Salem Chronicle

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"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglas

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Ford Motor Company Investigates Jennings Crash



Remains of the 1992 Ford Taurus police cruiser.

▲ Widow asks 'Why car exploded'

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The manufacturer of the car that burned and killed Winston-Salem Police Officer Michael R. Jennings two weeks ago has sent investigators to probe the crash.

Officials from the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Mich., were in town this week to examine the

1992 Ford Taurus, in which Jennings, a seven-year veteran of the police department, died in a fiery crash on Jan. 29.

John Spellich, manager of corporate news for Ford Motors, would not comment on what he thought caused the car to burn. However, he said, the company routinely investigates accidents involving its automobiles.

"There's nothing unusual about us participating," he said. "We are always interested in the performance of our vehicles in a particular crash mode."

Spellich said the two investigators are from the legal department at the company's home office in Dear-

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Sonya Jennings



ON THE AVANT GARDE

BY TANG NIVRI

Anybody Going To Hell?

When I was a little boy, the man who stood in the pulpit always told me what was right and what was wrong. The preacher was God's representative on earth, and hence was responsible for leading and teaching the people the righteous ways of living.

Back in those days, the preacher didn't mind telling folks that they were going straight to Hell if they didn't repent! Many a summer's night I sat listening as the preacher — and my father was one of them — warned of the certain destruction that lay ahead, even for my youthful indiscretions!

When I was a child, it was expected that preachers would speak out on moral issues. They were expected to stand up and quote from the Bible, proclaiming bravely, "Thus saith the Lord."

Preachers were quick to talk about the sin of shacking up, the sin of fornication and premarital sex. The church and the preacher were the moral authority on personal conduct.

But such is not the case today.

These days, most preachers don't bother too much with telling folks that they are going to Hell. Preachers who bellow hell-fire and brimstone are considered out of touch with the times. Folks just don't want to hear it.

Besides, it creates bad public relations. You can hardly recruit people to join if the preacher is going to spend his time talking about God's judgment instead of His love.

Not that people don't believe in Hell anymore. It's just that they don't think they are the ones who are going.

Just a Hired Hand

For many churches, the preacher has become no more than another hired hand to be fired when the congregation gets good and ready.

He is the same as a mere accountant, plumber, carpenter, technician, hired to perform a service. He or she is hired to baptize us when we confess our sins. Counsel and pray with us when things go wrong in our lives. Marry us when we fall in love and bury us when we die.

This is how many of us view our pastors, priests, bishops and preachers. No longer do we look to them for moral guidance. No longer do we turn to them as the moral compass.

While moral issues burn

The church has run aground on the unholly shore of neutrality and evasion. Instead of addressing the burning moral issues of our day, the church has faded from view, out of sight, silent, its once-proud virulent voice stilled by hypocrisy, indifference and fear.

This silence is particularly evident on questions of homosexuality and other alternative lifestyles. Many people are having a great deal of difficulty coming to grips with the thorny issue of homosexuality and same-sex

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Author Defends Neglect Of Black Community

▲ "Living in Winston-Salem" Is the book for whites only?

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

A lawyer and former state legislator who has authored a book about the city of Winston-Salem defends his omission of East Winston.

knew there were things that I left out."

The book, "Living in Winston-Salem: A Guide to the Heritage, Traditions, and Daily Life of a Southern Community," has sold nearly 4,000 copies. Winston-Salem Magazine published the 97-page volume.

'Black professionals tend to live in the Carver Road area ... and have created handsome, elegantly maintained neighborhoods.'

— Excerpt

which contains photos of scenes and sights and cultural happenings that were taken mostly on the west side of U.S. 52.

Such institutions as the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, the Delta Fine Arts Center and The Diggs Gallery were not mentioned in this best-

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"You're entirely right," the book's author Hamilton C. Horton Jr. said when told that his book neglects discussion of the black community. "I was conscious of that, but I had to write about what I knew. I

Howard Joins WSSU, Coliseum Reorganizes

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Callers to the Albert H. Anderson Conference Center might be surprised to find Ike Howard's voice on the end of the line.

After 23 years with the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum and M.C. Benton Convention Center, Isaac L. Howard left the city payroll Jan. 11 to direct the Anderson Center at Winston-Salem State University.

Howard wouldn't say how long he had been looking for another job. When coliseum and convention center operations were reorganized late in January, Rex Bowman and Ivy Steward were named to Howard's position.

"I wasn't fired," Howard said. "It was time to move on. I've seen a lot of growth at the coliseum and convention center. I needed to make a career move."

Fannie Williams, the former director of the Anderson Center, is now director

of institutional projects for Winston-Salem State University.

Blanche Carter, public affairs director for the university, said she did not know Howard had been hired until he called her and told her so.

During his 23 years with the city, Howard's responsibilities included overseeing all operations for the coliseum, directing operations for the Ernie Shore baseball field, and ice operations at the coliseum.

Howard was fired from his position as assistant director of operations for the coliseum in October 1991. Several weeks later, he was rehired as events coordinator for the convention center.

"I like what I'm doing here for the university," Howard said. "Aside from administration, I'm working on promotions, bookings, community coordination of the center and university coordination of the center."



Principal Dan Piggott says most people don't know how well behaved his students are. "People think students are throwing bricks out here," he said.

Students Get One Last Chance At Independence

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Assistant Editor

10 to 1.

For some students, Independence High is the last stop before dropping out of school altogether. For others, it's the best deal they were ever offered: A chance to get the academic and emotional support they have long needed. The student-to-teacher ratio is

Students who come to Independence have not succeeded in regular school for a variety of reasons. Some have already dropped out, some are on the verge of dropping out. Some of the girls are pregnant or parenting. Many students are learning disabled. There are varying degrees of behavior problems; one

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Former Coliseum Employee Ike Howard

He is excited about the current expansions at WSSU, including completion of an ultra-modern student residential hall complex that will house 400 students. The new building is next to the Anderson Center and is part of the university's master plan to expand westward.

"The university is one of the greatest things happening," he said. "There's real growth here. Our teleconference center can connect you with anyone in the world."

Leaders Protest Firing Of Black Exec

A chorus of protests expressing resentment, bitterness and possible threats of boycott have been flooding the executive offices of the Phillip Morris Companies Inc., Park Avenue in New York City recently because of the company's firing of one of its most visible employees, Allene S. Roberts, after more than 25 years of service.

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators in a strongly-worded resolution adopted at its 16th annual convention in New Orleans last weekend and sent to Phillip Morris corporate executives, stated that it "joins with other organizations and individuals in strongly supporting Roberts, an individual of recognized honesty, integrity and commitment, who has consistently worked in the best interest of American and all Americans, to fight against the unwise, unthoughtful, unjust and racist actions that confront African Americans in all arenas."

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