

MIKE TYSON

COURT RULES AGAINST FORMER HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP NATIONAL

BISON BOUND

SOCCER STAR HEADED FOR HOWARD UNIVERSITY SPORTS

Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Choice for African-American News and Information

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

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Committee to Study Ways to Enhance Liberty St.

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

A few years back, Patterson Avenue was a shining example of black business pride. But today, the many black-owned shops that dominated the area have dissipated, leaving a row of unsightly vacant and boarded-up structures.

An advisory committee of mostly African-American business owners is taking steps to ensure that the Liberty Street business district does not meet the same

fate. It will begin meeting with city and county officials next week to discuss ways to improve the appearance of Liberty Street from Twelfth Street to Seventh Street.

The Liberty Street Corridor Study Citizens' Advisory Committee will hold an orientation meeting Tuesday at the Agriculture Building on Fairchild Drive. About a month later, on April 12, it will meet to identify problems and opportunities that exist in the area and to establish goals and objectives for dealing with both.

"Liberty Street is a major corridor to downtown and it's unpleasant looking," East Ward Alderman Joycelyn

Johnson said. "As you come downtown at any other major corridor, you feel comfortable. But this one needs attention."

"We want to make it more aesthetically pleasing," she said. Johnson said the other intent of the committee is to make sure that African-American business communities are preserved.

She said she does not want Liberty Street to end up like Patterson Avenue. She also cited Fourteenth Street, which was once a vibrant residential area, but now has a lot of seedy vacant houses, many of which are not struc-

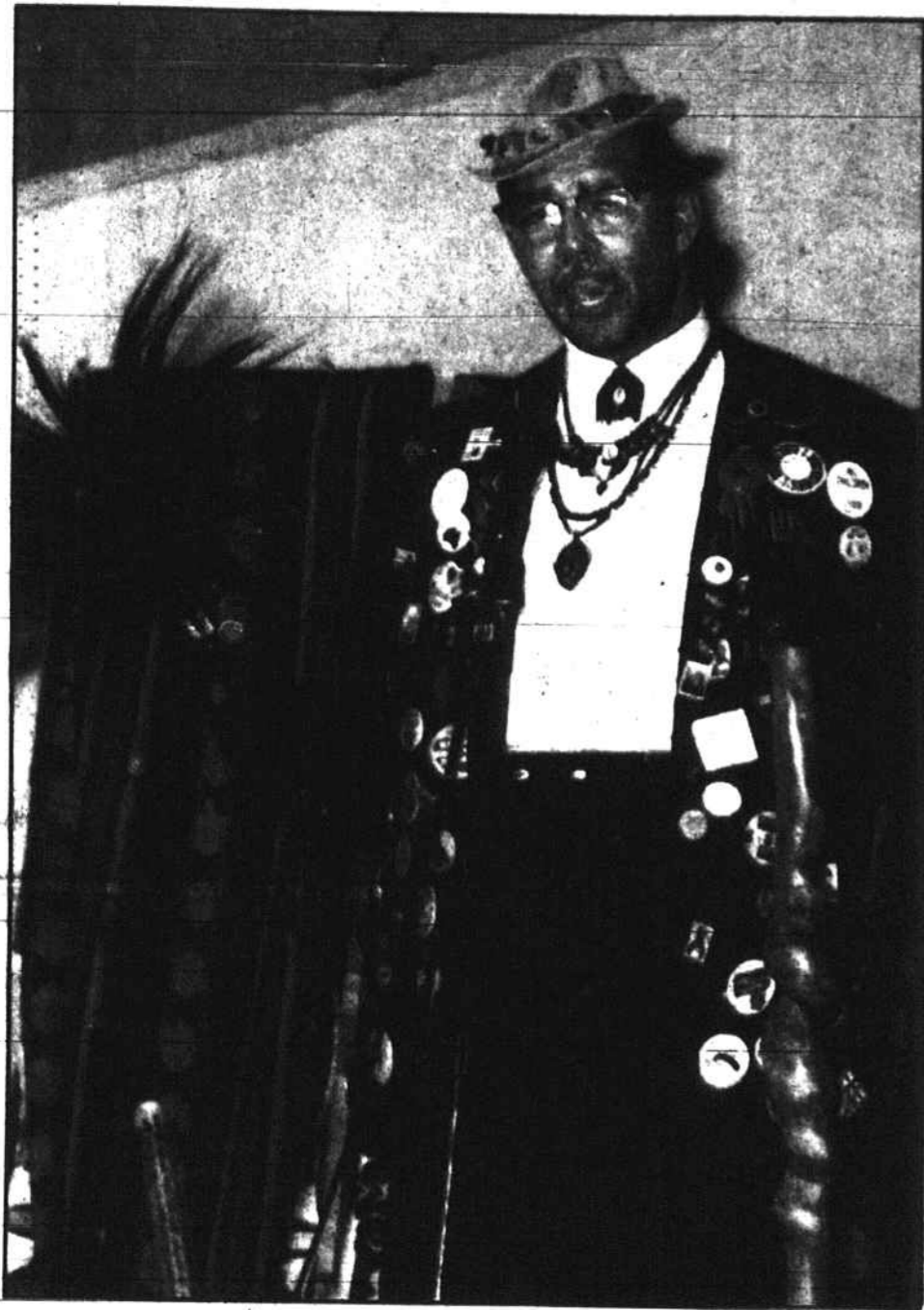
turally sound and are boarded up.

Johnson said that by giving Liberty Street a facelift now, the community will be sustained in the future. Improvements, she said, will also attract other service-oriented businesses to the area.

"We can't continue losing communities," she said.

Judy Hunt, principal planner with the City-County Planning Board, said there are both problems and opportunities in the area.

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Gran' Daddy Junebug entertains audience Saturday night.

It's Like Winning The "Nobel Prize"

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Among the highlights at the 11th Annual Winston-Salem Chronicle Awards Banquet Saturday night were the moral tales told by storyteller Gran' Daddy Junebug, the rhythmic gyrations of the Otesha Creative Arts ensemble and a defining speech delivered by the Chronicle's publisher.

But perhaps the least expected and cutest highlight of the evening was Loretta C. Biggs' acceptance speech for being named co-winner of the Woman of the Year award. Biggs, announcing that her voice was throttled by the flu, turned the microphone over to her daughter, Jahmela, 13, who earned a standing ovation after she read — with the assuredness of a grown-up — her mother's thank-you speech.

The event, held at the Anderson Center at Winston-Salem State Univer-

Review Draws "Whiteface" Protest

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Dressed in early 1900s attire with their faces painted white, 11 members of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company marched outside of the Winston-Salem Journal last week to protest a review written about recent plays the group performed in whiteface.

Larry Leon Hamlin, artistic director of the Company said the protest was held to protest because a review of the two plays, "Old Judge Mose is Dead" and "A Day of

Absence", by Journal arts reporter Roger Moore was insensitive if not outright racist.

"I hope he was not being racist. I would like to think that he's just naive," Hamlin said. "He has the right to write what he wants and we also have the right to respond to it."

Joe Goodman, managing editor of the Journal, said the review sparked a "healthy debate" and that the paper stands behind Moore's review.

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Cast members of "Days of Absence" and "Old Judge Mose is Dead" protest a recent review by Journal arts reporter Roger Moore.



Photos by Mike Cunningham

sity, opened with the foot-tapping drum beats from Otesha, who offer as authentic a taste of Africa as one can perhaps get from non-native Africans.

The banquet's tone was set by the Chronicle's publisher, Ernest H. Pitt, whose speech laid out what the banquet and the newspaper are all about.

"These (the honorees) are people who have dedicated themselves to turning the tide, to making a difference," said Pitt, who like at least half of the crowd was dressed in African garb.

"Tonight's honorees are newsmakers and movers and shakers. They are leaders and legends — luminaries who let their lights shine as beacons for us all. For their tireless efforts, they deserve much more praise than we could ever heap on them in one short evening."

Although the stories, the issues and the personalities continually change, our mission remains constant — to paint a true picture of the African-American community," he said. "We aim to inform and inspire . . . to enlighten and encourage. We strive to provoke thought and, when necessary, to challenge the status quo. In so doing, we sometimes act as a catalyst for change. Most importantly, we give African-American citizens a voice in the community."

Pitt also paid homage to African Americans' "long history of communicating."

"We at the Chronicle . . . take pride in carrying on this tradition. The tradition of the drummers who have captured the rhythm of life since ancient times. The tradition of African griots, who are not only storytellers, but keepers of history."

Gran' Daddy Junebug, alias Mitch Capel, appears to be following in the long tradition of those griots.

Capel, who is actually 39, but portrays a man more than twice that age, took to the stage wearing a rumpled hat, an old sport coat covered in message buttons and a long walking stick.

He told humorous, moral tales in rhyming verse. Accompanying the stories were such sayings as "Stand for something or you'll fall for anything." And, "Shucking it off and stomping it down," which was the moral ditty for a story about a stubborn mule and a farmer.

Several people were honored, including the Man and co-Women of the

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Woodruff: Legacy Incomplete Until Black Male Groomed for Board

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

For years, Mazie Woodruff has helped direct young blacks toward political positions, and now she wants a young black male to sit on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

"I'm running for another term and when it's over, I want a young black male to be ready," she said. "There hasn't been a black man on that board and we must push them."

Woodruff, a three-term incumbent who has served on the board off and on since 1976, was elected vice chairman of

the board in December and has taken a stronger role since Chairman Wayne Willard announced that he will retire after his current term expires.

Woodruff, of 420 Bacon St., has lived in the Boston/Kimberly area of East Winston her entire life, and growing up there introduced her to politics.

At the age of 18, Woodruff became politically motivated by noticing inadequate facilities in the neighborhoods. She graduated from Atkins High School and skipped college to take care of her family. As a young mother, she joined with other women in the community who wanted playgrounds for their children.

"I would always ask questions about everything," she said. "I saw the other mothers in the city and they would go asking (the city) for this and that, and slowly they would get it and so I said I'm going to be a part of this."

As a member of the local National Council of Negro Women, she was busy trying to find someone to run for city council — and she was their choice. In 1976, she won a seat on the commission and also was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

Woodruff was attracted to the board of county commissioners because it over-

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Mazie Woodruff

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THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

March 9, 1961, Clifton R. Wharton sworn in as ambassador to Norway. March 9, 1963, Carl T. Rowan named ambassador to Finland.

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