

THE BELL CURVE
WE GON' BEE ALRIGHT... THEY THINK WE BEE CRAZY!
BILL TURNER

STYLIN'
EBONY FASHION FAIR TO SHOWCASE LATEST TRENDS
INSERT

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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Some Board Members Not Seen CDC Audit

▲ Board names former CDC auditor David C. Hinton as bookkeeper; says organization now on track

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
 Chronicle Executive Editor

Three months after the completion of a financial audit of the East Winston Community Development Corp., several members of the organization's board of directors still have not been made privy to the report.

Several board members who were contacted this week said they have not seen the

audit, and one of them said if he had seen it, he would not know what he was looking at.

Robert Greer said he was told at the organization's three-day retreat in Atlantic Beach nearly a month ago that the audit would be available upon return to Winston-Salem. He said he is yet to receive one, and it matters little to him.

"If someone was to stand there with

that sheet and explain it to me, I still wouldn't know what I'm looking at," said Greer, who said he has been on the board for two years. "We have accountants and CRAs who take care of that kind of thing."

"I'm on the board because if they want to know something about what's going on in the street, they come to me."

Greer is a founding member of Black

Men and Women Against Crime, a grassroots organization that tries to combat crime among the city's youth.

Greer said the CDC is one of many community agencies that, when working together, can bring about a change in eastern Winston-Salem.

Some of the board members said they felt comfortable not seeing the audit, since

the CDC's executive and finance committees have studied the report.

Joycelyn Johnson, an original board member since the CDC was formed, said she, too, had not seen the audit. Johnson, a city alderman, said she is not that concerned about it because the organization's finance

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"We don't want to be looked at as a country club Y, but a family Y."

On The Move

By VERONICA CLEMONS
 Chronicle Staff Writer

John Singleton says he enjoys going to the Winston Lake Family YMCA because he is able to see friends and co-workers there and because Winston Lake has a family-type atmosphere.

"Winston Lake is more of a homey, cozy, family-type Y," said Singleton, the public communications manager at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Singleton, who also enjoys his Thursday evening aerobics class, will now have the opportunity to make new friends as the YMCA over the past 30 days has added 123 new members during a membership drive campaign.

The campaign ended on Oct. 19, but special incentives are continuing until the end of the month in order for the Y to reach its goal of 125 new members.

In addition to not having to pay the \$25 membership fee, new members also receive a YMCA T-shirt and a neon-colored YMCA water bottle.

Whether those new people joined because of the Y's family-oriented atmosphere or because the new membership fee has been waived during the drive doesn't matter. Y officials welcome them any way.

Before this year, membership drives consisted of simply inviting people to the YMCA. But during this month's campaign, Y officials got more personal.

"This time the membership campaign solicited recruiters who worked to bring people in to achieve the membership goal," said Marcellette Orange, the Y's executive director. "This has worked real well."

Michael Suggs, chairman of the Y's membership campaign committee, said the waived membership fee prompted a lot of people to join.

"We found a lot of people feel they need to work out or need an incentive to work out," he said. "It's the kind of thing they just put off. We felt the fall was a good time to do it because summer is ending and there are going to be fewer

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Leading the membership drive: Michael Suggs (left), Marcellette Orange (center) and Larry Butler (right). Also pictured: Michael McIntyre (2nd from left) and William Misenheimer.

Sheriff Candidate Linked To Group With Racist Ties

By DAVID L. DILLARD
 Chronicle Staff Writer

Forsyth County Sheriff candidate Joseph H. Pitts says his membership in the state militia wouldn't stop him from being a fair officer to minorities.

Pitts is a captain in the Winston-Salem regiment of militia. A controversy ignited by racist rhetoric swirled around the organization and led to the dismissal of its leader, Brig. General Henry B. "Bo" Thorpe, in 1992 for disparaging and racial remarks against blacks.

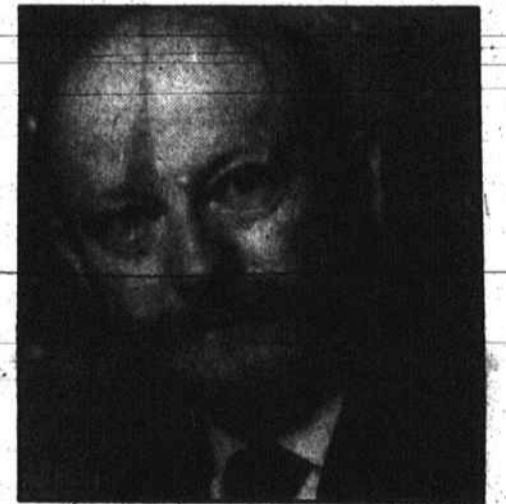
Defending the organization, Pitts said the regiment in Charlotte was infiltrated by nearly 20 white supremacists who were later dismissed. He also said the controversy continued when Ku Klux Klan members imitated the militia's uniforms in the Western part of the state.

Pitts said the militia is not a white supremacist organization and never has been.

"The militia is an all-volunteer unit that helps out in times of emergency," he said. "We're part of the state government. They try to inject race into the campaign and I think that's despicable."

The N.C. State Defense Militia, an all-volunteer, non-paid force, was reactivated by Gov. Jim Martin in 1988 to protect North Carolinians in the absence of the U.S. National Guard. The militia is made up of veterans who assist the guard in times of national emergencies, natural disasters and other crime control functions.

Thorpe, a professional big-band leader from Rocky Mount, was removed as leader of the 681-



Joseph H. Pitts

member paramilitary force by Martin after allegedly making racist remarks during one of his performances at a Rocky Mount country club.

Pitts joined in 1988 and said he has been an inactive member since 1990.

He defends the militia as being a productive, volunteer group and said the 55th regiment in Winston-Salem didn't have any racist member or condone racism.

Pitts is challenging Republican Sheriff Ron Barker in the Nov. 8 race. Barker, 60, could not be reached for comment, but Barker's administrative assistant and campaign said Pitts' belonging to the militia and the Sons of the Confederacy raises serious questions.

"I don't know what's in a man's heart, but his membership in those two organizations is real questionable," said Robert Joyce. "I'm not a member and Sheriff Barker's not a member. An organization is proved to be made up of white supremacists and he's still a member. It puts

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This Week In Black History
 October 29, 1923
 Ramin' Wild opened at Colonial Theater, Broadway, Miller and Lyles prod. introduced Charleston to New York and the world.

Black Publishers Give Boost to Troubled NAACP

▲ Two hundred and five African-American newspapers donate a combined \$300,000 in ad space

WASHINGTON (AP) — The NAACP, caught in the throes of a fiscal crisis, got a boost from black newspaper publishers who offered \$300,000 worth of advertising space for an NAACP membership campaign.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association said last Thursday it was spurred to act by "smear tactics" in the national media's coverage of the infighting at the civil rights group.

"The majority press has been telling the country, in no uncertain terms, that something is wrong at the NAACP," said NNPA President Robert Bogle. "There is a need for the

NAACP. We as members of the NNPA need to be responsive in conveying that message."

The ad campaign began Oct. 17 and will run in 205 newspapers and will continue over the next three months. The goal is to attract enough new members to temporarily help the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's cash flow in the face of a \$3 million budget deficit.

The announcement came two days after 16 ministers, representing six religious denominations, presented the NAACP with \$20,000 and recommendations for improving the civil rights group, which is plagued with

financial problems after the ouster of Executive Director Benjamin Chavis.

Meanwhile, the NAACP's board of directors prepared for a weekend meeting to review the budget deficit and take a vote of confidence in Chairman William Gibson, who was accused in a recent column of misusing NAACP money.

Chicago Sun-Times columnist Carl Rowan contended that Gibson had "double-dipped" on reimbursements of his NAACP expense accounts. Gibson denied it.

Bogle, president and chief executive officer of The Philadelphia Tribune, said in

addition to the advertisements, NNPA newspapers plan to publish supportive editorials and feature stories about NAACP programs.

Questions about whether the NNPA's support could lead to bias in black press coverage of the NAACP is not a concern, Bogle said.

"The missions of our leading civil rights organization and of the nation's African-American newspapers are inextricably linked," he said. "Both would be well-served through a closer working relationship."

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