

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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The Choice for African-American News

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75 CENTS

"Power concedes nothing without a struggle"

WISCONSIN

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## Gore Gets Coveted Award

▲ Corrections officer honored for "professional excellence"

By VERONICA CLEMONS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Shirley Searcy Gore didn't have intentions on entering the corrections field. But when she learned of an opportunity in the Department of Corrections while taking a police science class at Forsyth Technical Community College she decided to apply.

And, from the beginnings of a secretary, Gore has made her way up the ranks

to the position of Assistant Superintendent at the Forsyth Correctional Center.

For her service in the past 26 years, Gore was recently awarded the H.G. "Gus" Moeller Award, the highest state award in the Department of Corrections.

"I was very happy to receive the award," she said. "I was runner-up last year so I was hoping that maybe it was my turn to get it."

The award is named for Moeller who

worked 33 years in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, climbing the ladder to Deputy Director prior to his retirement. After that, he began his second career in education, becoming Professor with East Carolina University in 1970. In 1975, he was appointed as the Western Hemisphere Representative for the United Nations by President Richard Nixon to oversee the

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Shirley Searcy Gore shows off plaque she received for the Gus Moeller Award.



Thomas Flemming, a former drug dealer (left) has joined forces with community leaders to promote peace among teenagers at an all day workshop Saturday at the William C. Sims Center. Also pictured are Melvin Wilkins, Jr. William "Rock" Bitting, Elder Melvin "Rip" Wilkins, Ben Piggott, and Gerald Mock.

## Former Drug Dealers to Help Teens

▲ Community leaders join forces to try to prevent teen crime

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Life hasn't been easy for Thomas Flemming.

He grew up in a community in East Winston surrounded by drugs and the braggadocious talk of "O.G.'s" (original gangsters) reminiscing of how they used to run the streets.

Thinking back, Flemming, 25, says the environment wasn't good for a

14-year-old.

"As a boy I was around my father's liquor house listening to the way they did things, all the gangster talk," he said. "They used to tell me I couldn't go through what they did. It wasn't a good thing for me to hear because I wanted to prove myself."

He dropped out of West Forsyth High School in the 11th grade and started selling drugs. Flemming said he made nearly \$1,000 a week selling

drugs and was on easy street until he got arrested at age 18.

While serving a six-year federal prison sentence on possession of a fire arm and possession of 11 pounds of marijuana, he changed his life around and now is on a crusade to help deter teenagers from a life of crime.

"I was going down and my family was going down. There was nothing in drugs for me so I wanted to try something else," he said. "I'm just a man

that got changed. That's what it's all about."

Flemming earned his GED in prison and now is a full-time painter and raises his three young nephews while his two elder sisters are serving prison sentences on drug related charges.

Flemming will be joined by Gerald Mock, Melvin Wilkins Jr., and other

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## Group Wants All Black Schools in East Winston

▲ "We must be self determined in providing our children's education"

By VERONICA CLEMONS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

No matter what the school board decides with redistricting, a coalition of African-American organizations is proposing that the black community educates its own.

The Coalition on African-American Education has devised a proposal, now in its working stages, which calls for two predominantly black elemen-

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## Bank Commits \$340 Million to CRA Initiative

▲ BB&T/SNB targets state minority communities

Minority communities are expecting to have an economic boost when Branch Banking and Trust Company and Southern National Bank merge this year.

The two banks signed a three-year commitment with the Community Reinvestment Association of North Carolina (CRA NC) in December to spend \$340 million to help the new bank meet the credit needs of low-and moderate-income and

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## Pastor Says Community Must Settle Differences

▲ Blacks, whites should work together to avoid racial fighting in '95

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Rev. Seth O. Lartey said the entire community must settle their differences and work together to avoid racial fighting and truly make Winston-Salem an All-American city.

Lartey, pastor of Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, said in an address Sunday that for the city to start off right in 1995, blacks and whites must better understand each other.

"It is important to work together to

avoid a racial nightmare," he said. "But with all the intelligence, and all the sophistication, why should we sit here and die from racism and violence? We must come together to make a difference."

Lartey said working together initially wouldn't be an easy task because it would require both whites and blacks to make amends, treat each other right, and for whites to



Seth O. Lartey

establish a different perspective of blacks.

He said whites have a built-in fear of blacks that should be erased.

"For there to be real reconciliation, we must change the perception that whites have of black people," he said. "Black people are by nature very kind people. We must correct the perception of who blacks are. I'm not trying to exalt one over the other because we all must repent for evil done to each other."

Lartey's address was centered around

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**This Week in Black History**  
January 6, 1832 New England Anti-Slavery Society organized.

At left, Jooi Bitings at Kwanzaa. See story page 3

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