

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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The Choice for African-American News and Information

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75 CENTS

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

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Banks Says Arrest was "Enslavement"

▲ Claims Judge trying to demonize him

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Local attorney Phillip S. Banks, III said all parties involved in his 30-day imprisonment committed an illegal act.

"The arrest from my home was kidnapping and enslavement," Banks said about Sheriff's deputies who took him into custody. "There was no charge against me."

Banks just finished serving a 30 day jail sentence on a contempt of court charge for not obeying a court order to release his trust account records to the North Carolina State Bar for an

audit.

Although State Bar officials have admitted there is no law requiring the audit, it is used as an administrative procedure. Banks said he refused the audit because some of his clients objected.

When he was jailed he said he notified officials claiming his illegal imprisonment but got no response.

"I was outraged that the Constitution gave no protection from illegal governmental conduct," he said.

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"There is no charge against me, I broke no law."

—Attorney Phillip S. Banks III

Lassiter Continues Serving Community

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

No matter what position he has held in his professional career, James Lassiter has made sure he used it to help others. This is something he said his parents instilled in him when he was young.

"They told me to use what I had to pull someone else up," he said.

Lassiter is indeed a champion of human rights and a trail-blazer. Here in Winston, he has helped anyone who has asked since he opened his law practice in the Pepper Building downtown in the 60's.

In August Lassiter will celebrate his 41st year of being an attorney, a career that began 13 years after graduating college.

Lassiter began his long career of service to minorities and the poor in his job with the United States Department of Commerce out of its field office in Greensboro. Through this office Lassiter helped minorities start businesses. He assisted some North Americans to begin a business making shirts that ended up being sold to Sears who marketed the product.

Lassiter said Native Americans needed as much assistance as African Americans.

"They had no better chance in North Carolina than we did," he said.

He assisted a black chef in Winston-Salem, Bill Williams, market his homemade bar-b-que sauce which was put on the shelves in local supermarkets. The demise of the business came because people were not too comfortable with the sauce's label that had a picture of Williams and his daughter Billie, Lassiter said.

The next move for Lassiter was to the Housing and Urban Development Office in Greensboro, where he served as head of housing and equal opportunity.

"Again I was promoting blacks and changes for them," he said. "I wanted to help give opportunities that we didn't have."

While he was happy with his position at HUD and a successful professional, Lassiter still had something he always wanted to do.

see LASSITER page 5

Atlanta Merchants Hostile Toward Freaknik Weekend

▲ Black students reject moving activity

ATLANTA (AP) — A group that hopes to redirect a weekend street party called Freaknik into an 11-day series of cultural events got verbal support from some community leaders but not much tangible help.

Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, seven City Council members and representatives from 100 Black Men of Atlanta and the Nation of Islam attended a news conference last week to show support for the plan by the Freedomfest Coalition.

In other developments on Freaknik, which is expected to draw more than 200,000 black college students to Atlanta April 21-23:

▲ Leading restaurant and hospitality

officials said the event would force restaurants to close and possibly cause long-term harm to the city.

▲ The president of the Atlanta Knights lashed out at Mayor Bill Campbell while announcing that Freaknik would force his International Hockey League team to shift a playoff game to a less desirable date.

▲ A tourism official in New Orleans said that city has no plans to lure Freaknik there, and Freaknik organizers said the black students wouldn't change locations anyway.

During the news conference, Free-

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Proposed Tax Hike Would Affect WSSU

By JOE JOHNSON
Capital Correspondence

Tax cuts made by the General Assembly could put two building projects on hold at Winston-Salem State University.

This week the House Appropriations Committee adopted proposed cuts in the University of North Carolina budget totaling \$105 million. These cuts will affect all 16 campuses in the system.

"The full appropriations committee basically accepted the recommendations of

the subcommittee," Forsyth County Rep. Pete Oldham said. "There will be some tough choices made since less revenue will come in. The tax cuts will have an effect."

Renovations to Atkins Hall and the Anderson Center are two projects at Winston-Salem State that will be affected.

Last session, the General Assembly appropriated \$1 million to purchase land beside Atkins Hall for expansion. And this

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Big Brothers' Task Force Recruits 73 Volunteers



Members of the African-American task force were successful in their recruitment drive for additional Big Brothers/Big Sisters volunteers.

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

On Friday, the Big Brothers/Big Sisters African American Task Force will celebrate a successful first project, increasing the number of African American volunteers.

About 73 people who have expressed an interest in the program have been invited along with volunteers and other guest to a banquet that will be held at the Adams Mark hotel Friday night.

Guest speaker will be former professional Winston-

Salem State University football player Tim Newsome. Newsome will speak on the theme of the project "Changing the Odds."

Members of the task force hope those potential volunteers will use that night as an opportunity to sign up.

Task Force member Michelle Edgerton, who also is employed with BB & BS, said she is extremely pleased with the efforts of the group and the response it has received.

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This Week in Black History
April 24, 1944, United Negro College Fund incorporated.

Steve McNair of Alcorn State University is expected to be the top quarterback selected in the upcoming NFL draft.



WHERE TO FIND IT