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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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Agencies Neglect Black Firms

▲ Disparity Study Highlights Need for Legislation

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

State purchasing officers have neglected the services of a local accountant for nearly eight months even though his firm is listed as an underutilized minority business.

"I am on the list, but I have nothing to bid on," said Frank McKissick, the African American owner of FM Enterprises. "They (state purchasing officers) don't send me any contracts to bid on."

The accountant said that racism still existed in the state government contract system, which spends more than \$1.2 billion annually on goods and services. White-male

owned businesses receive the majority of the purchases.

"There is a good ol' boy system in the state contract system," McKissick said. "Some folks, whites and blacks, have gotten work because of someone they knew in Raleigh."

McKissick's complaints come in light of a study conducted for North Carolina that highlights the dilemma facing minority-owned businesses receiving state contracts. The study shows disparity in the number of state contracts awarded to businesses owned by African Americans, women and persons with disabilities.

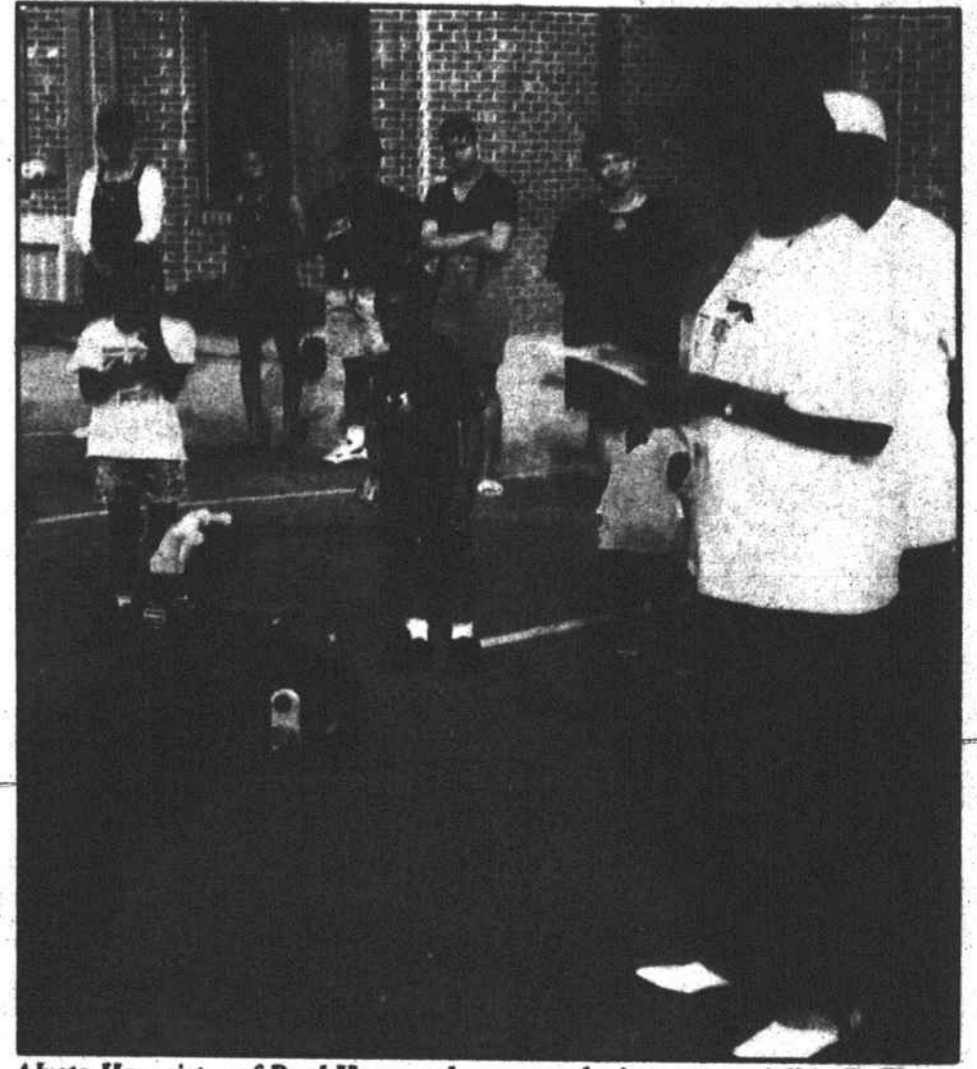
The study found a number of obstacles

that make it difficult for small businesses to receive state contracts, such as a lack of access to information, inability to obtain bonding and financing, competition with large firms, and duplicate certification at different agencies.

State agencies in Forsyth County reflected a dismal record of awarding public contracts to minority-owned firms.

During the first half of the 1993-94 fiscal year, Winston-Salem State University, a predominately black institution, awarded less than one percent of its service contracts to

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Alveta Hay, sister of Paul Hay, reads a poem during prayer vigil in Rolling Hills, dedicated to forming community union and protecting the children.

Coad In Custody, Vigil Focuses On Bonding

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

A Winston-Salem man charged with the May 15 shooting death of Paul W. Hay surrendered himself to the authorities Wednesday afternoon, ending a nine-day search for him, authorities said.

Tracy Lamont Coad turned himself in at the Winston-Salem Police headquarters where he was charged with murder and assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, according to Albert Moore, a deputy U.S. Marshall in Winston-Salem. Bridgette Lynn Boston was wounded in the shooting that occurred in the parking lot at Rolling Hills Apartments ten days ago. She is recovering from a head injury.

Coad, who was taken to the county jail, will appear in Forsyth County Superior Court on Friday, June 9 for his probable cause hearing, Moore said. Local and federal authorities had been searching for Coad in the Winston-Salem as well as checking out a rumor that he had traveled to New York City.

"Apparently, he never left Winston-Salem," Moore said.

While Coad was still at large, the adults in the Rolling Hills community encompassed

an inner circle of their young ones in a prayer vigil that focused on protecting youth and controlling their community after the death of Paul Hay.

"We put our children in the middle because we should protect them," said Robert Greer of Black Men and Women Against Crime. "We're not doing a good job of that."

The prayer vigil was in remembrance of Hay whose funeral was held earlier that day. Meanwhile, local and federal authorities are searching for the murder suspect.

Several speakers, including family members each made their way into the circle to speak about life, death and a better neighborhood.

Hay's family members said they did not wish harm on his alleged killer, who is still at large.

"We're not holding a grudge against him," said Donald McNair who is Hay's uncle. "We want that young man safe. Many of God's greatest leaders were murderers and thieves. We don't want him to die we want him to live."

Hay's sister, Alveta Hay, stood tearfully in the center of

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Saluting Black Vets

▲ Veterans Talk About Their Experiences

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Willie E. Cunningham of Winston-Salem faces new challenges after surviving the dangers of combat in the Vietnam War.

"I was wounded in the fifth firefight that I was in," said Cunningham, who was drafted into the Army when he was 24. "I had perforated ear drums from a hand grenade. It was very hard for us (black soldiers). I lost a lot of friends there in Vietnam."

He served his tour of duty with the 101st Airborne Division in 1970-71. Cunningham was among four members of the American Legion Post 220, an African American veterans' group who spoke to a Chronicle reporter about their experiences during the Vietnam War, the Korean conflict, and World War II.

The nation will remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to their

country on Memorial Day, May 29, with ceremonies throughout the United States.

The country has historically overlooked the contributions of its black veterans, who suffered hardships and displayed heroism as their white counterparts in every American war during the 20th century.

The American Legion Posts 220, 453, and 128 will hold a Memorial Day ceremony on Monday at 10 a.m. at Evergreen Cemetery on New Walkertown Road to honor the servicemen and women who have died.

Cunningham, 49, the host of a local veterans talk show, was awarded the Vietnam Campaign Medal, two Bronze Stars, and Army Accommodation Medal during his service in Southeast Asia.

Despite his military achievements, the ex-

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Willie E. Cunningham



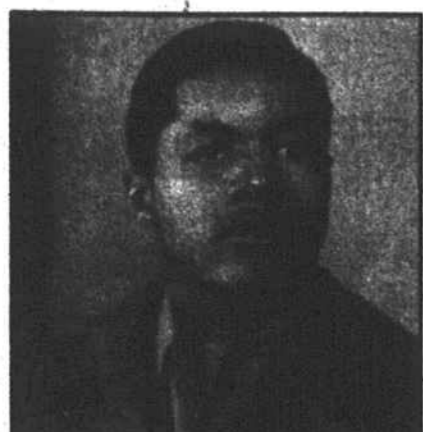
Henry A. Wilson



Clarence Simington



Clarence Simington



Henry A. Wilson



William Wright



Youths of Praise Assembly Christian Center, (pictured above), will be offering shoe shines for the public during their "Youth Extravaganza" June 3rd at Moore Elementary School.

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This Week in Black History

May 31, 1979

Zimbabwe proclaimed independent.



WHERE TO FIND IT

State's Longest Serving Prisoner Ready to Die Behind Locked Bars

HIGH POINT, N.C. (AP) - John Phillips has pulled more time than any other inmate in North Carolina, but his dreams of freedom fizzled years ago.

He's almost 43 years into the 1952 life sentence he received on a conviction of accessory before the fact of first-degree rape, a crime that might keep a person in prison 20 years these days.

In the South of the 1950s, Phillips was a prime candidate to be lost in the criminal justice system: He was poor,

mentally retarded and black, and the 5-year-old victim in the case was black.

For reasons it won't discuss, the state Parole Commission has routinely denied him release. Phillips, identified by Department of Correction officials as the state's longest-serving prisoner, has been eligible for parole since 1962.

For Phillips, it's too late to be free anyway.

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