

Winston-Salem Ch

The Choice for African-American News and Information

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 1995

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

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O.J. Simpson Walks, Leaders Satisfied

▲ Malloy Compares Simpson trial and verdict with Darryl Hunt case

By MAURICE CROCKER
Chronicle Staff Writer

A long awaited sigh of relief and an outburst of cheers spread across the nation as the O.J. Simpson verdict was read in a Los Angeles County courthouse Tuesday afternoon.

O.J. Simpson was found not guilty of first and second degree murder of his former wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman.

The nine-month trial made people in America discuss racism and the problems that still exist.

Local community leaders expressed their satisfaction with the jury's verdict.

"I'm relieved by the verdict, and I think

that a higher power was in charge," said Delores "Dee" Smith, president of the Winston-Salem Urban League.

Smith said at one point she would not watch or listen to anything that dealt with the trial because of her personal feelings.

"With every piece of evidence I felt a since of connection and pain with O. J. Simpson," Smith said. "The victory for O.J. isn't just for O.J., but for every African American in America."

Smith also said she wasn't always optimistic about the trial.

"With our society always looking at Black males as being guilty before they are tried, I wasn't always hopeful," Smith said.

Vivian Burke, an alderman for Northeast Winston-Salem, says she feels a person is

innocence until proven guilty. Burke said she didn't make any assumptions about Simpson's guilt or innocence before all the evidence was shown.

"My profession as a counselor trains you to listen, so I just listened to all the evidence that was presented," she said.

Burke said until the system is changed, people would have to learn to trust the jury's decision.

"When you look at a trial this long and the lack of evidence that did not prove him guilty, then the jury made the right decision," Burke said.

According to Burke, now that the trial is

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O.J. Simpson



Johnnie Cochran



Pictured are Psycho Ward's Eric Oliver (Myster-E), Ezetta Spraggins (Ms. E-Wreck), and Bruce Spraggins (Lil'B)

Local Artists Hope to Bring City Recognition Through Rap Music

By MAURICE CROCKER
Chronicle Staff Writer

For most people Winston-Salem is known for its numerous churches and the tobacco industry. But one group says they want Winston-Salem to be remembered for the talent it offered to the rap industry.

The group Psycho Ward, consists of three local youths ranging in age from 16 to 22, and are quickly on their way to stardom.

"Right now there isn't anything that represents North Carolina or Winston-Salem, and we want to change that," said Eric Oliver "Myster-E," a group member.

Although Oliver and the other group members were born in New York and recently moved to the Triad, they

say it's time to put North Carolina on the map.

The other half of the group is made up of a brother and sister duo, Bruce Spraggins "Lil'B" and Ezetta Spraggins "Ms. E-Wreck."

The rap trio has been formed for over a year and are making a name for themselves across the Southeast.

"A lot of the places that we go people either know us or have heard of us," Ezetta said.

The group has opened for some of Rap's mainstream artist, such as "Dougie Fresh," "The Acoholicks," "Smif-n-Wesson," "Helter Skelter," and Dance Hall's "Lil Vicious."

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Martin Dismisses Notion of Resegregated Schools

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

The superintendent of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools put aside notions Monday night that the \$94 million bond referendum would finance the resegregation of the schools through the redistricting plan.

Dr. Donald L. Martin Jr. said that the four elementary schools and the four middle schools that would be built or renovated if the bond referendum would be racially balanced roughly 60 percent white and 40 percent African American.

"It will depend on the choices that the parents make under the redistricting plan," Martin said before he spoke to nearly 200 parents, teachers, and students at the Kennedy Middle School about the bond referendum. "This was a compli-

ated plan, and we were able to accommodate 96 percent of the parents' choices."

Voters will decide the school bond referendum on Nov. 7. School officials say that referendum would raise needed money for new schools and renovations to existing schools.

School Board Member Walter Marshall, who also attended the meeting, said that he doubted the schools would be racially balanced.

"I'm not optimistic about the 60-40 balance in the schools," he said.

Marshall predicted that public schools in East Winston would be predominately black and the schools in the West Winston and throughout the county would be pre-

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Community Searches for Ways To Achieve Racial Tolerance

By MAURICE CROCKER
Chronicle Staff Writer

Since the closing arguments of the O.J. Simpson trial, most of America is discussing racism and racial issues.

Ministers, community leaders, and residents of Winston-Salem participated in a forum last week to discuss various solutions to problems that are caused by racism.

The forum was sponsored by the city's Human Relations Commission and the theme was "Achieving Racial Tolerance."

"I think racism is a tremen-

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A local resident expresses her views concerning racism and offers some solutions. Several attended forum on racism.

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WHERE TO FIND IT

This Week in Black History
 October 2-4, 1935
 Italy invaded Ethiopia.
 American blacks held mass meetings of protest and raised funds for the Ethiopian defenders.

Third Annual Gospel Festival Spreads Blessings of Joy at Fair

By MAURICE CROCKER
Chronicle Staff Writer

Choirs from all over made a joyful noise to the lord and blessed residents with songs of praise at the third annual Winston-Salem Chronicle Gospel Festival. Over 300 people attended the three day event which was held during the Dixie Classic Fair.

The event featured 13 choirs from across North Carolina. "I'm always excited about the

Gospel Fest," said Al Martin, co-chairman of the event. Martin is nicknamed the "Godfather of Gospel," and has been part of the event since it began.

According to Martin, the committee has received a lot of positive response from community members concerning the Gospel Festival.

"The people are starting to look forward to the Gospel Fest, and each year it just keep getting bigger and better," Martin said.

Those who have attended in the past agree with Martin.

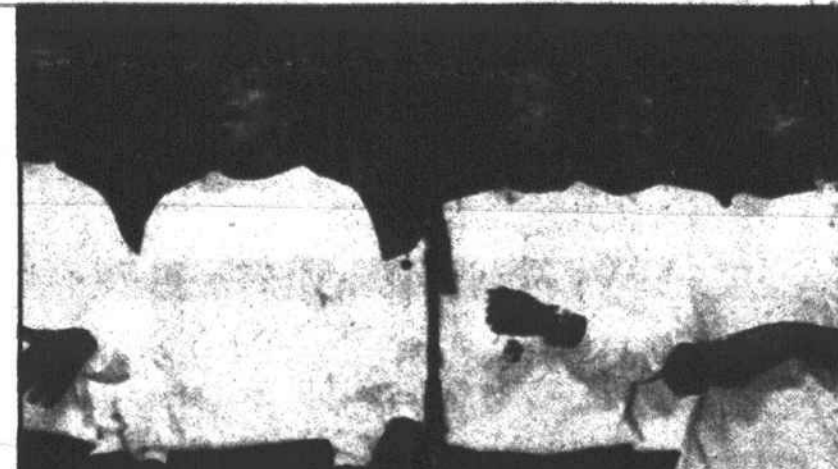
"I keep coming to Gospel Fest because it keeps getting better and better," said Ethel Brisborn, of Winston-Salem.

Brisborn says she likes to hear the songs at Gospel Fest, because they bring about a big change in her life.

"I came mainly for Gospel Fest, but I still enjoy the fair," she said.

Martin says he expects participation to increase, now that senior

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Members of The Ambassador Cathedral perform at Gospel Fest.