

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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NAACP Won't Support \$94 Million Bond

▲ President Tatum questions reliability of school bond referendum promises

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

The Winston-Salem chapter of the NAACP has declined to endorse the \$94 million school bond referendum that will appear on the Nov. 7 ballot.

"That doesn't mean that we are going out and actively oppose the bond issue," said William H. Tatum, the president of the local NAACP. "We are just not going to support the bond."

The executive committee of the NAACP met Tuesday night to decide its position on the bond issue. The committee agreed on its position by

majority vote.

Several members had concerns about the timing of the repairs to schools in the black community and the unpublicized locations of the proposed middle schools, Tatum said.

"They are trying to rush this bond without giving some of us pertinent information to support this \$94 million bond issue," Tatum said.

Dr. Donald L. Martin Jr., the superintendent of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, said that he was disappointed with the NAACP's position.

"I'm disappointed with any group that chooses

not to support our bond issue," Martin said. "If they need more information, we will gladly provide it."

He added that the exact locations of the new middle schools would be revealed publicly after the Nov. 7 vote. Martin did say that 10 locations are being considered within a 10-mile radius of downtown Winston-Salem.

Tatum said that the executive committee questioned why repairs to the schools in the black community were not included in the system's operating budget. He further added that the school board and school officials have done a poor job of selling the bond package to African Americans.

"The NAACP could not accept the bond package in its current form," Tatum said. "The members are free to vote for the bond if they feel like they have received enough information about it."

School officials and board members have met with blacks to discuss bond issue in recent weeks, Martin said. The referendum is the appropriate way to pay for replacing roofs that have a 20-year life, he added.

Geneva Brown, Walter Marshall, both school board members, and Virginia Newell will lead a

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St. Philip's Holds Reunion

▲ Artist Wilson speaks at tribute

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Fred Wilson's own ancestry in Winston-Salem spurred his research into the lives of slaves in Old Salem.

"I had to come because of my own family connections," Wilson said last week before he recounted the legacy of African Americans in Old Salem and at the St. Philip's Moravian Church.

"I was thrilled for the opportunity to find my family."

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA), Old Salem, and the St. Philip's Church held a love feast and reunion at the sanctuary. More than 50 blacks and whites attended the event. Wilson is the third participant in the SECCA's Pilot Artist

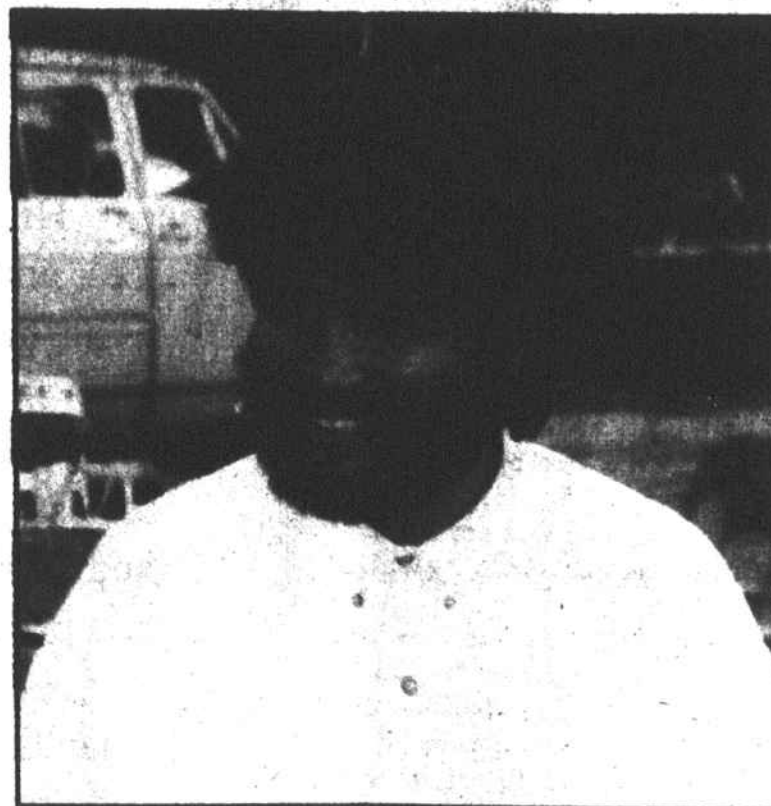
and the Community Program.

During the early 1800s, black slaves worshiped with whites in St. Philip's, Wilson said.

The white Moravians felt pressure from the outside to conform and separate themselves from blacks who lived here," Wilson said. The slaves and freed blacks worked hard to make a Old Salem a thriving community during the years before the Civil War, he added.

St. Philip's opened its doors in 1861. It became the oldest standing African American church in North Carolina. The plot of land in front of St. Philip's was a cemetery for strangers

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Several participants (top photo) look at the roster of St. Philip's Sunday School for the years, 1926-1940. Fred Wilson, above, appeared at the love feast and reunion.

Aldermen OK Study for Liberty Street Plan

By MAURICE CROCKER
Chronicle Staff Writer

The city's Board of Aldermen has approved a \$125,000 contract for the design of the Liberty Street corridor improvements.

"I do appreciate the fact that we have gotten to this point on the project," said Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian Burke.

Burke says she is glad the Liberty Street project is underway because no money has been spent to improve that area.

In January, the Board of Aldermen adopted a Liberty Street Corridor study prepared by the city planning board.

The study extended from the Southern Railroad tracks just north east of Main Street to the Smith Reynolds Airport.

The study recommended a landscape designer be hired to

do a design study of Liberty Street.

The study is to include the following: 1) a visual inventory of Liberty Street; 2) development regulations for the proposed thoroughfare overlay district; 3) a detailed plan for the urban boulevard concept including recommendations for public improvements; 4) design guidelines for the two recommendations for gateways and community focal point; 5) recommendations considering views from U.S. 52.

"We spent lots of money in other parts of the city on making improvements, but we haven't spent any incentives on Liberty Street," Burke said.

Some of the public investments approved by the Board of

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Panelists Discuss Racism, Violence

By MAURICE CROCKER
Chronicle Staff Writer

As racial intolerance continues to increase across the nation, the Winston-Salem YWCA held a panel discussion in an effort to develop solutions to the problems.

The topic of discussion was the role of the media, and its promotion of racism and violence. The panel consisted of local media members, who discussed the impact of racism and violence with local residents.

Linda Brinson, editorial writer for the Winston-Salem Journal, told audience members that she doesn't believe

people in the media deliberately try to encourage racism or violence and sometimes scatch a bad rap.

"I think it's like the old saying, "Killing the messenger," or "being the barrier of bad news," Brinson said.

Brinson feels the media is important despite its criticisms. "I think if there is a rapist or robber in the neighborhood, then I think it is important that we report that," Brinson said.

According to Brinson, the media's role is not to be a cheerleader, but to report the news.

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Gibbs Achieves Success Despite Obstacles

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Lela V. Gibbs has overcome the odds to become a success in her field of psychology.

"I consider myself a role model for anyone who thinks they can't do what they want to do," Gibbs said last week. "If you want to achieve your goals, you must have a plan. You can't go at it haphazardly."

She raised three children mostly by herself and later obtained a doctorate.

"I grew up with all the minuses that prevents most women from succeeding in life," she said.

Gibbs, who spent part of her childhood living on East 25th Street, was married at 16 and had three children when she reached 21. She later divorced her first

husband when she was 25.

"I took my three kids and left the marriage," Gibbs said. "I never got any child support."

She took nursing courses at Forsyth Technical Institute in 1971 when her children — two girls and a boy — were ages one, four, and six. She later worked a licensed practical nurse.

"I used to read a lot when I was growing up," she said. "It was an escape. I decided when I grew up, I was going to get as much as education as I could."

Gibbs enrolled at WSSU and completed her studies in three years. She graduated in the summer of 1977.

"If I could do that with three kids, I could do any-

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Lela Virginia Gibbs has doctorate in psychology.

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WHERE TO FIND IT

This Week in Black History
October 24, 1923

Department of Labor said some 500,000 blacks had left the South in the preceding twelve months.