

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Voice for African-American News and Information

THURSDAY, February 13, 1997

Dedicated to the Memory of Clarence E. Nottingham: 1903-1995

VOL. XXIII, No. 24



A group led by Ghali Hasan, of Stars Employment Agency, gathers outside the new Winston-Salem Transit Authority building to protest hiring practices of Lyons Construction Company Monday.

Group protests contractor's hiring practices

By COURTNEY DANIEL
Chronicle Intern

A protest to bring attention to the alleged unfair hiring practices of Lyons Construction Company brought a group of 15 men and women together Monday.

The group, of varied ethnic backgrounds, stood huddled together against the cold and the falling snow at the future site of the Winston-Salem Transit Authority building and bus depot on Liberty Street.

Each of the individuals present was gathered by Stars Employment Agency. Their presence was both a protest of what they believed to be unfair hiring practices of Lyons Construction Company and a rebuttal to the project manager's alleged statement that he could not find any minorities or women to hire.

Attempts by the *Chronicle* to verify that statement were unsuccessful at press time.

But Ghali Hasan, through the Stars Employment Agency, is hoping to refer qualified minorities and women to jobs on federal contracts. In the process he plans to ensure that contractors retained by the federal government comply with the federal regulations that require minimum percentages of both women and minority groups in their work force.

Stars performs a thorough reference check, drug test, and criminal reference check, and, according to Hasan, only refers qualified applicants.

It was in this capacity that he said he discovered that Lyons, operating under a federal contract to construct the new Winston-Salem Transit Authority building, had failed to meet the minimum requirement of minority men in positions other than unskilled labor. It also failed to employ any African-American women.

The Department of Labor, as stated in the Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 68, expresses, in specific terms, the minimum

percentages of minority and women participation in each trade.

For the cover area of Forsyth County that percentage of participation is 16.4 percent minorities in each trade and 6.9 percent of women in each trade.

Lyons Construction filed an Equal Opportunity Employer Status Report Form on Dec. 16, 1996, and at that time they employed eight minority men and two women (none of the women were African American) of a total 43 employees. All eight men were unskilled laborers, and the two women were listed as clerical staff. No women or minorities were listed as officials and managers, professionals, technicians, sales workers, skilled craftsman, service workers, or trainees and apprentices.

Hasan contends that the federal partici-

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Marshall says sports can help school kids

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

The middle school sports program in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system, as it stands now, is not adequate to meet the needs of the community - particularly the African-American community, according to Walter Marshall, a member of the county's board of education.

Marshall says a proposal to bring back middle school football, which he submitted to the school board more than two years ago, needs serious consideration and now is the time for it to be re-introduced and brought to fruition.

"I think this issue is important to

the community because I see this as an avenue to reach young black males and help keep them out of trouble," Marshall says.

Marshall says the school board should give serious consideration to

Part I of III parts

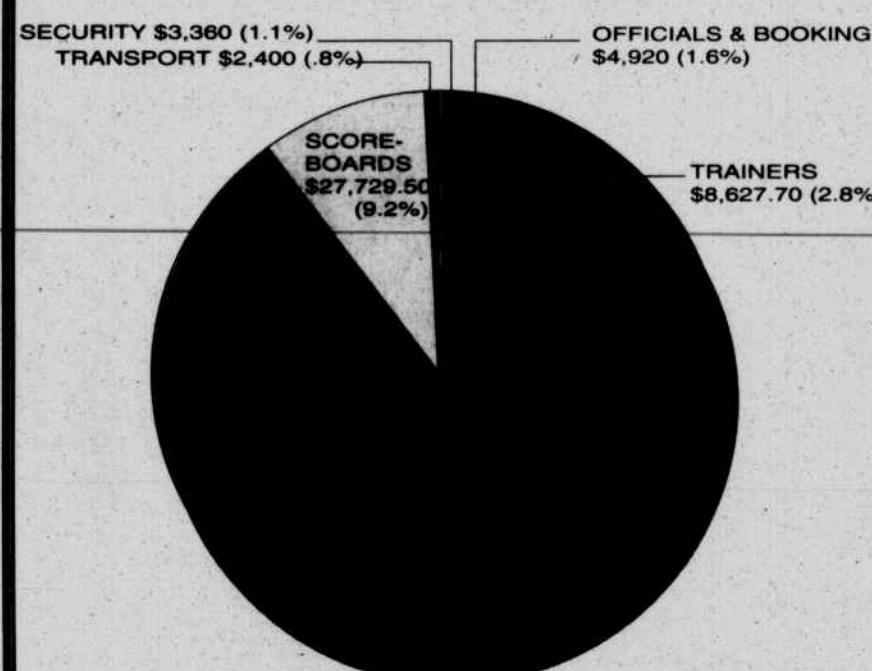
bringing back interscholastic football to the middle schools for a number of reasons. But the most important is to use it as a means of motivating students to excel academically.

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First Year

Expenses Total:

\$301,270.35



New RHC Must Mean Continued TLC

By BILL TURNER
Special to the Chronicle

Richard Janeway, executive vice president for health affairs of Wake Forest University, is to be trusted and believed when he says that "a new and relocated Reynolds Health Center will enhance and improve health care dramatically for (East Winston)." Dr. Janeway is not only a renowned medical doctor, but he is just as well-known for his personal integrity. Also, he is peerless in his profession, having been one of the main drivers of Bowman Gray/Baptist Hospital Medical Center's journey to its distinguished place among the top-ranked health education and care centers in the nation.

When William "Bill" Tatumi, president of Forsyth county NAACP, expresses his reservations about the "new state of the art" RHC facility, he speaks eloquently for a community that knows first-hand that change is not always progress. And, rightly so, for

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Mayor names two to HAWS board

Mayor Martha S. Wood appointed William G. Benton and Ellen B. Hazzard to positions on the Winston-Salem Housing Authority. Mr. Benton will fill an unexpired term which ends in July of 1999; Ms. Hazzard will fill an unexpired term which ends July 1997.

Mr. Benton is the CEO of Taylor House Enterprises, specializing in residential housing development and management. With more than twenty years experience in ownership and management of low and moderate income housing throughout the southeast, Mr. Benton has estab-

A Gathering of Good Men

▲ J.C. Bess: Expert in Shoe Shine and Dye

By FELEcia P. McMILLAN
Special to the Chronicle

He can dye a shoe any color imaginable: yellow, orange, purple — even metallic gold. J.C. Bess, owner of Harding Expert Shine Parlor, on Patterson Avenue, began shining shoes at the age of 10. He named the business after Elmore Harding, who willed the shop to him after Harding's death in 1960.

Bess was the manager of the store, and Harding often told his customers that Bess was his son. "He just thought that much of me," Bess said.

There were seven "shine boys" in the shop,

but Bess was hired to do the dye work.

He taught himself how to polish and dye shoes. He tried the process out on different shoes and had great success. He often went to the Greyhound Bus Station to perfect his craft.

It only took him five minutes to give his customers an "expert shine," and he got 5 cents for it. With 5 cents he could buy a Baby Ruth candy bar. He could buy a pound of fatback meat. He could even have a suit pressed for 5 cents in those days. He would go to the Morgan

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J.C. Bess began shining shoes at the age of 10.