

Feb. Fanatics to Aug. Artists: We've Got it

By BILL TURNER
Special to the Chronicle

The secret is out and well-known to the thousands of African Americans who've descended this week on Winston-Salem. For a half-century now, alumni and supporters of the premier historically black colleges in North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland have assembled for a mid-winter week of entertaining basketball and a round of live-it-up jubilees.

With all due respect to the former and future venues of the games, none can beat Winston-Salem for its hospitality and our showcasing of talented and dedicated community-spirited people. Winston — insofar as the CIAA is concerned — is most well-known for our claim to Winston-Salem State's legendary coach, Clarence "Big House" Gaines and its most well-known alumni, Al-

American and Alvin Karpis. But, even here in the heart of the winter, one more is busy in preparation for the summer months that has come to occupy a high place in the hearts of African-American life and culture: the

CIAA & NBTF: Black Renaissance in NC

National Black Theater Festival. And here it goes a slam dunk! The National Black Theater Festival is the brainchild of Mr. Larry Leon Hamlin. In his hometown of Reidsville, N.C., Larry says that "people came out to drives for two things: basketball games and plays." On stage since he was 5 years old, Larry's "Marvitas tic!" cut his dramatic teeth with the Negro Ensemble Company.



Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Choice for African-American News and Information

THURSDAY, February 27, 1997

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VOL. XXIII No. 23

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for board seat

By BRIDGET EVARTS
Community News Reporter

Democrats will meet March 4 to select a replacement for Walter Marshall's position on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school board. Marshall, who was sworn into the late Mazie Woodruff's county commissioner seat Feb. 24, has named his choice for the school board position.

After the death of county commissioner Mazie Woodruff in early January, there was some debate over whom Woodruff groomed to fill her position. The selection of school board member Walter Marshall created yet another vacancy to be filled; this time Marshall, whom the Democratic party overwhelmingly supported, openly endorses Victor Johnson Jr. to replace him on the school board.

"I know his real concern is about education, and his strong concern is to see that the minority population is taken care of," said Marshall. He pointed to Johnson's record, calling the former teacher and administrator "field-tested."

Johnson, who retired from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system with more than 32 years under his belt, retained an active role in children's education. He began serving on LIFT Academy's board the year he retired, tutored at Diggs Elementary, and recently filled in as interim principal at North Forsyth

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CIAA Picks

CIAA commissioner Leon Kerry (left), with Coca-Cola representative Byron DeGraffenried, congratulate Matthew Lineberry, Krystle Davis and Alphonso Moseley, three of the 96 winners (out of 958 entries) of the CIAA Ball Boy/Ball Girl essay contest sponsored by Coca-Cola and Reebok, in conjunction with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system and the Winston-Salem Urban League. The theme of the contest was "Good Character: The Right and Responsible Thing to Do." These and other winners will each serve in at least one game of the 24 scheduled in the 52nd annual CIAA Basketball Tournament, which began Monday. More CIAA news in Sports Section.

Critics say school transfer plan damaging to integration

By BRIDGET EVARTS
Community News Reporter

Are the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County schools inching closer to a segregated system? With the adoption of the new transfer plan, some say the potential for multiple one-race schools increases.

Combining the new transfer plan, voted into policy at the Feb. 11 school board meeting, with the current redistricting is "almost a plan for white flight," said board member Geneva Brown. She and fellow Democrat Walter Marshall, the only African Americans on the board, cast opposing votes in the 7-2 decision.

Previously, students were only allowed "hardship" transfers, switching schools when a student's school assignment would cause a severe hardship for her family. About 20 percent of all students — 8,000 out of 42,000 — were on hardship transfers, said Superintendent Don Martin. Last year, he said, the number of hardship requests increased by 1,100.

Under the old plan, Martin said, transfers were considered individually. With the implementation of the new transfer plan, students can switch schools twice a year on a first-come-first-served basis, but are not provided with transportation to their new school if it is outside of their school zone.

Brown feels that this latest plan will only further the distance between existing schools in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County system. With the "choice" redistricting

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Parents protest Martin's decision to allow teacher's return

By BRIDGET EVARTS
Community News Reporter

Discussion concerning the alleged misconduct of a Parkland High School teacher will remain under wraps for now, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools attorney Douglas Pungler told a parent who attempted to address the school board at their Feb. 25 meeting.

The parent, Jasper Brown, represented a group of Parkland parents and students who gathered to protest Superintendent Don Martin's decision to reinstate Charles A. Schoderbek as a teacher at Parkland. The group says that Schoderbek harassed students and, on at least one occasion, physically assaulted a player while coaching varsity basketball.

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools issued a statement Feb. 18 that Schoderbek, who resigned from his coaching position, will be reinstated as a teacher after a 60-day suspension without pay.

The days Schoderbek has already served on his suspension will count toward his reinstatement, and he will be back in the classroom next month, said Martin.

The group of parents went to Parkland prin-

icipal James Brandon shortly before the end of winter recess with list of 22 allegations by students charging Schoderbek with misconduct, mostly involving his coaching practices. Shortly after, the students and their parents submitted affidavits to the school administration, and Schoderbek was suspended without pay, pending an investigation.

Brown and the other parents worry that Schoderbek will retaliate against those students who have stepped forward. "Parents are very concerned that students will suffer," said Brown, a local attorney and parent of two sons on Parkland's basketball team. "We just don't think Mr. Schoderbek's return will be good for the students."

Brown said that Schoderbek was issued a written warning several years ago for a similar incident. "That doesn't give us confidence that he will follow school board policy," said Brown.

"If there is evidence sufficient to require him to resign (from coaching), it should be sufficient to remove him from that classroom," Brown added.

When told that he could not address a personnel matter during the open forum at the Feb. 25 meeting, Brown said that he had, in vain,

requested a meeting with Superintendent Martin through Pungler.

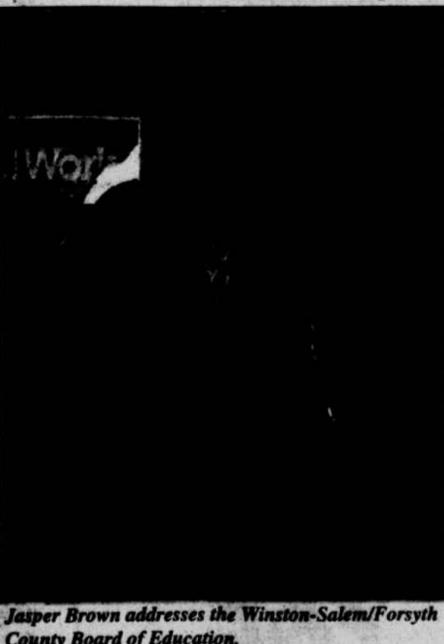
"This body is the only place these parents will be heard," said Brown. "All we want as parents is to have input in the decision-making process."

Martin replied that the administration had received sufficient input from the parents during the investigation.

Pungler stated that a grievance process is the correct avenue for parents to take. "I understand that there is a grievance process," said Brown. "The problem with the grievance process is that it comes into play after a decision has been made."

He and the other parents wanted to be heard before the matter progressed to that stage, said Brown. He accused Martin of attempting to use the board as a "rubber stamp" for the administration's decision to reinstate Schoderbek. Board chairman Donnie Lambeth said that the school board, which had scheduled a closed session to discuss the matter after the meeting, had not received information about the matter.

"We're concerned that the board has not had the opportunity to consider the merits of the decision made by Dr. Martin," said Brown. "We're



Jasper Brown addresses the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education.