

Top candidates

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recently filled in as interim principal at North Forsyth High School.

Anyone who lives in District A can be nominated for Marshall's seat by a Democrat, said party chairman Robert F. Joyce, or they can nominate themselves. But, Joyce warned, "If you haven't done your politicking with the precinct people, I'm sure they've all made their commitments."

Marshall, who will be attending the National County Commissioners' Convention in Washington, D.C., next week, may not return in time for the March 4 meeting. He has arranged to cast his vote for Johnson by proxy if he is unable to attend the meeting.

Joyce said that he knew of six candidates vying for the school board, listing Johnson, Paula McCoy Corbin, Mose Belton Brown, Beaufort Bailey, Jimmie Bonham and Palmer Friende, though others have said that Friende is not interested in the position.

Brown, Bailey and Bonham were former candidates for Woodruff's county commissioner seat. Brown, a former teacher, currently works for Allstate Insurance in Winston-Salem. Bailey retired from Winston-Salem State University, and Bonham is a hairdresser and minister. All but one of the five known candidates, Bonham, have education backgrounds.

Geneva Brown, the only other Democrat and African-American on the school board, said previously that she needed "a fighter" next to her on the school board. Of Johnson and Corbin, Brown said she could work with either. Brown pointed out that only two members on the board have backgrounds in education.

Johnson is optimistic about



Chief District Court Judge Roland H. Hayes administers the Oath of Office to Forsyth County's new commissioner, Walter Marshall.

his standing as a candidate. "I think my chances are very good," said Johnson. "I hope people don't get hung up about personalities. People get concerned about who's been in the Democratic party longest."

Corbin also feels politics may sometimes take front seat in school board decisions — at the cost of the children.

"I'm interested in collaboration," said Corbin, the former chair of the local Smart Start Initiative and current executive director of Northwest Child Development Council Inc. "We have to see how we can work together."

"How does this benefit children and youth, should be what drives us, not what party this represents," Corbin added.

Corbin, a native of Winston-Salem, spent several years working for the U.S. military, preparing pre-discharge soldiers for their GED or high school diploma. She also taught secondary education in the Nevada school system and has substituted in local schools. Corbin said her experience

in early child and adult education naturally led to her interest in the position. As an adult basic skills educator and assessment retention specialist at Forsyth Technical Community College, Corbin said she "always ran into individuals that the system had failed."

Concern with the system's failures is what drives Marshall's endorsement. He cited the "epidemic proportion" of black males suspended or expelled from the school system, and said that Johnson would best confront these issues.

"As a black male, Victor knows what it's like to grow up in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system," said Marshall.

Marshall said he holds the other candidates in high regard, but hopes the Democratic party will take his endorsement of Johnson into consideration. "I know all the folks and consider them my friends," said Marshall. "Whoever the party decides on, I give my blessing," said Marshall.

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Joyful: Gospel revue rattles the rafters.

By Roger Moore
JOURNAL ARTS REPORTER

Note to the city building inspector: You might want to make the Arts Council Theatre on Coliseum Drive your first stop when the workweek begins Monday. The place may not stand up to the roof-raising performances of *The Glory of Gospel* this weekend.

Mabel Robinson's gospel-music revue, the Black History Month present to the city from the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, is a thrilling survey of spirituals spread out in two acts. It begins with a show-stopper, a rousing rendition of "Walking Up the King's Highway," and proceeds to top that time and again over its two hours and 40 plus songs.

Robinson structured the show around a history of blacks in America, beginning with enslavement, through life under slavery, emancipation, the 1960s civil-rights movement and the present day. The songs don't create a strict linear narrative, and the spots of spoken narration don't do enough to provide structure. But who has time to notice with such glorious songs and glorious singers to sing them?

Jannie Jones, the star of the recent production of *My Castle's Rockin'* by N.C. Black Rep, rattles the rafters with "The Name of Jesus," "Move On Up a Little Higher" and "City Called Heaven." The marvelous baritone John Heath, a towering presence, thunders through "I Wanna Go Where Jesus Is," "You Better Run" and "Down Here, Lord, Waiting On You."

Cheryl Barr does an electrifying "Can't No Grave Hold My Body Down," and the cast of 12 forms into solos, duets, trios, quintets and so on, tearing through songs ranging from laments to playful doowop numbers ("Paulina").

There isn't a weak voice in the cast, and Robinson, a choreographer by trade, has given them lots to do with their feet as they sing. Kudos also to Kevin Parrot for an impressive job of creating and leading a fabulous pit orchestra.

There were times I wished for individual microphones as the orchestra and stage full of backup singers threatened to drown out the solos.

But even when the lyrics aren't clear (much of the opening night audience seemed to know the songs by heart), the spirit and meaning are. *The Glory of Gospel* is truly a joyful noise.

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company, Larry Leon Hamlin, Producer presents - Mabel Robinson's

The Glory of Gospel

Arts Council Theatre
610 Coliseum Drive
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Performance Schedule:

Friday, February 28 - 8:00 PM; Saturday, March 1 - 8:00 PM; Sunday, March 2 - 3:00 PM

Tickets:

\$15 - Adults; \$10 Sr. Citizens & Students; Group Rate Available

NCBRC is funded by the Arts Council of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County and receives additional funds from the North Carolina Arts Council and the National Endowments for the Arts.

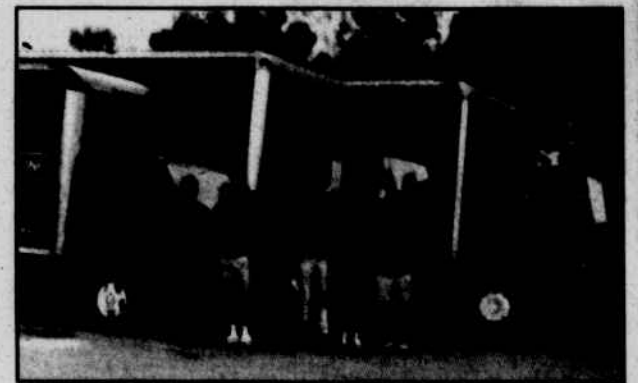
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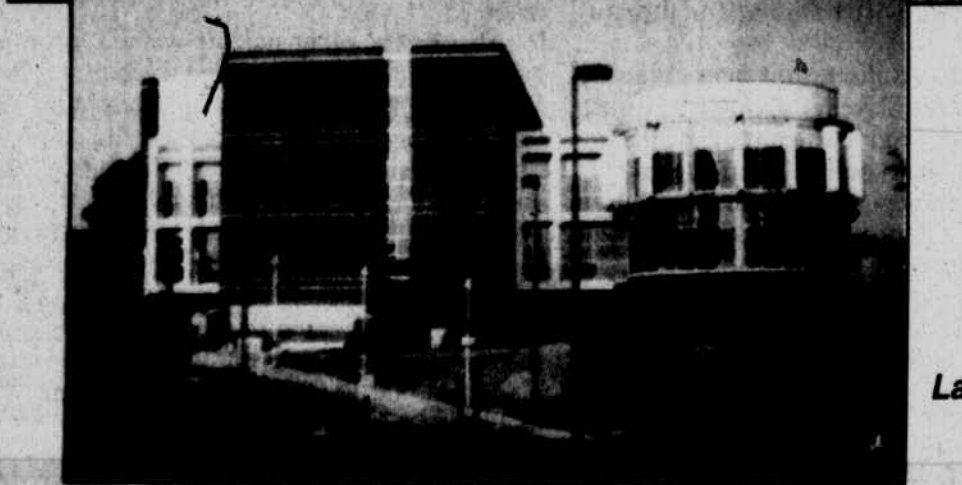
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