

Triumphant achievers hold high the banner of progress

By FELECIA McMILLAN
Community Correspondent

Velma Friende was the first individual to receive the Mazie Woodruff Achievement Award from the Winston-Salem Urban League. According to Delores Smith, president and CEO of the Winston-Salem Urban League, "Velma Friende is a pacesetter in a number of arenas. Who is a caring and willing participant in all of the Urban League endeavors." This award will be given annually at the Urban League's annual Equal Opportunity Day Founders' Black and White Gala to the person

who best exemplifies the spirit of commitment, dedication and conscientious service of the late Forsyth County Commissioner.

Friende has been involved in the Urban League for 37 years and is still going strong. She has served many years in the Urban League Guild, the fund raising arm of the organization, which raises funds for youth scholarships. In addition, she has served on the Board of Directors and has volunteered in the Reading Olympiad and Project SELF. The Olympiad encourages a permanent reading habit among children and Project SELF (Self Enhanced Lift Focus) teaches youth ages 13-15 how

to prepare for careers. What is more, for 37 years, Friende has served in the coordination of the Ebony Fashion Show to raise money for youth scholarships.

"I have always been interested in the development of youth and assisting them with their social, cultural, and academic achievement. This will make them strong leaders in the community with confidence, self-respect, and self-empowerment which is one of the goals of the Urban League, my first love," she said. Friende served as a French instructor and Guidance Director at Atkins High School and Mount Tabor High School. She retired from the Winston-

Salem/Forsyth County Schools after 35 years of service, but she has not forgotten her commitment to young people.

She will attend the Southern Regional Assembly of the National Urban League April 2-4 in Austin, Texas and the National Urban League Convention in Philadelphia to be held in August. Founded in 1948, the Urban League boasts 113 affiliate chapters throughout the United States. The organization seeks to "promote full participation of African Americans and other minorities and the poor in the economic, social and

See **ACHIEVERS** on A2

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Zippergate: An American Drama



(AP Photo/Ron Edmonds)

Long time confidant of President Clinton, Vernon Jordan, foreground, walks away after a Washington news conference Thursday Jan. 22, 1998, where he said that he was told by former White House staffer Monica Lewinsky that she did not have an affair with the president. Jordan said that he helped Lewinsky to find a lawyer and a job. At right is Jordan's attorney William G. Hundley. See page A10 for the local reaction to the unfolding drama.

Black voters still waiting for the pitch

By SHARON BROOKS HODGE
THE CHRONICLE Editor

state Rep. Alma Adams of Greensboro.

It is her opinion that "public dollars shouldn't go to private investors."

If the referendum passes, people in Guilford and Forsyth counties would pay a 1 percent tax on all prepared food — such as sandwiches and meals. There would also be a 50-cent tax on tickets sold at the baseball stadium. The taxes would generate \$140 million.

Adams questions whether working families see this as a priority.

"I believe that people are more concerned about schools. We have crowded classrooms, and frankly, I think black people are more interested in correcting that problem than in raising money for what basically amounts to entertainment."

Adams, like all of the other black legislators representing the Triad in the General Assembly, voted in favor of putting the question of stadium financing.

See **BASEBALL** on A6

The effort to bring professional baseball to the Triad goes far beyond passion for the All-American sport.

The sheer fun of sitting in the summer sun munching on hot dogs and hollering for a home run may not be enough to motivate black voters, according to a survey conducted by The Chronicle this month. Although the majority of the African Americans contacted said they support the effort generally, when the question of public funding is raised, the enthusiasm wanes.

The Chronicle called 200 black people and found that 105 of them are opposed to the proposed tax on prepared food that would be used to help finance a major league baseball stadium. And those findings are consistent with some of the opinions legislators have heard as well.

"I haven't talked to 10 people who are willing to use public money to pay for a stadium," said

Gatewood fails to rattle NAACP

By BOMANI MAWULI
THE CHRONICLE Reporter

What in the name of Robert F. Williams is going on? Robert F. Williams, of course, is a significant figure in the history of the North Carolina chapter of the NAACP. He was suspended from the organization in 1959 after taking the controversial stand of advocating armed self-defense against unlawful violent attacks

from racists.

Although Williams and other members of the NAACP in Monroe, N.C. had to literally battle the Klu Klux Klan by exchanging gunfire in an attempt to protect the home of an NAACP official, who the KKK was trying to assault or murder, today the battle is within the organization. Several members of the North Carolina NAACP are seemingly fighting amongst themselves. "Your most vicious criticisms and

most effective political maneuvering have been against those within the organization. Your greatest and most relentless NAACP fights all appear to have been waged to bring down another, another, and another young African-American male [who is a] rising NAACP star," wrote Minister Curtis E. Gatewood in an open letter addressed to NC NAACP State President, Melvin "Skip" Alston.

In his letter, a copy of which was faxed unsolicited to THE

CHRONICLE, Gatewood, alleges that Alston's "domineering obsession for power (at all cost) clearly resembles that of our oppressors who bent the rules, using money as a weapon of deceit, violations (of their own constitution), propaganda (i.e., NC NAACP Convention Newsletter and Souvenir Booklet), in an attempt to overpower good old-fashion 'truth' and 'action.'"

See **NAACP** on A2

Probe sought for bombing

On Wednesday, U.S. Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-Miss.) announced that he had made a formal, written request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Brad Pigott, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, to conduct a hate crime investigation into the bombing of the Jackson Advocate.

"The Jackson Advocate has been the backbone of the community for nearly 60 years,"

said Thompson "Some individual has made the mistake of thinking he can hide their cowardly act under the cover of darkness. As of right now, there is nowhere in this country that this person can hide without having to fear the full weight and authority of the federal government."

A preliminary investigation shows that the fire was started around 3 a.m. on Jan. 26. There is evidence that the front door was kicked open flammable liquid was poured over the newspaper office and then ignited.

See **CONTROVERSY** on A2

Grant money improves

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE Reporter

With Gov. Jim Hunt's blessing at a teleconference on the campus of Forsyth Technical Community College, 56 counties and cities across North Carolina received \$31.5 million from the 1998 Community Development Block Grant. Forsyth County was one of the recipients and will use the money for housing. The county was awarded a scattered site grant worth

\$273,688. Since the grant is a scattered site award, no particular community will receive the money. Ten homes in Forsyth County that are classified as low-income housing will either be torn down and rebuilt or renovated. According to Dan Kornelis, head of the Forsyth County Department of Housing, the cost per home will be between \$25,000 and \$26,000.

The Department of Housing applied for the grant in 1996. See **GRANT** on A5

25 years after Roe, controversy lingers

By HERBERT L. WHITE
AND JERI YOUNG
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Eve can't forget the child she never knew.

The 28-year-old Charlotte woman, who requested her real name not be used, knew her decision to have an abortion in 1996 ended her baby's life. But she also feels there was no other

choice.

"Sometimes I feel bad about it," she said, her eyes watering. "I know it's murder and that I have to be held accountable for it. Sometimes that does bother me. It's funny. My emotions are so mixed up."

"When they mention the lady in South Carolina (Susan Smith) that drowned the kids in the car, I get angry. I think how awful. But then, at the same time, I killed a

baby too. It's just so confusing. There are times when I think what I did is not like what she did. Then other times, I think it is. I just don't know. At least her kids had a chance to be born. My child didn't."

Twenty-five years after the Supreme Court ruled in a 7-2 decision that women have the right to choose to terminate a pregnancy, Americans are still divided over the issue.

In Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court held that, prior to viability "the point at which a fetus is potentially able to live outside the womb," states may not interfere with a woman's right to make her own decision regarding abortion.

After viability, which usually occurs at approximately 24 to 28 weeks of pregnancy, states may prohibit abortions unless the