

Tourney bid gets royal send-off

By KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Whether or not Winston-Salem will have the right to play host to the CIAA basketball tournament for another three years is out of the hands of city officials — literally.

Tuesday afternoon in a cheerful, upbeat event, members of the CIAA Steering Committee and city leaders joined local citizens for a "send-off" ceremony at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The highlight of the pep rally came as a courier picked up the city's lengthy — and pricey — ribbon-adorned bid to deliver to CIAA officials in Virginia. The steering committee asked for \$150,000

from city and county government. The group also asked for an additional \$75,000 from the Travel and Visitors Association.

"We have the most experience at hosting (the tournament), we have more hotels than ever and we put together a great bid," Mayor Jack Cavanagh said. "But more than anything else, we want it...What I have witnessed, is that the CIAA is not only a great basketball tournament for African Americans but for families too, and now it's becoming popular among other races in the city."

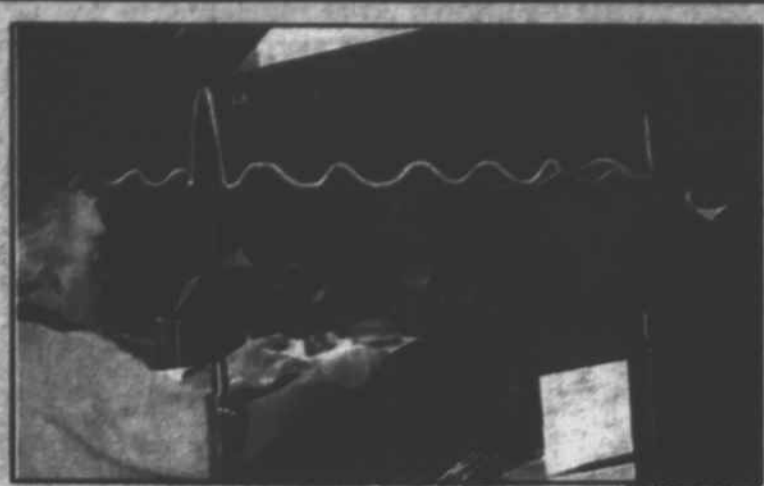
The CIAA tournament is the third most profitable college basketball tourney in the nation, only the ACC and Big East tournaments generate more dollars. Over the years,

the tournament has pumped at least \$6 million a year into the local economy.

Winston-Salem has successfully won the right to host the tournament for the last five years — and will host the tourney for the last time under the old contract in February 1999 — but now the city faces its strongest competition yet.

Officials in Raleigh have been hard at work preparing a bid of their own. And if published reports are correct, Raleigh's city and county governments are pledging half a million dollars annually toward the 2000-2002 tournaments.

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More than 100 people attended a send-off party for the city's bid for the CIAA tournament. Local officials declined to comment on the amount of the bid which is rumored to be worth at least a million dollars.

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Officer vows to fight

Dunn's fate to be decided in Winston-Salem

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

Former High Point police detective Michael Dunn is continuing to fight for reinstatement.

Dunn, the only African American detective on the force at the time of his dismissal, was fired in April 1997 for allegedly forging his wife's name on a check. In May, he filed a discrimination lawsuit against the city of High Point alleging the city wrongfully dismissed him for racial and religious reasons.

Dunn is an ordained minister and associate pastor at New Bethel Baptist Church in High Point.

Though the case was filed in Guilford County, it will be heard in Winston-Salem, says Dunn's attorney Amiel Rossabi.

"We filed it in state court," Rossabi said. "The defendants removed it and had it moved to federal court."

Rossabi said the change in venues will not have any effect on the team's strategy.

"The facts are the facts and the law is the law," he said. "We stand by everything we said in the complaint."

Fred Baggett, district attorney for the city of High Point, would only say that case the had been moved to Winston-Salem and that he is unsure why.

Dunn, who still resides in High Point, says he has fond memories of the police department.

"I miss the fellows up there," he



Dunn

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In black and white



UNC Greensboro senior Matt Hughey (left) stands out at meeting of his predominantly black fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma. Hughey, the only white member of the UNCG chapter, says race was not a factor in his decision to pledge. Above, he talks with fellow group member Dennis Stevenson.

Photo by Damon Ford

Race report reveals divide

By KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Among the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity at UNC Greensboro, 22-year-old Matt Hughey sticks out like a sore thumb.

In a Greek organization whose membership is predominantly African American, Hughey's a minority.

He's white. "There are white Sigmas at other schools, but I'm the only one in (the Rho Beta) chapter," he said. "At first there was some wariness; they were unsure of my motivations."

But over the last three years, Hughey has proven himself to the chapter's eight

other members — so much so that he's been elected president of UNC-G's National Pan-Hellenic Council, the umbrella group for all African American Greek organizations.

In a nation where tales of racial intolerance and discord continue to be played out in newspaper headlines and television soundbites, Hughey's story raises more than eyebrows.

"I always hear comments...mostly from white students that don't understand why I'm in this organization," Hughey said. "I joined (Phi Beta Sigma) because (its) community service aspect seems to be greater than that of historically white fraternities, and also the brotherhood is so strong."

The gulfs between white and black have never seemed as pronounced as they are now, a fact that led President Bill Clinton to appoint a group of Americans to investigate the issue of race nearly a year ago.

The group's investigation culminated two weeks ago with the release of a lengthy report detailing the prevalence of "white privilege" in America.

"It is, we believe, essential to recall the facts of racial domination...We as a nation need to understand that whites tend to benefit, either unknowingly or consciously, from this country's history of white privilege," the report states.

See Race on A11

Preserving black heritage

Expanded East Winston library offers new resources

By JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

For two months, the staff at the old East Winston Branch Library have been working behind closed doors.

They culled the library's reference materials, tore up old carpeting and replaced dog-eared books.

And when the library reopens to the public Oct. 5, their hard work will have paid big dividends, they hope. The library will have a new name, new books and a new mission.

"This library will be different in that we are going to offer some unique services," said Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, Deputy Library Director. "We closed the library these past two months to give it a brand new look."

And library officials hope the newly remodeled building, located in the heart of East Winston, will become a focal point of community activities.

Library officials spent months gathering information from numerous libraries across the country that served similar communities. They also analyzed patron records to determine what services would best serve area residents.

The result is the East Winston Heritage Library, in addition to the more than 25,000 volumes that will eventually grace its shelves, will offer a host of community services and programs that emphasize African American culture and history.

The East Winston branch will house a mini business center that will provide a host of resources for local businesses, and the library will be a repository for numerous pieces of Winston-Salem's African American history. When the library opens, it will house "The Atkins Collection," an exhibit of photographs and memorabilia from Atkins High School.

"This is not something we just thought of," Sprinkle-Hamlin said. "We have been looking at the services East Winston was providing and what people actually used the branch for. They used it for a lot of community meeting. We realized this

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Blacks gaining wealth, but still lag behind

By HERBERT L. WHITE
CONSOLIDATED MEDIA GROUP

Fewer black Americans are living below the poverty line but still lag behind Asians and whites, according to a Census Bureau report.

The number of poor blacks dropped from 9.7 million in 1996 to 9.1 million in 1997, which accounted for 26.5 percent of the African American population. Eleven percent of whites (24.4 million) were poor and 14 percent of Asians (1.5 million) are living in poverty. Fewer families headed by black women lived in poverty: 1.6 million in 1997, compared to 1.7 million the year before.

"African Americans accounted for 60 percent of the decline in the number of poor persons in America between 1996 and 1997," said Daniel Weinberg, chief of the Census Bureau's Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. "Nationwide, about 400,000 fewer families were poor in 1997 than in 1996 and more than half of them were African American families."

Among African American families, 2 million are below the poverty level, down from 2.2 million and the percentage dropped from 26.1 percent to 23.6 percent, the lowest since 1989. The poverty rate for black married-couple families, female householders with no husband and individuals was also lower.

The poverty line for a family of four is \$16,400 annually and \$12,802 for a family of three.

The per capita income — of black Americans was \$12,351 in '97, compared with \$20,425 for whites, \$18,226 for Asians and Pacific Islanders and \$10,773 for Hispanics.

Black households had an increase in median income — meaning half of all families make more while half makes less — of 4.3 percent between 1996-97. Black families' earnings rose from \$24,021 to \$25,050, which was lower than Asian and Pacific Islanders (\$45,249) whites (\$38,972) and Hispanics (\$26,628). From 1995-97, the median income for African American household matched or surpassed the 1989 peak.



Fewer African Americans are living in poverty a new Census survey revealed.

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