



The Chronicle will open its doors to the community Sunday.

The Chronicle to hold open house

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Chronicle will begin its 25th anniversary celebration with an open house Sunday from 2-5 p.m.

For the past year, The Chronicle's offices on Liberty Street have been remodeled. While the changes made on the outside have been visible - from the addition of a mural depicting the history of the black press to the sign that counts down the millennium - almost as much work has been

done to the inside of the building the paper has occupied for 15 years.

Sunday's open house will allow the community to informally meet Chronicle staff and tour the paper's facilities.

The event will also allow visitors to see exactly how the newspaper is put together each week.

Ernie Pitt, The Chronicle's founder and publisher, says the event is a way of giving back to the community.

"As The Chronicle completes

25 years of publishing, we are taking this opportunity to extend our commitment of excellence in community journalism into the 21st century," he said. "The recent improvements to our facility will enhance our ability to better serve our readers and advertisers."

The open house marks the beginning of a year-long celebration of The Chronicle's 25th anniversary that will continue Aug. 28 with We Are Family Day and 25th Anniversary Celebration. The event, which will be held

at Rupert Bell Park in East Winston, will feature performances by recording artist Sybil and a host of local entertainers, including saxophonist Tony Chambers; the Winston Lake YMCA Boss Drummers; the Mount Olive Baptist Church Mass Choir, under the direction of Michael Gray and Arthur Wright; and the Bethlehem Baptist Church Cherub Choir.

Debra Terry will be the host of

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1974 - Celebrating 25 Years - 1999

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1999

Committee red-flags segregation

For second year, equity report finds schools still reeling from resegregation

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Coinciding with the opening of the school year, the equity committee's report to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education has become an annual update on the state of the post-redistricting school system.

The "watchdog" group was created by the board in 1995 after it adopted the controversial redistricting plan, which replaced forced busing with a school choice plan.

The group is charged with looking into issues of equity - such as financial and human resources - at schools under the redistricting plan.

The equity committee mainly hammered away at an old gripe when members appeared before the school board last week.

"The growing lack of racial and socioeconomic diversity in our schools has been a concern of our committee since our first report...Our numbers show that the trend continues," said Becky Werner, co-chair of the committee.

Werner, who is white, co-chairs the equity committee with Mark Woodson, an African American.

The committee's findings seem to contradict those of the administration, who have contended that the trend toward segregation at schools in the system is slowing down. One reason for the discrepancy may be that the equity committee's findings are based on information from the 1998-1999 school year, while the administration data is from the current school year.

Eighteen of the 36 schools under the plan last year did not meet the system's own racial balance criteria, according to the committee's report.

Black students were also much more likely to foster integration with the school choices they made, according to the report. The racial integration that schools under the redistricting plan did experience were mainly a result of black students venturing to schools outside of their communities.

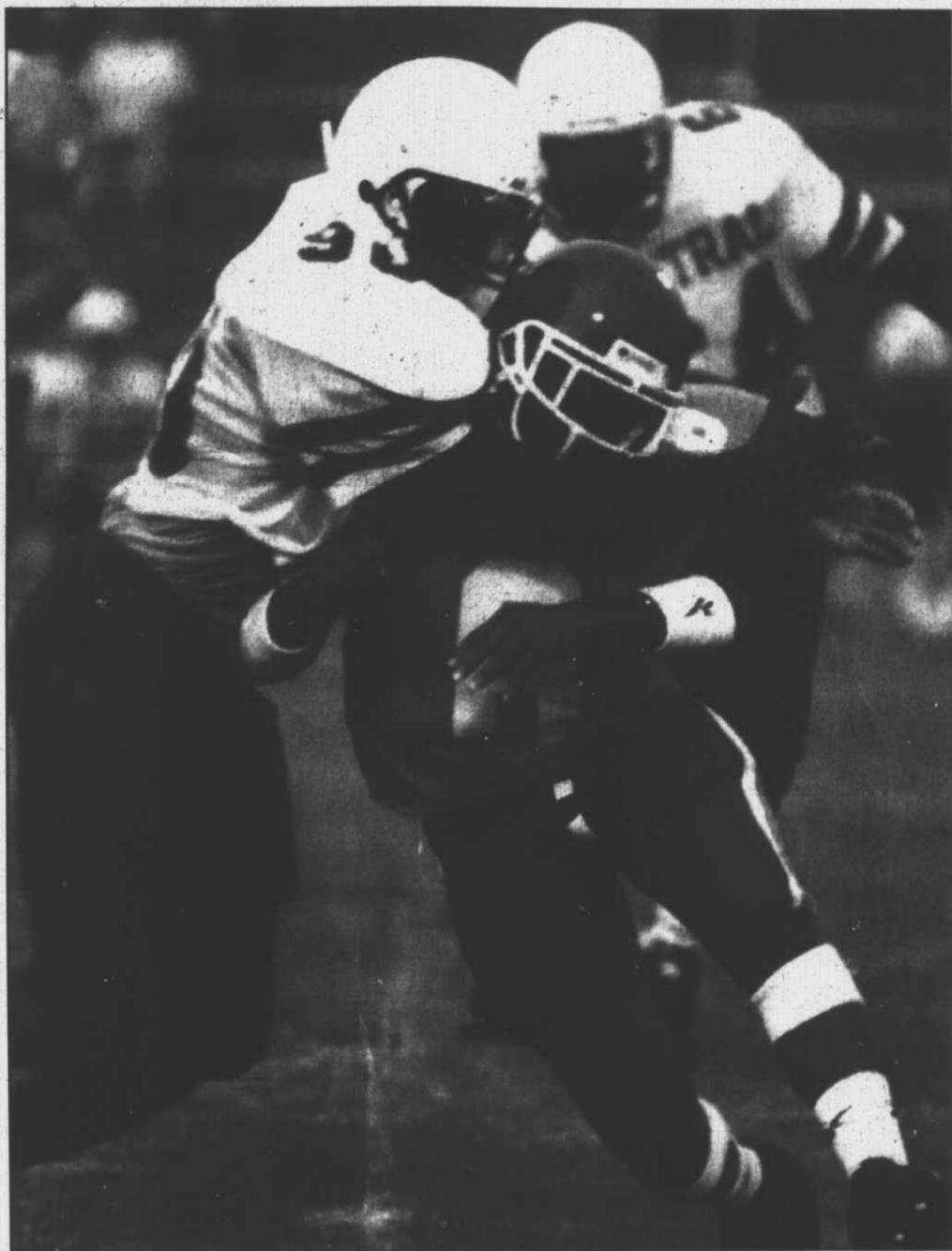
"The choices made by majority race students (white students) tend not to promote diversity," Werner said. "The movement to

See Equity on A10



Martin

Men of Iron



School is back in session, which means football season is right around the corner. The Chronicle's annual high school football roundup gives you all the stats you need to be in the thick of the huddle. For more see page B1.

Photo by Bruce Chapman

The long walk home

Parents in uproar over lack of transportation to neighborhood schools

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

At least one school board member says she thinks system administrators should look into the feasibility of providing bus service to students who live within a mile and a half of their schools.

A state rule prohibits systems from providing bus transportation to students who live within that distance to their schools. Many of those who oppose the rule took their concerns to the city-county school board last week. They told the board of the hardships the rule has caused and urged the board, sometimes very passionately, to overlook the rule.

"These are 5-, 6- and 7-year-old kids!" Geneva Yarbrough told the board. "They are walking more than a mile and a half."

Yarbrough came to speak on behalf of parents whose children attend the newly-converted Ashley Elementary School. She told the board horror stories of youngsters being chased by wild dogs as they made the trek down Jackson Avenue and 25th Street to the school.

She told the board that children also faced an assortment of animals of the two-legged variety. Drug dealers, winos, crack heads and pedophiles line the streets the children have to take to the school, Yarbrough said.

Other Ashley parents who spoke reemphasized the danger issue. One mother said that she had to catch a city bus to her job at the same time her daughter needed to be on her way to school. The mother said she refused to let her daughter make the walk to Ashley solo, so she kept her out of school.

One Ashley staffer who did not want to be identified said that the school did experience some absences on the first few days of school because of transportation problems.

Many of the speakers hinted that the board would not allow white children in a similar situation to be put in harm's way. They challenged board members - and the children of board members - to make the walk with them through a neighborhood they say is oftentimes unsafe.

At one point, board member Richard Bagley said that he had, in fact, visited the neighborhood in question and that "it looked like a pretty nice area."

See Busing on A11



Johnson

LOC gearing up for Million Family March

By JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

More than a million black men gathered in 1995 for the Million Man March.

Brought by a call issued by Min. Lewis Farrakhan, the men packed the Mall in Washington D.C. for a day of speeches by a host of African Americans from Maya Angelou to several young people who encouraged others to recommit themselves to being role models.

Now organizers are hoping the success of the first march will help them draw another group of African Americans - the family - to Washington, D.C. for a day filled with events aimed at bringing the often splintered group back together.

During whirlwind speeches to several groups during the National Black Theater Festival, Min. Ben (Chavis) Muhammad formally announced that the march will be held Oct. 16, 2000 - exactly five years after the first march.

"We're hoping to mobilize families across denomination lines, across

See MFM on A10



A group gathers during preparation for the Million Man March.

Wanted: Singles

New program sponsored by church and Y hopes to reach out to underserved age group

By FELECIA P. McMILLAN
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

It's not always easy for young singles to meet new people in Winston-Salem.

A new group hopes that it can change that.

The Winston Lake YMCA and Goler Memorial AME Zion Church are hoping to draw hundreds of young adults to the Y each month to socialize with other singles.

The first meeting will be held Friday from 7-9 p.m. at the Winston Lake Family YMCA, 901 Waterworks Road.

Every third Friday night at the YMCA, singles will be able to meet, socialize, exercise and network with one another. The YMCA has formed a partnership with Goler Memorial Baptist Church in order to reach out to singles in the city between the ages of 20-40. According to the Rev. Seth Lartey, the sheer volume of people in Winston-Salem who fall into this category merit much considera-

See Singles on A11