

SPORTS WEEK

Mustangs extend winning streak
New WSSU B-ball coach finding niche



See B1



See C1



See A2

COMMUNITY

Church celebrates 100th anniversary
Blacks losing battle against AIDS

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2001

For Reference

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Fate of Diggs in hands of parents

BY SAM DAVIS THE CHRONICLE

Whether Jefferson D. Diggs Elementary becomes a charter school depends on the consensus of the parents...

Martin and members of the Arts Based Elementary Charter School (ABES) visited Diggs Monday night to meet with parents and interested community members...



Martin

the local school system and ABES that would make the school an arts-based charter school. Martin told the audience that the local School Board's decision about whether to convert the school would be contingent upon the acceptance of the concept by the parents and teachers at the school.

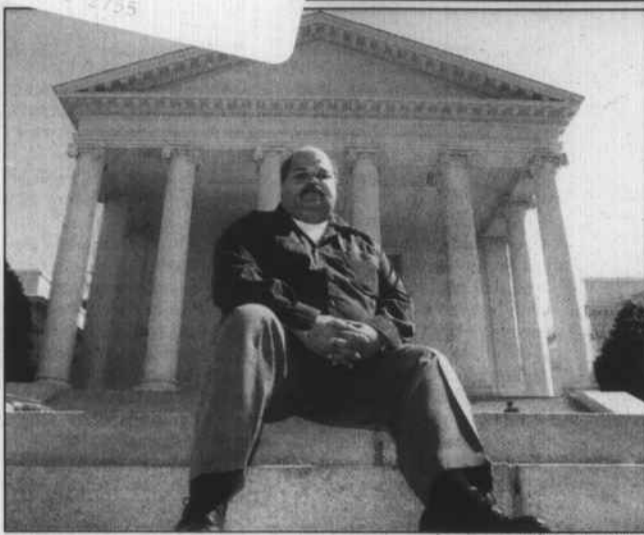
In late October the idea of converting Diggs to an arts-based elementary charter surfaced. Martin and the School Board approached ABES with the idea as a means of increasing Diggs' enrollment. The school has been underpopulated and its student body nearly 100 percent African American ever since implementation of the school system's redistricting plan several years ago.

However, many parents and community members in Happy Hill Gardens believe that neither the school system nor ABES have been forthright in dealing with parents and teachers at the school and that has caused them to be unresponsive to the idea.

Thelma Westbrook, a resident of Happy Hill Gardens and vice president of the community residents council, articulated many of the residents' concerns.

"Within the community the greatest concern of the parents is that there was no information submitted to them," she said. "They are uninformed and they're not sure of what's going to take place. Some people feel that this is being shoved down their throats."

See Diggs on A9



Bryan Logan sits on the granite steps of the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond. The granite used to make the steps was taken from a quarry on land once owned by Logan's ancestors.

Investigation reveals vast theft of black land

This is the first of a three-part series done by The Associated Press documenting how black Americans, especially in the South, lost family land over the last 160 years.

BY TODD LEWAN AND DOLORES BARCLAY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For generations, black families passed down the tales in uneasy whispers: "They stole our land."

Some of those whispered bits of oral history, it turns out, are true. In an 18-month investigation, The Associated Press documented a pattern in which

black Americans were cheated out of their land or driven from it through intimidation, violence and even murder.

In some cases, government officials approved the land takings; in others, they took part in them. The earliest occurred before the Civil War; others are being litigated today.

Some of the land taken from black families has become a country club in Virginia, oil fields in Mississippi, a major-league baseball spring training facility in Florida.

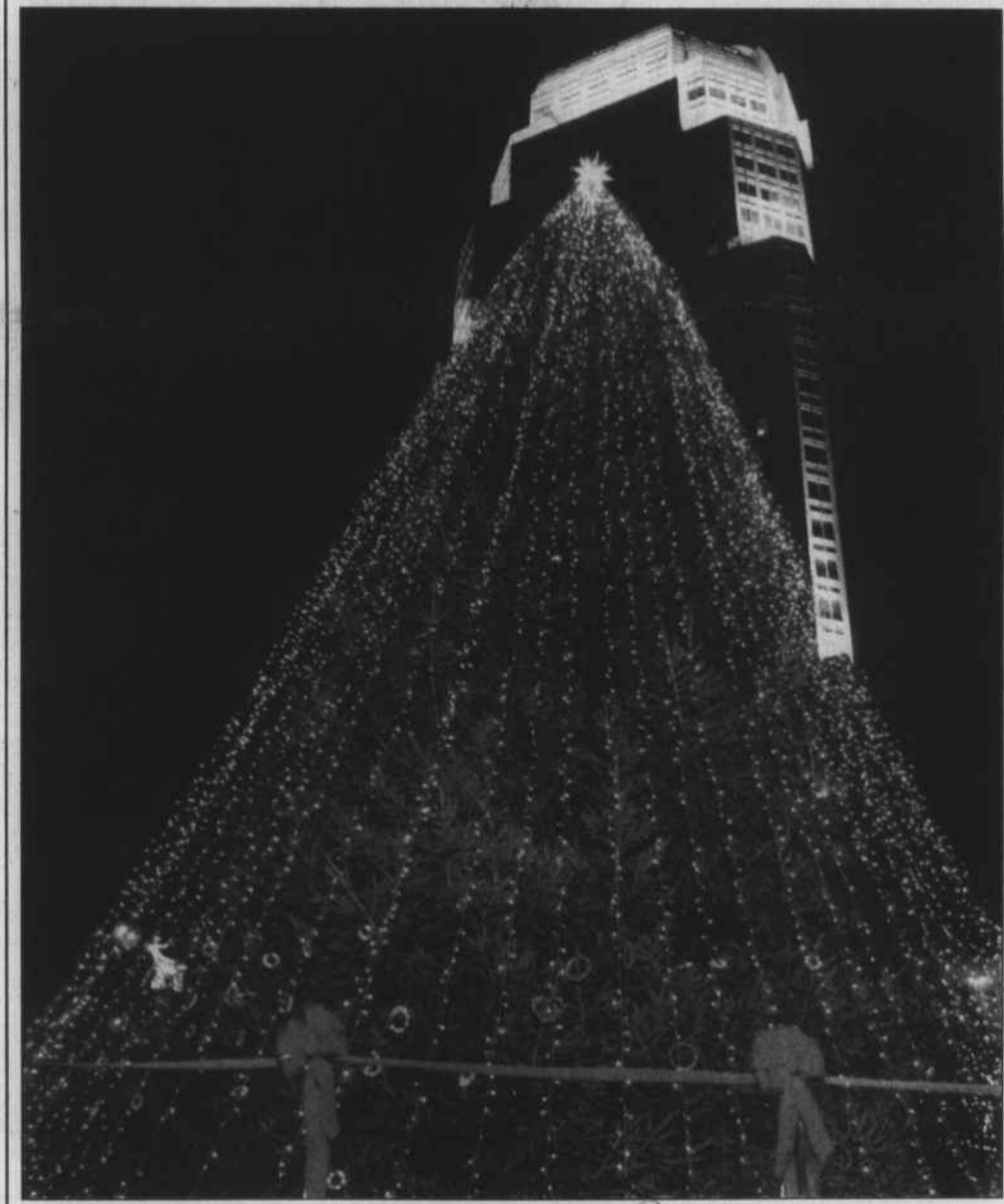
The Associated Press - in an investigation that included interviews with more than 1,000 people and the examina-

tion of tens of thousands of public records in county courthouses and state and federal archives - documented 107 land takings in 13 Southern and border states.

In those cases alone, 406 black landowners lost more than 24,000 acres of farm and timber land plus 85 smaller properties, including stores and city lots. Today, virtually all of this property, valued at tens of millions of dollars, is owned by whites or by corporations.

Properties taken from blacks were often small - a 40-

See Lost land on A4



The City Christmas tree was lit Friday for the first time this holiday season. The 40-foot-tall Norway spruce is covered with more than 20,000 lights, and it is surrounded by about 100 smaller trees covered with white lights. The tree has caused many drivers to slow down on Interstate 40 and take notice.

Role of black contractors uncertain

School system says price, quality top factors; superintendent says he can't assure that black businesses will be used in building blitz

BY SHERIDAN HILL THE CHRONICLE

Local leaders want assurance that black businesses will be included in bids for a piece of the \$150 million pie that is on the table, now that the school bond package has been approved by voters.

The bond package provides \$64.5 million for construction of four new schools and \$68.8 million for renovations and repairs to 46 of the existing 68 schools.

Several months ago, the University of North Carolina Board of Governors set a goal to use historically underutilized businesses (HUBs) for 10 percent of the \$2.5 billion in construction it plans to spend on state college campuses. HUBs include businesses owned by ethnic minorities, women, and physically handicapped persons.

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Superintendent Donald Martin is not guaranteeing that a percent of construction and renovation business will go to non-white companies.

"We do not have a formal, written goal nor a contract requirement for using minorities," he said. "We are always looking for good contractors, and price and quality are controlling factors. When you get into using percents, you have to consider the actual availability - the percentage of businesses that are actually prepared and qualified."

"We don't have a quota system because we are spending taxpayer dollars, and we have a duty to use the lowest responsible bidder," Martin said. "We do have a policy that deals with overall use of minority contractors, and we want to make it easy for minority vendors to secure a bid."

However, School Board policy 3310, adopted in January 1984 and revised in April 1996, sets a goal of 10 percent of construction monies spent to go to historically underutilized businesses.

Frayda Bluestein at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill explained that, according to state law, local schools are required to make outreach efforts to include minorities, but are not permitted to have setaside.

"North Carolina law establishes a 10 percent goal for all statewide agencies, which includes local school systems, and requires them to make a good faith effort, but assuming that has been done, they are required to award to the lowest responsible bidder," she said.

Martin said he invited a representative of the Winston-Salem Minority Business Association to attend construction pre-bid meetings, and that his office consistently encourages contractors to use minority subs.

See Bonds on A9



Kelley Dean, right, and Shontay Hayes arrange groceries they purchased for a fictional upper-middle-class family.

The Real World

Students get a taste of what it means to be poor, rich in Forsyth County

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Textbooks and lectures gave them a general concept of the haves and the have-nots. A recent class project, though, had a group of Wake Forest University students clinging onto rungs of the country's ever-stretching socioeconomic ladder.



A student holds a grocery receipt.

Assistant professor of sociology Angela Hattery gave students in one of her classes the arduous task of putting themselves in the situation local families find themselves each payday - trying to make ends meet while juggling bills, schedules, taxes and those unscheduled, and often costly, occurrences that all families are faced with from time to time.

Near the beginning of the semester, students were divided into groups and charged with creating fictional families with very real cir-

See Class on A10