

Forsyth County Room
660 West 5th Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Community Journal



Reynolds has no problem with Rowan
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Sweatin' to the African drums
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Vigil held for city's homicide victims
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THE CHRONICLE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006

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Church says it will picket over billboards



Photos by Kevin Walker
The Rev. Seth O. Lartey says the Paper Moon billboards misrepresent the community.

Lartey says strip club ads don't represent community

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The pastor of one of the most respected churches in East Winston is unhappy with a series of provocative billboards promoting a local "gentlemen's club."

The Rev. Seth O. Lartey led a prayer vigil Sunday on the campus of Winston-Salem State University with about two dozen members of his flock from Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church. The site, behind the school's new multimillion computer science building, was near a billboard for Paper Moon, an adult club on Salisbury Ridge Road.

The brightly-colored Paper Moon billboard - which features just the



A Goler member holds her Bible during Sunday's prayer vigil.

See Billboards on A12

Ruling favors East Winston Primary

Leaders want to reopen school in the fall

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

A judge has cleared the way for East Winston Primary School to re-open its doors to students in the fall.

The school closed in 2004 after its charter was revoked by the State Board of Education. The revocation occurred after the Office of Charter Schools claimed, among other issues, that the school falsified its student enrollment numbers, failed to maintain accurate

accounting records and did not keep exact minutes from meetings of EWPS' board.

The school challenged the revocation. Beginning in 2004, the Office of Administrative Hearings heard the case in High Point. Last September, a judge issued a decision that is highly critical of the Office of Charter Schools and the Charter School Advisory Committee, which recommended the revocation of the school's charter to the State Board of Education. The decision clears the way for EWPS officials to go to the State Board of Education next month to begin the process of regaining its charter.

"The court finds that the state's decision to revoke the East Winston Primary School charter was arbitrary and capricious," Administrative Law Judge Sammie Chess Jr.'s decision reads. The decision says the state never produced credible evidence to prove the issues cited in the revocation and that the school was denied



Muhammad

See Nun on A9

See EWPS on A11

NUN-SENSE

Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams does God's work at East Winston Catholic church

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams, the pastoral associate of Saint Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, on East 12th Street, is the only black nun in North Carolina.

That's not something she's particularly happy about. She said black sisters aren't very common in the South and she wished there were more minorities entering the religious life.

She said fewer people are choosing to enter the religious life, period. In this day and age, where women can do so much, it's harder to convince women to take a vocation, but she said the life has been very rewarding for her. She has met a lot of people through her work.

She said what attracts her is the discipline and focus of the lifestyle. She also likes to be part of a community where everyone has the same focus on social justice issues and asks similar questions about life and the nature of God.

One thing that many notice about Rivera-Williams when they see her is that she doesn't wear a nun's habit. The traditional veil and dress of a nun are not required by her regional community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. She and another sister were the last to enter the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont, N.C., when they required a habit.

Her regional community was conservative and slower than others to give up the habit. She and another sister went to a Sisters of Mercy conference one time. They were the only

ones with habits there, which became a source of curiosity for the other sisters, who wanted to see and try on their veils.

"It's not the veil, it's the drive that makes the sister," said Rivera-Williams.

She said that one of the biggest misconceptions about nuns is that they're holier than everyone else. Nuns have flaws too, she said. People shouldn't put them on pedestals because they're just as human as the rest of us.

"What you see is what you get," she said.

Sometimes people will ask her if she ran away from something by becoming a nun. She tells them she isn't running from anything; instead, she is running toward something.

Rivera-Williams, a Winston-Salem native, has traveled a long road to become a nun and to get to where she is today. She remembers being attracted to their lifestyle as early as her grade-school years. She said there was a sense of mystery about nuns. But she didn't think she could be one. She wouldn't see a black nun until college.

In ninth grade at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, one of the sisters told her she had a calling to religious life. She then went to college and earned a major in social work and a minor in theology.

She went back to Bishop McGuinness after that and taught school there for a couple years. She thought being around the sisters there and being involved in the church would be enough. But she wanted



Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams is the state's only black nun.

Photo by Todd Luck

BEING HEARD

Black Leadership Roundtable hears concerns from community

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Residents brought a hodgepodge of concerns with them last Thursday to a

community forum held by the Black Leadership Roundtable.

The Roundtable, a grassroots group with a strong history of addressing issues that affect the black community,

has held such forums for the past several years. Many of the concerns that have been addressed at past forums have become initiatives and causes of the Roundtable.

There were few empty seats at the forum, held at the Sara Alston Head Start Center. Some of the seats were filled by elected officials and other local decision makers, who came to hear community concerns firsthand. They got an earful.

Kareem Allah complained about the City Council's 2004 decision not to fund CAT-TV, a cable public access channel. CAT-TV - which also had an unsteady board of directors and incidents of financial malfeasance - has been off the air for more than a year.

"This is the first city to eliminate community television," said Allah, who hosted a show on CAT-TV. The Black



See Roundtable on A5 Regina Barnes was one of several people who made com



Linda Sutton jots down notes during the forum.

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