



# Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

Vol. XII, No. 39

U.S.P.S. No. 067910

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Thursday, May 22, 1988

50 cents

38 Pages This Week

## AKAs invest in E. Winston

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is investing in East Winston.

The Phi Omega Chapter plans to develop a 20-unit apartment complex on 1.15 acres at Second and Third streets and Woodland and Cleveland avenues. The multi-family townhouses will cost between \$725,000 and \$750,000 to build and will be partially financed by up to \$500,000 in Urban Redevelopment notes from the city.

The Board of Aldermen unanimously approved the financing at its Monday night meeting.

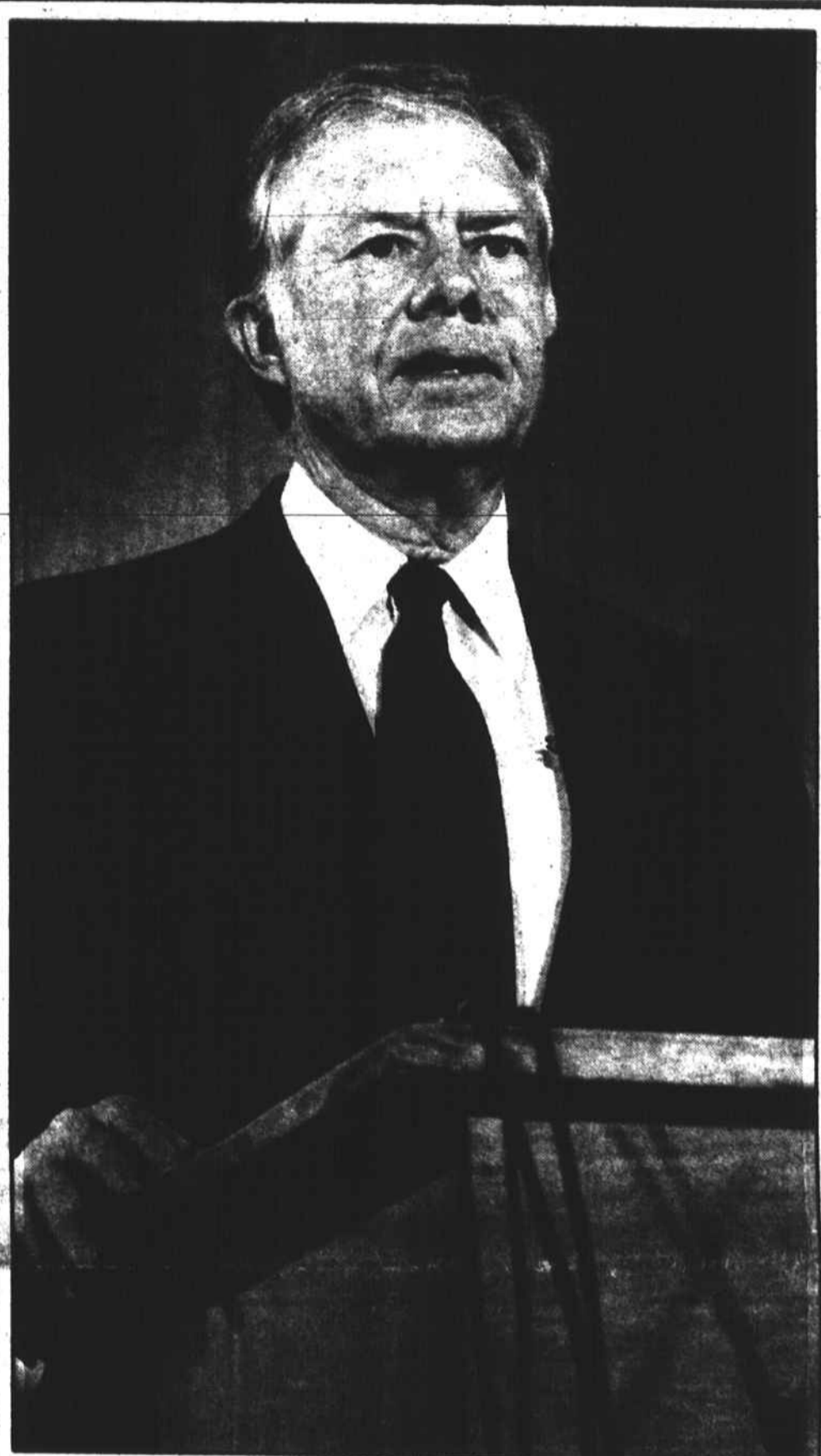
"This will be a service to people," said East Ward Alderman Virginia K. Newell, a member of the sorority. "It will give them apartments that they didn't have before."

Mrs. Newell and Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian H. Burke abstained from voting on the matter because they are members of the sorority. "We did that to avoid any questions of conflict (of interest) on our parts," Mrs. Newell said after the meeting.

The aldermen's Finance Committee approved the funding on May 12. Mrs. Newell, chairman of the committee, also abstained from voting on the matter then.

Phi Omega Inc. plans to finance the project with \$425,000 in the Urban Redevelopment bonds, \$225,000 to \$250,000 in Community Development Block Grant loans and \$75,000 raised from the sorority's members.

"The next step is for local Please see page A3



## A SOUTHERN RARITY

(photo by James Parker)

As a Southerner in the White House, Jimmy Carter was a novelty. But it could happen again in '88, and the candidate's name may again begin with a "J." Story on A5.

"I feel fairly confident that if we didn't have the ward system in Winston-Salem, we wouldn't have the number (of blacks) that we have on the board now."

-- Alderman Larry W. Womble

## The debate on wards continues

By JOHN HINTON  
AND CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writers

■ This article is the first in a two-part series.

**BLACK CANDIDATES** often survive countywide primaries, but they fall like flies in November.

Only one black person has ever been elected to the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. Only one has ever been elected to the city-county school board.

Sometimes, politically strong black hopefuls even are defeated in primaries. Incumbent Mazie S. Woodruff sought her third term as a county commissioner, but failed to make the cut in May 6's Democratic primary.

An exception has been Beaufort O. Bailey, the only black school board member who has been a consistent winner in at-large elections. Bailey credits his strength to a broad base of support. But some of his black critics say he leads the ticket because he is considered weak and non-threatening by white voters.

Despite his success in the at-large system, for whatever reason, Bailey joins a chorus of black voices that suggest that at-large elections be replaced by a ward voting system in the county.

"The ward system is the only way to go to increase black



(photo by James Parker)

Newell: Not so sure wards would work in the county.

representation in the county," said the Rev. Jerry Drayton, chairman of the Political Action Committee of the Baptist Ministers Conference and Associates.

The at-large elections were partly blamed for the defeat of Mrs. Woodruff, the first black and woman to serve as a commissioner, and school board candidates William H. Tatum and Naomi W. Jones. They all support a ward system of voting in the county commissioners and school board races.

This is not the first time that blacks have suggested a ward system for the county. In 1982, the city's NAACP chapter con-

sidered legal action.

"A ward system would ensure that we have the type of representation we should have," Patrick T. Hairston, then NAACP president, told the Chronicle.

Hairston, who has run unsuccessfully for county commissioner and successfully for North Ward alderman, said it isn't enough to have "white people who say they speak for blacks." It is "very unlikely" that blacks will get "adequate representation with the present system," he added.

Since then, the NAACP has adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude so it could first judge the Please see page A2

## Be the best, Fauntroy tells graduates

By CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Whitney Houston beware. Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy is singing your song.

Fauntroy, the Washington, D.C., delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, spoke Sunday at Winston-Salem State University's 94th annual commencement exercises. He ended his message to the 220 graduates by singing, "The Greatest Love of All," a George Benson song revived this year by Miss Houston.

Fauntroy's deep, rich voice

literally brought both the Memorial Coliseum audience of 2,500 and the graduates to their feet, and culminated a speech that emphasized the graduates' importance to this country's future.

"The future belongs to you," he said. "I want you to create a meaningful future not only for yourselves but for the young to follow."

Fauntroy, a Democrat who is president of the National Black Leadership Roundtable, told the graduates that, in order to compete with graduates from schools

such as Yale and Harvard, they have got to be better.

If the competition gets up at 6 a.m., he said, then they should get up at 5 a.m., and if the competition gets up at 4 a.m., then they should get up at 3 a.m. "And if they get up at 1:30," he admonished, "you stay up all night, hear?"

Greater challenges are ahead for black leaders and white leaders as the nation moves from an industrial economy to a service economy, Fauntroy said.

"You ought to know that, as Please see page A3



Congressman Walter Fauntroy challenges WSSU's Class of '86 (photo by James Parker).

## City worker files lawsuit

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Staff Writer

A Winston-Salem man has filed a \$5.25 million lawsuit against the city, alleging he was denied promotions and job benefits.

Curtis E. Dixon, 46, a senior program evaluation analyst with the city, filed the lawsuit on May 15 in Forsyth County Superior Court.

The complaint named as defendants City Manager Bryce A. Stuart, Assistant City Manager Alexander R. Beaty and Sam H. Owen, director of the city's

Management Information Systems and Services Department.

The defendants have 30 days to respond to the lawsuit. None of the defendants could be reached to comment on the matter but City Attorney Ronald G. Seeber said a response will be filed before the deadline.

Dixon, a city employee for 16 years, is seeking \$250,000 in compensatory damages and \$5 million in punitive damages.

The lawsuit contends that the three city officials conspired to Please see page A14

## Kim and her family: 'Real special'

By CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Ellerbes of 4105 Carnation Drive have always been a tightly knit family. But now they're closer.

Portia and Ronald Ellerbe say that what bound them together even more was the birth three years ago of their youngest daughter, Kimberly.

Kimberly is like any other child: She fights with her brother, Reginald, 7, she plays with dolls with her sister, Kia, 11, and she helps her mother in the kitchen. But unlike many other children her age, Kimberly cannot walk. She

also suffers some hearing loss. Because of the way her mouth is structured, Mrs. Ellerbe said in an interview Sunday, Kimberly cannot talk clearly either.

When Kimberly was born, according to Mrs. Ellerbe, she was diagnosed as having "frontometaphyseal dysplasia syndrome," a condition characterized by certain facial features and long fingers and limbs.

Mrs. Ellerbe said that although this diagnosis remains on Kimberly's medical records, a pediatrician has determined that Kimberly does not have the syndrome. Her

doctors, however, haven't come up with a diagnosis to fit all of Kimberly's characteristics, Mrs. Ellerbe said.

Other children with the syndrome have gone on to walk and develop normally, while Kimberly remains developmentally delayed, Mrs. Ellerbe said.

But the Ellerbes are determined that Kimberly should lead as normal a life as possible despite her handicaps.

"We always do everything as a family," Mrs. Ellerbe said. "When we go out, we go out together. We try to include Please see page A2



Caring for Kimberly has made the Ellerbes a family more closely knit than most (photo by James Parker).