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Officials respond to concerns about counselors, tracking

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Alleged problematic ratios of high school guidance counselors to students in the city-county school system and "tracking" of Afro-American students into non-college preparatory courses are hypotheses void of a statistical and factual base, according to officials with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

During the Feb. 16 meeting of the Forsyth Ministers' Fellowship, some of its members said high

school counselor/student ratios have deprived students of the individual career and personal guidance necessary for them to succeed.

"There's a 725 to one student to counselor ratio in some of our schools," said Rev. William S. Falls.

Another minister agreed and commented on the tracking issue in the school system.

"The school system is tracking our students into non-academic classes," said Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church. "They have taken black students, tracked them, and they're

"The school system is tracking our students into non-academic classes. They have taken black students, tracked them, and they're on the honor roll, but can't go to a decent college because they haven't had the necessary physics, algebra and chemistry."

-- The Rev. John Mendez of Emmanuel Baptist Church

"I know that in any system that has levels of courses like our does it lends itself open to that type of negative speculation. But we encourage students to take the highest level of courses they are prepared for."

-- William Albright, Director of Guidance

on the honor roll, but can't go to a decent college because they haven't had the necessary physics, algebra and chemistry."

However, if anything is hindering Afro-American students from reaching their full potential, it's the passive participation of their parents, said Shirley Dunlap, an 18-year veteran counselor at Reynolds High School.

"The problem is not so much with the counselors, it's the parents," Dunlap said. "If we could just get more involvement and help from our black students' parents ..."

The actual guidance counselor to student ratio in the city-county school system is 1 to 400, which is better than the established state standards, said William U. Albright, director of guidance for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County schools.

"We would like to see a much lower student to counselor ratio, but the one to 400 is pretty much the standard," Albright said. "That's not to say that a lower counselor to student ratio wouldn't allow our counselors to do a better job. The fewer

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The Declining State of Black Health

Hypertension can cause kidney failure

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

This is the second in a series of articles examining the declining state of Afro-American health. Future articles will address causes of, treatment for and survival rates of leading diseases that cause death among Afro-Americans.

On the morning of Dec. 15, 1978, Reuben Davis awoke with swollen hands and feet. Thinking he was experiencing a mild flare-up of arthritis combined with a cold, Davis went to his doctor.

"Go home and pack a suitcase and report to Moses Cone (Memorial Hospital in Greensboro)," his doctor said.

When he arrived at Moses Cone doctors told him his kidneys were no longer doing "what the good Lord intended them to do," Davis said.

"If I'd had a complete physical, instead of just going to the doctor when I was hurting, they would have found out I had hyper-

tension," he said. "Then I could have gotten it treated and wouldn't have to go through what I did."

One out of every four Afro-Americans is hypertensive, compared to one out of ten whites. For Afro-Americans over age 50, the chances of being hypertensive increases by 50 percent.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, occurs when blood circulates through arteries at higher than normal pressure, said Dr. Charles Johnson, 1987 chairman of the board for the National Medical Association.

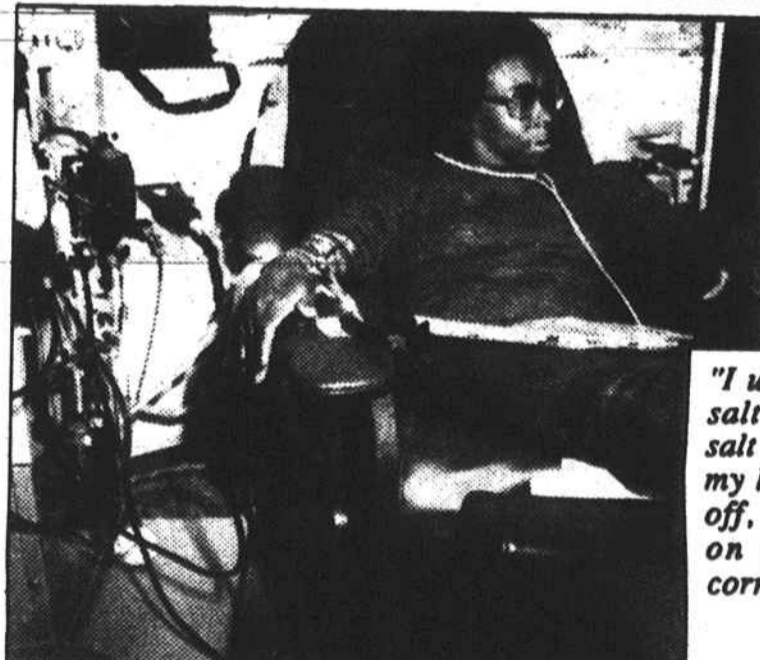
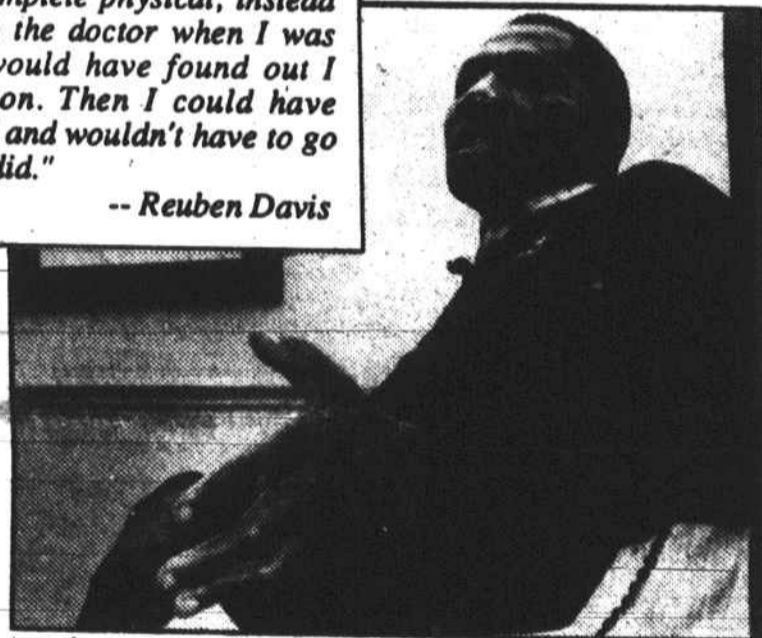
Its alias is "the silent killer" because the disease often has no symptoms, but when left untreated it can lead to cardiovascular disease, heart attack, heart failure, stroke or kidney failure.

However, those with mild cases of the disease can lower their blood pressure by watching their diets, exercising, avoiding stress and limiting their salt intake, Johnson said.

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"If I'd had a complete physical, instead of just going to the doctor when I was hurting, they would have found out I had hypertension. Then I could have gotten it treated and wouldn't have to go through what I did."

-- Reuben Davis



"I used to be a big salt eater. I'd put salt on the back of my hand and lick it off, and I'd put it on tomatoes and corn, everything."

-- Claudette Lindsay

Photos by Charmane Delaverson

Board votes to sell land, expand mortgage

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Unlike past public hearings about plans for East Winston's newest shopping center, no one objected to the city's decision Monday night to convey 9.3 acres of land for the project to the East Winston Community Development Corporation.

The CDC is now free to convey the land to New Walkertown Associates, the ownership corporation for the center, in exchange for 20 percent of the company's stock. Half of the CDC's profits from the shopping center will go to the city as payment for the land. City Development Director J. Allen Joines estimates it will take the CDC 10 years to pay the city the \$214,774 established fair market value of the land located off New Walkertown Road between Dellabrook Road and Gerald Street.

The city will reserve funds it receives from the CDC for future economic development projects in East Winston. Likewise, any profits the development corporation makes will go towards the non-profit organization's operational costs and future development projects in the area.

In the conveyance agreement the city noted its intent to construct the 14th Street extension from Addison Street to New Walkertown Road, the portion of roadway adjacent to the shopping center. Estimated project cost is \$375,000.

The East Winston CDC also has to present an annual report to the city detailing the use of the corporation's cash flow.

Joines, representatives from the CDC and Herman Turner, the project's developer, are scheduled to meet Monday morning to begin signing paperwork on the land conveyance.

"What we will do is go ahead and formalize the conveyance and convey the land to the CDC, and the CDC can go ahead and convey it to the developers so he can execute leases to tenants," Joines said. "Hopefully, we can close within two weeks."

Joines will return to the board in April with the developer's request for a second mortgage on the project, but not until Turner has signed tenant leases.

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David Duke shuns meeting requested by Louisiana civil rights leader

By LINDA ASHTON
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS -- A meeting failed to materialize Tuesday between former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke and a black state legislator who said he wanted to discuss Duke's ideas.

Rep. Avery Alexander, a civil rights leader, said he initiated the meeting which he scheduled with a woman in Duke's office but that when he arrived Duke was gone.

He said he did not know how to explain the confusion.

"We knew nothing about it," Duke said today as he watched voting machines being checked.

However, Duke said he would meet with anybody to discuss his work in the legislature.

Alexander, a New Orleans Democrat, said late Monday, "I initiated the meeting. I have some misgivings on how he is going to solve the problems of the state and our social problems. He's made some racist

statements that he is opposed to minority set asides and he wants to get rid of welfare and welfare babies and that sounds like genocide to me."

Alexander could not be reached today for further comment.

Alexander, who along with Dr. Martin Luther King helped to found the civil rights movement in the mid-1950's, said he was not surprised to see a former grand wizard of the Klan elected to Louisiana's House of Representatives.

"The late Dr. Martin Luther King

warned us that once we won the struggle there would be, to some extent, a violent reaction. Now we find the run-of-the-mill white citizen supporting a racist. They are not Klansmen. Those are just regular white folks who voted for Duke," said Alexander, former president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Duke could have been elected in any of 60 to 70 Louisiana districts, Alexander said. Hard economic times have intensified racial tension

in the state, he said.

"I think the struggle is more intense than it was five or eight years ago," he said.

Alexander said he wanted a chance to hear Duke's legislative plans first hand before Wednesday, when Duke is scheduled to be sworn in at the start of a special legislative session.

At least one legislator has said he will challenge Duke's seating.

Cooperation between black and white legislators has been pretty

good in the past, Alexander said.

"Not as good as I would have liked to see it, but there have been many instances where we have cooperated for the good of the state," he said.

What effect Duke will have on state politics remains to be seen, Alexander said.

"He's only one man, that's true, but Hitler was only one man. We know that one man can make an impact. Martin Luther King was only one man," Alexander said.

Human Relations Commission celebrates 10th anniversary

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Striving to build a city where equal opportunities, equal justice and mutual understanding form the bridge of community unity, the Human Relations Commission celebrated a decade of change Tuesday evening.

About 170 people joined the commissions' staff in a celebratory reception at the Piedmont Club in One Triad Park.

"The commission has sought community harmony through vigilance," said Dr. Thomas Hern, president of Wake Forest University and speaker for the evening. "What the Human Relations Commission offers us is the opportunity to build here in Winston-Salem, to

grow and show mutual support and good will.

"Whatever mechanism we put in place to achieve our goal will work only if those in the community are working together."

The Human Relations Commission was created out of a need for justice and equality among all city residents, said director Emery L. Rann.

In February 1978 a special ordinance of creation resulted in the formation of the Human Relations Commission. In June of the same year, the Commission received \$31,000 to carry out the ordinance's provisions.

In addition to the city office -- consisting of Rann, human relations specialists Sandra C. Becker and Rebecca J. Brown, and senior office assistant Gail Bur-

nette -- the aldermen's ordinance created a 21-member commission which serves as a policy-making and advisory board, said Rann.

Commission members are: Timothy R. Janke, chair; Florence Corpening, vice chair; Annie Alexander, John Barber, B.F. Daniels, Rod Eller, Roberta Groves, Kelley Hancock, Barbara Hearn, Sidney Kelly, John Lovett, Margaret Mitchell, LaVerne Samuel, J.A. Quick, Paul Shepard, David Shouplin, Theldora Small, L.V. Stennis, Jimmie Sudler, Denise Williams and Clem Withers.

When formed in 1979, commission members were given several charges:

• To study problems of discrimination and encour-

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Photo by Charmane Delaverson
Emery Rann, the commission's director.