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## Black community leaders support Kennedy-Burke election plan

By ANGELA WRIGHT  
Chronicle Managing Editor

Afro-American community leaders say they fully support a county election plan being proposed by state Representatives Annie Brown Kennedy and Logan

"If Holleman is as strong an ally of the black community as he says he is, he will support this plan."  
-- Attorney Larry Little

Burke, and that they plan to lobby the Forsyth County delegation for passage of the plan.

The redistricting plan sponsored by Kennedy and Burke will

be introduced to the General Assembly later this month as an alternative to a plan submitted by

"If I could go there and sign the bill with them, I would do it."  
-- Mazie S. Woodruff

the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

The commissioners' plan was the result of a compromise reached between Commissioner John Holleman and Walter Marshall, president of the local chapter of the NAACP, in response to a lawsuit brought by the NAACP challenging the at-large, staggered term method of county elections.

The lawsuit charged that the current method of electing county commissioners diluted Afro-American voting strength.

The Holleman-Marshall plan calls for the creation of five districts, one of which would be about 92 percent Afro-American. Voters in each district would nominate candidates in the primary,

"If they can get something that's better than we had, then we should try it."  
-- Walter Marshall

but the candidates would run at-large during the general election. Afro-American community

leaders objected to the plan because it did not go far enough to

"It will enhance this community because, when you consider how it affects the entire county, I think it works well."  
-- Aluerman Vivian Burke

guarantee a seat on the commission to an Afro-American candidate.

Under the Kennedy-Burke plan, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners would be expanded from five to nine members. The county would be divided into three districts, one of which would be predominantly Afro-

American. Each district would nominate and elect two members. Three commissioners would be elected at-large. There would be no staggered terms for either the district seats or the at-large seats, and there would be no second primaries.

"Until this plan came along, we only had what I call the Walter Marshall plan. It did not have the full support of the black community."  
-- Alderman Larry Womble

If the Kennedy-Burke plan is approved by the General Assembly, the size of the board would go

from five to nine in 1990.

"We had received requests

"I don't believe they are being narrow-minded in wanting nine members -- which is how it should be anyway for a county this size."  
-- Alderman Virginia Newell

from many of our constituents to come up with a better bill," said Kennedy. She said the plan was a combination of many similar plans used in counties across the state.

"This plan has been discussed with several members of the black community and they have wholeheartedly supported it."  
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## Woman's arrest shocks community

By ROBIN BARKSDALE  
Chronicle Staff Writer

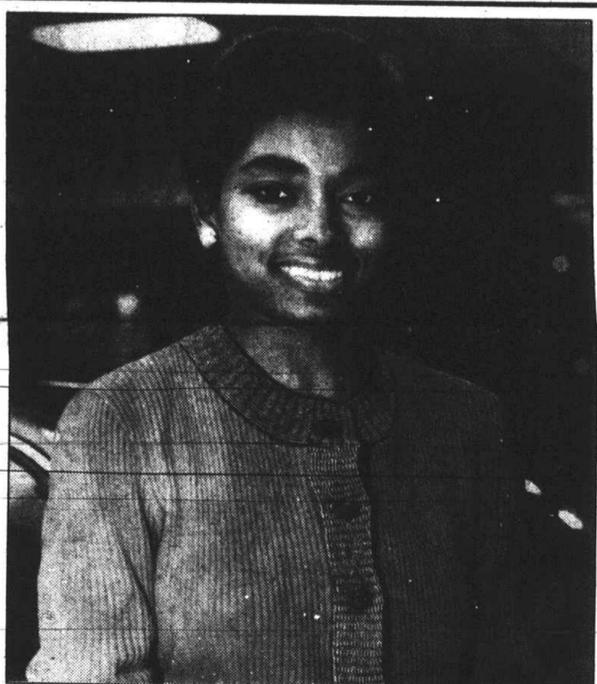
The arrest last week of a young Winston-Salem woman on bank robbery charges has left the community stunned and wondering what went wrong.

Celeste E. Beatty was arrested last Wednesday night in Greensboro and charged with the robbery of the Friendly Center branch of Gate City Federal Savings and Loan. The Greensboro police also have reported finding additional evidence linking her to the robbery of five other banks, four in Greensboro, one in Winston-Salem and one in High Point.

But members of the local community use words such as "socially conscious," "generous" and "a wonderful person" when describing Beatty. She is remembered for her political activism, and those who knew her find it hard to picture her as a bank robber.

"I knew her fairly well as far as being a collaborator on community projects. I encouraged her to get involved with the political process, and I sat down with her and discussed the need for her to develop her leadership qualities," said Vernon Robinson, who received a call from Beatty last Thursday morning following her arrest. "I think she had quite a bit of potential. She's bright and very plugged into what is going on in the world. Something has gone wrong. I don't know what it is, but the community is worse off for all of this."

According to Greensboro police reports, Beatty entered the Gate City Federal Savings and Loan branch on Wednesday night.  
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The arrest of Celeste Beatty on charges of bank robbery last week has stunned the community.

## Consultant says East Winston plan should be expanded

By TONYA V. SMITH  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Without a more balanced development approach, the economic future of the East Winston community will be to house the poor, said Clifton W. Henry, who is conducting a comprehensive economic development study of that area.

Henry, vice president of Hammer, Siler, George Associates, a consulting firm based in Silver Spring, Md., also asked members of the mayor-appointed East Winston Development Task Force to expand the area of the study, saying that East Winston is only a smaller part of a larger development marketing area.

"We must recognize that there is not as much land within the boundaries of East Winston as there are land sources extending out from that area," Henry told task force members during a briefing Tuesday night on his most recent findings. "We need to recognize that and use it, hopefully to our advantage."

"We do have sites in East Winston, but they are scarce sites, so we better think long and hard on how to use them."

Certainly the poor have to be housed, but, if that continues to be the economic purpose of East Winston, the community can't logically expect their goods and services to be of the same quality and levels as other communities, Henry said.

More housing for people in the middle-income bracket is needed in

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## Biggs, Burke say all's well

From Chronicle Staff Reports

Judge Loretta C. Biggs and assistant district attorney L. Todd Burke recently told the *Chronicle* that their controversy over whether appropriate courtroom conduct was observed has been resolved and that, contrary to what was printed in the *Winston-Salem Journal*, Burke was never held in contempt of court.

Biggs said that, while she did not wish to understate the seriousness of the controversy, its seriousness was exaggerated in part because of the visibility of the positions held by Burke and herself.

Earlier reports stated that Biggs had ordered Burke out of her court and found him in contempt after he disobeyed her order to approach the bench.

"It was a simple misunderstanding," said Burke. "Judge Biggs and I met and we resolved it. We had a positive relationship before the incident and that positive relationship continues."

"Mr. Burke and I will never agree on the circumstances which generated this matter. However, we do agree that it is behind us and that we will continue to enjoy a positive working relationship," said Biggs.

## Survivors



Two young girls chase each other through a field of "teff" (Ethiopia's staple grain) at an orphanage in Nollo in Ethiopia, not far from the camps where their whole families died of starvation in 1984-85. Only babies at the time, they miraculously survived and were brought to the orphanage where they will remain until the age of 16.

## The Declining State of Black Health Part IV

### Cancer is second leading cause of death

By TONYA V. SMITH  
Chronicle Staff Writer

This is the fourth 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.

John Gray and his sister Ruby Cobb had always been close while growing up in Traphill, N.C. They are closer than ever now because Cobb is nursing and tending to her older brother's needs as his body is daily losing the battle against cancer.

Gray has multiple myeloma, cancer of the bone marrow. He will not recover from the disease.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death among Afro-Americans, said Frank Matthews of the N.C. Health Statistics Center. In 1984, 386 Afro-Americans per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer compared with 350 whites per 100,000. During that year 219 per 100,000 Afro-Americans died of the disease compared with 167 per 100,000 whites.

"Incidence of mortality rates for cancer are significantly higher in black than in white Americans or members of other minority groups," said Dr. C. Everett Koop, the U.S. Surgeon General in his 1988 "Report on Nutrition and Health." This difference is especially pronounced in males. Blacks also have the lowest survival rates for cancer at most sites (parts of the body).

"These differences in cancer experience are more readily explained by social and environmental factors than by biologic differences."

Afro-American women are at a higher risk for cancer of the breast, colon and rectum and cervix. Men of

the race need to be concerned about cancer of the colon and rectum and prostate cancer.

Afro-American men have the world's highest rate of prostate cancer, said Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, a cancer surgeon at Howard University Medical School. He added that of the 24 most common cancers, 18 are more common in Afro-Americans than whites.

"Cancer is perhaps the best example of how social and economic conditions dictate the individual experience blacks have with disease," wrote Denise Foley in "Special Report on Black Health" appearing in the March 1985 edition of *Prevention Magazine*. "While medical advances in diagnostic techniques have increased the amount of early detection -- often the difference between life and death with cancer -- blacks are not being diagnosed in the early, curable stages."

A national survey by the American Cancer Society revealed that urban Afro-Americans tend to be less knowledgeable about cancer's warning signs, less likely to see a doctor and more likely to underestimate both the prevalence of cancer and chance for a cure.

John Gray never visited the doctor on a regular basis before he was diagnosed with cancer a year ago. He came to Winston-Salem regularly for treatments during his early bouts with the disease.

"But he wouldn't take his medicine like he was supposed to, and there was nobody else who had the time, because of their work and stuff, to take care of John," his sister said. "So they brought him to me."

John Gray had lived a healthy life and didn't get sick until after he retired, Cobb said. He had worked in a furniture factory in Wilkes County.

Cobb is no stranger to caring for cancer patients, having nursed her mother when she had the disease.

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