

Minorities to suffer most from County's planned library cuts

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Community News Editor

The Forsyth County Manager's 1992-93 budget plan will cut 13 positions from the public library system — nine of which are currently filled by minorities.

In Graham Pervier's budget proposal, eight of the 13 positions would reduce the number of operating hours at each of the county's libraries. The remaining five positions to be eliminated would come from the Children's Outreach and Homebound and Institutionalized Departments.

Shirley Baskerville Rodgers, president of the Friends of the East Winston Library group, says asking the public library system to sustain such drastic cuts is not fair. "The library hires approximately eight percent of all county employees and the county is asking them to take one-third (of the cuts). Thirty-eight employees would be eliminated from the county payroll. The proposed budget is asking that the library sustain one-third of those cuts. We don't think that's fair," said Rodgers.

According to the proposal, which was sent out to library officials this past weekend, "This year almost all employees scheduled to

be eliminated will be minority employees. All five employees scheduled for RIF in the Outreach Programs will be minority employees, because all seven employees are now minority employees. Of the remaining eight employees, these will be mostly clerical employees which consists of about one-half minority employees."

If the proposal is approved by the county commissioners, the elimination of those positions would cut about 10 hours of operation from each library, including at least two evenings during the week. Because of last year's budget cuts, the East Winston library is currently only open two nights per week, in addition to its daytime hours which were also cut.

Nearly all outreach programs would also be cut, including the Jail Library, and the Homebound and Institutionalized Department which serves 200 individuals who are served by car because they are unable to come to the library.

The Children's Outreach Department would come to an end as well. That department serves 30 daycare centers on a weekly basis with books and programs, as well as afternoon centers in the communities of Happy Hill Gardens, Belview, and North Hills, and the

Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs. Children attend those centers for reference books, materials and homework assistance.

"We're wondering why these cuts can't come from other areas," said Rodgers. "What it's doing is cutting back our youngsters. It's cutting back our elderly, entrepreneurs and job seekers."

Those are some of the places that they go; services that are available to the public. We're on the educational end of it, and we feel that if people take advantage and they have been taking advantage of utilizing the libraries, they're going to need additional staff."

She recommended that residents speak out before the plan is adopted on June 22. "They need to get in touch with their county commissioners or send a letter to or call Graham Pervier or Wayne Willard, and to the Hall of Justice, and let them know how they feel about the cutbacks as they relate to the library," she suggested.

Form letters are available at the East Winston library for residents to fill out and send to voice their opinions about the cuts.

However, Rodgers emphasized that one of the best ways to let the commissioners know how residents feel about the budget cuts, is to

attend the budget hearing scheduled for June 8 at 7:30 p.m., at the Hall of Justice, on the sixth floor. "I think that's the place where very

major attendance is needed to make a statement to the commissioners that we want them to reassess before they adopt the proposed bud-

get. And I guess our message to the community is "Speak up. Speak out. Speak now," said Rodgers.

Nation of Yahweh leader convicted

By MICHAEL WARREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MIAMI (AP) — The religious movement founded by Yahweh Ben Yahweh will survive and prosper while he serves a prison term of up to 20 years for murder-conspiracy, his followers said Friday.

"They've taken our spiritual leader away physically, but his spirit shall always remain with us," said Uriah David Israel, the national ambassador of the group.

"We'll build bigger and better real estate holdings and empires than we did before," he said to loud applause from dozens of white-

robed sect members. "We're going to do this again. There's nothing to stop us."

Yahweh, who is originally from Enid, Ok., and six others who helped build an \$8 million empire of hotels and stores, now face sentencing for conspiring to create a criminal group of killers and arsonists within the Miami-based sect in the 1980s. Jurors acquitted seven others Wednesday and deadlocked on counts against two of the Yahweh members accused of plotting 14 murders, two attempted killings and the firebombing of a city block.

Four of the Yahweh members whom the jury either acquitted or

deadlocked on now face first-degree murder charges in state court.

Chronicle Corrections

Last week's article entitled "Eastern Star holds banquet" should have read: P.W.P. Birden McCoy has 54 grandchildren.

Also, in the article "Memorial Day Service," we mistakenly published Henry Wilson's title as Comrade instead of Comrade, and omitted Comrade Jones.

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<p style="text-align: center;">SAVE \$20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE Freon Extra</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">\$19⁹⁹</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">Regular Price Value \$39⁹⁹</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.7em;">Good only 6/7/92</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SAVE \$30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FRONT BRAKE JOB Semi-Metallic Pads and Imports Extra</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">\$49⁹⁹</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">Reg. \$79⁹⁹</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.7em;">Good only 6/7/92</p>
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And Ivan Neal put out a lot of fires, but he's not a firefighter.



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