

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

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State's Black Superintendents Passed Over
By Local School Board's Search Committee

▲ Black superintendents compare favorably to local candidates

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

John Griffin has been superintendent of the 49,000-student Cumberland County school system in Fayetteville for nearly two years. He has staunch support from his school board and his district has undergone redistricting under his leadership.

A perfect candidate for the superintendent's position in Forsyth County? Think again.

INSIDE COVERAGE

School-board member says board abuses executive session. page 3
NAACP president says search process excluded blacks. page 3
Superintendent finalists leave a lot to be desired. page 10

Griffin is one of seven black superintendents from across the state who were

shunned by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system during its search for a superintendent. School officials won't say how many — if any — blacks applied, but the semifinalists are all white males.

"I was aware of the opening, but no one asked me to apply for the position," said Griffin, who has headed the system since February 1993. "I remember receiving a document that asked if I knew of someone

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Black Superintendents In N.C.		Semifinalists for WS/FC Superintendent	
Name	Location	Name	Location
1. John Griffin	Cumberland Co.	1. Donald Martin Jr.	Rowan-Salisbury
2. Larry Bell	Sampson Co.	2. George Fleetwood	Randolph Co.
3. Willie Gilchrist	Halifax Co.	3. Jesse Register	Iredell-Statesville
4. Willie Peele	Martin Co.	4. Andrew Overstreet	Orange Co.
5. James Wilkerson	Warren Co.	5. William Leary	Gloucester, Mass.
6. Norma Sermon-Boyd	Jones Co.	6. James Kent	Marblehead, Mass.
7. George Hood	Weldon Co.		
No. of Students		No. of Students	
1. 49,000		1. 17,500	
2. 6,677		2. 14,000	
3. 6,293		3. 13,400	
4. 5,007		4. 5,500	
5. 3,016		5. 4,100	
6. 1,521		6. 2,550	
7. 1,200			

Source: N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction

* = Fired in June 1993
* = Currently associate professor at University of Mississippi; last worked as superintendent from 1989-1993
Source: WS/FC School System



Photo by David L. Dillard

NFL star Ray Agnew always returns home to his roots in Piedmont Park during the summer. The annual "Community Day with Ray", which provides scholarships to area youths, will be held tomorrow at the C.E. Gaines Center at Winston-Salem State University.

Father, Sports Kept Agnew on Right Path

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Ray Agnew Jr. says his family didn't have a lot of money, but were rich in values.

Motivated by a strong father and a dream to play professional football, Agnew, who grew up in Piedmont Park housing development, realized his dream and now he wants to help others reach their goals.

A defensive end with the New England Patriots of the National Football League, he started the Ray Agnew Scholarship in 1992 to

help students from housing developments pay for college.

"I feel as a black man I have a responsibility — especially to kids in housing developments," he said. "Nobody really gives these kids a chance. I thank God every night for giving me the means to help other people."

Agnew grew up playing basketball on the outdoor court at Piedmont Circle. He said the neighborhood was rough but that sports and his father kept him out of trouble.

"I was always afraid of my father," he said. "I'm not going to say I was an angel, but times

were different than now — and I had sports in middle school.

He was a star athlete at Carver High School and won a full scholarship to N.C. State University. In 1990, he was the 10th pick in the first round of the NFL draft.

"I've never told anybody, but when I got drafted I went into a room by myself and cried," he said. "It was a dream and I followed it all the way."

Queen Black, president of the Piedmont

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Readers Less
Critical of \$3
Million Grant
Application

▲ After revisions, proposal for enterprise community has better chance to be funded, readers say

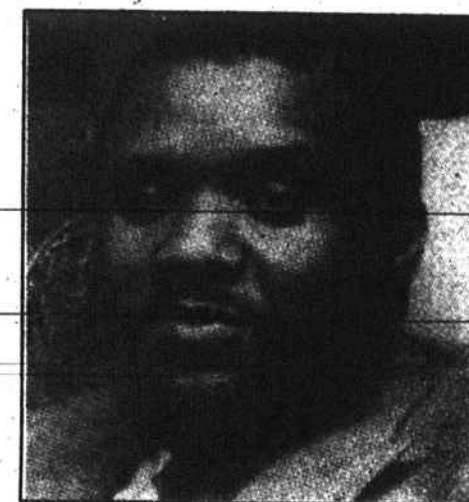
By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Winston-Salem's \$3 million enterprise-community grant application, presented Tuesday night and due in Raleigh a day later, looked like a totally different document than the one that was harshly criticized last week, city officials and residents agree.

"I can read and feel a different spirit than the one last week," said Thomasena Caldwell.

Caldwell and other readers of the documents who criticized the original \$3 million application last week, said the revised version encompassed everything the original document missed.

"I feel comfortable with our sending this document to Raleigh, then Washington and wherever else we can send it to get some money," Manderline Scales said. "We ought



Stephen Fails

to be proud, and I think they will be proud to get it in Washington."

Readers of the document said last week that it probably would not get approved in its original condition. They said it was too long, some of the language was offensive

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Foster Parents Ask Commissioners for Monthly Increase

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Foster-care parents along with their children and other supporters crowded into the Hall of Justice Monday night to urge county commissioners to approve the proposed funds for the Department of Social Services.

The proposed appropriations in the 1993-94 budget for DSS include money to increase the foster-care board rate from \$265 to \$400 a month.

Sandy Ivester, co-president of the Foster Parent Association, said it is hard to recruit foster parents with the very low rate.

"We need more foster parents, but instead we are losing them," she said. She said foster

parents were losing money instead of being properly compensated for caring for their foster children. She said increased costs come from inadequate medicaid reimbursement, transportation to the different meetings the children must attend monthly and children destroying personal possessions that must be replaced.

Jackie Moore, liaison for the Foster Parent Association, said medicaid doesn't cover over-the-counter medications like cough syrup, and some foster parents must pay for day care if there are no day-care funds available. Moore said foster parents believe there is no reason why the commissioners shouldn't approve the increase.

"We figure that children are more impor-

tant than animals and recreation," she said.

The county's budget proposes that the increase occurs in increments, going up to \$365 by July 1 and \$400 by Jan. 1, 1995.

"We support them," commissioners vice-chairman Mazie Woodruff said. "Those are our children."

Moore said this will be the first rate increase foster parents have received since 1990. Then they got a \$15 increase which raised the board rate from \$250 to \$265.

Moore said many community groups assist the foster-care program. Churches donate items, some community groups get involved for holidays and special events like playing Santa Claus at Christmas and donating prom dresses. Some people even offer to

babysit while parents go out or attend meetings. Moore added that the First Assembly Church sent 20 foster children, who had been sexually and/or physically abused, to a residential camp for a week at about a cost of \$10,000.

Ivester and her husband pointed out that being in a foster home is better for the children than group homes, which would cost hundreds of dollars more a month than \$400. And children can grow up in happy homes, but the foster parents need help.

"We can make a difference in these children's lives," said Ron Ivester, co-president of the association. "If they are not given the care they need now then our community will suffer later."

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This Week In Black History
June 16, 1943
Race riot,
Beaumont, Texas.
Two killed.

WHERE TO FIND IT