

INFIGHTING

BEN CHAVIS' OUSTER FROM NAACP WAS HIGH-TECH LYNCHING
OPINION

ON TARGET

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ANTI-CRIME BILL IS MONEY WELL-SPENT
OPINION

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

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Blacks Divided Over Crime Bill

▲ *Watt opposes measure; Clayton, Parmon support President Clinton's package*

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

Representative Mel Watt said his decision to vote against President Clinton's anti-crime bill was "based solely on conscience."

The bill passed, however, and has advanced to the Senate, where Democrats

must find the same kind of help from moderate Republicans that rescued the \$30.2 billion compromise in the House.

The bill cleared the House 235-195 in a rare Sunday session, after key Democrats and moderate Republicans bargained until dawn and 3 a.m. the two previous nights.

"My decision to vote against the crime bill was made only after careful consideration and prayerful deliberation," said Watt, D-N.C. "It had nothing to do with political considerations. While I think passage of the crime bill was good politics, much of it represented bad public policy."

Watt's chief concern with the crime bill is it does not include the Racial Justice Act, a provision that members of the Congressional Black Caucus want included. The Racial Justice Act allows defendants to challenge the

see BLACKS page 8



Mel Watt voted against crime bill

UNCF Benefit Raises \$40,000

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

A fund-raising gala held Saturday evening at the sprawling estate of Dr. Charlie L. and Willie Kennedy to benefit the United Negro College Fund raised more than \$40,000.

About 300 people attended the formal affair, which featured a special guest appearance by former Pittsburgh Pirates great Willie Stargell, a member of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

Charlie Kennedy, who is chairman of the Winston-Salem division of the "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" telethon and is a local pediatrician, opened his home for three hours Saturday for what UNCF organizers hope will become an annual affair following

a two-year hiatus.

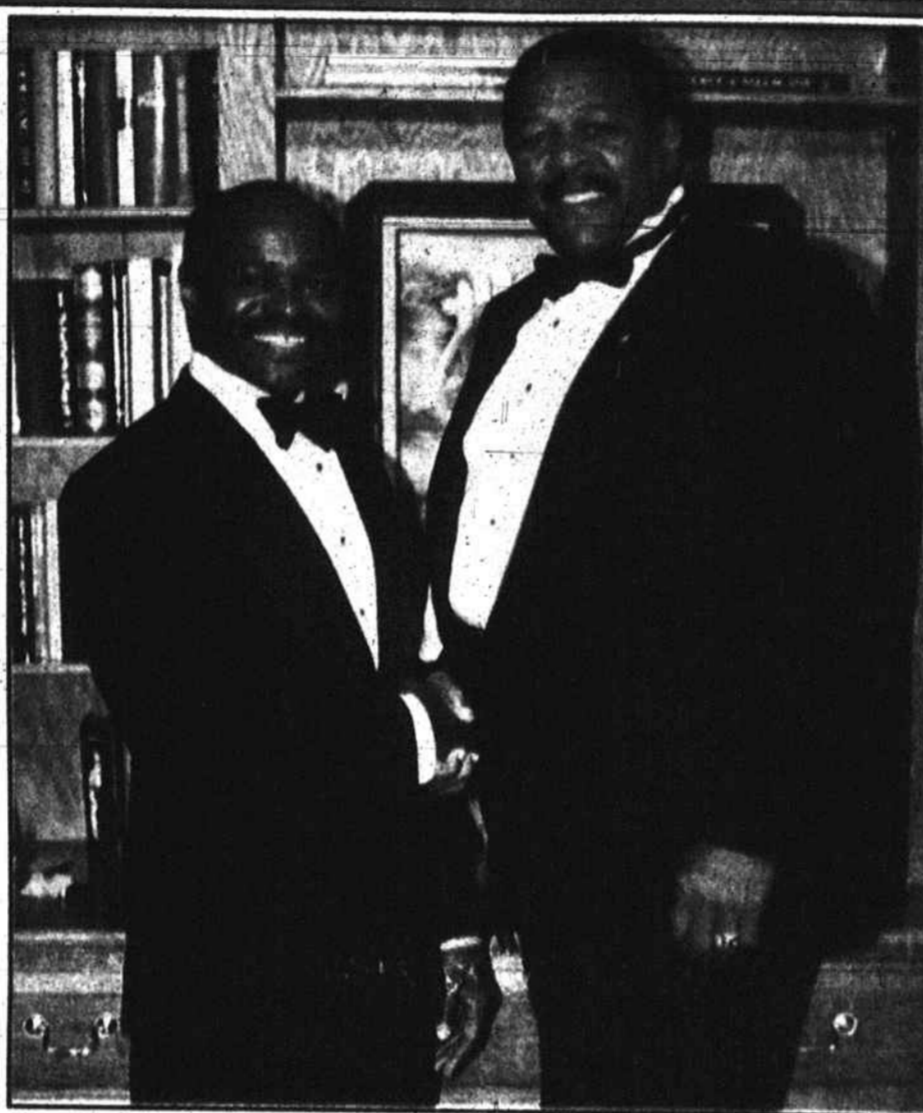
Said Marilyn Richards, the area development director for the state UNCF: "The event was a success due to the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Kennedy, the attendees, the sponsors and committee."

"We are very grateful to the Kennedys for opening their home for this fund-raiser to benefit higher education," she said. "We will use these funds to help the North Carolina member colleges."

The last benefit, in 1991, was also held at the Kennedys' luxurious home in Northwest Winston-Salem and raised over \$32,000, Richards said.

The Kennedys, who since 1987 have donated between \$1,000 and \$2,000 at fund raisers, again were the top donors with a

see ALDERMEN page 3



Dr. Charlie L. Kennedy greets Hall of Fame baseball player Willie Stargell at Saturday's UNCF benefit gala at Kennedy's estate.

Local NAACP Backs Chavis

▲ *State president Alexander voted for Chavis' ouster*

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

The president of the Winston-Salem branch of the NAACP says the local affiliate firmly stands behind ousted national executive director Benjamin F. Chavis.

Bill Tatum, the local president, also said members of the national board were already "loaded and armed" and ready to fight for Chavis' ouster. Chavis, 46, was fired Saturday for conduct that the board of directors said was hostile to the survival of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

While Chavis' dismissal was triggered by his decision to settle a former employee's sex discrimination claims, board Chairman William Gibson said Chavis was removed because of "an accumulation of things" that occurred during his 16-month tenure.

It was disclosed last month that Chavis had pledged up to \$332,400 of the NAACP's money to head off a sex discrimination suit by a former employee without telling the board of directors.

But Tatum said the nation's oldest civil rights organization felt pressure from Jewish groups and

major businesses, who had threatened to withhold funds unless the board fired Chavis.

"Pressure was put on them by major businesses and the Jewish groups to get rid of Dr. Chavis," Tatum said. "Our standing is we support Dr. Chavis (and) we feel that a number of accomplishments have been done by him."

Tatum said the board should have talked with Chavis to get the complaint resolved and once that was done, deal with Chavis.

"Termination of Dr. Chavis was one of the mistakes the board made," he said. "Board members (went into the meeting) already loaded and armed and speaking out against him."

"There was some vendetta from those who didn't want him," Tatum said.

Tatum said some local branches have said they would withhold funds from the national office because of the firing. The Winston-Salem branch distributes funds to the state branch, which then forward them to the national office.

Meanwhile, the president of the

see LOCAL page 10



Marilyn Richards, area development director for North Carolina's UNCF, and Dr. Charlie L. Kennedy, chairman of the Winston-Salem division of the "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" telethon, hold check for \$40,000 that was raised Saturday night at a UNCF benefit gala in city.

Photo by Harden A Richards

Review Board Could Soon Have Guidelines

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Andrea Nivens, who was denied a hearing by the Citizens Police Review Board following a run in with the law, said the board is in place just to make citizens feel they have a voice.

Nivens, who lives off Bethabara Road, said the police review board refused to hear her claims in April that a city police officer used excessive force when he arrested her last year.

"They didn't give me a chance to say any-

thing," Nivens said. "I don't think it's necessary to have it if they want hear our complaints. It's a waste of time."

Nivens, 32, was given two years probation and ordered to stay away from East Winston Shopping Center last week by a Forsyth County jury. She was arrested last November for selling incense in the parking lot and claimed that Winston-Salem Police Officer C.A. Woodall used excessive force and sprayed her with pepper spray.

see REVIEW page 10

Business.....	24
Classifieds.....	28
Community News...	4
Opinion.....	12
Entertainment.....	25
Obituaries.....	27
Religion.....	26
Sports.....	17

This Week In Black History
August 27, 1918
Dr. Joseph L. Johnson
named minister to
Liberia.

Businesses Supportive of Upgrades to Liberty St.

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Jerry Gilmore gets nostalgic when he remembers the way Liberty Street once looked. Gilmore, 48, president of Gilmore's Funeral Home, which has been on Liberty Street since 1962, remembers proud Black businessmen along "The Strip" and he along with many others, long for their return.

"I grew up remembering Safe Bus Company - and some of the images we saw on The Cosby Show were real," Gilmore said. "I remember as a child, any service that you

needed in the community, it was provided in the community. This is the greatest opportunity for black entrepreneurs in the city."

Gilmore is referring to the upcoming plans by the city-county planning board to beautify the Liberty Street corridor that runs from Eighth Street to the Smith-Reynolds Airport. The plans include landscaping and remodeling existing businesses, as well as designing an African-American business district.

see BUSINESSES page 6