

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Choice for African-American News and Information.

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

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## Delayed Renovations A Factor in Bond Vote

### ▲ Residents and leaders to decide fate of school bond referendum on Nov. 7 ballot

By MAURICE CROCKER  
and VERONICA CLEMONS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

A delay in promises concerning renovations to Atkins Middle School may affect a new school bond referendum. Residents and community leaders will soon be faced with the decision to pass a new bond referendum on Nov. 7.

"I've made a personal pledge to the school system to support the referendum if renovations to Atkins are completed and the Afrocentric Schools

are started," said Rev. Carlton A.G. Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church.

Eversley says although he plans to support the referendum he's not sure how other members of the African-American community will vote.

"Black people have no reason to trust the school system, they have every reason in the world not to trust them," Eversley said.

According to Eversley, the long delay in renovations to Atkins will have a negative effect on the bond referendum.

The renovations to Atkins are a result of a 1989

bond referendum. School Board officials and residents passed a referendum that included renovations at Atkins and other local schools.

Residents raised concerns when Atkins was placed last on the list of renovations, and school board officials ran out of money to start renovations on Atkins.

Dr. Reginald Teague, division director of facility management, said he made the decision to place Atkins last on the list because it was the most complicated.

In May, the school board accepted a recommen-

dation from a building committee to complete the renovations at Atkins. The project, which is in its third month is expected to be completed by February of 1997.

"It's unfortunate that the delay occurred, but now that the renovations are started we're working hard to complete them," said Donny Lambeth, chairman of the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School Board.

In an effort to prevent the same problems from

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Angela Ramgeet, (left) stands next to her children, Tonya and Melissa while Benjamin Johnson holds his granddaughter, Monique. Ramgeet says that Monique deserves a happy life.

## Child Defies Odds

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Monique Johnson has a human spirit that brings a special joy to the people in her life.

Monique was born on July 29, 1986 with the medical conditions of scoliosis and kyphosis, which caused her to have a curved spine and a lump in her back.

"The lump in her back continues to grow," said Angela Ramgeet, Monique's mother. "It may cause her lungs to collapse and it puts pressure on her heart."

The nine-year-old girl also suffers from diastrophic dysplasia that is a severe form of dwarfism.

Monique weighed eight pounds and five



Angela Ramgeet and her daughter, Monique, pose outside their home.

ounces and was 19 inches long when she was born. She now weighs 22 pounds and she is 21 inches long.

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## SAT Scores Increase For Black Students

### ▲ SAT Tutorial program plays significant role

By VERONICA CLEMONS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

African American students in Forsyth County saw a significant increase in their SAT scores in 1995 and even more of them are taking the test.

Scores for African American students rose 18 points to an average score of 734 in the 1994-95 school year. Twenty five more African American students took the test this year than last year.

"We are pleased the scores went up," said School Superintendent Donald Martin. "When the percentage of test takers go up usually the scores go down."

School officials contribute the rise in African American students' scores to them taking more advanced courses and the success rate of the SAT tutoring courses available to students after school.

Bessie Allen, director of the Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha and Phi Omega Inc.'s SAT/Tutorial Program, said that this after school program has had a significant impact on the num-

ber of African American students taking the test and the higher courses.

Allen said she and the program's teachers were elated at the increase in African American students' test scores.

"We were very pleased," she said. "We felt like what we attempted to do, we accomplished."

The Tutorial program, entering its fifth year, not only helps students prepare to take the SAT but also offers tutoring in other subjects for students who need help.

The increases in scores and test takers in the school system coincided with the SAT/Tutorial program.

During said the first year of the program only five students took the test. Now they have 45 who are taking it. In the entire Winston-Salem/Forsyth County system in 1993, 301 African American

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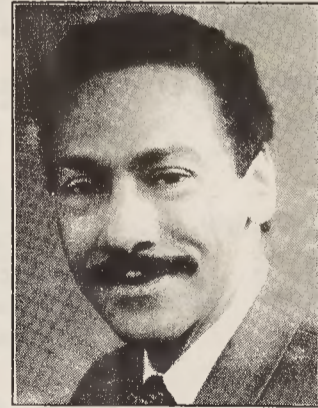
## County May Lose Title I Funding for Fiscal Year '96

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Forsyth County is projected to lose more than \$469,000 in fiscal year 1996 and more than \$4.6 million in Title I education funds over the next seven years if the Labor-HHS Education Bill becomes law. U.S. Rep. Melvin Watt, D-N.C., says.

Watt condemned the bill which recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives as "mean spirited, shortsighted and an effort by the Republicans to take from the poor and give to the rich," he said.

The bill provides federal funding for the nation's health, human services, education, labor,



U.S. Rep. Melvin Watt

and job training programs.

Watt voted against the bill which passed the House by a

vote of 219-208.

"The massive cuts in the bill will have a devastating impact on the lives of poor and middle class people," Watt said. "The bill imprudently cuts valuable, proven programs that educate our nation's children, aid the disadvantaged, invest in working people and protect our nation's health and safety."

The bill would cut the Title I Education funds by more than \$1.2 billion, thereby denying help to about 100,000 disadvantaged children in North Carolina and more than 7.1 million children nationwide in reading, writ-

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## Twin-City Women Vie for Pageant Title

By MAURICE CROCKER  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Two Winston-Salem women will strut their stuff as they compete for the title of Miss Black North Carolina U.S.A. The pageant will be held on September 16, in the Harrison Auditorium on the campus of N.C. Agricultural and Technical University.

The pageant is designed to offer young African-American women the opportunity to pursue their dreams through education, while being

involved in a positive, life-affirming experience.

Patricia Aurelia Hill, and Mercedes Miller plan to seize the opportunity and make their educational dreams a reality.

Hill and Miller are among 18 contestants competing in the pageant. The winner will receive \$2,000 in scholarship money.

Hill, 26, of Winston-Salem, says if she wins, the scholarship money will be put to good use because it will help toward her education.

Hill is a student at Salem College,

where she plans to receive a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in communications.

According to Hill, one of her most important accomplishments is the fact that she is continuing to pursue her education.

"I feel education is very important, so getting back in school is a great accomplishment for me," she said.

Hill said, once she graduates from Salem, she plans to attend law school at Wake Forest University.

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Aurelia Hill, and Mercedes Miller will compete for the title of Miss Black North Carolina U.S.A.

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**WHERE TO FIND IT**

*This Week in Black History*

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Donald McHenry named to succeed Andrew Young as UN ambassador.