

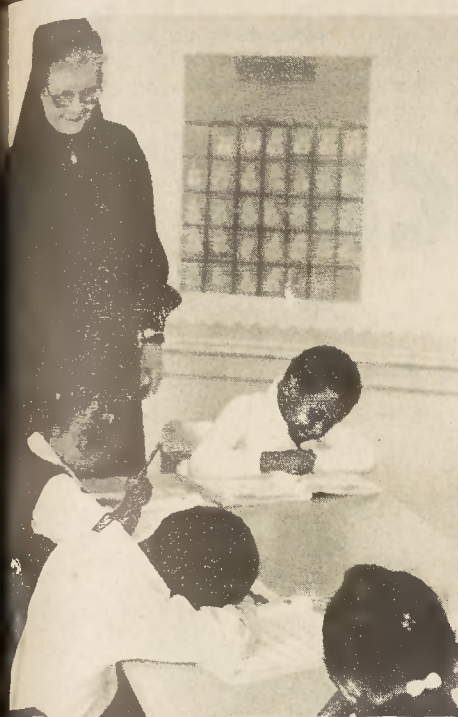
# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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"The NEWSpaper Winston's Been Waiting For"

18 Pages This Week Saturday, February 3, 1979



**END OF AN ERA:** Sister Edmond Marie, principal of St. Benedict's Catholic School, observes a group of first graders--the last class, since the school will close at the end of the term.

## St. Benedict's School to Close

by Sharyn Bratcher  
Staff Writer

After 29 years of service to the black community, St. Benedict's Catholic School will close its doors at the end of the school year.

Father F. J. O'Rourke, pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church and Sister Edmond Marie, principal of the school, explained that the church would still be serving the

community, but that the emphasis would be on a more diversified ministry.

Among the projects considered are counseling services; programs for senior citizens; adult education or tutoring; and programs to help alcoholics or those with drug problems.

Father O'Rourke announced the decision to close the school last week after consultation with the Franciscan sisters, the Pa-

rish Board, and with Bishop Michael J. Begley.

Father O'Rourke explained that the school had been operating at a deficit of \$37,000 per year, and that declining enrollment made it advisable to close it. The seventh and eighth grades were discontinued last year, and the enrollment in the last three years had dropped from 152 to 86, with only twelve of

the students belonging to the Catholic faith.

The day care center for ages 3-5 will continue to operate.

The school, which is staffed by the Franciscan Sisters of Alleghany, New York, was opened in September 1950. It offered small classes and individual attention to scores of black children through the years. St. Benedict's students will be transferred to other

Catholic Schools or to the schools their parents but many of the parents are unhappy about the announcement.

"I'm so upset I can't talk about it," said Beverly Reed, whose son is a second-grader at Saint Benedict's.

"There ought to be something we can do."

Last year the school and the parents association

launched a publicity campaign in an attempt to increase enrollment, but not enough new students were recruited to reverse the trend of declining enrollment.

The future plans for the social ministry are not yet definite. Father O'Rourke indicated that the needs of the community will be carefully studied before a decision is made.

## City Revives 'Y' Program

by Yvette McCullough  
Staff Writer

The Patterson Avenue YMCA's Incentive program was given new life this week when the finance committee of the Board of Aldermen voted to allot \$10,000 to the program so it can be continued on a limited basis.

The finance committee voted 3-1 with Aldermen Virginia Newell, Eugene Groce and Ernestine Wilson approving the additional allotment and Aldermen Robert North- ington opposing the vote. The matter will not go before the full board at its next meeting.

Martie Penn speaking on behalf of the YMCA's program police told the committee that the program tries to instill a wholesome view of the police department to the kids and that the program is value oriented.

"Kids in the program are not taught to win, we try to teach them to think of each other as brothers. All get a trophy and no one loses."

Alderman Newell in voicing her approval of the program said that she sees the program as one of prevention.

"It disturbs me when I go into the juvenile courts that all I see is black folks, I know that black kids are not the only ones doing something bad," Newell said. "If the kids were given a chance they would do right. I'm glad to see

a program that is helping kids to do this.

Alderman Groce said he 'hates to see a program like this cut off.'

"We'd probably be losing more money than we're gaining," Groce continued.

The incentive program began in 1970 as part of a four-year federal grant and was designed to improve the relationship between the police and the community. The city took over the funding of the program in 1975. The program offers a variety of activities with the main emphasis on value orientation.

The program was originally allotted \$65,000 but was cut to \$35,000 for 1978-79 fiscal year. The program which serves over 1650 kids, ran out of funds around the 16th of January and activities had been curtailed.

The YMCA had requested \$26,400 but an allotment of \$10,000 was approved. Richard Glover, said that he can understand the budget restraints that the Aldermen have.

"I understand that the aldermen agree that this is a good program, but they are operating with some budget restraints," Glover said. "However even with the \$10,000 some programs will still have to be curtailed."

The YMCA was asked to submit a budget to show how the money would be spent.

## Ben Brown: Making Stock

By John W. Templeton  
Staff Writer

RALEIGH -- Ben Brown, deputy chairman of the Democratic National Committee, sees himself as what of a stockbroker for black Americans.

"Blacks made a tremendous investment in Jimmy Carter," said Brown during an interview following his speech to the N.C. Association of Minority Public Officials last weekend.

"I want to make sure they receive their share of the dividends," said the architect of Carter's successful black strategy in 1976.

Although there are many who think that the 95 percent vote on Carter's behalf has not yet been adequately paid, Brown remains staunchly behind Carter.

"There is some dissatisfaction," Brown acknowledged, "because the administration can not possibly meet all the expectations of our constituencies."

"If you look at the positive side, the record of the Carter administration has been applaudable," he said. "There have been significant gains made as a result of Carter's administration."

He cited the 15 blacks working as professional staff at the White House and blacks appointed to non-traditional posts such as under secretary of the interior and U.N. ambassador.

However, he acknowledges some bias on his part. "During his speech, Brown told the officials, 'I'm on the Carter team; I will defend the Carter team. When it gets hot for me to defend them, then I'm going to find myself a new team.'"

Brown is a fortyish George state senator and former NAACP organizer who joined the Carter campaign early and became part of what some termed the "Atlanta Mafia." As the highest ranking black in the Carter administration team, he was said to have wielded tremendous influence in deciding which blacks got which posts in the administration.

At present, as a party official in the middle of a presidential term, his role is one of bringing administrative policies out to the grassroots level.

When Brown spoke to the officials, he didn't talk about grand new programs, he picked up the theme of a number of administration officials during the Carter inflation campaign.

The deputy chairman spoke of "hard, new realities" facing the black officials. His list of five included the difficulty of the federal government to pick up the tab for social services and the tax-cutting mood sweeping the country.

Brown said the anti-tax mood "simply means redefining priorities for the government. People are not so much concerned about how much government is spending as they are about whether resources are properly spent."

He told the officials, "We cannot let bigots take the lead and frighten people into massive cuts in social services. We have to be smart enough to have an alternative."

Looking across the crowded ballroom at the Raleigh Holiday Inn, Brown noted approvingly the more than 150 black officials. "It's a very healthy trend we're seeing in the black community. There's a greater desire on the part of black elected officials to come together. They are recognizing that in unity, they have a lot more impact," he added.

## Officials Seek State Aid for 475,000 Substandard Units

By John W. Templeton  
Staff Writer

RALEIGH -- More than 150 black public officials have called upon the state government to commit enough resources to eliminate the 475,000 units of substandard housing in North Carolina.

During its first annual conference last weekend, the North Carolina Association of Minority Public Officials endorsed a plan which would have the state provide grants, loans and tax incentives to both homeowners and landlords for a variety of housing and enact a fair housing law.

The plan, financed either partially or wholly through bonds, would compensate for what backers termed declining federal support for housing.

Alderman Virginia Newell, D-East Ward, was named chairman of a committee to draft a plan in detail to submit to state officials.

The stand on housing was one of ten passed by the association at the end of a day-and-a-half meeting in Raleigh.

The officials, which included mayors, judges, city

councilmen, county commissioners, school board members and other officials, held a two-hour question and answer session with Gov. Jim Hunt at the Executive Mansion, heard speeches from Ben Brown, deputy chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and ACTION associate director John Lewis and met in workshops to share their common concerns.

"We think this conference has been very significant," said Bob Walton, the former Mecklenburg County commissioner who heads the organization. "It was the first time such a group of black citizens has ever assembled like this to meet with the governor and his cabinet."

Referring to the packed scene at the Executive Mansion when more than 200 persons jammed the lobby, Walton said, "The next time the governor hears from us, he's going to remember those faces."

Walton said individual members of the association and its leadership would begin lobbying individual legislators and the entire General Assembly in support of the group's agenda, which included: a resolution calling for jobs and for all able-bodied persons willing to work, passed after state Labor Commissioner John Brooks told

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## Black History Featured in Feb. At East Winston Branch Library

by Yvette McCullough  
Staff Writer

The East Winston branch of the Public Library will be the headquarters for local observances of Afro-American History Month.

The library is sponsoring a series of programs throughout the month under the theme 'Black Awareness: Past and Present.'

A special program is scheduled for each Tuesday

night in February. Appearing on Feb. 6th will be Jean Burkins assistant district attorney. Ms. Burkins will speak on the history of Black lawyers and the role they have played in our society.

Feb. 13 the program will be conducted by the staff of the Winston-Salem Chronicle, who will give presentations on the history of the black press, the history of blacks in North Carolina

and the history of black Winston-Salem.

There will be panel discussion on the third week.

Scheduled participants are Larry Womble, assistant principal at Old Town Elementary, Tom Elijah, director of the Winston-Salem Urban League, Patrick Hairston, president of the local NAACP and Velma Hopkins, a not-

ed civic leader.

The last program will feature an Afro-American festival with a variety of activities to climax the festivities of the month.

There will also be a black history program for children which will be held February 16 at 4 p.m. at the library. The theme of the program will be 'Black Like Me' with Bobby Mor-