

Our Ministers

The second article in an eight-part series on the black church examines the black minister and his role in the community.

Front Page.

Ask Yolonda

Our newest columnist debuts this week with sage advice on a variety of topics, including this issue, women seeking romance after 40.

Arts and Leisure, Page 10.

A Negative Picture

Guest columnist Walter Marshall reviews daily newspaper coverage of the November election and what he feels are concerted attempts by some local media to divide the black community.

Editorials, Page 4.



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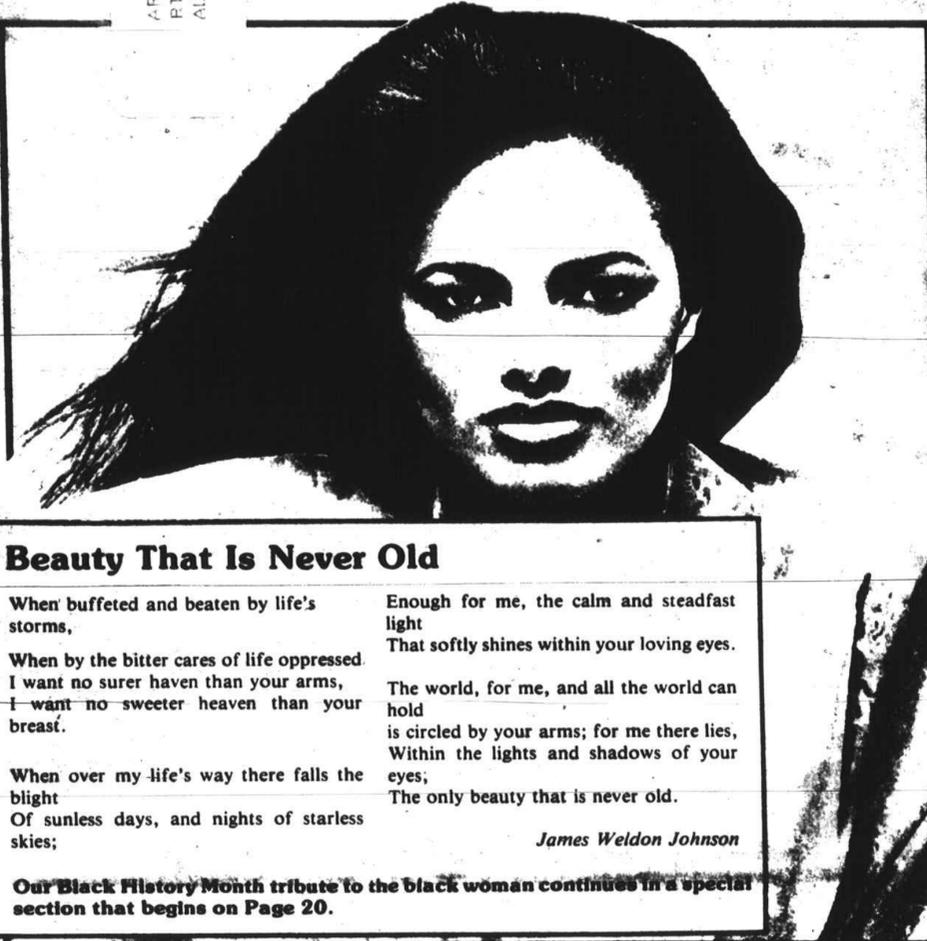
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Beauty That Is Never Old

When buffeted and beaten by life's storms,

When by the bitter cares of life oppressed,
I want no surer haven than your arms,
I want no sweeter heaven than your breast.

When over my life's way there falls the blight
Of sunless days, and nights of starless skies;

Enough for me, the calm and steadfast light
That softly shines within your loving eyes.

The world, for me, and all the world can hold
is circled by your arms; for me there lies,
Within the lights and shadows of your eyes;
The only beauty that is never old.

James Weldon Johnson

Our Black History Month tribute to the black woman continues in a special section that begins on Page 20.

Local Black Ministers Active In Three Arenas

By EDWARD HILL JR.
Staff Writer

Traditionally, say the history books, the black minister has not been afraid to practice what he preaches beyond the pulpit.

Black clergymen have been journalists, educators and politicians. They also have taken the helm of the civil rights movement and almost always are mentioned by blacks and whites alike when we speak of "black leaders."

Not surprisingly, Winston-Salem follows the pattern. While local residents and community leaders differ on who is the most influential black minister in the city, they all agree that the clergy wields enormous power and influence politically, spiritually and economically here.

And they agreed as well in a recent *Chronicle* poll that there are a number of local clergymen who excel especially in each of those areas.

Politically, the Rev. Jerry Drayton, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church, is regarded as the most prominent black minister in Winston-Salem. He is chairman of the Political Action Committee of the General Baptist State Convention, the Political Action Committee of the Baptist Ministers Conference and Associates and the state Human Relations Council. He also serves on several boards, including the board of directors of Summit Communications Inc.

First of all, because of his positions as chairman of the Political Action Committee of the Baptist conferences (local and statewide), and because he has been elected to these positions several times, I would say that he's out in front politically," said Mayor Wayne Corpen-

ing of Drayton. Corpening added that Drayton's political involvement is a valuable asset to the black community, socially and economically.

"Rev. Drayton is the choice (as the most powerful) politically, although, frankly, I don't know them all," said Thomas Elijah, director of the Winston-Salem Urban League.

Added a local community activist, "My first choice is the Rev. Jerry Drayton because he is highly respected

Our Black Churches

An eight-part series examining Winston-Salem's black churches



among the ministers themselves."

Drayton, who has been pastor at New Bethel for 38 years and serves with several local and state church organizations, said he is surprised by that assessment.

"Why I am perceived as a person of power and where they got that from, I don't know," Drayton said. "I don't think in terms of power other than economic power. Power is perceived as the person who has control over the economic purse strings. Instead of asking me why I am perceived as powerful, ask the people who named me. They have to answer that question."

Other ministers who were mentioned as being political-

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Of Public School System

No Black History Courses Included In Curriculum

By ROBIN ADAMS
Staff Writer

Related story on Page 13.

When students in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System pre-register for the next school year, a separate black history class will not be among the history classes available.

According to Dr. Zane Eargle, school superintendent, black history is not taught as a separate course in the school system but is incorporated into other history classes.

"The U.S. history course deals with the different cultures and the contributions of blacks," Eargle says. "Most of the courses in the social studies curriculum incorporate black history."

At one time, the schools did offer a class entitled "Minorities in American Society," which discussed all minorities. But Harriet Parrish, social studies coordinator for the system, says that the class was discontinued.

"Several years ago, when we were working on the curriculum, we eliminated the class at the recommendation of the history teachers," Parrish says. "We also felt that the textbooks were doing a better job covering all minorities."

Parrish says that black history is incorporated into the social studies curriculum as well and that the system does offer "Cultures of Africa and the Middle East." But she says she realizes that the class is not the same as one on the black experience in North America.

School board member Beaufort Bailey is not satisfied

that the current course offerings are enough. Although on paper black history is provided in the other history classes, Bailey says, he doubts that students actually are taught it.

"I have children in school and I don't hear my kids come home and talk about some black folk they discussed in school," Bailey says. "The curriculum is designed to teach black history but I have a feeling that it is being skipped over."

Bailey says that one of the major reasons black history is not taught is because "some teachers just don't know about black history so they don't teach it. People teach what they are taught."

"We as members of the school board and principals in the schools don't push as we should for the classes to be

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Update

Minister Moves On

By ROBIN ADAMS
Staff Writer

"If they had voted me out, I would have gone in peace," the fifth pastor of Dreamland Park Baptist Church says of his recent ouster from the church by its deacon board.

But the Rev. Ellis Austin says that although he feels that the deacons overstepped their jurisdiction by

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Austin

...While Winston-Salem State Students Shun Black History Classes

By RUTHELL HOWARD
Staff Writer

Students at Winston-Salem State University show little interest in black history courses, says Dr. Michael Montgomery, director of the school's social science department.

Montgomery says the school offers well-rounded courses on the political, social and historical aspects of black history in America and other countries, but of the 11 courses available, only three can be taught each semester because of low enrollment

This disturbs Montgomery, who notes that black students marched on college campuses during the '60s to have black history courses included in many college curricula.

"I'm satisfied with the courses we offer," Montgomery says. "But I'm very discouraged that many black students have opted not to enroll in many of these courses."

Students feel that they have better chances of getting jobs if they concentrate on subjects like computer science or physics, Montgomery says. "They wonder if it's worth their while to enroll in ethnic courses," he says.

But Montgomery says these students may be "missing the boat."

"Without a doubt, they are missing black history for its own sake," Montgomery says. "They are missing a chance to learn about their own heritage."

The school's social science department offers 11 courses that include "The Negro in the U.S., Part I and Part II," which covers the Black Experience from 1619 to 1865 and from 1865 to the 1980s; "The History of Africa," which deals with Africa, its people and the impact of Western influence on the continent from its early history to the present; "The Black Man in Urban

America," which looks at the political and sociological experiences of blacks in urban society from 1945 to the 1980s; "Materials & Methods of Research in the Black Experience," which gives black students the opportunity to research black history; "The Black Man in the Americas," which covers black history in the United States, South America, Central America and the West Indies; "Afro-American History," a seminar on the black African and American experiences and cultures, and "Black Political Thought," which analyzes black political expertise, organizations, philosophy and tactics

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Black Funeral Homes Serve Many Roles

By RUTHELL HOWARD
Staff Writer

Samuel Lawrence Strickland, owner of Ryan Funeral Home, intensely listens to radio obituary announcements as part of his early-morning routine.

Strickland, a competitive newcomer to the city's funeral home market who has owned and managed Ryan's since 1980, says he chose this business because he wanted to help the bereaved.

Thomas H. Hooper Jr., owner of Hooper Funeral Home, says he was torn between open-

ing a grocery store and entering the medical field. He decided on the latter and chose mortuary science, he says, because it requires fewer years in school and he wanted to help send his brother to college.

Hooper's and Strickland's are only two of Winston-Salem's nine black funeral homes, which also include Clark Brown and Sons Funeral Home, Forsyth Funeral Home Inc., Howard-Robinson Funeral Home Inc., Johnson & Sons Funeral Home Inc., Ryan Funeral Home, Russell Funeral Home and Johnson's Home of Memory.

And with nine homes serving a black popula-

tion of more than 40,000, black morticians see no need for more black funeral homes to set up shop here.

Blacks entered the funeral home business for pretty much the same reason as whites: to bury their dead. But why did the black homes' number soar to nine when the white homes grew only to two (Hayworth-Miller and Frank Vogler and Sons)?

Because many blacks who wanted to go into business saw operating a funeral home as a lucrative venture.

Winston-Salem got its first black-owned

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Samuel L. Strickland



Jerry C. Gilmore III



Clark S. Brown Sr.