#### **NEWS DIGEST —**

National, state and local news briefs compiled by Greg Brown

### Reynolds: Schools can stop busing students

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Justice Department, in an unprecedented move last Thursday, entered a Norfolk, Va., desegregation case and argued local school systems have the right to stop court-ordered cross-town busing even if it increases racial segregation.

Justice Department attorneys argued such action is constitutionally permissible to stop "white flight" if no discrimination is intended.

If the courts accept the argument, the effect could be to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1954 decision which outlawed "separate but equal" schools for blacks and whites.

All of north Carolina's school systems now use busing to achieve desegregation, although the Charlotte-Mecklenburg system is the only system under federal court order to do so.

In a "friend of the court" brief filed in the 4th U.S. Court of Appeals, Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds said Norfolk legally was entitled to stop busing for two reasons.

First, he said a court ruled nine years ago that busing had ended Norfolk's illegal dual schools system and replaced it with a racially unified system. Since that finding ended court supervision of the system, Reynolds said the city could use any student assignment system whose purpose was not discriminatory. And even if it resulted in increased school segregation, Reynolds said Norfolk's proposed neighborhood school plan was a legal means to halt white flight from the schools and increase parental involvement in the schools.

If the neighborhood school plan is adopted, the number of 90 percent black schools would increase from zero to 10.

**Crime Prevention** 

## Robbers threaten to shoot victim

• 100 block, Hawthorne Road

shattered, but nothing was taken.

500 block, Cherry Street

• 1100 block, East 21st Street

Another school was broken into. Windows were

Two businesses in the 200 block of West Fifth

Street and one on Cherry Street were entered.

Police said all three break-ins were releated and that

a suspect had been identified and a warrant issued.

Someone broke into a church by breaking out a

window and chopping down a door. Part of a drum

set was taken and three juveniles are under in-

A business was entered through an unlocked door

Vandals entered and ransacked a house, cutting

A color TV, a stereo and a cassette tape were

A person came home from work to find someone

running out the rear door of his house. Witnesses

saw the running man and chased him down, later

turning him over to the police. The man was charg-

ed with housebreaking and larceny and items stolen

This information is provided as a public service

by the Chronicle and the Winston-Salem Police

and destroying furniture inside. Prescription drugs

and some mattresses, sheets and money were taken.

vestigation in connection with the theft.

• 3100 block, Patterson Avenue

1300 block, Irving Street

were taken from the house.

• 1100 block, Conley Street

stolen from an apartment here.

from the house were recovered.

• 3500 block, Tyler Drive

The following "Crime Box Score" is designed to keep you abreast of criminal activity in your community during the past week and help you protect your family and property from crime.

Armed robbery

200 block, Glenn Avenue

A man told police he was walking along a path toward his house when two men grabbed him from behind and threatened to shoot him if he moved.

The man said one of the robbers held him from behind while the other one reached into his pocket and took his money. Both attackers then ran away.

Police said the victim didn't actually see a weapon and that no one was injured. They said the man was unable to describe the robbers.

Common law robbery

2700 block, Waughtown Street

The night clerk of a convenience store told police he was robbed by a white male who came into the store asking for a pack of cigarettes.

The clerk said the man gave him a dollar bill and that as the clerk was making change, the man grabbed the cash register, pulled it around to face him and took all its money before running from the store.

The robber was described as a white male with blonde hair and wearing an army jacket.

Storebreakings

• 700 block, East 28th Street

Someone broke into a night club, stealing a TV projector with a five-foot screen, as well as some cigarettes and liquor.

• 1400 block, Grant Street

Two mobile classrooms were broken into at a school, where a watch and radio were taken.

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# Regan takes credit for prisoners' release

WASHINGTON -- The South African government released 16 of 21 black labor leaders Friday whose arrests without trial or formal charges led to sit-ins at South Africa's embassy here.

At least 27 persons were arrested at the South African Embassy here to protest the detention of black labor leaders in the wake of a two-day strike which brought South Africa's industry to a near halt.

President Reagan said the release of the labor leaders was evidence that his policy of "quiet diplomacy" was working against South Africa's apartheid racial policies.

"I don't think we're being too bold in taking credit for this," Reagan said following a meeting at the White House with anti-apartheid activist Bishop

Desmond Tutu, the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner. The president said there was "no evidence" that the sit-ins at the embassy brought about the prisoners' release. He met with Tutu for about 30 minutes before word came of the prisoners' release.

Tutu avoided direct criticism of the president's policies immediately after the meeting, but said the situation for blacks living under apartheid had "in fact worsened."

"The effectiveness of constructive engagement is something we believe has not been proven," Tutu said. "Constructive engagement" is the administration's policy of applying pressure through diplomatic channels against human rights abuses without economic sanctions or sharp public statements.

# Dr. Simkins resigns as NAACP president

GREENSBORO -- Dr. George C. Simkins, president of the Greensboro chapter of the NAACP for 25 years, says he will step down as soon as a nominating committee can select a replacement.

A Greensboro native and dentist, Simkins made the announcement to the city's NAACP executive board last Tuesday night.

The 60 year old NAACP leader became active in the civil rights movement in 1955, when he and a few friends sought to use the Gillespie Golf Course, a city-owned but privately-operated course which barred blacks. City police jailed, Simkins for trespassing, but he sued the city in a case that eventually went to the U.S. Supreme Court. After four years and two trials, he was given a gubernatorial pardon.

But Simkins had other run-ins with the law. In 1972, he was charged with selling amphetamines to

a half-dozen patients. At a hearing, none of the patients would testify to the illegal sales and the charges were dropped for lack of supporting evidence, even though Simkins signed a confession to the charges.

In 1975, Simkins pleaded guilty to two counts of federal tax evasion. Eventually, he paid nearly \$50,000 in back taxes and fines, and received a probationary sentence. He was appointed to the N.C. Human Relations Commission by Gov. James Holshouser a few weeks after paying the fines.

"George Simkins deserves a lot of credit," said former Mayor Jim Melvin, who frequently clashed with Simkins over issues. "He's been a persistent leader. Many in the community didn't agree with his tactics, but his cause has always been a straight course. The history books will speak kindly to him as an innovative civil rights leader."

## **UNCF** telethon

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in the parking lot of Conrad's Hair Designs on New Walkertown Road, will collect pledges for the United Negro College Fund.

"Each year, the businesses sponsoring the party give something to the kids," said Hanes, when asked why the two events were being combined. "This year, we asking asking the parents who come to the party to give something back for the future of the kids.

"The majority of the kids who attend the party are the ones that will benefit the most from the United Negro College Fund," Hanes said.

This year, 75 percent of the money raised in the Winston-Salem campaign will be used to support the six UNCF schools in North Carolina. The remaining portion will be added to the national fund totals.

The national telethon will feature such stars as Donna Summer, Diahann Carroll, Sammy Davis Jr., Cicely Tyson, Billy Dee Williams, Al Jarreau and Patti LaBelle. It will be hosted by Lou Rawls, Ed McMahon and Marilyn McCoo.

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