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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

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## Gov. Martin criticized for not appointing black judges

By JOHN FLESHER  
Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH (AP) -- The leader of a black lawyers' group has criticized Gov. Jim Martin for failing to appoint blacks to Superior Court judgeships, but Martin is pointing a finger at the Legislature.

In a recent letter to Martin last

week, Irving Joyner, president of the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers, said the shortage of blacks on the Superior Court bench demonstrates that "black attorneys continue to be held in low esteem by our elected officials."

Martin said last Thursday that the criticism was unjustified.

"I think he (Joyner) will acknowledge ... that I have done at

least as good or better than during the Hunt administration of appointing blacks to positions on boards and commissions and hiring them to jobs of responsibility and state government," Martin said.

He told reporters while traveling in McDowell County that the Legislature had voted to abolish eight special Superior Court judgeships, leaving him with few

opportunities to appoint judges.

"The Legislature, in an unprecedented way, passed a bill that has the effect of appointing some Democrats to keep (them) in office. That's the problem," Martin, a Republican, said.

Joyner wrote his letter after Martin announced that he was appointing Sam Currin and Marvin Gray, both whites, to special

Superior Court judgeships created this year by the Legislature. Their terms will expire in 1990.

"There are many black attorneys who would have been excellent judges, but they were either overlooked or not considered at all," Joyner said, adding that his complaints went beyond the two new special judgeships.

"I'm not aware of (Martin) considering any blacks for any Superior Court judgeships," Joyner said. "Part of the problem is nobody knew he was considering anybody. He has utilized a closed-mouth process and hasn't advertised candidacies or sought recommendations of people outside

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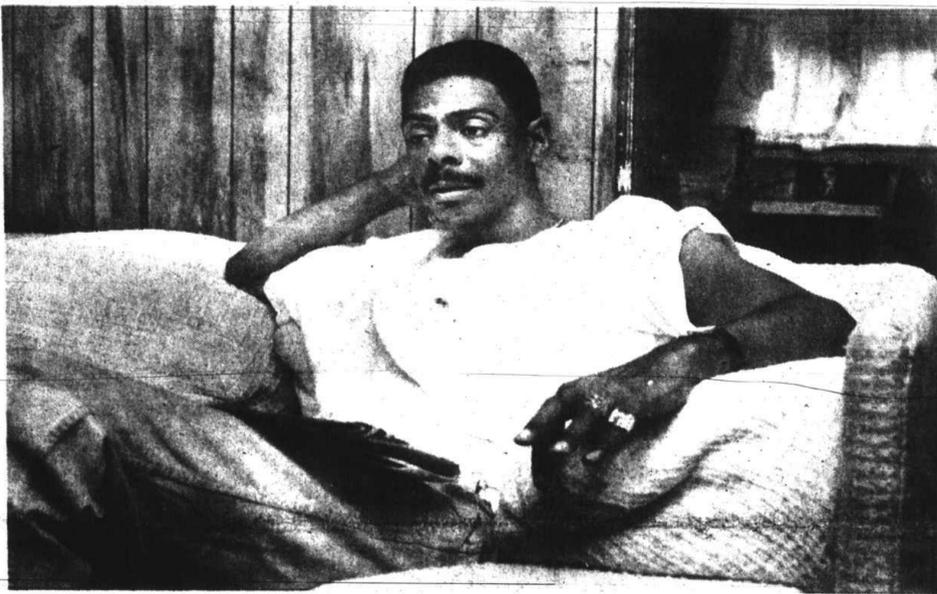
## AIDS: Blacks hardest hit

By MARDELL GRIFFIN  
Chronicle Staff Writer

African-Americans are infected with AIDS at a higher rate than other groups within the general population, according to literature distributed by the AIDS Task Force of Winston-Salem.

Although the state legislature refused to appropriate money to fund AIDS education in North Carolina, members of the task force say such programs are needed now. And they are targeting high-risk groups such as African-Americans for distribution of information about the disease.

Only 12 percent of the total population of the United States is African-American, but 25 percent of the people with AIDS are African-American, one task force pamphlet says, while half of all the women who have AIDS are African-American and 60 percent of the



Warren Roberts, a local AIDS victim, says he has received no support from the black community since he contracted the disease. Roberts says he wants people to know that he is "human, too" (photo by James Parker).

children with the disease are African-American.

Because AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease that has been associated with homosexual men, it

is often treated as a problem of morality. However, anyone can and does get the disease.

Steve Hume, a founder and executive director of the AIDS Task

Force, said, "This is a mortal issue and not a moral issue, and (it) needs to be dealt with squarely."

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## AIDS victim feels deserted by friends

By MARDELL GRIFFIN  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Forty percent of the people with AIDS currently receiving assistance from the the AIDS Task Force of Winston-Salem are African-American. But only one of the task force's 85-member volunteer staff is an African-American.

And an East Winston African-American resident suffering from the disease feels that he has been abandoned by the community he grew up in.

Warren Roberts, a 34-year-old African-American who was diagnosed with AIDS last October, lives in the same house in the Castle Heights section that his family moved into 28 years ago. He went to Carver High School. He and his family had many friends, he said.

But since people have found out he has the disease, no one comes to visit them except volunteers from the task force.

Roberts' mother, Sara Roberts, agrees. "We've lost many friends -- Christian friends," she said. "The people from my church don't even come anymore. They don't even call me on the phone."

Both Roberts and his mother said he has been ignored by the African-American community.

"We haven't had any support from anybody but the AIDS Task Force," Mrs. Roberts said. "And the only friends we have are white Christians from First Assembly of God." The rejection by longtime friends and acquaintances has taken an emotional toll on Roberts and his family, she added.

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## ABC Board adopts \$2.3 million budget

By CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Winston-Salem Board of Alcoholic Control, in a special meeting last Thursday, approved a 1987-88 budget totaling more than \$2.3 million.

The budget is broken into four divisions, with \$316,129 budgeted for administrative expenses, \$236,483 for law enforcement expenses, \$1.6 million for store expenses and \$178,218 for warehouse expenses.

This year's budget represents a

first for the local ABC board, said Joseph Mann, the board's chairman. "This is the first well-developed annual budget that looks (at expenses) item by item," he said.

Board member Jim Mack said that he is extremely satisfied with the budget. "It is the most comprehensive budget presentation we have ever had," he said.

Mann said that previously the board relied on quarterly reports. Mann said that he made the request last year for the preparation of an annual budget.

The new budget should help the flow of things, Mann said. "It

benefits us because we can plan ahead on other than ordinary expenses," he said. "It gives consideration of goals we want to accomplish. Advance planning is always good and proper procedure."

The new ABC administrator, Horace Deudney, agrees with Mann.

"We're attempting to operate the ABC system in a businesslike manner," said Mann, who has been on the job since July 1.

The ABC administration operates 11 stores in the county, he

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Simmons

## Simmons eyes County Commissioner's seat

By CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Three seats will be up for grabs next year in the Forsyth County Commissioners' race, and Ann S. Simmons, a Winston-Salem Democrat, says that her name is on one of those seats.

"I'm excited and I'm very serious about the position," she said during an interview Monday. "I have truly given this some thought. I feel like this is something that comes from within, like God has

said, 'This is what I want you to do.' And I'm going to do it."

The terms of present commissioners Forrest E. Conrad, Richard V. Linville, both Republicans, and Dr. James N. Zigar Jr., a Democrat, will end in 1988.

Ms. Simmons, 34, said that she has not yet organized a formal campaign, complete with a platform, a campaign manager and campaign workers. But she does have ideas, and she said she has

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## SCLC founder dies; local resident recalls freedom rides with Rustin

By MARDELL GRIFFIN  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Bayard Rustin, a 75-year-old civil rights crusader who was on the first freedom ride through the South in 1947 and was a founding member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference along with a group which included Martin Luther King Jr. in 1957, died in New York Monday of cardiac arrest following an appendectomy.

Rustin, a pacifist who spent 28 months in jail for being a conscientious objector in World War II and who was known throughout his life for his skill in organizing civil rights actions, had ties to Winston-Salem.

One of the original freedom riders who accompanied Rustin on the 1947 freedom ride lives on West First Street.

Joe Felmet, also a pacifist and a board member of the local NAACP, joined Rustin and others on the "Journey of Reconciliation," a forerunner of similar actions made nearly a decade and half later in the 1960s.

"This was before all the ferment of the '60s," Felmet said of the trip. "This was really a pioneering effort."

The ride, which Rustin helped organize, started on April 9, 1947, with nine people, but increased to include 16 African-American and white men by the time it ended two weeks later.

The group challenged then existing "Jim Crow" laws, local legislation designed to maintain segregation on buses. A 1946 Supreme Court decision had

declared the laws unconstitutional. The men targeted public transportation and disregarded the "Jim Crow" laws that required that whites and African-Americans sit in separate sections on buses.

Traditionally, whites rode up front while African-Americans sat in the rear of buses. In practice, whites sometimes took up all the seats and African-Americans had to stand, Felmet said.

Rustin, Felmet and two others were arrested in Chapel Hill for violating the local segregation laws. Both Rustin and Felmet were sentenced to 30 days in jail and served 22 days before being released. However, they served their terms separately, since even the jails were segregated at the time.

Rustin's motivation for the "Journey of Reconciliation" and all



Rustin, left, and Felmet, second from left, on a 1937 Journey of Reconciliation in protest of "Jim Crow" laws in the South (photo courtesy of Joe Felmet).

of his other civil rights activities was a personal commitment he made while still in high school not to allow himself to be a victim of race segregation after being refused service in a restaurant, Felmet said. "He was committed to demanding rights for himself," he said.

Although he lost contact with some of the men who participated in the 1947 ride, Felmet and Rustin stayed in touch. "He was quite a cultured man," Felmet said, describing his old friend. "He talked with a West Indies accent -- practically a British accent. He was a determined man."

Throughout his life, Rustin organized civil rights actions, including the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott done at King's request. "He was a tremendous leader,"

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