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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

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## Urban League controversy goes to Superior Court Monday

By ANGELA WRIGHT  
Chronicle Managing Editor

On Monday, Nov. 30, a Forsyth County superior court judge will rule on a motion filed by Thomas J. Elijah, Jr., deposed president of the Winston-Salem Urban League, seeking a preliminary injunction against some members of the Urban League board of directors.

The hearing, which is scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Superior Court Courtroom of the Forsyth County Hall of Justice, will only determine if Elijah's allegations against the board members merit the injunction order, pending a final ruling by the court on the legitimate composition of the board.

The defendants named in Elijah's complaint and motion are: Joseph Dickson, Harvey Allen, James Branch, Marshall Bass, Sterling Spainhour, and Renita Thompkins.

Elijah accuses the defendants of attempting "to take over and change the leadership" of the Urban League in an "illegal" meeting held October 7. During that meeting, the board voted to terminate the employment of Elijah.

The defendants accuse Elijah of "acting outside his authority" by removing members from the board. They allege that certain members were removed only after questioning Elijah's handling of financial matters.

The court, on Monday, will not determine the

truth of the allegations on either side. The issue, to be ultimately decided by the court, concerns the make-up of the Urban League board of directors.

Two boards exist at this time, both claiming legitimacy. One board was instituted at an October 6 meeting called by then-chairman Harvey L. Kennedy.

It is alleged by the defendants that Kennedy did not notify all board members of the meeting, which they say was attended by only five board members and, therefore, was illegal as it did not constitute a quorum under the Urban League's constitution and bylaws.

The second board was named on Oct. 7, when a special meeting was held. The defendants were present to discuss what they perceived to be "unauthorized and improper actions" by Elijah and Kennedy. It was at that time that all 19 members of the 1986-87 board of directors were re-elected, new officers were elected and the board voted to terminate the employment of Elijah. Elijah was subsequently suspended with pay for 30 days.

The defendants called for an investigation of the conflict by the National Urban League (NUL). Following its investigation, the NUL issued a report, dated Oct. 23, stating its opinion that the Oct. 7 meeting was a properly called meeting and that the Oct. 6 meeting was not properly called. It is now up to the court to make a legal determination.

On Monday several outcomes are possible. The

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### NAACP prez reacts to Sumler comments

By ANGELA WRIGHT  
Chronicle Managing Editor

Recent statements made by Rodney Sumler, second vice president of the Winston-Salem NAACP, in support of Thomas J. Elijah, Jr. have prompted a statement from Walter Marshall, president of the NAACP.

"The NAACP executive

board has not taken a position or endorsed any position in the Tom Elijah situation," said Marshall.

Marshall called the *Chronicle*, he said, after receiving calls from several members of the NAACP expressing their concern that statements made by Sumler could be misconstrued as the official position of the NAACP.

"The statements he (Sumler) made were personal opinions," said Marshall. "They were not reflective of the board's opinion."

Marshall said the NAACP executive board would remain neutral in the dispute, but would be willing to serve a mediating role if asked to do so by Urban

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## Housing activist urges political participation

By ROBIN BARKSDALE  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Now is the time for residents of public housing projects to organize and let their voices be heard to housing authorities across the country, a noted public housing advocate told a Winston-Salem group last Saturday.

Kimi Gray, the national chair of the Kenilworth Parkside Resident Management Corp. in Washington, said public housing residents must be wary of officials who want to squelch the collective clout of an organized group.

"A lot of cities want to quiet residents," Gray said during the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety crime prevention in public housing conference held last week in Winston-Salem. "When clusters of people become active, they break them up and spread them out. They call it urban renewal; I call it people removal."

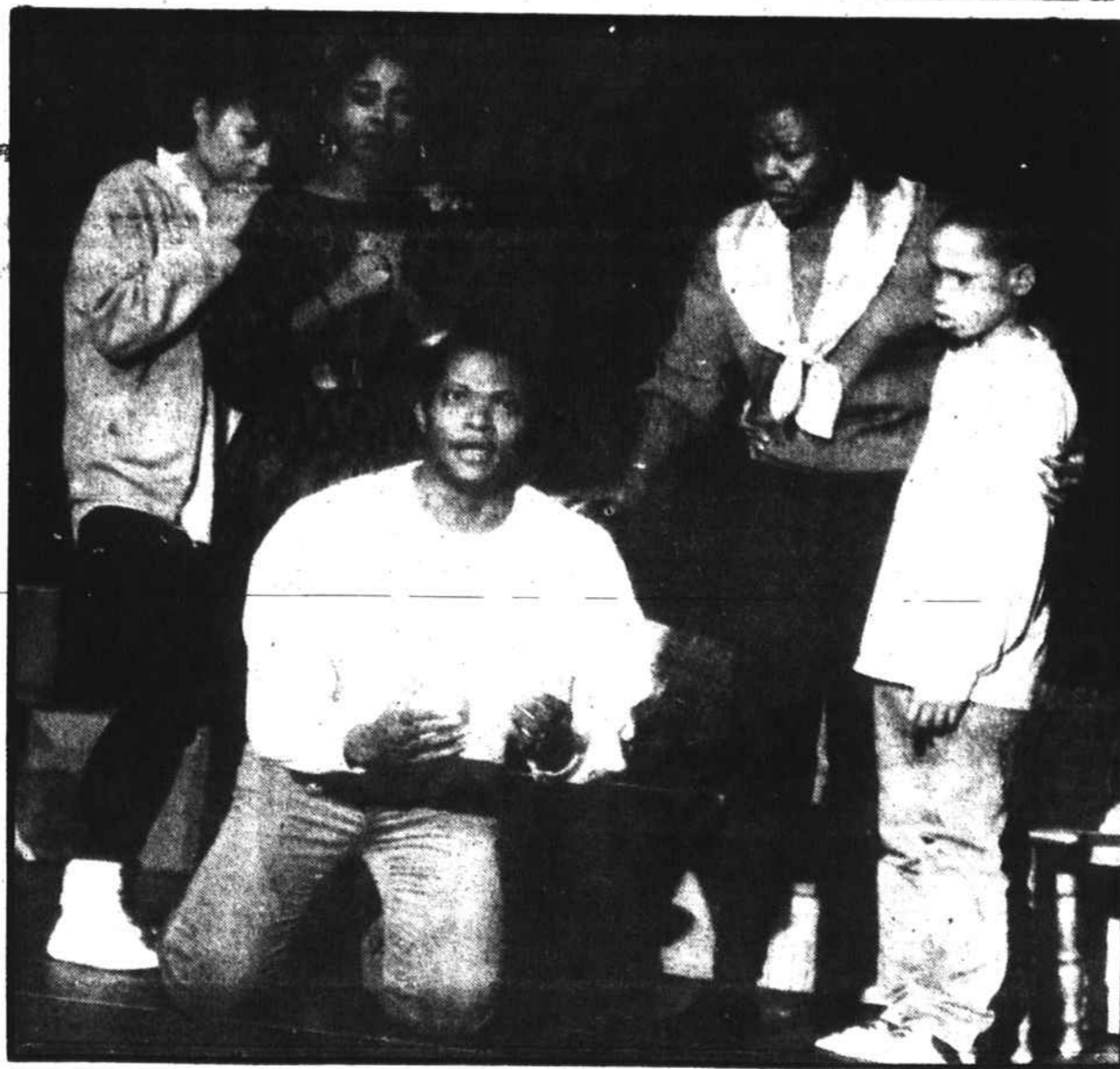
Gray is one of the originators of the resident management concepts in public housing, which allows residents in the unit to take responsibility for managing and maintaining their own areas. The program was successfully implemented in the Kenilworth Parkside housing unit in Washington. Gray attributes the success of the Kenilworth resident management program to a unified effort on the part of residents and to the cooperation they received from city officials. But the bulk of the credit, she said, must go to the residents who organized

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Gray

### "RAISIN" TIME



Members of the cast of "A Raisin in the Sun" run through a rehearsal at the North Carolina Black repertory Co. The play's family members are portrayed, from left, by Donna Marie Peters, Gail O'Blenis Dukes, Lawrence Evans, Marjorie Johnson and Rhamen Malique Love-Lane. See story on page A6 (photo by Mike Cunningham).

## League board files response to lawsuit

Internal misconduct alleged

By ANGELA WRIGHT  
Chronicle Managing Editor

Members of the Winston-Salem Urban League board of directors met on Tuesday to prepare a response to a complaint and motion filed against them by former League president, Thomas J. Elijah, Jr. Board members are now going public with their criticisms of Elijah's actions as president.

Affidavits were filed in the Forsyth County Superior Court by three board members, two of whom were not named as defendants in Elijah's complaints. The other affidavit was filed by Joseph L. Dickson, former League treasurer and defendant.

Virginia K. Newell, Urban League board member and city alderman, said that, even though she was not named a defendant,

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### Kennedy proposes conflict settlement

By ANGELA WRIGHT  
Chronicle Managing Editor

A *Chronicle* source close to the board of directors said Harvey L. Kennedy, former chairman of the Winston-Salem Urban League board of directors, proposed an informal settlement to the conflict which has engulfed the Urban League board of directors for several weeks now.

A Forsyth County Superior Court will ultimately decide who will govern the Urban League by determining whether the legitimate board of directors is the one elected during a meeting called by

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## Racist activities in North Carolina at center of federal investigations

By The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE -- In the past four years, federal investigators have been trying to close in on radical-right groups, and North Carolina has been at the center of that activity.

Federal prosecutors here have won 25 convictions or guilty pleas from white supremacists since 1985. But experts say the movement isn't dead.

"Every time you take out one group, it seems like two more spring out," said State Bureau of Investigation agent Wayne Truax, who is assigned to monitor such groups.

"The legal loads that have begun to besiege the white movement have made a dent, but then things keep popping up that makes us know these people are still out there," said Pat

Carter, director of Klan watch in Montgomery. "There are just too many people committed to the cause."

A Cleveland County Grand Jury has indicted two former members of a presumed-dead group in a Jan. 17 attack at a Shelby bookstore that left three men dead and two wounded. Authorities say the men acted, possibly with accomplices, because they believed the bookstore was a gathering place for homosexuals.

U.S. Attorney Tom Ashcraft of Asheville said Friday the federal government is also investigating the Shelby killings, but he wouldn't comment further.

The two men indicted on state charges, Douglas Sheets and Robert "Jack" Jackson, are

believed to be former members of the White Patriot Party, once the state's preeminent neo-Nazi group. It disbanded in late 1986, and most of its leadership has fallen out of the public spotlight.

"I don't know if the White

"The legal loads that have begun to besiege the white movement have made a dent, but then things keep popping up that makes us know these people are still out there."

-- Pat Carter

Patriot Party is dead or not, but this is the second mass killing by a Klan-Nazi group. Seems to me we have a continuing problem with that in North Carolina," said Mab Segrest of North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence. Five communist demonstrators in Greensboro were shot to death during a confrontation with

North Carolina Klan members and neo-Nazis in 1979.

"The name is not it," Segrest said. "The movement is it. It's there and it's dangerous."

Ms. Segrest told the Charlotte Observer she believes the White

Patriots conduct military training with dozens of members who are still heavily armed and dangerous.

Former White Patriot leader Glenn Miller, in an April 6 statement he later retracted, declared war "against niggers, Jews, queers, assorted mongrels, white race traitors and

despicable informants."

Miller was sentenced in 1986 to six months in prison for running a paramilitary organization in violation of a court order. While appealing, he was captured with Sheets and Jackson in Missouri. All three face weapons charges there.

Authorities said they believe Miller was not involved in the Shelby slayings.

Stephen Miller, the Patriots' former second-in-command, faces sentencing Dec. 1 for his involvement in a plot this year to rob a Fayetteville restaurant, purportedly to fund the killing of Alabama civil rights lawyer Morris Dees.

Elsewhere, a federal jury in Denver on Tuesday convicted two members of The Order, a secretive racist group, with the 1985 machine-gun slaying of a

Jewish radio talk show host.

Thirty-five other members of The Order or the umbrella organization Aryan Nations have been charged with crimes as diverse as armored car robberies to counterfeiting.

A federal grand jury in Fort Smith, Ark., in April indicted 10 white supremacists -- including Aryan Nations leaders Richard Butler of Hayden Lake, Idaho, Robert Miles of Cohoctah, Mich., and Louis Beam of Dallas -- on charges of conspiring to overthrow the government.

For all that, government officials say, it is difficult to gauge the threat, if any, still posed by their groups.

"It's not really the kind of

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