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## NAACP urges board to commit to district plan

By TONYA V. SMITH  
Chronicle Staff Writer

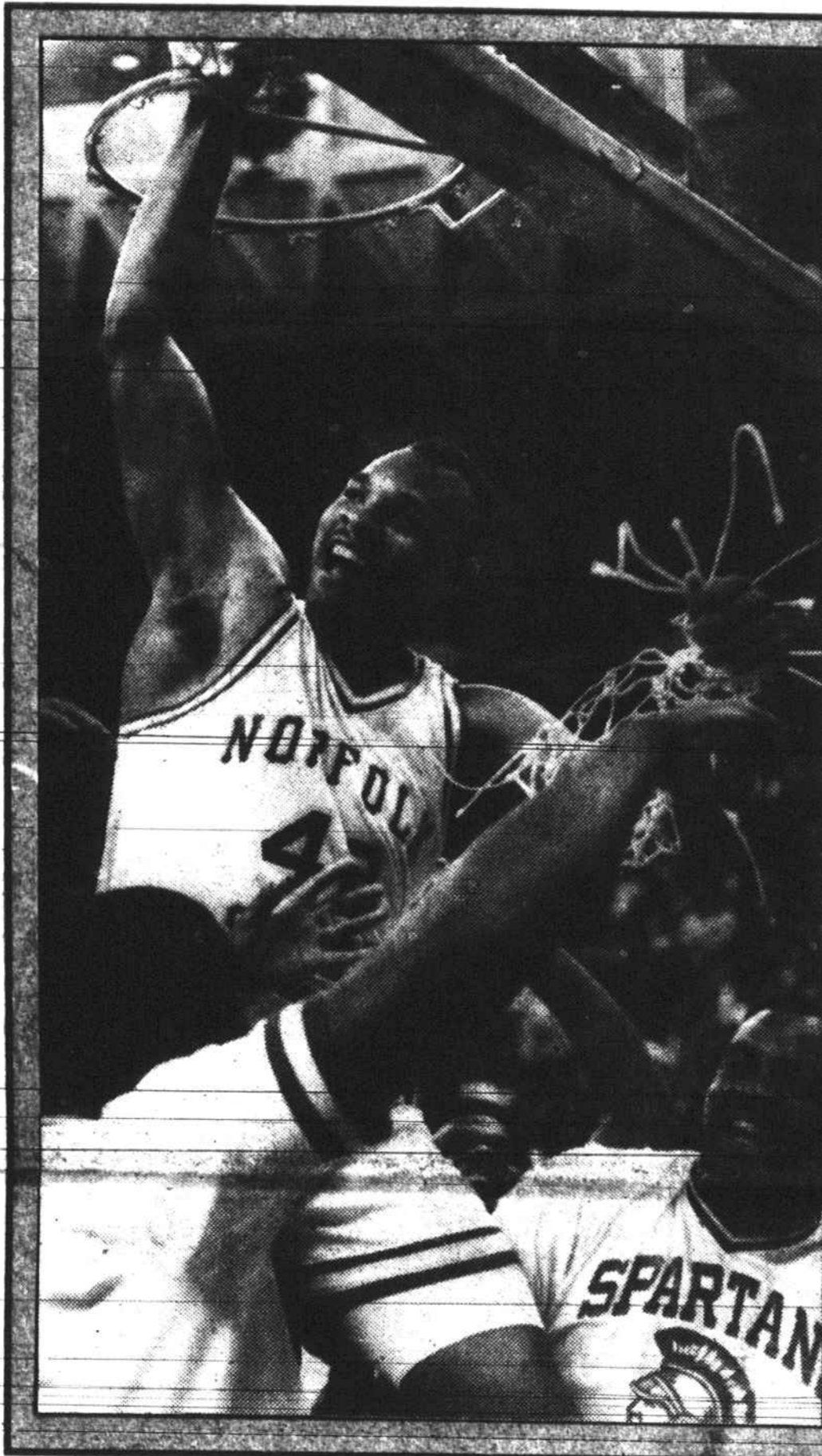
It's reasonable for the school board to opt to wait for the 1990 census results before designing a plan for election by district, said NAACP President Walter Marshall, however, members do not have to wait until then to decide whether they favor the strategy that would increase Afro-American representation on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education.

The Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP voted on Jan. 22 to ask the school board to devise a district plan for electing members. Mr. Marshall said the school board has no other choice but to follow the county's lead in adopting an election by district plan. The NAACP filed a lawsuit against the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners in 1986, charging that their at-large method of election violated the Voting Rights Act, the 14th and 15th amendments and diluted black voting strength. A new district election plan, which could add as many as two Afro-Americans to the all-white board, goes into effect during this election year.

During a special meeting last week, members of the board said they wanted to see the results of the April 1, 1990, census before considering an election by district plan. Those results would not be available before April 1, 1991. Still, the NAACP wants some sign of commitment from the school board, Mr. Marshall said.

"Given the documented history of racial discrimination that was confirmed in the following court cases: one, the 1970 Catherine Scott Case, two, the 1986 Thornburg vs. Gingles decision and, three, the 1988 NAACP/Forsyth County Commissioners out of court settlement; the school board should recognize that it has no legal recourse and should respond positively to the local NAACP's request,"

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## CIAA ... \$4.5 Million Reunion!

Norfolk State's Jerome Coles is a portrait of jubilation after the Spartans defeated Hampton University's Pirates, 66-64, to win the 45th annual CIAA Basketball tournament in Norfolk, Va., last weekend. The championship finals were played before a sell-out crowd of 10,600 at the Scope. This year marked the final year that Norfolk will host the annual event. Richmond, Va., won the bid to host the tournament for the next three years. But while Richmond has the event locked up for that time period, other cities with larger arenas are preparing to launch their bids to land this major sporting event. Winston-Salem is one of those cities who will reportedly bid on the next contract for 1994. Winston's advantage? The newly opened Lawrence Joel Memorial Coliseum seats at least 4,000 more people than the arenas in Norfolk or Richmond, which translates into increased ticket sales. The CIAA tournament is an annual black college event that has grown substantially over the years. This year, folk attending the tournament poured \$4.5 million into Norfolk's.

Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

## Opponents call new coalition 'dangerous'

By TONYA V. SMITH  
Chronicle Staff Writer

It's been called the new "coalition" and the "pentagon," however, now the Afro-American community is calling the faction on the city Board of Aldermen a dangerous weapon that could potentially place numerous black issues and concerns on the back burner for good.

On Dec. 4, 1989, the five-member body made its first public display of power by voting down Mayor Martha S. Wood's slate of committee assignments, and introducing and passing their own. Vivian H. Burke, Lynne S. Harpe, Robert S. Northington Jr., Nancy T. Pleasants and J. Hugh Wright voted together on the revised committee assignments, however, only Northeast Ward Alderman Burke received public criticism about her vote.

Afro-Americans accused Mrs. Burke of betrayal and defection and launched a recall effort to remove her from office. That effort is "continuing," according to spokesmen with the Concerned Citizens of the Northeast Ward, who also have said they have more than the 600 signatures necessary to begin a recall.

Both Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Harpe, Democrats, have been criticized because of their alignments with Republicans Northington, Pleasants and Wright. However, Walter Holton, chair of the Forsyth County Democratic Party, said "I don't buy the line that a new coalition has been formed. I think that on each individual issue the members of the board have voted their conscience. I believe that in the years of service to our city, both Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Harpe have consistently taken stands that have been right for the community and that's why they were re-elected."

"There will always be disagreement among different members of the board on various issues. But if an alderman votes his or her conscience and supports the issues they

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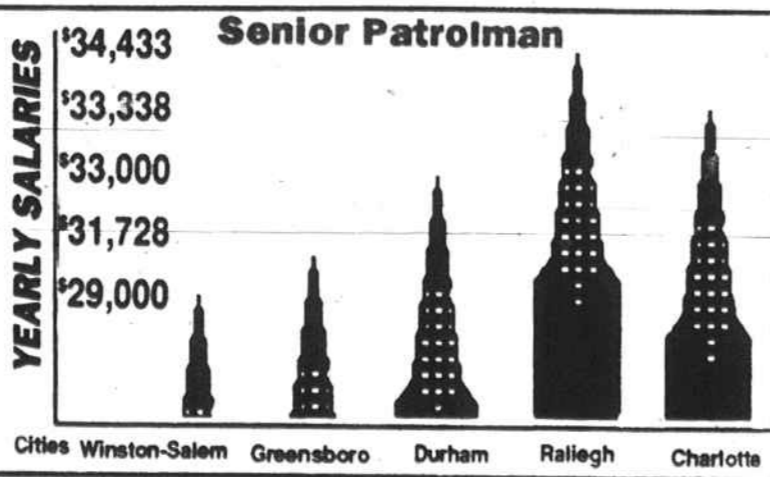
## Low pay, new work schedule cause police shortage

By RUDY ANDERSON  
Chronicle Managing Editor

The Winston-Salem Police Department is having trouble holding on to its officers. At least that is what the latest figures show from the city's personnel department.

Officers the Chronicle spoke with point toward two factors, the pay scale and the new work schedule. Most officers said they would rather not be identified in connection with this story because they didn't want to 'anger' Chief George L. Sweat or other city officials with their complaints. But other city employees are talking. "We got a bunch of vacancies over there (the police department)," said Joe Chandler, the city's personnel supervisor. Based on current figures from his department, Mr. Chandler says there are a total of 352 sworn officers including the chief and his three assistants. The police department is budgeted for 415 positions.

Patricia Kirby, a city personnel specialist who does exit interviews for employees who leave the city's service,



says what she hears from officers who leave is that morale is low right now. "Everybody is concerned about money and that new work schedule," she said.

The new work schedule introduced by Chief Sweat was designed to put more officers on the street during peak hours. Officers now work four days and have two days off on a rotating basis. "An officer could come back from his days off and find that he/she is working the mid-

night shift," Ms. Kirby said. "Many (officers) say their bodies aren't able to adjust to the time changes." And she said there is one other aspect of the schedule that really riled those officers who have left. "Court assignments used to be done during an officer's regular work schedule. Now its mandatory that officers who make court appearances do it on their days off," she said. "They (officers) get paid for it. But it's still working on their day off. It might take all day or it might not."

Some officers say the bottom line here is, that very often, fewer people are being forced to carry more of the workload. That could mean an officer won't be around in your neighborhood when you need one, they say.

But city officials are making plans to deal with the problem. City personnel analyst, Bruce Farrington, says "the city is trying to do something about that right now. Nothing is finalized yet, but we've talked with each other about police recruit pay problems." He adds, "we need to

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## Community voices opposition to EAS; King Triplett's objectivity questioned

By TONYA V. SMITH  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Did the Winston-Salem Urban League's Board of Directors act too quickly when it adopted in November 1989 a resolution opposing an Expanded Area Service (EAS) plan? Members say no, but a proponent of the plan, which would establish toll-free telephone services for residents wishing to place calls within the Triad, say the board acted before it received both sides of the argument.

Mike Horn, spokesman for Citizens for a Toll-free Triad Committee, joined King Triplett, a member of the Urban League Board and manager of Southern Bell Telephone Company's local office, in a debate of EAS during a public forum Feb. 23.

About 85 community members, the majority of them Afro-American and elderly, attended the forum and most of them spoke out against EAS. The majority of them were also constituents of the Urban League and had received their information about the EAS plan from league board members and staff. That information was one-sided, said Mr. Horn, because the board of director's

resolution represents Southern Bell's position - officials at the telephone company are strongly against EAS.

"Whereas a plan has been proposed for the Triad that would expand the local calling areas for telephone customers regardless of their economic level or need for the services; and whereas the plan would substantially increase local phone bills for all customers...be it resolved that the Winston-Salem Urban League board of directors opposed this Extended Area Service plan proposed for the Triad," reads the resolution signed by Joseph L. Dickson, board chair, and Delores J. Smith, league president and CEO.

Mr. Triplett said residents' bills would increase by \$3.04 a month. The public staff of the state Utilities Commission has estimated the monthly fee at \$1.57. But Mr. Horn contends that it is too early in the process to determine rates.

"It is conceivable, although not probable, that the commission could decide that no revenue lost (because the five Triad telephone companies - Southern Bell, North State, Carolina, Centel and Alltel - would not be

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## Winston-Salem Chronicle NewsUpdate



### Jackson won't run for mayor of D.C.

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Jesse Jackson's political future is beginning to resemble his past. His recent announcement that he will not run for mayor of the nation's capital revived the assumption that when the 1992 presidential campaign gets rolling, Jackson will make his third bid for the White House. "I want to continue to serve, but not as mayor," Jackson told a news conference, ending speculation that he might run to succeed the troubled Marion Barry as mayor of the District of Columbia, a city without a state. Serve as what, was the next natural question. "It is premature to talk about the next level of activity," he replied to such queries. "The push is for statehood." Jackson established residence in Washington last spring, a move that touched off speculation he would run for mayor. The talk intensified after Barry was arrested on a misdemeanor cocaine possession charge and later indicted on perjury charges.

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Among the proponents and opponents at a forum on EAS were (clockwise from top left) King Triplett, Mike Horn and Odessa Matthews.