

**Winston-Salem Chronicle**  
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## On middle school funding

ALL of the studies have been done and suggestions made. The staff of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System has presented its budget recommendations to the school board. The school system says it will need more than \$190 million dollars in its total budget to operate in the fall. Of that, a \$59.1 million dollar budget request now rests with our county commissioners, who must make a decision to approve the school system's budget in conjunction with the county's overall budget by the end of this month. Commissioners, please consider the following thoughts in your deliberations.

One thing has been made clear from the critical and far-reaching review of our school system and its needs, and that is that a general overhaul of our middle school program is a must. Among the many items the school system is asking for is nearly \$1.6 million dollars in new funds to improve our middle schools.

That money would pay for 31 additional teachers and nine teaching assistants who would help maintain Chapter 1 type math labs for middle school students who need remedial help. In addition, that money would pay for 13 assistant principals, purchase science equipment and relocate and renovate science labs. These are worthwhile items that are vital to the success of the middle school improvement plan.

The middle school experience is supposed to provide the transition between the completely self-contained class found in elementary schools and the departmentalized classes in high school. A strong program at this level for our children is absolutely critical to their success in the later stages of their educational experience in our school system.

The middle school concept is based on teams of teachers who share a group of about 100 students and teach them core curriculum subjects like language arts, math, science, and social studies. In this type of setting students can get more individualized attention. That is extremely important to a child who may not (for whatever the reason) be getting that kind of attention at home.

The team teaching concept also allows for flexible class time. No bells end classes, and teachers on the team meet daily to determine the length of each of their classes during the school day. If a teacher on the team needs more time for a particular class, then the other teachers adjust their schedules.

There are several other features of the middle school concept that make it extremely attractive if done properly. The problem has been that for the most part the concept has not worked well except in one school, Mineral Springs. The school system's request for additional funding can make the concept work in all of our middle schools.

Government, business, education and community leaders all agree that the key to our community's continued economic growth is a well-educated and motivated workforce. This does not happen overnight. The steps being taken now in our schools will help produce that workforce which in turn will help attract those industries to employ that workforce.

So, commissioners, when you weigh the county's needs against the wish list, remember that what our school system is asking for is not a wish, it is a must. If the weakest link in our school system's program is in the middle schools, then make them stronger by approving the school system's funding request.

We can pay now to improve our schools or suffer the costly consequences later.

## About letters, columns ...

The *Chronicle* welcomes letters from its readers, as well as columns. Letters should be as concise as possible and typed or printed legibly. They also should include the name, address and telephone number of the writer. Columns should follow the same guidelines and will be published if we feel they are of interest to our general readership. We reserve the right to edit letters and columns for brevity and grammar.

Submit your letters and columns to *Chronicle Mailbag*, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

# Mayor Marion Barry wants gutter justice in his trial for crack use

Mayor Marion Barry of Washington in a bizarre move is demanding that the prosecution be put on trial because he smoked crack cocaine.

In an apparent pre-trial attempt to manipulate the black population of D.C., Mr. Barry boasted: "I think the prosecutors know that in this town, all it takes is one juror saying, 'I'm not going to convict Marion Barry. I don't care what you say.'"

Mr. Barry's logic can also lead one to say: "Without a system based on justice, all of us are in constant jeopardy of being assaulted, murdered, burglarized or raped. But if Marion Barry commits any of these acts, no matter how much factual evidence the prosecution presents, I

will not vote as a juror to convict him."

Mr. Barry is not the first politician to place himself above the law (Richard Nixon tried), but he has to be the most brazen in his desperate attempt to stay out of jail and convince the gullible that he should be re-elected the mayor who leads the city's fight against drugs.

In effect, Mr. Barry has put the intelligence of black people on trial.

"They had me ingest cocaine, crack cocaine, which could have killed me... I could have been dead now, with 70, 80, 90 percent pure cocaine," the mayor of DC explained.

"They had me ingest cocaine." What does he mean? "I know what

# Anger is rekindled by article on contractors

To The Editor:

My anger was rekindled after reading several articles in the *Chronicle* in reference to general contractors. My experience was with S.A. Price Construction Co. Mostly my upset related to the state and local inspections divisions.

When Price failed to make repairs, the Winston-Salem Inspections Division was contacted. The Inspections Division disclosed that Price never obtained permits, electrical or construction, and the division would be unable to inspect the work until permits were obtained. Acknowledging the oversight, Price paid his minimal fine and received the permits. However, the permits did not reflect all the electrical or construction work done by Price.

Based on the contracted work that was inspected, Price failed the permit work sheet. It was at this time that Price denied having done the work. Then disregarding the contract, detailing all work done, the Inspections Division did nothing to this unlicensed contractor, indicating that it was his word against mine.

Taking the situation to the N.C. Department of Inspections proved an additional waste of time. After five months, one person inspected the work, reviewed the contract and the "falsified permits," contacted the local Inspections Division ... and did nothing to get Price to make all the repairs.

A great deal of time was wasted dealing with state and local inspections divisions that in fact have no authority to force a contractor to uphold a contractual agreement. In addition, the state division refused to send a copy of the report. The report had to be subpoenaed. Just who is being protected? Is the judicial system the only recourse?

Serious questions must be raised as to the function of both state and local inspections divisions when unlicensed contractors are given free rein to do substandard work knowing that they are protected by these agencies.

A consumer gains no satisfaction when state and local inspections divisions, established to regulate and enforce standards, merely qualify inferiority. There is a great number of inspectors whose function is seemingly only to confirm inadequacies and to collect payment for permits (by both licensed and unlicensed contractors).

Beverly F. Williams  
 Winston-Salem

## Sports in middle school

To The Editor:

According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, class rank, GPAs and test scores only begin to predict future success for our students. Our athletic programs are also influential in that they enhance students' self-esteem and self-discipline, as well as help to reduce the dropout rate.

As a coach, I see the positive aspects of athletics on young people every day. Their self-confidence rises and their grades improve as a result. I see kids who would be in the streets if they were not a part of our athletic program. Students gain valuable experience from teamwork and learn the importance of commitment.

Flip Wilson's Geraldine meant when he/she said, "The devil made me do it." Is that what the indicted mayor means when he says "they"



**TONY BROWN**

Syndicated Columnist

made him smoke crack?

"They," all of us big girls and boys know, is a euphemism for white people -- our personal and collective devil, without whom there would be good houses, high incomes and happy families, it is suggested.



I consider it a privilege to be a part of a program where positive values are still taught. The kids benefit the most and the success rate is high. It is because of this that these questions come to my mind.

How many more young lives could we influence if inter-school athletics were available at the middle-school level? How many kids would spend less time in the street and more time on the athletic field? Is the athletic court an alternative to criminal court?

Can we reduce the dropout rate even more by allowing sixth- to eighth-graders a chance to compete for their school?

I think that it is time to reinstate middle-school athletic programs. One voice, however, cannot sound loud enough. The voices of all taxpayers need to be heard. Please help me spread the word.

Mike Muse  
 Head Football Coach  
 Assistant Basketball Coach  
 R.J. Reynolds High School

## Reviewing the facts

To The Editor:

The May 12 violence in East Winston-Salem has served to raise the consciousness of all who live and work in this city. As commissioners of the Winston-Salem Housing Authority, we believe that it may be helpful at this time to review some of the facts pertaining to our public housing communities or "housing projects."

The Public Housing Authority is created under a contract between the city and the federal government (ACC Contract) which requires the city to appoint a Board of Commissioners which administers the public housing project in the local community. There are numerous federal and state policies which may be used by the authority in leasing to and evicting residents. These policies are extensive, often complicated, yet appear to be fair and necessary to the operation of the program.

The large majority of residents are law-abiding and decent citizens of this community. Many of the residents are single heads of households and many are elderly, all wanting and working toward a good life for their families.

The violence which occurred May 12 was indeed a great tragedy to all our citizens and particularly to those families directly involved. It is a fact, however, that none of the victims nor those arrested were residents of public housing. It is discouraging to our residents that there is an impression in some of the communities that the housing pro-

And what about the potency? Is the admitted crack-user saying a 30, 40 or 50 percent cocaine level could have been acceptable

because, in his erroneous logic, it would not have been life threatening?

He plays Russian roulette with his life and offers bad advice to others when caught. Crack cocaine kills you by controlling your brain

## CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

jects' residents are the source of all the problems. We are aware, however, that there are problems in public housing with a few residents.

There are many worthwhile programs offered during the week in each of the communities, including Step One, GED classes, learning centers, Boy Scouts, LER program, career training and 4-H Clubs. There are also talent shows and programs to recognize outstanding students. Much more needs to be done, however, and we on the authority are searching for ways in which to network better with the strong support system that is already in place, which includes the Winston-Salem Police Department, the Housing Authority staff and many community agencies. We welcome new ideas and invite you to present them to us at any of our open meetings.

Clark S. Brown,  
 Chairman  
 Dr. David H. Burr,  
 Vice Chairman  
 Naomi Jones,  
 Commissioner  
 William H. Andrews,  
 Commissioner  
 Phoebe Satterwhite,  
 Commissioner

## In appreciation

To The Editor:

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the May 8 primary for County Commissioner. If elected in November, I will work hard for all the people in Forsyth County.

I would also like for the people who could not be at the last Commissioners' meeting May 14 to know that the County Commissioners agreed to pay two lawyers \$30,709 for their part in drawing up the 1990 Bond Referendum. My question is, What does the County Attorney get paid for? Does he get paid to hire other attorneys to do his job?

There are people here who need food to eat, homes to live in, health care and clothes to wear. This \$30,709 could have helped a lot of poor people. If the County Attorney can't do his job, then he should be laid off. Stop putting the poor working man out of work.

Second, the County Commissioners agreed to sign a contract with a large realty company in Winston-Salem to find land for the Triad Park. Again, what do the Commissioners and planning staff do? This is very unfair to other realtors and a waste of the taxpayers'

money. If the taxpayers would figure that 30 percent of their taxes are wasted, then I would say that we need a change in the county government. The back scratching needs to stop so the working people can live again.

Jim Hatcher  
 Winston-Salem

## Thanks for support

To The Editor:

I would like to thank the people of Forsyth County for supporting me in the May 8 primary election. The support you gave me shows your concern and your faith in me as an individual. I will continue to do all I can to make our public school system in Forsyth County even better. For the past 30 years I have worked and taught in the North Carolina Public School System. I understand the educational needs of youth.

My six children have gone through the public school system. I am committed to our public school system in Forsyth County and the state of North Carolina.

As I work with the board of education, I want parents, teachers and students to talk with the principals and board throughout the year. Come to PTA meetings, continue to show interest and concern in our children's development.

I look for your support in the November general election.

Beaufort O. Bailey  
 Member,  
 W-S/FC Board of Education

## Thanks for votes

To The Editor:

I would like to thank the community for its support of my successful campaign in the recent Forsyth County Commissioner race, for District A.

As I said during my campaign, I promise to listen to and seek the advice and counsel of my constituents.

I clearly expect you to hold me accountable as your commissioner from District A.

Again, I thank you for your support.

Earline W. Parmon  
 Winston-Salem

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