

Black males to speak out at teen forum

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Community News Editor

Approximately 75 young African-American males between the ages of 13 and 19 will have a firsthand opportunity this weekend to become involved in finding solutions to the problems that they see as most threatening to their future.

On Saturday, March 7, a Teen Male Forum will be held in the Ballroom of the Marquee hotel. The day's event will be divided into two main sessions. During the morning session, which will last from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., the participants will divide up into small groups to discuss their ideas, feelings and opinions on the topics of violence, racism, drugs, education, AIDS and sexuality. During the afternoon session, from 2-3:30 p.m., representatives from each group will then speak out about their perceptions to community leaders and the public.

According to Martha Tenney of the Forsyth County Health Department, the forum is not only "to empower the young black men," but also, "to come up with their perspective on the best way to address these issues."

Since community leaders and

the public are invited to attend the afternoon session to hear the results of the small group discussions, Tenney added that hopefully, afterwards, the community will not only be motivated to act on some of the concerns facing young African-American men, but will also have an insight on exactly what is needed to solve the problems.

"What we're hoping is that there will be people in the audience who represent churches, organizations, and employment agencies, that can take these messages back to where they work, and incorporate them in what they're already doing," said Tenney.

One-hundred-thirty invitations to young black males were sent out in hopes that at least 75 will participate in the forum, and so far, the responses from the public have been very positive. Tenney stated that "We didn't have anybody who said they didn't want to attend."

Each of the six topics discussed at the forum will have a facilitator on hand. The facilitators will include Nigel Alston, Khalid Griggs, Thomas Allen, Maurice Hardy, Lynn Aikens, and Alan Frazier. There will also be resource persons on hand for each topic. They will include Ray Shore, the Rev. John



John Webb of ALS Communications in Charlotte led a training session for the facilitators of the upcoming Teen Male Forum, Tuesday, March 3, to help prepare them for the event.

Mendez, Robert Wooten, Adolphus Coplin, DeAngelo Bell, and Larry Worthy.

The Teen Male Forum is sponsored by the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council of Forsyth County, the Forsyth County Health

Department, the Winston-Salem Urban League, and the Winston-Salem Chronicle, and is funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

For more information, contact Martha Tenney at the Forsyth County Health Department at 727-8172.

Head Start in crisis!

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commend to the county commissioners that the bidding process be abandoned. If that happens, the county commissioners must unanimously approve offering the property to Family Services in a private sale.

Since 1984, the school system has leased Digs Elementary School to Family Services for Head Start's child care and early childhood education programs. Each year, Head Start graduates about 150 children from their early childhood education program into public school.

During the past six years, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school administration and board have often considered other uses for the building, and each time Head Start prepared itself to act.

"Each time we jumped," says Pharr. About a year ago, Head Start had mustered enough community support and corporate backing to offer to buy Digs in a private sale, but did not receive the required unanimous support from the county commissioners.

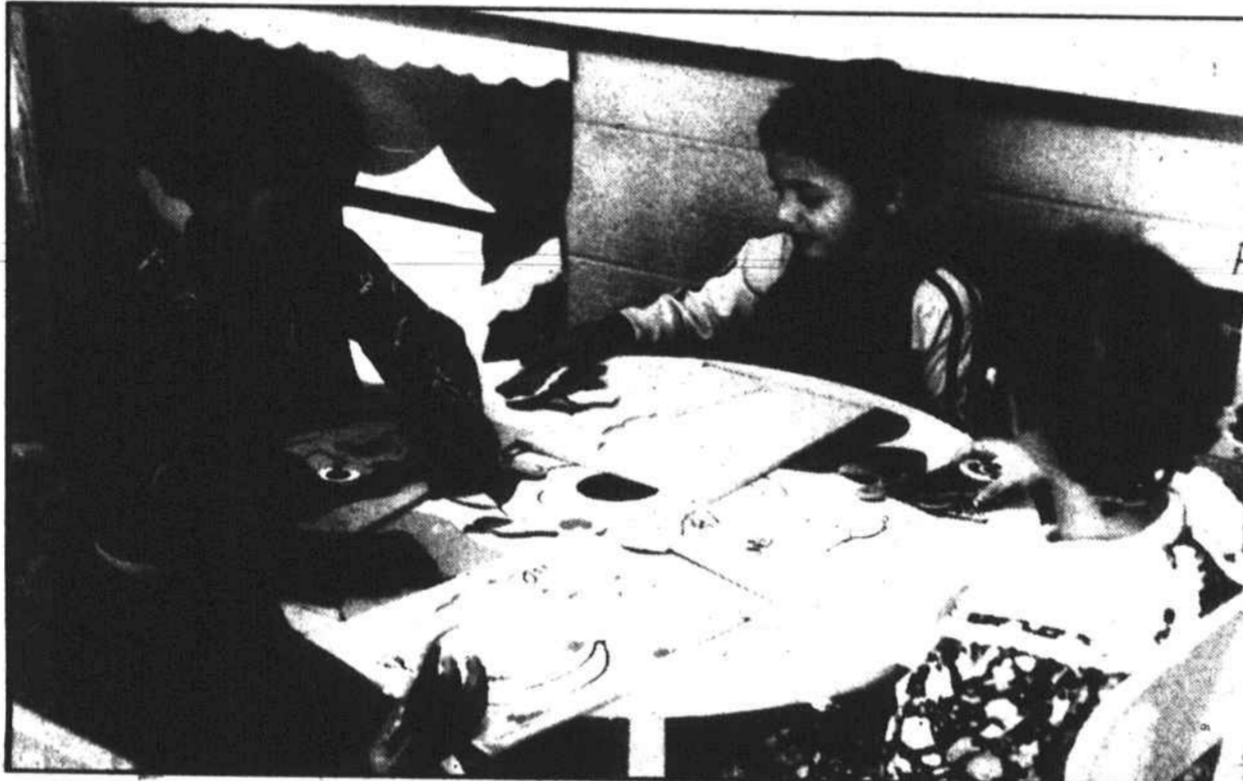
Now the program is in a bidding war, this time competing to buy the Skyland Elementary school, which has been vacant for nearly two decades, extensively damaged by fire and vandalized. Their most recent bid of \$7500 has been upset by a \$10,000 bid from Michael Coe, who has an interest in a local electrical supply business.

"That's one of the strange twists this story has taken," laments Pharr, who leaves his work at Petree Stockton & Robinson to volunteer time with Family Services. "Subcontractors, such as Mr. Coe, have no interest in the building. They just want to fix it up and sell it — to us."

"We are appealing to the other bidders and to the community to defer to our pressing need to have a place for these children," said Pharr. "We can't let someone put their profit on this."

As of Wednesday, more bids were coming in, and higher bids expected before the close of the bidding period today.

Asked about the fairness of the bidding process, school attorney Doug Pungler commented: "The General Assembly makes the rules. We just abide by them. The Board of Education has on more than one occasion expressed interest in selling surplus school property to Family Services, but the board doesn't have the authority to sell it privately



Head Start students Darryl Blackmon, Terrion Thompson, Torrence Martin, and Jennie Wade spend a portion of their day putting together puzzles.

to anyone without the unanimous approval of the county commissioners."

Austin notes that Experiment in Self-Reliance saw the need for Head Start and asked Family Services to operate the program 27 years ago.

Eighty percent of Head Start's budget is federally funded, but twenty percent must come from the community, which in Forsyth County and other communities comes in the form of reduced rent, United Way funds, and volunteer labor.

Although Head Start initially operated in church basements, fed-

eral and state regulations require a cafeteria, a school-like atmosphere, and limitations on the type of building in which it can be housed.

"If we have to close this program, we will be turning 400 children out on the street," said Austin. "Sixty-five employees will be out of work, and some of them have been working for Head Start since 1965, all of them at very low wages, providing a real service to the community. I hope that people will call their school board members and county commissioners and let them know how they feel."

Thomas

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must address all ills in our society."

Clark, who represents the international anti-torture group Human Rights Watch, called Thomas' opinion "surprising and disappointing" for its narrow view of the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

More high court decisions were expected today, but as of Tuesday, Thomas had participated in seven unanimous and six split rulings.

In the six split votes, Thomas sided with Scalia in each and with the conservative Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justice Anthony M. Kennedy in five.

In each of those six cases, Thomas has been on the opposite side of the court's two most liberal members, Justices Harry A. Blackmun and John Paul Stevens.

Thomas, who succeeded the retired Thurgood Marshall to become only the second black justice in the court's history, joined a 6-3 majority last month in saying the Voting Rights Act of 1965 does not apply when elected black officials are stripped of their official duties.

Before President Bush nominated him to the Supreme Court, Thomas served for 19 months as a judge on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Although he began his new job

Oct. 23, Thomas had some appeals court decision-writing to complete — and an opinion he released last week offers greater insight into Thomas' views on affirmative action.

Writing for a 2-1 majority of an appeals court panel, Thomas told the federal government it must stop giving special preference to women in awarding broadcast licenses.

Although a longtime, outspoken critic of broad affirmative action programs, Thomas testified at his turbulent Senate confirmation hearings he had no reason to disagree with a 1990 Supreme Court ruling that upheld giving special preferences to minorities in awarding broadcast licenses.

Thomas' appeals court opinion said Congress failed to justify giving preferences to women.

"Justice Marshall must be extremely saddened and dismayed by what his replacement seems to be all about," Theodore Howard, a Washington lawyer for the Prisoners' Legal Services Project, said after reading Tuesday's decision.

Of the high-court decisions in which Thomas has participated, most resolved relatively obscure cases. But this year he will participate in a very important religion case, deciding whether the constitutionally required separation of church and state is violated by prayers — invocations and benedic-

tions — said at public school graduations.

Many experts believe the conservative court is going to abandon the way it's been judging such cases for the past 20 years.

The court also will decide by July the validity of a Pennsylvania abortion law that requires doctors to tell women about possible complications and childbearing alternatives and then requires those women to wait 24 hours before having an abortion.

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Invitation for
Disadvantaged/Minority Owned Business Enterprises (D/M/BE) Contractors/Subcontractors/Vendors/Suppliers

Durham County has announced its plans for a \$34 million Dentention Facility scheduled for completion by Spring 1995. This facility will be a cast-in-place concrete structure of five stories that consists of approximately 290,000 square feet (526 cells), located in downtown Durham, North Carolina.

Proposals will be received in accordance with applicable provisions of General Statute 143-128 and the County of Durham's DBE/MWBE plans. It is the policy of Durham County to promote participation by Disadvantaged and Minority Business Enterprises (D/M/BEs) and to assist and protect the interest of D/M/BEs that seek to compete in full and open competition for contracting opportunities with Durham County.

A Minority Business Enterprise means: (1) A business in which at least fifty-one percent (51%) is owned by one or more minority persons, or in the case of a corporation, in which at least fifty-one (51%) of the stock is owned by one or more minority persons; (2) A business in which the management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the minority persons who own it. The term **minority person** means a person who is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and who is: Black, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian, Alaskan Native or Female.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises means: (1) A Small Business that is at least 51 percent (51%) owned, controlled and daily operated by one or more Socially Disadvantaged Persons; (2) A Small Business Concern which is independently owned and operated, which has fewer than 100 employees for the preceding fiscal year and which had annualized gross receipts not exceeding \$7.5 million average over 3 years; (3) An Economically Disadvantaged Individual who has experienced and who personally continues to experience difficulty in competing in the free enterprise system due to diminished capital and credit opportunities.

In order to be eligible to participate as a D/M/BE on the Durham County Dentention Facility Project, all Minority and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises must be certified by Durham County. The City of Durham will administer the certification process.

If your firm is not certified, you cannot qualify for work as a Minority or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. All Minority and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises interested in participating in this project are strongly encouraged to complete and return Certification forms by April 14, 1992. Certification forms can be obtained by contacting:

County Administrative Complex
200 East Main Street 4th Floor
Durham, North Carolina 27701
Facsimile: (919) 560-0057

Pat Barnhill Hilliard
Contract Compliance Coordinator
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or

Eric Archie
DBE Coordinator (DJ/DPM)
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