

Black students score lower

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taking the test were black while 72% were white, compared to 27% and 69% in 1991 and 24% and 72% in 1990.

The average score for black students is now 733, four points below the national average and 14 points above the state average for black students.

Scores for black students slipped four points after a 48 point rise in the previous two years.

Black leaders maintain that the school system is not preparing

black students to take the SAT and, in many cases, not encouraging it.

"In some instances, I know of high schools where only certain prepped black students are being encouraged to take the test," said one anonymous educator. "Average and poor students are not even being encouraged to take the test. The sad thing is that these students are not going to college, and have not received enough training for the work force."

White students' scores improved 13 points, bringing their average score to 929, four points below the national average and 28 points above the state average for white students.

Average scores for the 1992 college-bound seniors in the WS/FC schools rose 15 points on the SAT

to the highest level in more than 15 years.

Average verbal scores increased nine points to 415, while math scores increased six points to 461, bringing the system average to 876, 21 points above the state average of 855 and only 23 points below the national average of 899.

Citizens police review board holds meeting

• City manager's office presents preliminary structure during its first meeting

By TRAVIS MITCHELL
Chronicle Staff Writer

Last week, community leaders in Winston-Salem joined city officials in reviewing the city manager's plan for the establishment of a citizens police review board. Leaders in Winston-Salem have joined other communities around the country in demanding such boards. A (June 15) 4-4 vote by the board of aldermen, broken by Mayor Martha Wood, opened the door for the establishment of Winston-Salem's board.

Alexander Beaty, assistant city manager, presented a preliminary report on the possible structure of the board. Community response was mixed, although most were pleased with the initial stages of the process.

"The main thing is that this is the first step," said the Rev. John Mendez, an advocate of the board and chairman of the justice component of Citizens United for Justice. "The key thing in our minds is that we come out with a system that is representative of the people. The citizens must have greater involvement in the political process."

During the first meeting, the committee reviewed the plans and discussed the pros and cons of each issue, including: method of creation, name, number of members, profile of membership, qualifications of members, terms of office, and responsibilities. The next meeting will be held on October 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the community room adjacent to the Board of Aldermen chambers.

Black leaders on issues

Nelson Malloy (North Ward alderman): "We want a board that is balanced and representative of the entire community. It is important that the board is representative of a broad spectrum of people."

Virginia Newell (East Ward alderman): "I hope that the board will give concern to picking people who have experience in policing or with a background and qualifications that are beyond that of the average person."

Rev. Steve Falls: "I think overall the process is going well. There are some issues that need to be addressed, but for the first meeting everything went well."

Hanna Diggs Atkins speaks at WSSU

Winston-Salem State University's Centennial Founder's Day speaker will be Hannah Diggs Atkins of Oklahoma City, Okla., the niece of Francis Marion Kennedy, the president of the institution from 1910-1913.

The program begins Friday, Sept. 25 at 9:45 a.m. in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium.

Atkins has distinguished herself during a long career in public service. At the state level, she served in the House of Representatives from 1968-1980. In January 1987, Gov. Henry Bellmon appointed her Cabinet Secretary of Social Services, and in September that year, to a dual role, of Secretary of State and Secretary of Human Resources. In those capacities, Atkins was the highest-ranking female executive in Oklahoma government until her retirement in January 1991.

Among Atkins' many honors and awards are the National Governor's Association Award for Distinguished Service to the State Government (1990), Phi Beta Kappa of the Year (1990), Oklahoma Woman's Hall of Fame (1983), and Oklahoma Afro-American Hall of Fame (1983).



Hannah Diggs Atkins, WSSU Founder's Day speaker.

Atkins currently occupies an endowed chair in political science at the University of Central Oklahoma, which was named in her honor. She is the only African-American in the state to be so recognized.

Black leaders on standardized tests

Conversations with local black leaders revealed the following concerns:

• School officials are preparing certain black students to take the SAT and not encouraging all students to take it;

• The school system is not in compliance with state standards in regards to vocational educational training and job placement, thus those students who do not take the SAT are not adequately trained for industry positions;

• Black students are being incarcerated at an alarming rate;

• The high unemployment rate of black students in the system is leading many students to a life of crime, and

they are not being rehabilitated by the juvenile services system;

• Gaps between the highest SAT scores nationwide and the lowest of black students in the WS/FC schools must be closed completely before a celebration takes place.

• The issue is not SAT scores, but how many black children are gaining the necessary skills to compete in the 21st century.

• The schools with the largest black enrollments have the lowest amount of SAT participation.

• Only 24% of the students taking the SAT are black.

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The Year City's Award-Winning Newspaper
617 N. Liberty Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27102
(919) 722-8624

Single Copy 75¢

Mail Subscription Rates
(payable with order)

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The Winston-Salem Chronicle is published every Thursday by the Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co., Inc., 617 N. Liberty St.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, NC 27102

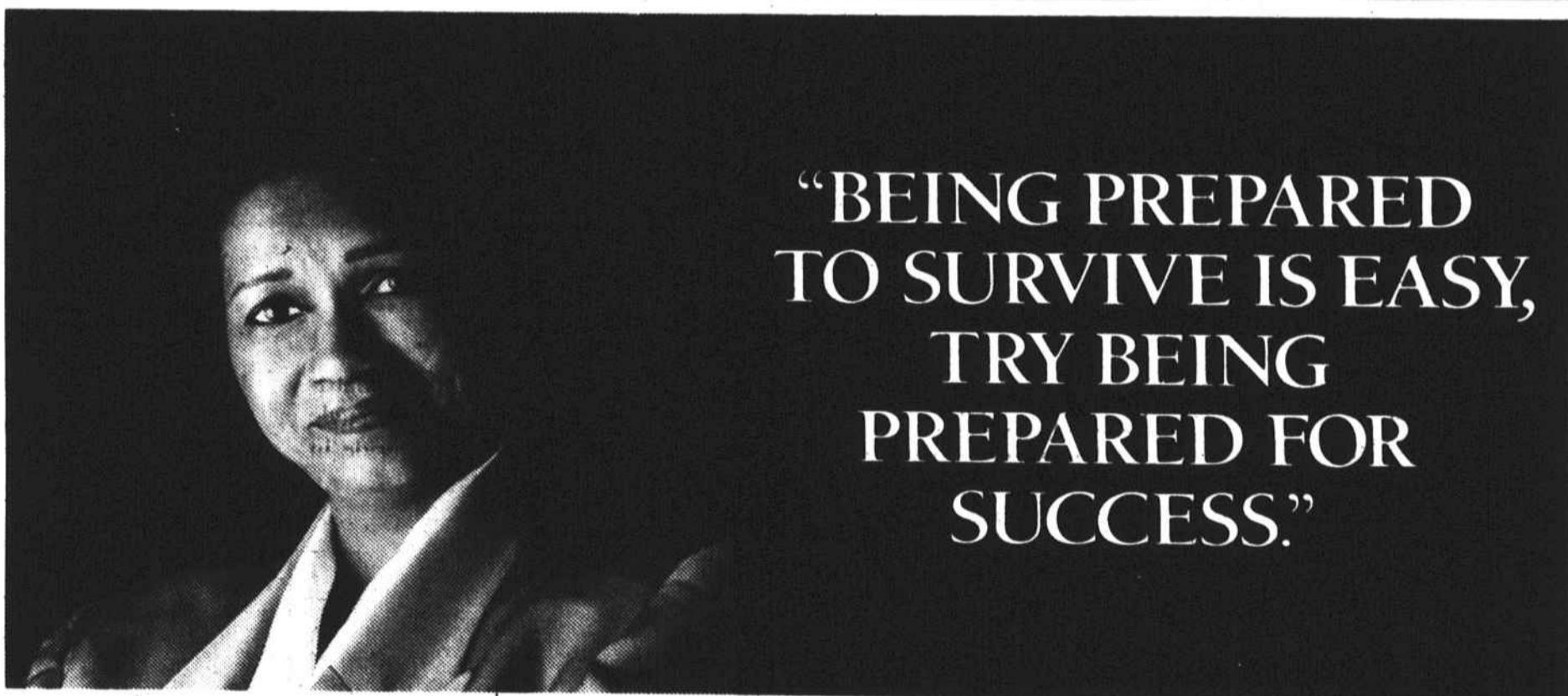
Phone: (919) 722-8624
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Second class postage 051 paid at Winston-Salem, NC 27102

The Winston-Salem Chronicle is a member of:

- Audit Bureau of Circulation
- National Newspapers Publishers Association
- North Carolina Press Association
- North Carolina Black Publishers Association

National Advertising Representative: Amalgamated Publishers, Inc. (212) 869-5220



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Free senior citizen insurance counseling

Insurance Commissioner Jim Long announced the expansion of the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIP) to all 100 North Carolina counties.

Through SHIP training, local volunteers — often senior citizens themselves — help seniors understand the complex nature of Medicare supplement and long-term care insurance.

SHIP counselors talk with seniors about their insurance needs, analyze their existing coverages, and help them identify any gaps in this coverage.

"SHIP volunteers will not recommend a specific insurance company or policy," Long said. "The volunteers aren't selling anything, but are there simply to serve."

North Carolina's SHIP program has received two national awards and has been cited as a model in federal legislation to fund similar programs in other states.

Those seeking insurance counseling or interested in volunteering for the program can obtain a local contact by calling SHIP toll-free at 1-800-443-9354.

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