

High Court Ruling Outrageous, Watt Says

▲ Clarence Thomas assailed for vote

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Melvin Watt, D-N.C., says that last week's U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on voting districts was an "outrageous and ridiculous" decision, but it may persuade justices to rule favorably on an upcoming case involving the state's 12th and 1st congressional districts.

"I think we will win the North Carolina case based on the standards in this decision," Watt said in interview from his Washington office. "But I think those standards are ridiculous."

Watt, who represents the 12th District, was referring to the ruling in *Miller v. Johnson* when the Court rejected districts drawn with race as the predominate factor. "I am disappointed with the ruling because it doesn't clarify the law. It raises more questions than it answers," he said.

The 12th district encompasses portions of Forsyth, Alamance, Davidson, Durham, Gaston, Guilford, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Orange, and Rowan counties. It generally follows the Interstate 85/40 corridor from Charlotte to Durham and 52 percent of its voters are black.

The court's 5-to-4 decision declared unconstitutional Georgia's 11th Congressional District, now represented by a black Democrat Cynthia A. McKinney, which the Georgia Legislature drew in 1992 to satisfy the Justice Department's insistence



Pete Oldham



Mel Watt

that a third majority-black district be created for the state's 11-member Congressional delegation.

U.S. Rep. Eva Clayton, D-N.C., said that she was disappointed with the decision because the Court had used the U.S. Constitution with its Equal Protection Clause to deprive citizens of their rights.

"Racial minorities, particularly in the South, will suffer as a result of this decision," Clayton said in a prepared statement. "Surely the creation of so-called 'irregular districts' to promote regular voting by all citizens is no less and no more than commitment in defense of democracy."

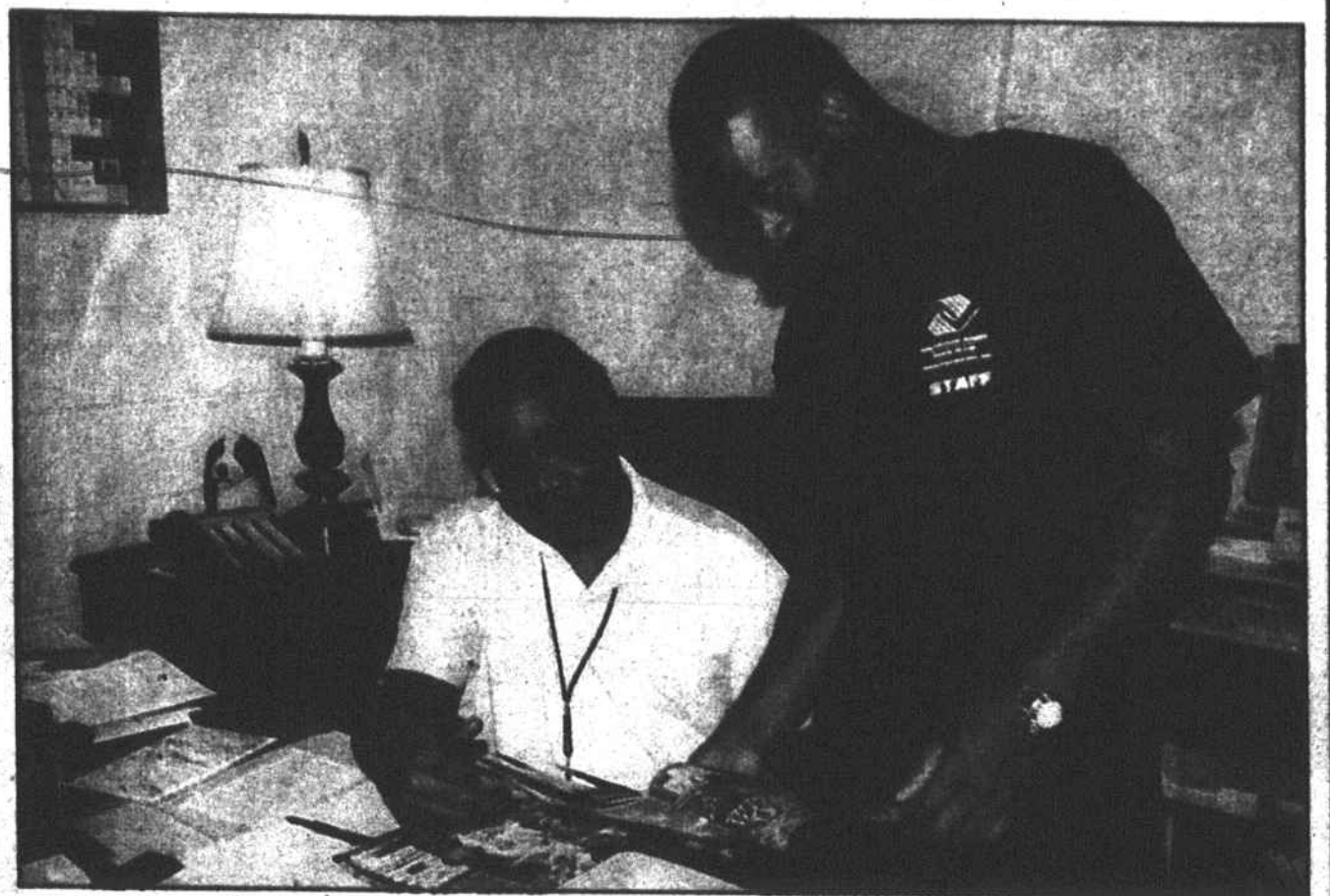
Clayton represents the 1st district that includes parts of 19 counties in the Northeast and Southeast sections of North Carolina. It consists of African Americans areas in rural counties and black neighborhoods in Warrenton, Rocky Mount, Fayetteville and Wilmington. It has a 51 percent of majority of black voters.

The majority of justices had set a "demanding" standard that plaintiffs would have to meet to bring successful challenges to black-majority districts. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor defined the standard as plaintiff showing that a state has relied on race in substantial disregard of customary and traditional districting practices.

"I think the standard was too high," Watt said. "It also ignores the past racial discrimination in voting in Southern states like North Carolina. White people have been considering race in voting all along."

The Court also announced last week that it would hear and decide *Shaw v. Reno*, a redistricting case in North Carolina during next term in October.

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Warren Coppedge and Wesley Chapman flip through the new *SI* for Kids Magazine.

Boys' Club Loves to Read

▲ *SI* and The Salvation Army partner in effort

By SHANNON HICKERSON
Chronicle Staff Writer

During the summer, most children like to have fun with their friends and forget about learning anything until August.

But, at The Boys' Club in Winston-Salem, things are changing.

For the first time, *Sports Illustrated* has teamed up with The Salvation Army to encourage youths to continue reading during the summer months through a program called *SI* for Kids Summer Reading Program. In the past, *Sports Illustrated* worked only with school systems.

Warren F. Coppedge Jr., executive director of The Boys' Club, said that in the past the club's reputation was to focus on athletics and he always wanted to include academics as part of their focus.

"The program happened at an opportune time for us," Coppedge said. "I want to keep the love for education burning in their hearts and

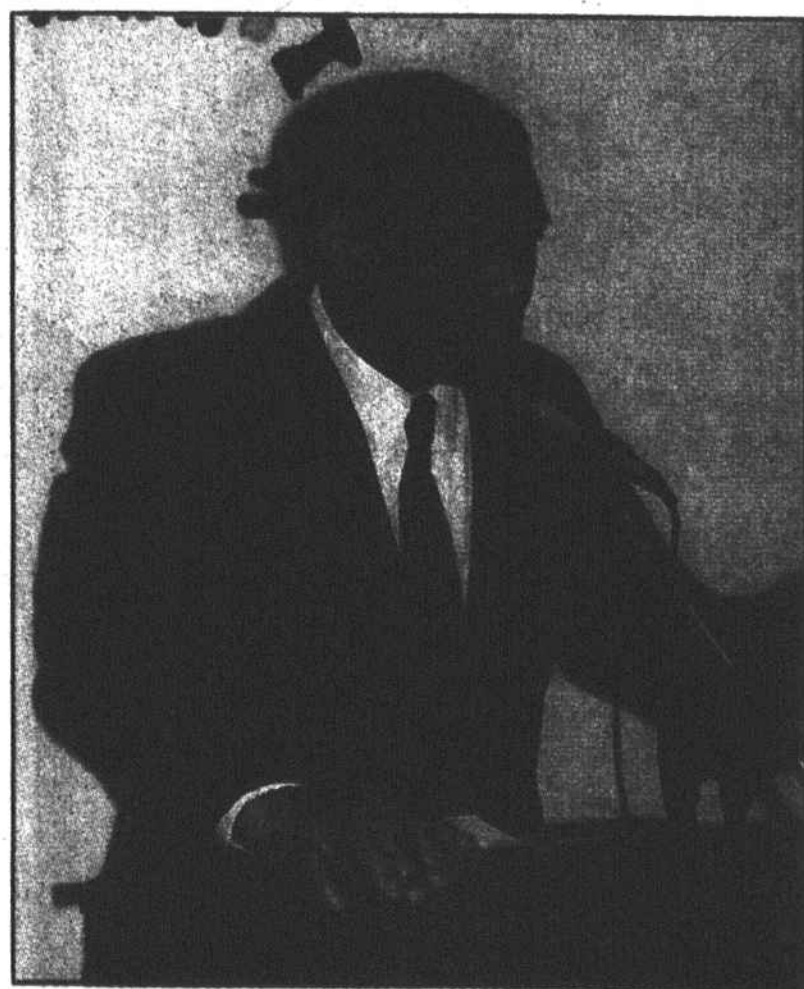
sustain what they learned in the school year so they will be better prepared to continue in the fall.

The good thing about the program, Coppedge said, is that the *Sports Illustrated for Kids* magazine contains an academic curriculum that closely parallels with what they learn in school system. The magazine has articles about teen athletes and famous sports figures to enhance the children's reading skills. And, it gives statistical information to incorporate math in their learning. Games and trading cards are also included to make the learning process fun.

Wesley Chapman, an instructor at the club, said that the eight and nine year-olds he teaches enjoy the magazine and the sports figures are what attracts them initially.

"The kids like it," Chapman said. "It's beneficial because it does draw their attention. They pick it up, they look through it, and when they

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Paul Robeson, Jr.

Robeson: Human Rights a 21st Century Issue

▲ Urban League cancels national conference in Los Angeles

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Human rights will become the dominant issue of the 21st century and define race relations in America, Paul Robeson, Jr. told 30 people at the Winston-Salem Urban League last week.

"Either we survive as one human family or none of us are going to make it," said Robeson, the son of the famous actor, singer, athlete, and lawyer. "We can someday say along with Martin Luther King Jr. as one people, 'great God almighty, America is free at last.'"

Robeson's speech culminated the "Bridging the Gaps in Race Relations" workshops held at the Winston-Salem in collaboration with the Opportunities for Families program. More than 200 people participated locally in the workshops over a two-year period.

His remarks coincided with the announcement that the National Urban League had cancelled its national conference in Los Angeles

because of the anti-affirmative action policies of California Governor Pete Wilson. The conference was scheduled for July 1996 and was expected to attract nearly 20,000 participants.

"This country must affirm its unwavering commitment to include minorities and women in the American mainstream," Hugh B. Price, president of the National Urban League, said in a news release. "In his efforts to abolish affirmative action, the governor of California has retreated from this commitment, and we must protest with all the clout that our movement possesses."

Meanwhile, Robeson discussed his concepts of multiculturalism in the nation.

"The ability to reach across racial lines is crucial to the survival of the United States," said Robeson, the founder and president of the Paul Robeson Archives Inc.

Blacks and whites were able to bridge the racial gap in South Africa, where blacks are a five to one majority, he said. "If they could do it," Robeson said, "then it should happen in America,

where it is just the opposite: whites are in the majority and blacks are in the minority."

Since the inception of America, two nations have existed with two histories, Abraham Lincoln's concept of popular democracy, and Thomas Jefferson's concept of individual democracy and state rights, Robeson said.

"That is a complex issue, and race has always obscured it," he said. "This is a recurring struggle, not just black or white."

The United States has an Anglo-Saxon heritage as it was founded by peoples of English, German, Irish Protestant, French and Dutch descent.

"America was described as a place for the new world Aryan race," Robeson said. "Africans Americans were excluded from this race."

The U.S. Constitution was written to give power to white male protestant property owners.

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Rest Home Continues Mission of Church

▲ Golden Lamb focuses on quality for residents

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Believing strongly that the mission of the church extends beyond the walls of where the congregation worships, Christ Rescue Temple has added another level of community service.

Recently celebrating its grand opening, CRT Golden Lamb Rest Home Inc. provides a comfortable friendly atmosphere for senior citizens.

"As a pastor I feel the church has duties to try to provide things for people in general to help them live better while they are alive," said Bishop Willie Davis, Jr. is pastor of Christ Rescue Temple

Apostolic Church.

The 13,000 square foot facility located on Golden Lamb Lane behind Hooper's Funeral Home contains 40 beds with separate wings for the men and women residents.

There is a large living room area complete with sofa, chairs, table and a wide-screen television. A continuation of the dining room area leads to a room that has a piano for entertainment.

The residents do not have to leave the complex for anything. There is even a room equipped

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Bishop and Mrs. Willie Davis Jr. stand next to Golden Lamb Rest Home van owned by their church.

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This Week in Black History
July 6-8, 1853
National black convention met in Rochester, New York, with 140 delegates from nine states. James W.C. Pennington of New York was elected president of this meeting which is generally considered the largest and most representative of the early black conventions.



WHERE TO FIND IT