

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

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## Helms' AIDS Stance Insensitive to Many

### ▲ Senator ignores scope of disease, plight to African-Americans

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms' recent remarks on federal funding for AIDS research were harmful to AIDS patients, especially African Americans who are succumbing to the disease in growing numbers, an AIDS sufferer in Winston-Salem said this week.

"It doesn't matter how you got the disease because you are fighting a losing battle," said a 28-year-old black male who first contracted the HIV virus in 1988. "Blacks with AIDS are also fighting a losing battle because most of them cannot afford treatment."

The man, who spoke to the *Chronicle* on the condition that he not be named, said that he developed full-blown AIDS last year. He contracted the disease by engaging in homosexuality, he said.

"We do need education," the man said. "People

with AIDS needs to be taken care of. (AIDS research) is the only thing that keeps us going. It seems that (politicians) are always trying to hurt us."

Helms' statements demonstrate that the North Carolina Republican is ignoring the scope of the disease, showing his insensitivity to the plight of African Americans, local observers say.

Helms told *The New York Times* last week that he wanted to reduce the amount of federal money for AIDS sufferers because he says it is their "deliberate, disgusting, revolting conduct" that is responsible for their disease.

AIDS is only the ninth leading cause of death in America but accounts for more federal financing than other diseases that kill people, Helms said.

"We've got to have some common sense," he said in an interview, "about a disease transmitted by people deliberately engaging in unnatural acts."

Critics say some conservative senator's position has the potential to effect adversely the lives of 201 African Americans who represent 83 percent of the reported cases of people stricken the HIV virus or full blown AIDS since 1990 in Forsyth County, according to statistics by the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources.

The Rev. Jenny N. Britt, director of the Crisis Control Ministry of Forsyth County, criticized Helms for making generalizations about AIDS. Britt heads an agency that provide emergency services to local AIDS patients - 60 percent of its clients are African Americans.

"He is making blanket assumptions that AIDS only attacks one segment of the community," she said. "It is a very narrow minded view because it lumps all AIDS sufferers with a segment of the population that he doesn't approve of. He totally ignores babies and children who contract the disease

through blood transfusions and other ways."

Helms, a longtime opponent of homosexual rights, wants to reduce AIDS spending just as Congress is considering reauthorizing the Ryan White Care Act of 1990, the five year federal program for the care and treatment of people with AIDS, the *Times* reported.

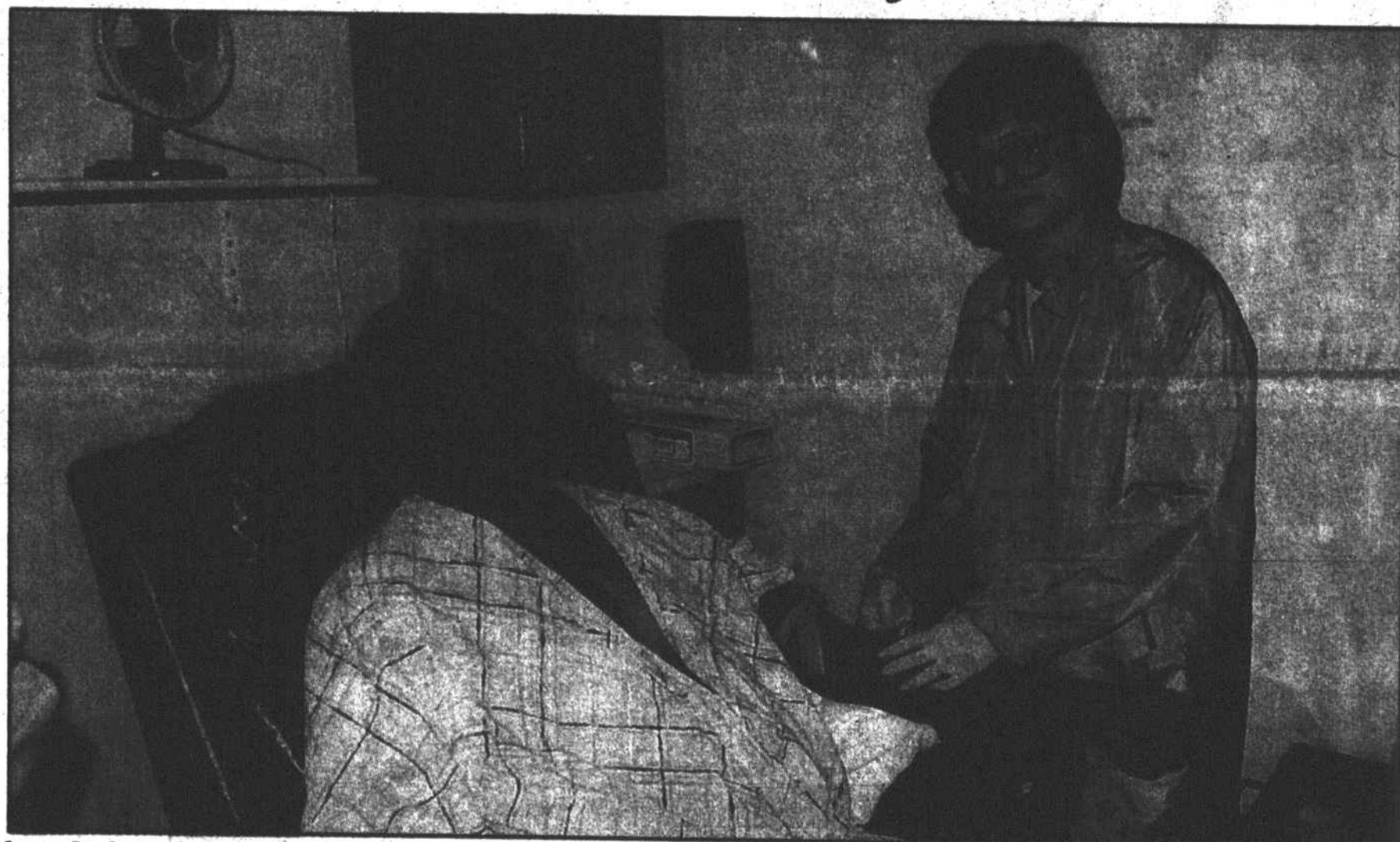
The law named for an Indiana teenager, who died after contracting AIDS through a blood transfusion, expires on Sept. 30.



Jesse Helms

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## Family Heart Study



James Lackey, volunteer for the Recruitment corps, shows how patients in the Family Heart Study would get blood drawn when testing for heart disease.

## African American Women At Risk for Heart Disease

### ▲ Study first to include black families with health problems

By SHANNON HICKERSON  
Chronicle Staff Writer

African American women have a risk of dying from diseases of the heart and blood vessels almost double that of white women (300/100,000 vs. 180/100,000), according to Gerardo Heiss, principle investigator for the Family Heart Study, (FHS) a project of the University of North Carolina and Wake Forest University.

The study is sponsored by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, a division

of the national Institute of Health. It is designed to understand the inherited and lifestyle factors that relate to the risk of heart disease in families.

This is the first family study of heart disease in the United States to include African Americans in significant numbers.

"The majority population doesn't tend to look at the minority population and address questions that are appropriate in the African American community," Heiss said.

Out of the four areas that are partici-

pating in the study, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Utah, Forsyth County is the only one that is actively recruiting African Americans.

"Forsyth County's component has a critical role to play in advancing our understanding of how heart disease affects African American families," Heiss said. "Only in Forsyth County is there a well organized African American community

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## City Settles With McKellar's Family

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

The city of Winston-Salem and the family of Shelia Epps McKellar have reached an agreement on a lawsuit by filed McKellar's family on behalf of her estate, according to a news release from the city's attorney office.

The settlement calls for the city to pay \$75,000 to McKellar's estate and was reached solely for the purpose of avoiding further time, cost and incon-

venience in connection with this case, the release stated.

On July 18, 1994, Esther Epps, mother of Shelia McKellar, filed a lawsuit for wrongful death an violation of civil rights against the city, Chief George Sweat, and the five police officers. Ms. Epps alleged in her complaint that the police should have taken her daughter to the hospital rather than arresting her, and that her failure to do so

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## City to Reconsider M/WBE Program

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

The city's Finance Committee will consider changes to the Minority/Women Business Enterprise Program at its meeting on Monday in City Hall, including a provision that would eliminate employment profiles of companies bidding on public contracts.

The staff will present recommendations to the committee for certain requirements related to M/WBE firms as prime contractors, subcontracting for projects under \$300,000, and the elimination of employment profiles submitted with bids, according to a memorandum from City Manager Bryce Stuart to Mayor Martha S. Wood and the Board of Aldermen.

The Finance Committee will



Nelson Malloy

consider these amendments at its meeting at 4 p.m. in the committee hearing room adjacent to the

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## Jefferies' Poetry Published Nationally

### ▲ East Forsyth graduate has been writing for 11 years

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

A modest mother of two is sneaking up on the poetry world and the talented Maya Angelou.

Kim M. Jefferies of Winston-Salem had her original poetry published in *Echoes of Yesterday*, a treasury of today's poetry compiled by the National Library of Poetry.

Her 20-line poem is entitled "Lies" and its topic is honesty in relationships.

It appeared on page 54 of the book that contains 750 pages of poetry.

"I try to tell people not to believe everything that you

believe," said Jefferies, 29-year-old mother of two sons. "Go to the source. Don't assume everything you hear is true."

She works as an employee relations assistant at Sara Lee Direct and also operates a part-time business called Computerworks Unlimited as a word processing specialist.

Jefferies has been writing poetry about her personal experiences for 11 years since she was a student at East Forsyth High School, exchanging verses with her friends.

"I have been writing poetry since I was 16," said Jef-

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Jefferies displays the book where her poem was published

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### This Week in Black History

July 13-17, 1863

Hostility to draft and fear of blacks, "the cause" of the war and potential competitors in the labor market, led to "New York Draft Riots," one of the bloodiest race riots in American history. Mobs swept through streets, murdered blacks and hanged them on lamp posts.



WHERE TO FIND IT