

# Happy Hill kid makes good

By MAURICE CROCKER  
Community News Reporter

In 1969, Roger Tucker and four of his friends portrayed the Jackson Five at a recreational talent show in Happy Hill Gardens. Since then, Tucker has dreamed of a career in music.

Now, 27 years later, his dream has become a reality, and an inspiration to others.

Tucker recently released his first compact disc, "Sack Full of Dreams," a collection of 10 jazz cuts produced by Tucker, the lead vocalist.

Tucker credits the launch of the new CD to the Happy Hill Gardens community, which provided him with the tools for success.

Tucker was born and reared in the Happy Hill Gardens community.

He is returning home to participate in the Third Annual Happy Hill Gardens Renunion. The renunion is scheduled to take place this Friday through Sunday with a number of enjoyable events planned.

"That's the entire mission behind the renunion, to bring all the people of the community back together," said Ben Piggott, director of the William C. Simms Center.

The first renunion was held July 9, 1994. Piggott, along with William "Rock" Bitting, a former resident, saw the renunion as a way to bring former and current residents together.

"At first, people didn't think it (the

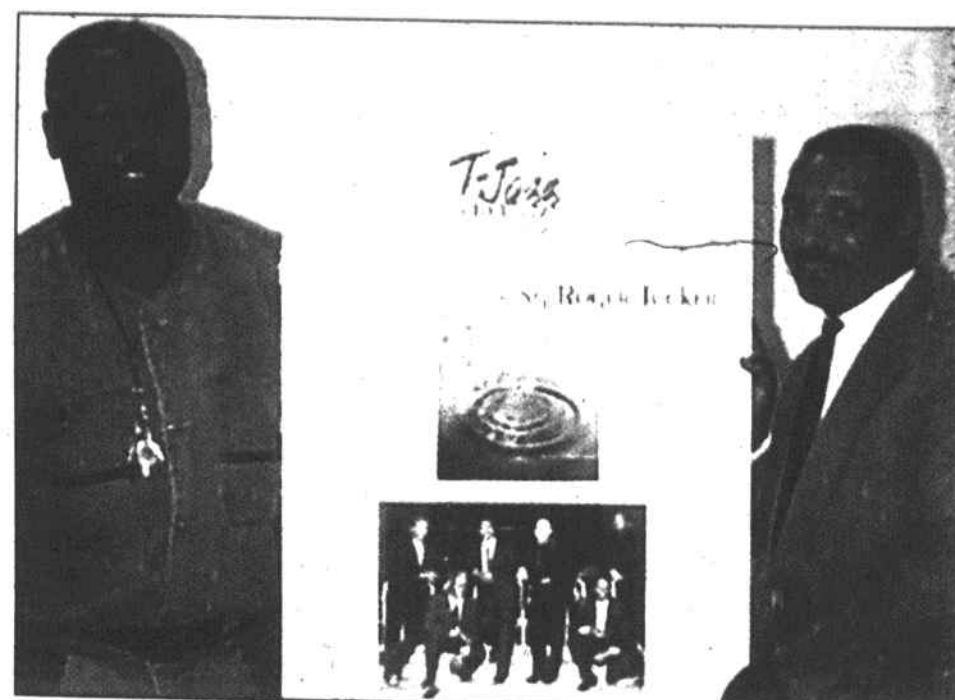
reunion) was going to happen," Piggott said. "We didn't start getting endorsements for it until it actually happened and was underway."

According to Piggott, watching people come back can influence some of the younger children in the community today.

"When I first came to work here, I had no idea that there was so much talent in this community," Piggott said. "What these kids need to see is more people like Tucker who are from here and were able to become successful."

According to Piggott, Tucker is an inspiration, not just to the children in Happy Hill

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Ben Piggott, left, helps Roger Tucker display a poster promoting his band and new Compact Disc "Sack Full of Dreams."

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

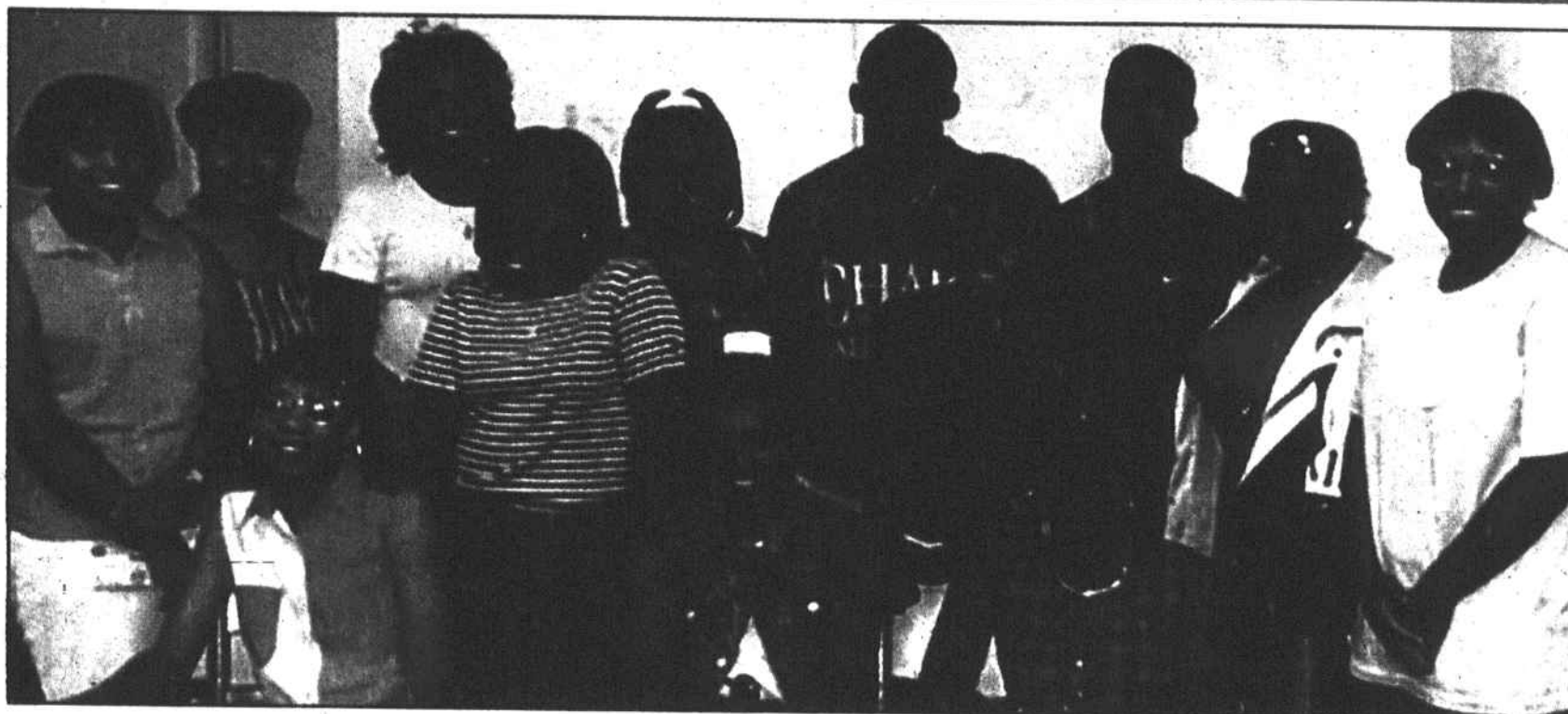
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Academically gifted students take part in Salem College's Governor's School.

## Students prepare for college diversity

By MAURICE CROCKER  
Community News Reporter

High school juniors and seniors from across the state of North Carolina have made Winston-Salem their home for the next six weeks, including more than 30 African Americans who are attending Governors School at Salem College.

The purpose of the program is to prepare them for the diversity of college life.

"The experiences we have here are going to help us understand the different people and challenges we are going to face at college," said Treva Caraway, a junior from Clinton, N.C.

She and other participants said attending Governor's School may increase their chances of getting accepted to the colleges and universities of their choice.

"I came because my counselor told me that if there are two students applying for the same college, they are more likely to accept the student who attended Governor's School," said Norma Houston, a senior from Warsaw, N.C.

Students also said they enjoyed the opportunity to meet other people from different backgrounds.

"I've enjoyed meeting people from all over North Car-

Please see STUDENT A9

## Ruffin first black UNC Board vice chairman

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors has elected Benjamin S. Ruffin as its vice chairman, making him the first African American to hold the post.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to serve the state of North Carolina," Ruffin said. "The UNC Board of Governors is the envy of the country. To be elected by my col-

leagues is humbling."

Ruffin, a member of the Board of Governors since 1991, is vice president of corporate affairs for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. As a board member, he has served on ten committees.

The board elected Ruffin as vice chairman at its monthly meeting recently in

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"It is a wonderful opportunity to serve the state of North Carolina."

— Ben Ruffin

## Schexnider insists WSSU resignations were unforced

▲Chancellor works to improve university

By SAM DAVIS  
Special to the Chronicle

In the wake of several recent resignations in the administration at Winston-Salem State University, Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider, the chancellor, said that he is in the process of evaluating the university's needs and is in no hurry to fill the vacancies on his staff.

Schexnider, who took over as chancellor at WSSU on Jan. 1, told the Chronicle in a telephone interview early this week, that the seven resignations that have come forth in the past month — and were first reported in the Chronicle last week — were all voluntary and

process of evaluating and making recommendations for several departments. As soon as I finish those assessments and consult broadly, I will make a decision. But right now I'm not at that point."

The university is also without a public relations director. Joan Rodgers, who served in that position on an interim basis after the resignation of Blanche Carter, is no longer in that

"I'm not one that believes in putting new wine in old bottles."

— Schexnider

unforced. However, he did state that he was in the process of making several decisions that he feels will strengthen the university from top to bottom.

The university's administration has lost several long-time members since the end of its fiscal year on June 30. They include Fannie Williams, who served as director of Institutional Projects; Dr. Donald Benson, who served as assistant vice-chancellor of student affairs; Nat Irvin, former vice chancellor of development; and Michelle Cook, who was the assistant to the vice chancellor of development.

The loss of Irvin and Cook has nearly wiped out the university's office of development, which is responsible for soliciting donations from private industry.

Schexnider said that the successor for Irvin and Cook would be announced later, but that he has not yet begun the search.

"I've been here approximately six months," Schexnider said. "I'm in the

## Controversy surrounds Nat Irvin's resignation

By SAM DAVIS  
Special to the Chronicle

Although Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider, the chancellor at Winston-Salem State University, says he didn't ask for the resignation of Nat Irvin, vice chancellor of development at the school, sources close to the university said



Dr. Nat Irvin that Irvin had few options to remain at WSSU.

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position. Rodgers took the job on an interim basis in February and her last day was June 30.

"We're in the process of recruiting a person to fulfill a newly defined position — director of media relations," Schexnider said. "We had someone come in for a fixed period of time, but it expired on June 30. We've known for some time that we need to fix that position."

"I'm not one that believes in putting new wine in old bottles. We're looking to strengthen the position so that it serves the university better. We're taking a very careful look at how we con-

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## NAACP Convention ends with call for new day

By JOHN MINTER  
The Charlotte Post

Insisting that a "new day" has begun for the NAACP, organization leaders Myrlie Evers-Williams and Kweisi Mfume used fiery speeches to encourage an end to the "backbiting" and "foolishness" within its ranks in recent years.

Evers-Williams, speaking last week moments after police and security officers stopped a demonstration by Midwest members, declared "We in this organization have work to do. We have no time for infighting."

The widow of slain civil rights leader

Medgar Evers evoked his memory in accepting the mantle of leadership in difficult times.

"On Medgar's blood I took a pledge that I would stand up and follow him," she said. "Don't tell me women cannot lead. Don't tell me we cannot stand up and be strong."

"There is a new day begun. I don't need to be cherished. It would be nice, but I am here as your chairman until you put me out. When that time comes, I will go, still loving you and still loving and working for the NAACP."

Speaking on Monday, July 8, Mfume con-

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## Clinton vows to fight, renew equality

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

President Clinton delivered a moving speech last week to the 87th Annual NAACP Convention in Charlotte, in which he discussed church burnings, affirmative action, crime, urban gangs, welfare reform, education, the minimum wage bill and the economy.

"Even though we desegregated our schools and threw racism out of public facilities, elected African Americans and Hispanics to Congress, passed civil rights laws," Clinton said, "this job is never-end-

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This Week in Black History  
July 19, 1979

Patricia R. Harris, secretary of housing and urban development, named secretary of health, education and welfare.

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