

Hayes named district court chief

RALEIGH — North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Burley Mitchell Jr. announced Tuesday the appointment of Judge Roland H. Hayes as chief district court judge in District 12, which serves Forsyth County.

"I have complete trust and confidence in Judge Hayes' ability to improve the efficiency of the district court in District 21," said Chief Justice Mitchell after announcing the appointment Dec. 3 in Raleigh. "Judge Hayes has established himself as a hard-working and well-respected judge who has the confidence and trust of the public and the participants in the legal system in his district. I am

proud of his achievements and pleased to announce this appointment," continued Mitchell.

"I have complete trust and confidence in Judge Hayes' ability to improve the efficiency of the district court in District 21."

— Chief Justice Burley Mitchell Jr.

The chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court appoints chief district court judges

from among those elected in each of the 39 districts. The chief district court judge serves at the pleasure of the chief justice, and is responsible for assigning the district court judges to sessions of court, and setting the times and places at which magistrates discharge their duties.

"I am pleased to accept Chief Justice Mitchell's appointment as chief district court judge. I look forward to working with the district court judges and other court officials, members of

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Judge Roland H. Hayes

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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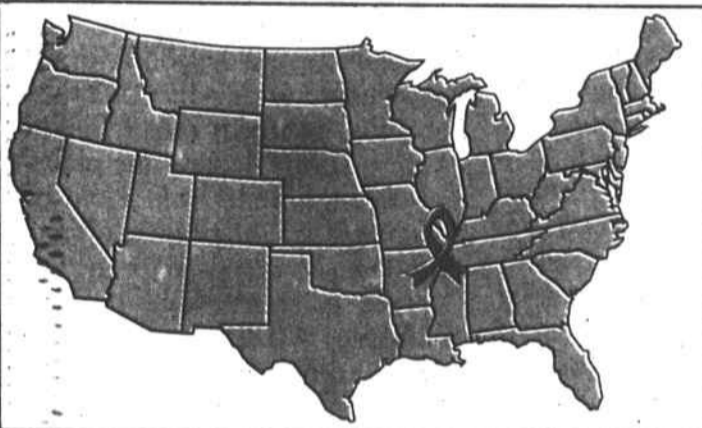
for African-American News and Information

THURSDAY, December 5, 1996

In the Memory of Clarence E. Nottingham: 1903-1995

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By WILLIAM H. TURNER Ph.D.
Special to the Chronicle

African Americans in North Carolina are much in need of the information and consciousness-raising that is promoted in AIDS Awareness Week. In North Carolina, like everywhere in the United States — not to mention Africa — black people contract the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and AIDS, the immune system weaknesses that result from the virus — at a much higher rate than the rest of the population.

AIDS, in 1995, was the leading cause of death for African-American males in North Carolina ages 15 to 44, the second leading cause of death for

The Black Faces of AIDS

▲ When Will Black People Face AIDS?

African-American females in the state. Fact is, those figures are underestimated. We're talking epidemic, of plague-like proportions.

Although African Americans constitute just over 25 percent of the state's population, they represent a disproportionate percentage of those infected with HIV and AIDS. Black men make up more than two-thirds of the male AIDS cases, and black women number more than eight of 10 AIDS cases among females.

If North Carolina is like neighboring Tennessee, three-quarters of HIV-infected teens are African Americans. And, according to the report, "The North Carolina AIDS Index," North Carolina in 1995 had the highest number of new HIV infections of any of its neighboring states.

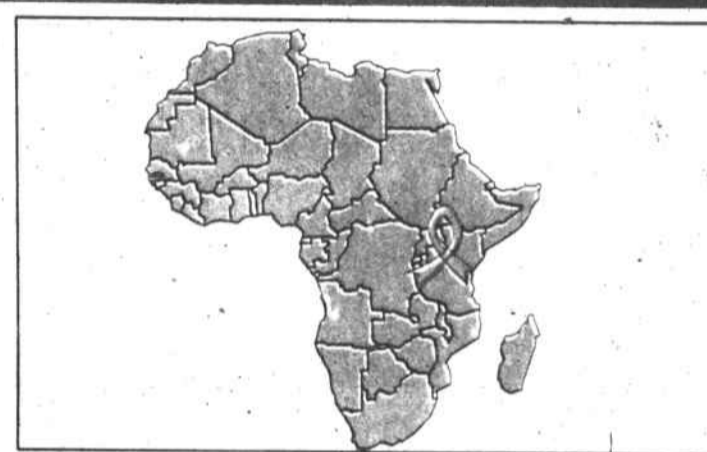
Quite likely, if this state, like Tennessee recently did, hosted a forum on the subject, made up of AIDS victims, we would see teenage mothers like "Jane" and "Mary," and a formerly incarcerated gay man, named "John Doe." Last March, such a forum, "The Faces of AIDS," was held in Memphis, spon-

sored by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington-based black think tank.

The two young women were abandoned by their families: Jane, along with her 2-year-old son, was put out of the house after she was diagnosed HIV-positive. Mary, 16, now in dementia with AIDS, was forced out by her drug-addicted mother, who was afraid of catching the disease. Both teenagers had been taken advantage of by older men.

John was sexually assaulted in that place where the spread of HIV is rampant: prison. Most John Does return to the black community. Without knowing they are infected, black men, when released from prison, transmit HIV to women, and often, to men with whom they share needles while injecting drugs. Do North Carolina jails and prisons mandate testing for HIV?

Neither of the young girls thought they were at risk, since they were heterosexual. Now Jane's message to her high school peers is, "the safest sex is no sex." Neither had an education about the disease, at home or at school. Senselessly, these kids found lit-



tle organized support within their own communities, and significantly, for example, both noted that their (black) churches had forsaken them too.

Leviticus leanings in the black community aside, the factor that contributes most to the geometric surge rate of AIDS among black people is unprotected sex, this even while HIV/AIDS is spreading quickly. Sounds like North Carolina's senator, Jesse Helms, who recently said that "AIDS results from people voluntarily engaging in unnatural acts." He would never say that lung cancer is caused by smoking tobacco, which is not an entirely natural act either.

It is not hard to pinpoint, of the ways that the

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School holds Harvest Luncheon

▲ Students learn table manners, social graces

By FELECIA P. MCMILLAN
Special to the Chronicle

No one could take a seat until everyone had come to the table. Everyone was dressed in their "Sunday best." The gentlemen pulled the chairs for the ladies, and the young women thanked them. Parents and members of the PTA served the teachers and students. Under dim lighting, mellow classical music, jazz, and rhythm & blues set the atmosphere for the restaurant-style setting. The table was set and decorated for the harvest season. Pilgrims and Native Americans served together. Although this sounds like memories from the past, it happened last week at the Union Cross Elementary Harvest Luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 27.

Union Cross Elementary teaching specialists collaborated with members of the PTA to offer an opportunity for students to practice "formal table manners and excellent behavior," said Principal Vincent O. Parker. "Events such as this make them feel special, and they are," he said.

The luncheon is an annual tradition, which started seven years ago in the old school. It started out as a Team Blue luncheon for the purpose of making kids feel good about their school. It pulled the school together as a team then, and it still does today.

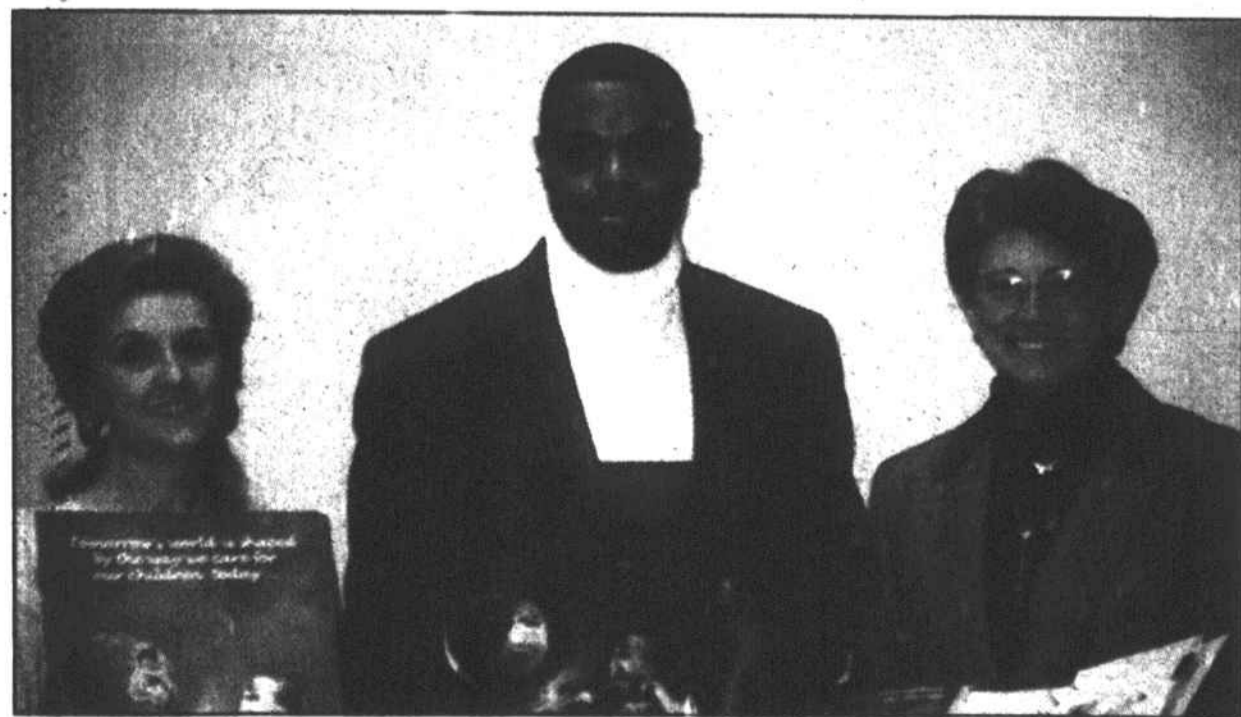
The specialists who planned the event included Elizabeth Parker, counselor; Sarah Hicks, French/Latin instructor; Nela Hawley, resource teacher; Joan Charles, physical education teacher; Colleen Jackson, librarian; Connie Curri, A.G. teacher; Katherine Chavis, music teacher; Kevin Ingram, Home-School Coordinator; Melanie Messick, art instructor; and Karen Gray, PTA president.

"This is our little way of teaching the children table etiquette," said Karen Gray, president of the Union Cross PTA. "We teach them the ABCs, but we also want to teach them social graces. They

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School specialists planned the Harvest Luncheon. On the back row are Elizabeth Parker, Sarah Hicks, Nela Hawley, Joan Charles, Colleen Jackson and Connie Curri. In front are Katherine Chavis, Kevin Ingram and Melanie Messick.



Community Information Coordinator Darla Clarke holds the poster Leo Rucker designed to promote Smart Start, and Dr. Dean Clifford, executive director of Forsyth Early Childhood Partnership, holds the booklet Rucker illustrated.

Leo Rucker, Love, Art, Near-Death Experience

▲ Man recovers from auto accident to 'touch the future'

By FELECIA P. MCMILLAN
Special to the Chronicle

When Sophia Rucker received a telephone call five months ago from her brother Purvis Morris who told her he saw her husband Leo Rucker in the Emergency Room, she took her time getting there. She planned to "run by the hospital" and investigate the minor bruises and offer him a lift home. When she arrived at the hospital, her husband was already two hours into the 12-hour surgery episode necessary to save his life.

Five months ago, artist Leo Rucker lay in an intensive care unit

at Baptist Hospital. In a head-on collision that took place May 28 on Baux Mountain Road, he broke his right leg, injured his left leg, broke his jaw in two places and crushed his chin. Doctors eventually discovered that his lungs had collapsed and that Rucker was experiencing internal bleeding from a separated aorta.

"Leo is a walking miracle, for sure," said Sophia, Leo's wife of seven years. "The Lord worked it out. God even had a hand in the work that the doctor's performed on him."

As he lay on his back, he said, he thought of his wife, his son Sid-

ney, his family and his art. Realizing that he had just had a son and that he might not live to see him grow up or to help his wife raise Sidney gave him the drive to get well. And he also had an art deadline to meet.

"It is just a blessing to be alive," Rucker said. He was in the hospital for three weeks. He injured his right hand, and his wrist was sore. He continues to get therapy for full recovery. For the first two weeks, he could not do any art; however, the third week he began to work on his

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