

# Schools hold annual minority teacher recruitment weekend

By FELECIA McMILLAN  
Community Correspondent

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools held its fourth annual minority teacher recruitment weekend April 17-19 at the M. C. Benton Convention Center. More than 80 teachers from around the state participated this year. On Friday, April 17, a banquet and program was held in honor of the candidates. Edna Crews, assistant superintendent, presided at the Friday evening banquet and program. Robert Burns, assistant principal of East Forsyth High School; Valeria Edwards, assistant principal, Bolton Elementary School; Ann Little, and the Keith Byrd Band provided entertainment.

Dr. Josephine F. Griffin, personnel manager Elementary Division, coordinates this weekend each year, and she was very pleased with the increased participation of the teachers. The candidates were invited to tour the schools as well as the city, participate in interviews with administrators, meet with mentors, and confer with first-year teachers in an informal setting. For Superintendent Donald Martin, more participation from minority teachers means more will be hired into the local school system. In 1995, Martin hired 14 of the 24 educators who attended; in 1996, he hired 22 of the 26 involved; in 1997, he hired 37 of the 58 invited; and this year, he could hire 40 of the 80 instructors.

The inception of minority recruitment weekend emerged from the vision of Dr. Donald Martin, Superintendent. His goal is to recruit qualified personnel to serve in the system's "most difficult to find" positions, and to recruit exceptional candidates identified by their college/university as being among the most outstanding graduates in Teacher Education programs. The systems most specific areas of need include teaching fellows, special education, mathematics, science, Master's Level Speech, African Americans and male candidates.

The keynote speaker for the banquet on Friday was Benjamin S. Ruffin, Vice President Corporate Affairs, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. His topic for the address was "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child." He reminded the candi-

dates how important teachers are for the sustenance of the village. "You are the real anchor to the village. We can go back, laugh and recite things we learned as children when we were in school," he said. He recalled teachers who made an impact on his life, especially his instructor who purchased Ruffin's first pair of eyeglasses because his mother could not afford them. His teacher sent him to Dr. Robert Dawson who designed his glasses. The teacher also helped him with his school work after hours.

"You do not realize how important teachers are in a community. You are not only teachers but guidance coun-

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Benjamin S. Ruffin, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, served as the keynote speaker for the Friday evening banquet. His theme was "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child."

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

Vol. XXIV No. 34

# THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News and Information

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THURSDAY APRIL 23, 1998

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## HAWS layoffs not retaliation

By SHARON BROOKS HODGE  
THE CHRONICLE Editor

Housing Authority Director Marie Roseboro said there was no ulterior motive behind any of the layoffs at the agency last week.

On Wednesday, four managers were terminated from their positions — Robert Faulk, a purchasing manager; Gary Walton, an assistant housing director; John J. Taylor, an assistant housing director and the manager of the authority's alternative housing and J. Fred Acree, an internal auditor and occupancy manager. The staff reduction, said Roseboro, was made to strengthen the department's financial stability.



Marie Roseboro

Within the department; however, there's talk that one of the four people fired had sent a letter of complaint to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development about Roseboro's management of the housing authority.

"That's the first I've heard about such a letter" Roseboro remarked on Tuesday. "There was no retaliation. It was a decision based on finances."

According to Roseboro, HAWS is only now emerging from a financial crisis, and the cut in management salary expenses was necessary to keep the agency on solid financial footing.

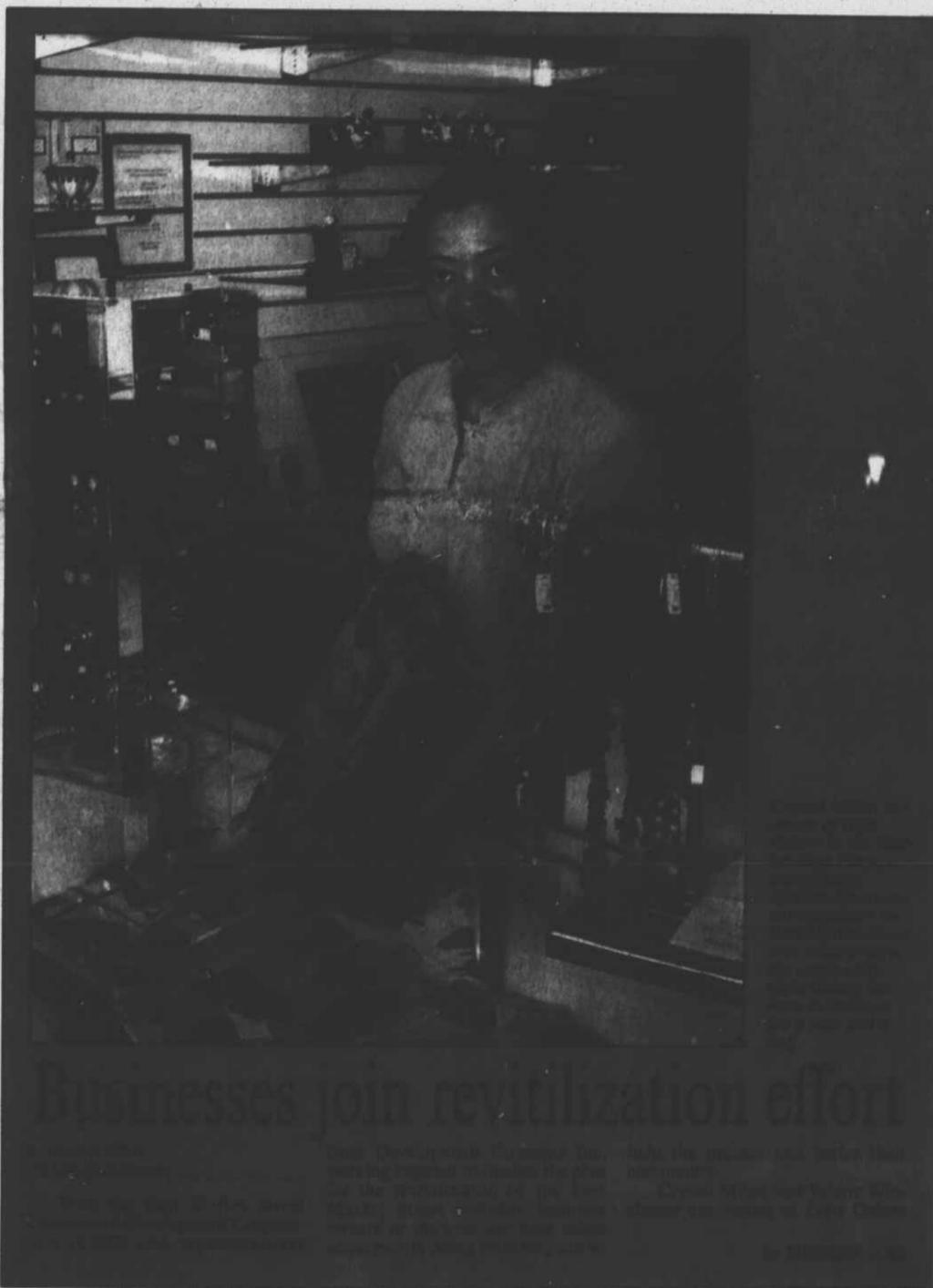
"We were in jeopardy of being taken over by HUD," Roseboro said. "The media and the public didn't know that we were in that kind of trouble, but that was the shape we were in."

"To remain in good graces with the federal authorities, housing authorities are required to keep a reserve account that amounts to at least 30 percent of the operational budget," Roseboro explained. However, when she took over as HAWS director in January 1997, that reserve was just over 20 percent.

Since then, the reserve account has grown to about 65 percent. "Last week's reduction in force is expected to net \$230,000 in savings," she said, adding that the goal is to have \$4.5 million stashed away for a rainy day. "The money," she said would be on hand in the event of federal budget cuts or to run programs that did not receive outside funding.

"We're spending taxpayers money, so we

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## Roundtable won't endorse Triad baseball

By DAMON FORD  
THE CHRONICLE REPORTER

With the debate over major league baseball coming to the Triad area continuing, the Black Leadership Roundtable of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County gave its opinion on Monday at noon.

"The African-American community in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County is not a political, ideological or religious monolith and the diversity of our community is likewise reflected by the differing opinions expressed about the public funding for the baseball stadium," said Roundtable member Khalid Griggs. "The Roundtable, as an organization has decided to neither endorse nor oppose the referendum on the construction of a baseball stadium in the Triad."



Larry Womble

This announcement comes two and half weeks after another contingent of leaders in the African-American community met and signed a covenant with N.C. Chief Executive Officer of Major League Baseball, Don Beaver. The covenant states that certain services and opportunities will be given in exchange for the support of Winston-Salem's African-American community during the May 5 vote.

According to Roundtable member and state Rep. Larry Womble, there are several reasons for the organization's stance on the issue.

Statements about new jobs and the quality of life were some reasons in favor of voting "yes." The food tax and the stipulation of taking public money and using it to finance a private enterprise are the concerns of Roundtable members saying "no" to baseball.

Womble also feels that African Americans need to separate the two issues at hand.

"One issue is the baseball stadium, the other issue is the tax," stated Womble.

Speaking for himself and not The Roundtable, Womble said "I support baseball, I played baseball (and) we all love baseball, but it

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## Watts, Clayton called pro-environment

By HERBERT L. WHITE  
Consolidated Media Group

N.C. Reps. Mel Watt and Eva Clayton are among the most pro-environment members of Congress, according to a national conservation group.

Watt, a Charlotte Democrat who represents the 12th District, voted pro-environment 81 percent of the time, according to the Washington-based League of Conservation Voters. Clayton, who represents the 1st District, scored 75 percent pro-environment on LCV's Natinal Environment Scorecard. The Congressional Black Caucus, of which Watt and Clayton are both members, outscored Congress as a whole — 74 percent to 47. On average, members in the House and Senate, both Republican-controlled — cast more votes

against environmental protection than for it.

"Members of the Congressional Black Caucus are the real unsung heroes of environmental legislation," said Bunyan Bryant, professor in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Michigan. "Throughout the years, their votes in support of environmental issues have been unwavering. They should be commended for their hard work to protect our public health and natural resources."

Bryant, a member of the LCV Board of Directors, teaches courses on environmental justice issues in which pollution disproportionately affects black communities.

The scorecard includes congressional votes on environmental justice, natural resource protection and funding of environmental pro-



Mel Watt



Eva Clayton

grams as determined by experts from 27 environmental and conservation groups. Percentage scores are assigned to each representative and senator, with 100 percent the strongest voting support.

Georgians were at the top and bottom of the CBC list. John Lewis scored 100 percent, while Rep. San-

ford Bishop brought up the rear at 19 percent. Carol Mosely-Braun (D-Ill), the only African American in the Senate, scored 81 percent.

Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, who isn't a member of the Caucus, had the lowest score of any black member of Congress with 6 percent.

## State prepares for first execution of black prisoner

RALEIGH (AP) — State correction officials are preparing to execute the first black prisoner since capital punishment was reinstated more than 20 years ago.

To date, nine white people have been executed — two by gas and seven by lethal injection — in the Central Prison death chamber since the state resumed capital punishment in 1977.

Wendell Flowers, 44, is scheduled for execution at 2 a.m. April 24, but Department of Correction spokesman Bill Poston said Thursday that Flowers hasn't exhausted federal appeals and the execution could be put off if he does.

Flowers admitted the killing to the State Bureau of Investigation "because of the way the victim was treating an inmate named 'Cupcake,' with whom the defendant was involved in a homosexual relationship," according to the state Supreme Court file on the case.

Flowers also told the SBI he killed inmate Rufus Coley Watson because Watson had put a contract on his life.

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