

Tensions mount over mayor's proposal and appointments

By JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

The fate of the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem's Board of Commissioners will be decided July 20, during the Board of Aldermen's next meeting.

Earlier this month, Mayor Jack Cavanagh proposed that the board's membership be dropped from the state's statutory maximum of 9 to 5, the size of the original board. The proposal would eliminate two voting seats once held by public housing residents and create instead an ad hoc position that would

advise the board on residents' concerns.

After impassioned speeches by several residents of public housing, the measure was tabled and will be decided on at Monday's meeting.

Cavanagh also stirred controversy when he reappointed former board of commissioners chair Bill Andrews and Chronicle publisher Ernie Pitt to seats once



Andrews



Pitt



Cavanagh

held by public housing residents.

And while aldermen wrestle to decide the board's future, angry public housing residents have launched a campaign to keep their seats and a nine-member board, that Aldermen Nelson Malloy, a resident of public housing, says will "include any means necessary."

"We'll go as far as

necessary to stop this process," Malloy said. "Even after Monday night's vote, if it's not what we want, we have to do something to ensure that if the board is five members, residents are on there."

Already, Pitt has received numerous threats that public housing residents will launch a boycott against The Chronicle if he refuses to step down.

"I don't really understand what all of this about," Pitt said. "I think that's unfortunate. If they want to boycott or picket that's certainly their option. That's

See HAW5 on A11

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Ruffin elected chair of board

By ARCHIE T. CLARK and JOHN MINTER
CONSOLIDATED MEDIA GROUP

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors elected Benjamin Ruffin to be its new chairman Friday, making him the first black person to hold the top post.

Ruffin, vice president of corporate affairs at R.J. Reynolds, was elected by the slimmest of margins, winning 16-15 over the chairman Clifford Cameron of Charlotte.

After the results were announced, Ruffin commended Cameron's two-year stint as chairman and pledged to continue the board's momentum.

"We have a board that will come together," he said. Although Ruffin said no sweeping changes are planned, he added that he and Cameron are two different people from two different backgrounds and that their one common interest may be their intentions



Ruffin

See Ruffin on A11

Duckett and others in running for vacant WSSU coaching slot

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Fayetteville State University's head basketball coach Ricky Duckett is one of several candidates Winston-Salem State University is considering for its vacant head basketball coaching position.

Duckett, a Winston-Salem native, is scheduled to meet this week with members of the WSSU search committee. However, the exact time, location and nature of the meeting is unknown.

The Winston-Salem Journal reported in its Wednesday addition that Duckett met with WSSU officials yesterday and would be offered the position. However, sources told The Chronicle that there was no meeting scheduled yesterday. Sources also said that while Duckett is the front runner for the job, he would not likely be offered the position until Anne Little, WSSU Athletic Director and the members of the search committee, have had an opportunity to meet with other candidates.

The committee, which consists of six members, has not met in more than two weeks. At its last meeting the committee, after paring a list of 30 candidates to four finalists who were interviewed, submitted Steve Joyner as his choice for the job.

Joyner, also a Winston-Salem native and head

See WSSU on A10

Organization takes stand



The NAACP says a new testing plan that evaluates high school seniors could adversely affect black teens. The organization plans to take its concerns directly to state lawmakers, who have already modified some of the parts of the program.

State testing plan challenged: state NAACP alleges ABC adversely affects minorities

By ARCHIE T. CLARK
CONSOLIDATED MEDIA GROUP

RALEIGH - The N.C. NAACP plans to challenge the state's ABCs educational strategies - including allegations of discrimination in classrooms.

The Rev. George I. Allison, state executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the organization plans to

show state lawmakers the disparity in scores between white and black students in public schools in addition to how high drop-out rates and end-of-year testing adversely affects minorities. Allison said he opposes the ABCs of Public Education - the state Board of Education's reform and accountability program - for failing black students.

This is not the first time ABCs has been challenged. Roland S. Latham Ele-

mentary School principal Larry Fields filed a complaint against the testing which alleged ABCs discriminates against black teachers and principals who he claims are often placed in schools where students will have a difficult time passing the tests, which measure "growth" from one grade level to another.

See ABC on A10

NAACP gives reps failing grade

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

Legislators from the Tarheel State got a failing grade on black issues.

On a report card issued by the North Carolina NAACP last week, a grade of 42 - an "F" - was given to congressional representatives on civil rights issues voted on during both sessions of the 105th Congress.

The NAACP compiled the grades from 10 votes taken on six categories dealing with confirmations of African Americans to key positions, affirmative action, budget and finance, the census, juvenile justice and voter empowerment.

Individually Rep. Howard Coble of the sixth district, which now encompasses Greensboro, registered only an 8.3 while Rep. Mel Watt of the newly redrawn 12th district scored 100. State NAACP Executive Director George Allison isn't surprised by Coble's low score.

"Regarding civil rights issues, Coble has traditionally voted against them," he said from the Greensboro headquarters.

Coble now represents a number of black voters who were shifted out of the newly revamped 12th District.

Rep. Eva Clayton, the state's only other African American representative, also achieved a perfect score. Rep. Walter Jones Jr. and Senators Lauch Faircloth and Jesse Helms brought up the rear with zeros.

Allison hopes the report will cause African Americans to think carefully about who they'll be voting for in upcoming elections.

"It needs to make us aware that people in other states look at

See NAACP on A10

Rising from the ashes - Watson promises WSMX will return

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

One week after watching his radio station burn to the ground, WSMX's Joe Watson promises he will be back.

"We're going back on the air, that's all I know," he said. "Sometime next week I plan to have WSMX running."

The transmitter and broadcast booth for the gospel music station located on the AM dial at 1500, was destroyed last Wednesday when it was set on fire by one of the building's owners, John Tate Jr. Tate says problems with collecting rent from tenants drove him to destroy the property.

He was charged with burning a building used for trade and was released after paying a \$12,000 bond.

Watson, who is also the general manager of Winston-Salem State Uni-

versity's radio station, WSNC (90.5 FM) says that the charges of non-payment are false.

"This is the big picture. The rent is not behind. The rent is paid up," Watson said. "When we first bought into this station about a year ago, the rent was behind, but we worked to get it back in order."

Tate's actions might leave some people scratching their heads, but Watson says that he has moved on.

"I don't think it was targeted towards us or what we were doing," he said. "It was just something that happened. I'm not bitter at him."

The only thing he regrets is "that we're not on the air and serving the community."

Because Watson didn't have insur-



See WSMX on A10

CHRONICLE	
• This Week's News	A6
• Opinion	A7
• Forum	A8
• Business News	A9
• Community Calendar	A11
• Sports	B1-B5
• Obituaries	B6
• Religion	B7
• Classifieds	B9
• Community Focus	C1
• Health & Wellness	C5
• Colleges & High School News	C9
• Arts & Entertainment	C7
• Family Fun	C8