

## The Man Behind The Woman

Stories By Robin Adams

## These local husbands have few problems with active spouses

Mention the names Vivian Burke, Virginia Newell and Betty Hanes and images of past and present deeds come to mind. But if the names Logan Burke, George Newell and Jerry Hanes come up, it takes a little longer to match the accomplishments with the names.

Logan, George and Jerry are the

husbands of Vivian, Virginia and Betty and these men have careers of their own. Though their spouses are more in the limelight than they, all three husbands have developed a way of dealing with the success of their wives.

The *Chronicle* takes a look at all three.



George and Virginia Newell: A perfect match (photo by James Parker).

## George says he's had his day; now it's Virginia Newell's turn

Ask George and Virginia Newell who talks the most and they will point at each other.

To a visitor at the Newell home, it's a tossup.

Although Dr. Virginia Newell, who serves as alderman of the East Ward and chairman of the math and computer science department at Winston-Salem State University, is the better known of the two, her husband, Dr. George Newell, a retired professor and department chairperson at WSSU, is a local celebrity himself.

When the couple moved to Winston-Salem from Raleigh, George twice ran for public office, losing both times, and has been very vocal in speaking out against things he feels are wrong in the black community.

But all that's been a long time ago, although

George still remembers it as if it were yesterday. Since then, George has taken on a new task and explains it by handing out his "business" card he carries in his wallet. It reads:

"George F. Newell, retired and lazy. When I get the urge to work, I just lie down until the urge passes. No phone. No address. No business. No worries. No prospects. No money."

And to that he adds: "I'm trying not to do anything now, mentally or physically. I'm trying to find the man who is doing nothing so I can help him."

Whereas George has removed himself from center stage, Virginia is emerging and is being considered in some circles as a possible mayoral candidate.

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Betty and Jerry Hanes: Now it's Jerry's turn to launch his career (photo by James Parker).

## The Hanes' reversal of roles is working

To keep up with the lives of Jerry and Betty Hanes for the past 11 years, you might need motion sickness pills.

When Betty, now vice president and manager of Winston-Salem operations at Mechanics and Farmers Bank, was in college at Johnson C. Smith University, Jerry, an aspiring artist, was working to keep the family going. When Betty finished college, and Jerry had returned from a stint in Vietnam, Betty worked at Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. to allow Jerry to attend school at Winston-Salem State University. When Jerry finished school, he started working and Betty launched a career in banking.

Somewhere among all the switching, the two managed to have two sons,

7-year-old Jerry Jr. and 5-year-old Jamal.

And now that Betty's career seems to be on an even keel, the couple is putting a high priority on developing Jerry's career in art, which already seems to be blossoming. In addition to Jerry's second-shift job at Johnson's Control-Globe Battery Division, he is one of three owners of an art studio, Studio 246, in Waughtown. And he has designed logos for the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, Guardian-Central Security Systems and Quality Circle, a group of quality control personnel.

Now, as the couple sees it, it's Jerry's turn.

"We have changed roles off and on," says Betty. "He wants to get into portrait

art and I want to settle down for a couple of years and watch my career grow."

"I didn't get jealous when Betty's career was moving ahead," Jerry says, "because I was a part of her doing well. I had no problems during the early stages of me taking somewhat of a back seat."

"... Basically, I didn't consider myself a traditional male. I let my inner spirit speak for me," says Jerry, who patterns his life after many of the Far Eastern religions. "She was doing well; so because we are a team, I put my energies behind her."

And putting those energies behind Betty meant that Jerry was the housemother for the two boys.

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Vivian is the family celebrity, but son Todd and husband Logan help round out the Burke family (photo by James Parker).

## Logan Burke: He's comfortable with being in the background

Had he wanted it, the people of the Northeast Ward might be calling Logan Burke their alderman, rather than his wife, Vivian.

"Some people in the community got together and asked me to run as alderman, but I wasn't interested," says Logan Burke, in his normally quiet tone. "Instead, I encouraged Vivian to run. I felt she could do a better job than I and Vivian enjoys community involvement."

As an enticement for her to run, Logan decided that he and their only child, Todd, would manage her campaign.

The Burkes made that decision over five years ago. Then Vivian was a teacher, housewife and mother.

"There is just so much you can do to a house and I wasn't gonna babysit four walls all my life,"

Vivian says of her decision to seek public office.

Today, Alderman Vivian Burke is chairman of the city's Public Safety Committee, serves on numerous local, state and national commissions, boards and committees, and is involved in a number of social groups and organizations.

Then, Logan was principal of an elementary school, served on the board of directors of Experiment in Self-Reliance Inc. and worked with many church and civic organizations. Now, he is the first black director of the C.A. Dillon Juvenile Treatment Center in Butner. Despite Logan's achievements, Vivian is the more well-known of the two. But he doesn't mind. He likes being in the background.

"Logan is a person who is very modest," says

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