

Sykes case: Questions and controversy

From Page A3

"I further believe him to be telling the truth because, on the afternoon of Aug. 10, 1984, when he first described for me the events which he witnessed, he identified a photo of Mrs. Sykes as the woman whom he had seen being assaulted," Daulton wrote. "The identification was made prior to the publication of any photos of Mrs. Sykes by the media."

Daulton wrote that the witness also positively identified Hunt as the person seen with Sykes.

Positive Identification

"The citizen told me that at approximately 6:25 a.m. on Aug. 10

... he saw Mrs. Sykes near the area where she was killed and that he saw Darrell Eugene Hunt holding Mrs. Sykes around the ... neck in an assaultive manner," Daulton wrote. "The citizen has identified Hunt from a lineup as being the person he saw on 10 Aug. 84 in dark pants (and a) black shirt with (a) spider design on it."

Hunt's friend Mitchell said that the man could not have been Hunt because he and Hunt had on different clothes that day.

In a frayed, fingerprint-smudged picture of Hunt and Mitchell, which Mitchell said was taken on the day before Sykes' murder, Hunt had on a light-colored shirt with small pinstripes

and jeans and Mitchell wore a white shirt with a small black design on it and jeans.

But Cynthia McKeys, a mutual friend of Mitchell and Hunt who said she was with them on the days before and after the Sykes murder, said the two of them were dressed in all black with black toboggans when they came to her house.

Mitchell said he and Hunt arrived at the McKey house at 1905 North Dunleith Ave. in the late afternoon and stayed all night, leaving early that morning to come downtown where Mitchell had to appear in District Court. McKeys said she thinks Hunt and Mitchell stayed all night at her house but can't be sure because

they left before she awoke. But she said she thought the sun was up before they left.

Miss Sykes was murdered between 6 and 6:30 that morning.

Physical Evidence Found

During a search of the Mitchell house, where Hunt kept his clothes, the police confiscated, among other things one black t-shirt with a spider web design, one black t-shirt with a skull design, one pair of blue cut-off corduroy pants, one black Harley Davidson t-shirt, four pairs of black pants, one pair of black cut-off pants and three knives.

Mitchell said that, although

Hunt owned a black t-shirt with a spider design on the front, he did not wear it on Aug. 10 because he did not buy it until Aug. 20. Mitchell said that both he and Hunt purchased the t-shirts from Soul Train, a clothing store on Trade Street.

The manager of Soul Train said it is possible the two could have bought the t-shirts, if in fact they did get them from his store, after Aug. 20. The manager, who

Please see page A14

THIS NUMBER IS FOR PEOPLE WHO SEE ALL THE DATA PROCESSING JOBS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS BUT DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TRAINING.

We'll give you the career training you need. Call now. (Ask about financial aid, too.)

725-8701

Rutledge College
820 W. Fourth Street
P.O. Box 3138
Winston-Salem, NC 27102

Old racists are new Populists

From Page A4

Richards," best known for his Wheaties cereal commercials, has permitted the Populist Party to mask its fascist, racist origins.

The real leaders of this party are a rogue's gallery of the far right. The party's major leader is Robert Weems, who in the late 1970s was Mississippi chaplain of the "Invisible Empire" Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. As late as Labor Day 1982, Weems spoke at a KKK "unity" rally at Stone Mountain, Ga.

Other Populist leaders and public spokesmen have long histories in racist, neo-fascist and anti-Semitic organizations. From the Arkansas KKK, there is Ralph Forbes, now a "promoter" for the Populists.

Some may recall that Forbes was behind the Klan rally in Washington, D.C., in late 1982. From J.B. Stoner's notorious States Rights Party comes A.J. Barker, now the vice chairman of the North Carolina Populists. Journalist Tom Valentine, a frequent writer for the viciously racist and anti-Semitic journal, *The Spotlight*, has emerged as Richards' presidential campaign treasurer.

One of the Populists' major speakers is Jack Mohr, the national defense coordinator of the Christian Defense League, a rightwing extremist group. Other local Populist leaders have been drawn from the John Birch Society, Posse Comitatus, the

segregationist Southern National Party, the California-based American Independence Party, the Wisconsin Constitutional Party and other racist, anti-Semitic and-or violence-prone extremist factions.

The Populist Party is only the latest effort to unite Nazis, Klansmen and racists under one organizational banner. Another recent group is the Aryan Nation, which calls for the deportation of every black, Latino and Jew in the U.S. The Aryan Nation's headquarters in Hayden Lake, Idaho, has a force of over 100 ex-Klansmen and neo-Nazis protected by armed guards.

The Christian Identity Move-

ment, a coalition of racist, rightwing fundamentalist "churches," is also acquiring hundreds of new members each month. Like Ronald Reagan, these racists have learned to cloak their real agenda behind the slick and subtle images of Populism, patriotism, states' rights and Christianity.

But behind the new facade stands the rope and the burning cross, racism and anti-semitism. The "new Populist" is still a Klansman.

(Dr. Manning Marable teaches political sociology at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York.)

Don't defend Vanessa's actions

From Page A4

tells Vanessa that she has stumbled, "but you did not violate the society's ethics. This society's ethics violated you. You were ... lambasted for posing nude."

Taylor's lovefest for the "violated" Williams then really turned convoluted: "Isn't it interesting, Vanessa, that in this country nudity is a disgrace and racism isn't?" Nudity? Two naked women together in love scenes and, says *Newsweek*, "engaged in explicit acts of oral sex" is innocent nudity?

Did not violate society's ethics? She certainly wasn't selling memberships for the NAACP in *Penthouse*. The problem, Taylor seems to argue, is that it is not what the former Miss America did, but that society is wrong because it doesn't accept what she did. My approach to the ethical question, in a six-page story in *Tony Brown's Journal Magazine*, which is much too lengthy to reprint in this space, is exactly the opposite.

I say that her nude disgrace had nothing to do with racism and violates the standards of decency of any organized society or any racial group.

The 63 years of racist exclusion from the Miss America pageant is "more offensive morally than any transgression on your part," Ms. Taylor writes to Williams. This is the poorest excuse I've heard yet for pornography. To

know that Taylor is wrong, all you need is a pair of eyes -- even one will do. Williams is right because racism is wrong? Added a female *Washington Post* writer: "And any woman, be she 19 or 39, should have known better."

To hail Williams as a victim of "society's ethics" or a black heroine of the struggle, or even to imply it as Taylor does, demeans every black woman living and past. It reduces the ethics of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Sojourner Truth, Harriett Tubman and the long list of black freedom fighters to those of a tart.

It tells every black woman -- be she 19 or 39 -- that her ethics depend on her ability to get what she wants any way she can. Values, therefore, are a floating crap game -- good if she wins, racist if she loses. Under these rules, she is never responsible for her behavior because of her gender or race.

To show support for Williams as a black victim of racism ignores her lesbian love scenes, as well as her rejection of her role as a black woman and role model for black people.

She saw the notion of being a black symbol as a handicap. Even questions on the issue "irritated" her, as did a comparison with Jackie Robinson. In playing down her blackness, she noted that this is a colorless world and

"nothing has held me back."

Her white "friends" certainly did. She allowed an obese, white man to pose her nude twice. Even her pursuit of pornography omit-

ted blacks. The disgrace that followed was also "colorless."

She has confessed that she was wrong, that she took a chance and got caught. So let it be.

Recovery

From Page A4

sion in 1981 and 1982, the majority of the black labor force became female. Among all black workers, slightly more than half are black women. Forty percent of all black children have parents who are unemployed.

Among those whom we can locate and who did not seek work during the 1983 recovery, 32.2 percent of the black men and 26.1 percent of the black women were unemployed at least once. Of those unemployed, the median number of weeks of unemployment during the year was 18.6. And of those unemployed, over a third were unemployed more than once.

Does this sound like the economic recovery has arrived for black America? Certainly not. Then why do we continue to

hear that the American economy is on the upswing? The answer is obvious. We are in an election year and the Reagan administration is trying to paint as pretty a picture as possible. But there is nothing pretty about the jobless situation of black America.

Of course, the weather can improve day after day, year after year, and we ultimately have a change in climate. As a result, life can be lived differently. But only if economic improvements are sustained for many years, and shared fairly among all workers, will we have a real change in the economic climate of this nation.

(Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for children.)

Take Your Partner On Business \$39.



Buy a ticket on Piedmont at the full adult fare, and your husband or wife can go along for as little as \$39 each way,* to most Piedmont cities. You can take the kids, too, ages two through 17. Make your

plans now, before the Family Fare offer expires on December 19. And turn your next business trip into family business.

PIEDMONT

Call your travel agent for details, or call Piedmont toll-free at 1-800-251-5720.*\$69 to Texas and Colorado \$79 to California.