



(photo by James Parker)

## Someone You Should Meet...

**Name:** Diane J. Blitting  
**Job Title:** Line girl at R.J. Reynolds and manager of Diane's Boutique  
**Hometown:** Winston-Salem  
**Describe yourself in one word:** "Ambitious"  
**Hobbies:** Swimming and reading  
**Favorite Book:** "Roots" by Alex Haley  
**Favorite Movie:** "48 Hours"  
**Person admires most:** Mother, Mrs. Frances Blitting  
**Career Goal:** "To own and operate a clothing business."

(If you are single, at least 18 years old, doing something positive in the community, employed and interested in appearing in this column, or if you know someone who meets these criteria, please send your name and daytime telephone number to: Someone You Should Meet, Winston-Salem Chronicle, P.O. Box 2151, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.)

## NEWS DIGEST

National, state and local news briefs compiled by Greg Brown

### Black prison writer recommended for parole

BATON ROUGE, La. -- The Louisiana Pardon Board voted unanimously last week to recommend freedom for a black murderer who became an award-winning prison journalist.

Wilbur Rideau was convicted of a 1961 Lake Charles bank robbery and murder, sentenced to die and spent 11 years on death row. His sentence was commuted to life in prison in 1972, when the U.S. Supreme Court declared the state's death penalty law unconstitutional. Since then, Rideau has become editor of the prison magazine, *The Argolite*, and has won numerous national awards for his writings.

The Pardon Board recommended 4-0 that Rideau's sentence be commuted to time served. The recommendation will be forwarded to Gov. Edwin Edwards, who has final say on Rideau's release.

The Pardon Board meeting last Wednesday was filled with both supporters and opponents of the release. "We need to send a message that a person can be rehabilitated," said Rupert Richardson, one of Rideau's teachers in elementary school and now vice president of the NAACP. "He can make a contribution to the same society he offended."

But opponents asked the board not to forget Rideau's crime. He was 19 years old when he robbed the Lake Charles bank, took three witnesses as hostages and attempted to kill them all. Two of the witnesses survived and testified against him.

"I'm overwhelmed," Rideau said when informed of the board's decision. "This is what America has always been about. It's a land of second chance."

### Racial quotas used in housing allocations

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. -- The Charlottesville Housing Authority's use of racial quotas to limit blacks to 65 percent of the city's 671 housing units has been challenged by the NAACP and "obviously" violates the law, according to a federal housing official.

About 18 percent of Charlottesville's 40,000 residents are black, the 1980 census reports. But on waiting lists for public housing, blacks outnumber whites by almost two to one. The city housing authority required in August 1983 that blacks occupy no more than 65 percent, and not less than 35 percent, of the available public housing units.

As a result, some black families remain on the waiting list for four or five years, while white families often receive housing in a few months, says Cynthia Stratton, head of the city's NAACP chapter. "Our concern has to be that those people most in need receive housing," she said. "And it just so happens in this area, many of those are minorities."

Ronald Tweel, a housing authority attorney, said the quotas are "a temporary measure until the waiting list reflects the needs of Charlottesville."

Barry Anderson, Title XI compliance director with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, says the quotas are illegal. HUD's regional office in Philadelphia rejected quotas as discriminatory last spring and Philadelphia appealed the decision to HUD's national office in Washington, where a settlement is being sought.

### Black woman forced to sit at back of bus

MIAMI -- A 64-year-old black woman has filed a \$13 million suit against the Greyhound Corporation, charging she was forced to move to the back of a bus to make room for a white passenger.

Ethel Lewis of Nevada also is suing three Greyhound employees, including a black woman, for more than \$1 million.

Lewis says she bought a Greyhound bus ticket Sept. 30 at a senior citizens rate in Miami for a trip to Las Vegas. She says she took an empty seat near the front of the bus, which was driven by a white man. Two white women were sitting together about three rows behind her. When the bus arrived in Ft. Lauderdale, Lewis says a white man left the seat immediately next to her and that one of the women moved into it. After the bus left Ft. Lauderdale, Lewis says the woman "began to exhibit behavior which clearly indicated a distaste for sitting next to (Lewis)."

Lewis says the woman continued the behavior until Lewis said, "It's okay; my color won't rub off." She says the white driver heard the remark and told her "shut up." She says she told him she was properly in her seat, but that the driver told her to shut up again. She remained silent, she says, while the white woman and the driver conversed in Spanish. Lewis says the driver then ordered her to take a seat at the back of the bus so the white woman and her friend could sit together. Lewis refused.

A black, female station manager in Palm Beach took her off the bus, she says, because the driver would take her no further. Lewis says the station manager suggested she take a Trailways bus to Las Vegas, but she refused. The station manager then gave her \$5 in cabfare and put her on a bus to Hollywood, Fla., where friends drove her to Miami and she was able to take another Greyhound bus to Las Vegas.

### Local skating club schedules winter ice show

The Triad Ice Skating Club will sponsor "Reflections of 1984" at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30, at the Beneath the Elms Ice Skating Rink.

The show will feature local talent of all ages. An extra special feature of the show will be a "New Year's Baby Contest" with Glenn Scott, Dave Plyler, Dr.

Harold Pollard, Todd Yohn, Judge DeRamus Jr., Lyons Gray, Bill Hottinger, Keith Dovel, and Rocky Bertini -- all in costume.

"I'm the oldest one living around here," said Mrs. McDuffie. "Anytime I see anything going wrong, I reach out and try to straighten it out. These are little people and working with them is a job. You have to teach and work with them."

### Shopping spree

"Instead of giving so many gifts, we need to be giving children programs and teaching them of the birth of Christ. We need to be helping the children to learn what it's all about."

Mrs. McDuffie, who has seven

children of her own, is also the proud grandmother of 10, and pictures of many of them line her living room walls. But there are dozens of neighborhood children who call her mom or grandmom.

## Coliseum expansion

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allow the city to compete for the CIAA basketball tournament, which attracts about 45,000 persons annually.

"The CIAA Tournament has two more years in Virginia," Gaines said. "With an enlarged coliseum, I'm sure we could attract it here. It's the biggest black sports event in the area."

Gaines' enthusiasm for a larger facility may have been one reason Corpening appointed him to the highly visible post -- that and a desire to garner support from all segments of the population for whatever decision is reached.

Two previous attempts to float bonds for coliseum expansion were soundly defeated by city voters in 1976 and 1979. Expansion supporters hope that a better study of possible uses and benefits of such a facility -- and greater efforts to broaden participation in the planning and selling of the idea to voters next time -- will lead to different results.

The existing 8,200-seat Memorial Coliseum cost \$1.25 million when it was completed with private funds in 1955. The city took it over in 1969. Renovating it, or building a second arena and using both, could cost more than \$12 million and probably would have to be financed through another bond referendum.

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"In its beginning, our facility in Winston-Salem was one of the largest and nicest between Atlanta and Washington," Corpening said during a press conference last Wednesday. "But now our facility is small and out-of-date by comparison to existing facilities in other major cities in North Carolina."

Charlotte voters recently approved a bond referendum to replace its current 12,900-seat arena with a newer 25,000-seat facility. Raleigh, with a 12,000-seat coliseum, is considering a larger one, as is Greensboro, whose coliseum can seat 16,800.

Fourteen of the 57 committee members, the committee's co-chairman and the co-chairmen of its fact-finding and finance subcommittees are black.

The black members include Gaines, Clark Brown, Muttter Evans, Patrick Hairston, Lafayette Jones, Naomi Jones, Moses Lucas, James Mack, Ernest Pitt, Ann Simmons, Tracy Singletary, Norma Smith, William Tatum and Thomas Trollinger.

Ed Pleasants, president of Pleasants Hardware Co., will co-chair the fact-finding subcommittee with *Chronicle* Publisher Pitt.

Trollinger, president of Contract Office Furnishings Co., and Paul Fulton, president of The Hanes Group, will lead the finance subcommittee.

The decision two weeks ago by Wake Forest University's Board of Trustees to contribute \$1.25 million toward an expanded coliseum complex appears to have led to action on the issue.

The trustees agreed to give the city another \$1.25 million toward the project if the city agrees to share advertising revenue with the school. Wake Forest now plays many of its home basketball games in Greensboro.

North Ward Alderman Larry Little opposed the last bond referendum for coliseum expansion, but is taking a wait-and-see

position now. "I think it's all right to study the issues," he said. "I think there are some good people on the committee and the committee is not really stacked. I don't think there are any token blacks on the committee and I'm looking forward to what they come up with."

Black construction workers and subcontractors could benefit from the expansion, Little said, as could increased numbers of black coliseum employees and entertainers who by-pass the city now.

Trollinger, whose finance subcommittee will estimate operating and capital costs if an expanded or new coliseum is recommended, says black subcontractors could benefit from the project. He says an upgraded facility could also help black promoters, who could bring in big-name black performers who draw large crowds.

Pitt acknowledged that the committee's sizable black presence may have resulted because the coliseum is desired so strongly in some quarters of the city, but said he has no preconceived notions about the possible expansion, pro or con.

"It appears to me the mayor is trying to have a representative committee composed of all segments of the city," Pitt said. "You have our people on the committee and that, to me, is indicative of their (the city's) desire to get feedback from the community."

"Whether I support it or not depends on what I find in the black community -- whether the community says they want it and they're willing to pay for it," Pitt said.

But Pitt added, "There are a lot of activities that aren't held in Winston-Salem, but you look at Greensboro and they have them every weekend. There are any number of activities that Winston-Salem missed out on because it doesn't have the facilities."

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