

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

VOL. XI NO. 25

U.S.P.S. No. 067910

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Thursday, February 14, 1985

35 cents

26 Pages This Week



Motlalepula Chabaku on violence: "I'm not for violence, but oppressed people all over the world are not for violence anywhere in the world, but they have been forced by the violence of the oppressor to go into counter violence for survival ..." (photo by James Parker).

## Out but not down

### Exiled South African says justice will be done

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Editor's Note: The concluding article in the Darryl Hunt series will appear next week.

When it comes to being frank, Motlalepula Chabaku wrote the book.

"I like you to be normal in your questions," Chabaku told this reporter during an interview before her appearance last week at Emmanuel Baptist Church. "I don't like Caucasian questions. By that I mean, don't play intellectual exercises with me. Let's be honest, straight, blunt, because every moment is precious.

"I don't want questions saying, 'What do you think about the arms struggle? What about oppression?' Those are white questions. Man, we can't be asking questions like that."

Chabaku, 51, has been exiled from South Africa by her

homeland's white-run government, and has spent the last eight years in the United States. Although she is a minister, teacher, social worker, theatrical producer and women's rights advocate, she has spent much of that time traveling across the country telling the story of apartheid to many who still consider all of Africa as jungle. And, like Bishop Desmond Tutu, this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner, she espouses nonviolence.

"I'm not for violence," said Chabaku, looking the reporter straight in the eye. "Oppressed people all over the world are not for violence anywhere in the world. But they have been forced

by the violence of the oppressor to go into counterviolence for survival. And if you want to get rid of the violence, deal with the violence of the oppressor first and, when that is done, the other will take care of itself easily.

"It's biblical. It's New Testament. It's Old Testament. It's Bahai. It's Muslim. It's Jewish."

She added: "The violence in our country now is the reaction we have to the violence that has been inflicted on us. When we are dehumanized ... we have to go back and say so, like in the story of the Elephant Man.... He had to scream out, 'I am a human being.'"

Please see page A12

## Friende: He lived up to his name during career

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

After 34 years, Palmer Friende, at only 57 years old, retired from the city-county school system as an associate superintendent of instruction for grades K-12. But "road-clearer" might have been a better title for him.

Friende, who was the first black to hold most of his former positions, spent years not just doing the jobs he was assigned, but making sure that other blacks who followed him would have a much easier time settling into their positions.

"That was my assignment (audio visual coordinator, his first central office position)," said Friende. "But as it turned out, it was more than that. My real job was a human relations

kind of job. That was the real task.

"Some of the things I did were not given assignments but were inherited. They didn't really care if I was proficient in my assigned area. BUT I wouldn't settle for that."

Sitting in his comfortable home in Monticello Park during the mid-morning hours as game shows invaded his television screen, Friende took the opportunity to reflect on his career.

Friende, the sixth child in a family of seven, followed the footsteps of his older siblings and became a teacher. After graduating from Winston-Salem Teachers College in 1950, he went to work in Guilford County as a teacher for three months before he was drafted.

Friende served as a surgical technician in a military hospital

in Indiana, where at night he worked on getting his master's degree at Butler University. When he left the service in 1952, he was only a few credit hours away from the degree and finished those at North Carolina A&T State University when he returned home. But there was some question in Friende's mind if he would return to Kernersville, his family's home. While in Indiana, Friende learned that he was a good singer and was a popular nightclub entertainer.

But while in the service, he had married his wife Bette, and decided against a nightclub career because times for black entertainers were tougher than they were for black educators. So he came back to take up where he left off.

He came back to North Carolina, got his job back in

Guilford County where he taught for four more years, from there he went to Carver Union School, his alma mater, for one year; and from there to three years of teaching and three years of being the principal at Anderson Junior-Senior High School.

Under the director of then-superintendent Marvin Ward, now a state senator, he moved into the central office. When Friende decided to take Ward up on his offer, the city and county schools were still separate, but during the summer of 1963 the two merged and Friende became audio-visual coordinator of the combined system and doubled his troubles.

"The time had come when a lot of people were beginning to feel it's about time and it fell on my shoulders," said Friende, when

Please see page A3



Palmer Friende: The nameplate on his door is gone, but the impact he made will linger on (photo by James Parker).

## The jury is still out on leadership program

By GREG BROWN  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Leadership Winston-Salem, a program designed to bring together leaders from various professions and backgrounds in a workshop setting, is receiving mixed reviews from some of its black participants as it reaches the halfway mark in its nine-month lifespan.

While some of the participants say they aren't sure if the program is worth the time it requires, others say it's too early to make such assessments.

Debbie Marion, executive director of the local program, says Winston-Salem's program is similar to others under way throughout the country, but that local issues and local people make it unique.

Another aspect of the Winston-Salem program that makes it different, says Marion, is the fact that the one here has been organized to be independent of the Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors most of the programs in other cities.

A Chamber of Commerce task force set up in January

1983 recommended forming the program and selected Thomas Hearn, then the newly-arrived president of Wake Forest University, to lead it. Hearn, who had been actively involved in Leadership Birmingham in Alabama, suggested that the program could be more effective if it were organizationally free of the Chamber.

Marion, whose office is located in the Chamber headquarters, says the program is funded primarily through corporate contributions.

Last May, the program began seeking participants, with an application deadline of mid-July and the first session set for September. "We probably didn't do as good a job with publicity as we would have liked, but we didn't have a lot of time," Marion says, noting that the time constraints may have limited the number of black applicants.

Of the total 120 applications which were received, 41 persons was selected for the first class. Ten of them were black, including C.P. Booker, local district sales manager for

Please see page A12

## Convicted murderer's family: Treat him humanely

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Mrs. Fanny McIlwain will be the first to admit that her son, Ronnell Laverne Jackson, committed a crime and should be punished for it.

But even though Jackson is in jail, said McIlwain, he has not given up his rights as a human being.

"I'm not saying he shouldn't be punished for what he did," McIlwain told the *Chronicle* last week. "But in the state of mind he did it in, he needs some help."

Jackson, 33, was convicted of the June 5 murder of William Norbert Rismiller and the kidnapping of Michelle Holland, both Channel 45 employees. Jackson walked into the station's Linville Road building that morning and complained that a religious program, "The 700 Club," as well as stations carrying the program, had been spying on him. While at the station, Jackson shot Rismiller, who died later in a local hospital, and took Holland hostage. He demanded that Channel 12 weekend anchor Susan Bruce apologize to him for spying on him. Through a special closed-circuit hook-up with Summit Cable Services, Bruce made the apology and, six and one-half hours later, Jackson released Holland unharmed.

Before that episode, Jackson, a divorced father of two, had only



Mrs. Fanny McIlwain wants to make sure that her son, Ronnell Jackson, won't become just another number in the prison system (photo by James Parker).

two minor violations -- one for destroying some television sets and the other for fighting a man who kicked his car at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds.

Greg Davis, Jackson's attorney, built his defense around an insanity plea. But an all-white jury found Jackson guilty and sentenced him to 90 years in

prison, 50 years for the first-degree murder charge and 40 years for kidnapping.

Since Jackson has been in jail, McIlwain said her son has not received the psychiatric help he needs and that, because of his lack of psychiatric help, he has refused to eat and has developed a more severe paranoia than he

had when he entered prison.

"I'm concerned about him getting help," said McIlwain. "He stopped eating for 76 days. He was living on water and juice. He went in weighing 185 pounds; now he's down to 120."

"I feel he needs to be moved to get more help."

Please see page A14