



A Fitting Finale

Reynolds seniors go out in style. Page B1.

Eyewitnesses

Studies say they often can be sadly mistaken. Page A1.



A New Team

Now he lines up for the Lord. Page B6.

Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

VOL. XI NO. 27

U.S.P.S. No. 067910

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Thursday, February 28, 1985

35 cents

28 Pages This Week

Sentinel announces it's closing in March

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Assistant Editor

After more than 99 years of publication, Winston-Salem's afternoon daily newspaper, *The Sentinel*, will close March 29, 1985, said Joe Doster, publisher of *The Sentinel* and the *Winston-Salem Journal*.

"I regret to announce that *The Sentinel* will cease publication after the March 29, 1985, edition," Doster said in a press conference at the newspapers' offices Tuesday afternoon. "But the *Winston-Salem Journal* will continue publishing mornings and Sunday."

The foremost reason Media General, parent company of both the *Journal* and *Sentinel*, decided to stop publication, said Doster, is because it wants to offer the "best newspaper possible to Winston-Salem and northwest North Carolina."

"We feel we can best accomplish that objective by combining our energies and resources in one newspaper," he said.

The other key element in the decision, said Doster, was a problem that has plagued most of the nation's afternoon newspapers -- a decline in reader interest. While the *Journal's* circulation has grown from 71,000 to 74,000 since 1974, *The Sentinel's* has dropped by 10,000 over the same period, he said.

"It's an irreversible trend," said Doster. "It was a painful decision made after we determined there was no practical way to reverse the trend."

Closing *The Sentinel* will result in the loss of approximately 37 jobs -- 23 full-time and 14 part-time positions. A breakdown of the layoffs by department includes 16 full-time and three part-time positions in the editorial department, five full-time jobs in the production department, and two full-time and 11 part-time jobs in the building and delivery department, where many of the paper's black employees work.

Employees were notified Tuesday morning whether they would keep their jobs. Only one black full-time employee was laid off, but no figures were available on the number of black part-time workers who lost jobs, said Doster.

The laid-off employees will be given 10 weeks' severance pay, plus one month's pay for every year they have worked with the company. The company also will offer some eligible employees the option of early retirement and will provide a placement service. Please see page A5



Carter: The United States needs to condemn apartheid (photo by James Parker).

Strange bedfellows

Carter says Reagan and South Africa have hopped into the sack again

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Former President Jimmy Carter likens the relationship between the Reagan administration and the South African government to a rekindled affair.

"... The Reagan administration has pretty much climbed back into bed with the South African government ...," Carter told a group of reporters at a press conference last Tuesday afternoon before his lecture at Wake Forest University. "I would like to see our government speak very clearly on the record that we condemn apartheid in any form and we insist upon full rights for the black people of South Africa."

Carter, appearing more relaxed than he did as president and flashing his famous smile often, visited Wake Forest as part of the Irving E. Carlyle Lecture Series.

Known throughout the world for his foreign policy achievements, Carter said the present Free South Africa movement has and will continue to make an impression on Reagan's present policies in South Africa.

"... This effort will have some effect on the general public's attitude and awareness of what's going on..." said Carter. "And, of course, public opinion does shape the policy or helps to shape the policy of any administration, so I would say that the more we dramatize the genuine human rights abuses in South Africa, the more likely it is that the policies of this administration will be modified accordingly."

But Carter stopped short of advocating that this country prohibit American businesses from investing in the racially segregated country.

"This is not a dictatorship," Carter told the 2,700 people who gathered for his speech in Wait Chapel. "The president or Congress cannot say you cannot invest your money in South Africa."

What the president and Congress can do, said Carter, is stress that those companies practice the American policies of equal hiring and equal treatment for all races.

"That's the best approach," said Carter. Please see page A14

Carter's rating among blacks very high -- and very low

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Former President Jimmy Carter rates either an A or an F in civil rights, depending on whom you ask.

To some, he ranks as high as John F. Kennedy. To others, he ranks at the bottom of the list of Democratic presidents since World War II.

"He was probably as four-square behind any requests from the black community as any president," said Donald Schoonmaker, a Wake Forest University political science professor. "He supported anti-poverty programs, urban revitalization and food stamps and a large number of his policies were devoted toward the black working class."

ported anti-poverty programs, urban revitalization and food stamps and a large number of his policies were devoted toward the black working class."

But local businessman Carlton Holland, a former employee in the Carter administration, said Carter lacked substance.

"On a scale of 1 to 10, he ranks 5," said Holland, who also served as Northeast regional field coordinator in Carter's successful 1976 presidential campaign. "And that's nothing personal. I like him. But history will show that he was

a mediocre president surrounded by more than his share of mediocre people. Everybody has mentioned that he had too many Georgians ... He did not have a cross section of political intelligentsia."

Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian Burke, a delegate to the 1980 Democratic National Convention, said she ranks Carter as one of the best chief executives.

"He was a man with a lot of human feelings for people," said Burke. "He was highly interested in civil rights."

Please see page A8



Ray: His client was wrongly jailed on eyewitness testimony (photo by James Parker).

Eyewitness identification

Researchers say it's a very unreliable source of evidence

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Assistant Editor

It has been called dangerous by defense attorneys, a valuable tool by prosecutors.

Some say it should be used with extreme caution, others, that it shouldn't be used at all.

It has resulted in estimated thousands of false arrests, while at the same time it has brought to trial many criminals who thought they had escaped the arms of the law.

It is eyewitness identification and the debate concerning its validity

intensified last year with the nationally publicized armed-robbery conviction of a black Texas engineer based on the eyewitness testimony of whites -- a conviction later found to be in error.

"Eyewitness identification is thought to be easily biased and is considered an unreliable form of evidence that is responsible for many miscarriages of justice," say behavioral psychologists Roy S. Malpass and Patricia G. Devine in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*.

An estimated 6,000 people each year are wrongfully convicted, said Ronald Huff, an Ohio State University criminologist, in a *U.S. News* article. Please see page A3

From Where I Sit

Too much ado about matrimony

By ALLEN JOHNSON
Chronicle Executive Editor

When I get married (many years hence), I'm going to send a story and photos to publishing magnate John H. Johnson (no relation).

You see, Johnson's daughter Linda was married in November and Johnson, who founded and owns *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines, made sure the nuptials didn't go unnoticed.

The Nov. 19 *Jet* devoted 14 pages and 35 photos to the wedding, seven of them in color, two of them covering entire pages.

The text included such vivid passages as:

• "The only champagne served was the prestigious Dom Perignon plus an unlimited variety of other beverages."

• "... Catered chefs showed off their culinary craftsmanship as they whipped up tempura and uniformed waiters circulated through the crowd with trays of cheese puffs and mushrooms stuffed with crabmeat."

• "A 10-tiered wedding cake towered 8 feet as the 6-foot-3 groom escorted his bride to it for the traditional cake-cutting. The cake was covered with white frosting and fresh flowers." Please see page A14



Earline Parmon

Parmon won't run again

After only one year as chairman of the Forsyth County Democratic Party Executive Committee, Earline Parmon, the first black to hold that position, has announced that she will not seek re-election.

"I took the seat because of the circumstances," said Parmon, who assumed the seat after the death of former chairman Joe Parrish. "Being chairman was not a part of my plans."

Parmon, elected to the seat in December 1983, said she made the decision not to seek re-election because of the upcoming aldermanic elections in November.

"There are some races that are coming up that I want to be closely involved with," said Parmon, "especially the race for Southeast Ward alderman and the elections in 1986. And, as chairman of the Democratic Party Executive Committee, I have to remain neutral and with some of the races I couldn't do that."

Elections for the party's top offices will be held April 13. Parmon said no black people have expressed to her an interest in seeking the chairmanship but that attorney Mike Wells, the present first vice chairman, has said he will run for the post.