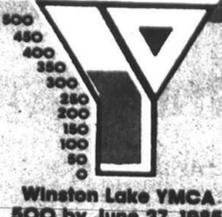




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Winston Lake YMCA  
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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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30 Pages This Week

## Eyewitness descriptions of man who killed Deborah Sykes vary

*Murphy, Gray say they saw Hunt with Sykes on the morning of the attack*

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Descriptions by witnesses of the man who killed Deborah B. Sykes last summer did not mesh during testimony this week in the murder trial of Darryl Eugene Hunt.

Roger Weaver, an auditor for the Hyatt House, testified that Hunt came into the hotel on the morning of Aug. 10, 1984, the day Sykes, a copy editor for *The Sentinel*, was found stabbed to death, and used the hotel bathroom. Weaver said he noticed a "reddish-pink" substance in the sink and blood-stained towels in the wastebasket after the man left.

But Weaver's identification of the man he saw differed from the testimony of two other key prosecution witnesses, Thomas Patton Murphy and Johnny Gray, who both testified that the man they saw that morning had braids in his hair. The man Weaver said

he saw had a curly, "Michael Jackson-type hairstyle."

The testimony of another witness, Dennis Speaks, was not heard by the jury.

Judge Preston Cornelius decided, with the jury out of the courtroom, that Speaks' testimony had nothing to do with the case.

Speaks had been expected to testify that he overheard Hunt tell Hunt's best friend, Sammy Lee Mitchell, that he had killed Sykes. But Speaks said instead that he heard Hunt tell Mitchell Sept. 8 that the police would try to pin the Sykes murder on him because he had a "white girl selling" for him.

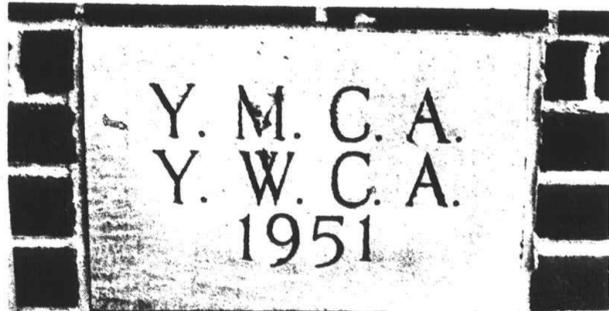
Speaks said he was scared to testify because he has been intimidated by people he does not know.

"It's getting pretty thick," said Speaks, when the judge asked him if he was scared. "I don't feel too good. It's tough to see

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Assistant District Attorney Richard Lyle questions Bryan Watts, who found Sykes' body behind Crystal Towers on Aug. 10, Watts testified for the prosecution on Tuesday (photo by Charlie Buchanan, Winston-Salem Journal).



The cornerstone of the Patterson Avenue YMCA (photo by James Parker).

## Bidding farewell to a friend, hello to its successor

By DAVID R. RANKIN  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Related editorial on A4.

Local residents, young and old, said goodbye to an aged friend and hello to its impressive, new successor as YMCA officials closed the old Patterson Avenue YMCA and opened the new Winston Lake building during two programs last weekend.

They bade farewell to the 34-year-old Patterson Avenue YMCA building last Friday at

6:30 p.m. The next day, the new Winston Lake opened its doors to the public.

James Ford, a member of the Patterson YMCA's board of management, told a group of about 30 who gathered to mark the facility's closing that the building and its staff had served the black community well. Many local children have played and grown up in its shadow, he said.

But the Patterson Avenue Y bears the obvious marks of wind, rain, heat and wear over the years. It looks very much the part of

an old soldier -- with graffiti-marked, crumbling walls, a broken window, missing floor and ceiling tiles, dim lights and long, damp hallways. The building, which stands in the shadow of R.J. Reynolds tobacco factories and other industrial development, has served its term.

"We had some good times in this building," a long-time Y employee said.

Those who used the old building, which will be torn down to make way for Reynolds

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## Closing arguments heard in Klan-Nazi civil suit

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Closing arguments in the \$48 million Klan-Nazi civil suit were heard in U.S. Middle District Court earlier this week. As has been characteristic of the case, attorneys for both sides painted their clients as innocent bystanders.

Lewis Pitts, attorney for the plaintiffs, cautioned the jurors not to be fooled by the "doofus defense" of the Greensboro Police Department. Pitts represents the 16 widows and demonstrators who survived the Nov. 3, 1979, "Death to the Klan" rally held at a predominantly black housing

project in Greensboro. The case the jurors will be considering, said Pitts, involves "the most basic rights we have in the country -- equal protection under the law."

Flint Taylor, another plaintiffs' attorney, told the jurors that the evidence heard in this case has been "the most powerful" ever heard in a court of law. This case, cautioned Taylor, does not involve proving beyond a reasonable doubt. The evidence in favor of a guilty verdict must only be 51 percent, he said.

The attorneys for the Klan and Nazis portrayed their clients as innocent. Gerard Chapman, who

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### Birthday Girl

Mrs. Betty Lyons, left, recently celebrated her 120th birthday with her housemate, Ann Rogers, who cares for her and whom Mrs. Lyons calls "Momma" (photo by James Parker).

## 'He don't give a hoot; he just wants to pollute,' says Burke

By DAVID R. RANKIN  
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Board of Aldermen denied the request Monday night of a local company to build a concrete mixing plant near Patterson Avenue. Said Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian H. Burke of the firm, which had contended it would be a good neighbor to the mostly black neighborhood: "He don't give a hoot; he just wants to pollute."

The aldermen voted 8-0 to deny Hoots Concrete Co., owned by Sidney F. Hoots, the zoning to build his proposed concrete plant on nine acres of land between U.S. Highway 52 and Patterson Avenue. The land is currently zoned for business use.

About 60 Patterson Avenue neighborhood residents stood in opposition to the zoning change during the regular

meeting of the board.

They said they opposed the excessive noise which would be created by a plant as well as concrete dust in the air and the possibility of being exposed to dangerous chemicals used in the concrete-making process.

Dr. Bhransing Sidu, a natural science professor at Winston-Salem State University, told the aldermen that a concrete plant would create tons of aerial dust which neighbors would be constantly exposed to and said "a concrete plant is a high-pollutant industry."

"Leave these old people alone," he asked the board. "They will suffer from lung diseases if you don't."

D. Barrett Burge, an attorney for Hoots, said the company has looked all over For-

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## Summer employment: It's available for local youth who qualify

By DAVID R. RANKIN  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Local youths can face long, frustrating summers when they search for jobs armed with limited training and experience.

But there's hope. The Winston-Salem Human Services Department has about \$491,000 to fund summer work for teen-agers and young adults who qualify.

The department received the federal money as a

part of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The money will create about 550 summer jobs with each youth working 225 hours this summer at \$3.35 per hour, according to Walter Farabee, director of the local Human Services Department.

The JTPA has existed for 15 years under such names as the Neighborhood Youth Corps and CETA, Farabee says.

According to Ann Wherry, who is in charge of the city's JTPA program, the participants will

have the opportunity to receive classroom training for academic credit, career counseling, actual employment and more.

"The youth will be exposed in an actual classroom setting and will explore different career areas," Wherry says. "They will have hands-on experience."

She says the department places the youth in different jobs based on the results of placement interviews and each youth's hobbies, skills, interests

and educational background.

"It's a fast-paced program," she says.

Youth, ages 16 to 21 years old, are eligible for the summer work program. The income of each applicant's family and how many people live in the household will be considered in the selection process, Wherry says.

She says youth must bring documents showing family income -- such as a recent check stub -- and

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