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**Air Jordan**

It was the Bucks vs. the Bulls, but it was Jordan's night.

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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

VOL. XII NO. 9

U.S.P.S. No. 067910

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Thursday, October 24, 1985

35 cents

32 Pages This Week

## Black-owned firm interested in being park's first tenant

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

The fastest-growing minority-owned business in the country is considering locating a facility in Winston-Salem.

Joshua I. Smith, president and chairman of the board of MAXIMA, a high-tech firm based on a concept of computer and human communications, may be the first tenant in the new Winston-Salem Business Park, to be located adjacent to Winston-Salem State University.

"Smith is considering a location in the Southeast at this time and a number of people from Winston-Salem have talked to him about coming here," said Camille Jones, marketing coordinator for the Webb Cos., developer for the Winston-Salem Business Park and the Triad Park office tower project, formerly called Superblock. "We haven't got to the point where we can say it's definite he will locate here."

Smith could not be reached for comment at his Bethesda, Md., office. But Smith's secretary said he was in Winston-Salem last week looking at the site.

Smith's firm has 12 offices in 10 states and reports gross annual revenues of approximately \$20 million. MAXIMA is ranked among the top 100 black-owned companies by *Black Enterprise* magazine and the top 100 contractors that do business with the U.S. Department of Energy. The firm is also 98th on *Inc.* magazine's list of the top 500 fastest-growing, privately owned corporations in the United States.

Smith, 44, started his business seven years ago. Voters approved the development of the \$3 million industrial park during the 1983 bond referendum. Actual physical work on the park should begin by December, said Jones. The Webb  
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## Hitting 'Home'

Lawrence Evans portrays farm boy Cephus Miles in the North Carolina Black Repertory Company's production of "Home." The play was shown Oct. 18 to 20 at the Arts Council Theatre and kicked off Black Rep's seventh season (photo by James Parker).

## Renowned civil rights firm will handle Hunt's appeal

Charlotte lawyers Ferguson and Stein are hired

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Two members of a Charlotte law firm have been hired by the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee to represent the 20-year-old convicted murderer on his appeal.

Attorneys James E. Ferguson II and Adam Stein, of Ferguson, Stein, Watt, Wallas and Atkins, have been retained to replace court-appointed attorneys Gordon Jenkins and S. Mark Rabil. Theirs is the same firm that noted civil rights attorney Julius Chambers was a partner in before he became head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

"They are an excellent legal team and we are happy to have them," said Khalid Fattah Griggs, a member of the Hunt Defense Committee. "I don't think we could have gotten a better combination."

Ferguson and Stein's firm has been involved in civil rights cases for the past 18 years. Ferguson, who worked on the legal team for the Wilmington 10 and Charlotte 3, also represented Alderman Larry Little on various criminal matters when Little was a member of the Black Panther Party. Since 1981, Stein has been the state appellate court defender, arguing indigent clients' appeals in criminal cases.

"Based on what we have heard, we felt there had been an injustice that took place there," said Ferguson, when asked why he and Stein took the case. "After talking with Darryl, the defense committee and the

lawyers who tried the case, we decided to take it."

Ferguson said he and his partner are now studying the trial transcripts and hope to have a brief ready for the North Carolina Appeals Court by Nov. 15. Because Hunt's new attorneys are arguing for an appeal and not preparing a new case as of yet, Ferguson said the outcome of investigations of the Winston-Salem Police Department's handling of the Hunt case will have little or no effect on the appeal.

"They are an excellent legal team ... I don't think we could have gotten a better combination."

-- Khalid Fattah Griggs

"We are limited to what appears in the trial transcript," said Ferguson.

Ferguson would not reveal the fee charged for handling the case, saying that it is a personal matter.

Money for Hunt's appeal has been raised by the Defense Committee, which initially said it needed \$50,000 for an adequate appeal.

Hunt was sentenced to life in prison in June for the first-degree murder and rape of Deborah B. Sykes, a copy editor for the now-defunct Winston-Salem *Sentinel*.

Ferguson said he won't rule out a possible bond for Hunt, but also said he doubts Hunt will be granted one. Since Hunt's arrest in August 1984, he has been in jail.

## Hairston to resign: Controversy brews

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Make no mistake about it, says NAACP President Patrick L. Hairston. Regardless of whether he is elected as North Ward alderman in Nov. 5's general election, he will not remain NAACP president.

Who would step in to succeed Hairston, however, is not so clear.

On one hand, the Rev. J.T. McMillan, a former NAACP president, says that, if Hairston wins in the North Ward, the NAACP constitution says he must resign as president of the civil rights organization.

Further, because of the amount of time left on Hairston's term, should he resign, the membership must hold a free election to pick the new president, says McMillan. Hairston has served 10 months of his fifth two-year term.

On the other hand, Walter Marshall, the local NAACP's vice president, contends that, as is the case with all other organizations, if the president  
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Chancellor Cleon F. Thompson Jr. dons a cook's apron and delivers coffee, cake and compliments to his secretaries, Veronica Crumblin, left, and Jacqueline Black (photo by James Parker).

## This chancellor wears an apron

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Dr. Cleon F. Thompson's office at Winston-Salem State University is very formal.

A huge, mahogany-colored desk sits in one corner. A glass-front bookcase filled with important-looking books and documents covers the wall in front of the desk. A half-dozen blue-upholstered, straight-back chairs strategically placed about the room complete the decor.

In his own office, Thompson looks out of place. In fact, during a recent interview, WSSU's new chancellor refuses to talk there. Thompson opts instead for the accompanying board room where he can relax on one of the couches and freely smoke his extra-long Vantage cigarettes, one of R.J. Reynolds' brands.

"You can sit at the table if you want to," Thompson, 53, tells this reporter as his 6-foot-1 frame walks hunched over to the back of the room. "I'm going over here to the couch where I  
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## Diane: You knew her and you didn't

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Diane Robinson was a chameleon of sorts. The pieces of her short life resemble the tropical, Old World lizard that changes colors to suit its surroundings and to protect itself from predators. To casual acquaintances and family, Diane was effervescent. To her innermost circle of friends, she was troubled.

Everybody knew Diane Robinson, says her boyfriend, Curtis Johnson, but nobody knew her.

"She was cheerful in public, but behind closed doors she was different," says Johnson. "She had problems hanging over her head. Nobody on the yard (the campus at Winston-Salem State University)

ty) knew that about Diane. I knew the Diane nobody else knew.

"Diane was jolly to the public. She had a helluva lot of pride. She didn't show herself or her problems to anybody. She had problems she would share only with me."

On campus, Diane was everybody's friend. Although she didn't make the cheerleading squad this year, during the two previous years she had rooted the Rams on to victory. She was also a member of the homecoming court last year, representing the Gate City Club, and she had plans to pledge a sorority. Friends remember Diane as the person most willing to listen to everybody's problems.

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Diane Robinson: A split personality.

## NAACP state convention to be held here this week

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

For the first time ever, the NAACP will hold its state convention in Winston-Salem Oct. 24-26 at the M.C. Benton Convention Center.

The three-day session will consist of a series of meetings, seminars and workshops on various issues.

Delegates from the state's 110 NAACP chapters are expected to

attend the convention, said Pat Hairston, president of the local NAACP.

"This is our opportunity to get together as one," said Hairston. "We can trade ideas and learn what others are doing."

The convention will open on Thursday, Oct. 24, at 8 a.m. in New Bethel Baptist Church under the theme "The Black Family Under Siege."

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