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Rarin' To Go

New UMW coordinator prepares to tackle global concerns.

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"I believe it will be a very effective board. We are dedicated. We have just started learning to trust each other. We've made a lot of progress. I think the city as a whole will benefit."
 -- Martha S. Wood

New aldermen are sworn in, then get right down to business

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
 Chronicle Staff Writer

No sooner had the city's new aldermen been officially sworn in Monday night than they overrode the mayor's nominations for key committee assignments and mayor pro tem.

Taking the oath of office from senior resident Superior Court Judge William Z. Wood before a packed audience in the council chambers were third-term Mayor Wayne A. Corpening and veteran aldermen Larry W. Womble of the Southeast Ward, Virginia K. Newell of the East Ward, Martha S. Wood of the Northwest Ward, Lynne Harpe of the Southwest Ward, Robert S. Northington Jr. of the West Ward and Vivian H. Burke of the Northeast Ward.

Newcomers Patrick T. Hairston of the North Ward and Frank L. Frye of the South Ward took the oath for the first time.

The new board, in its first act of government, adopted by a 6-2 vote Womble's substitute motion on committee assignments and his nomination of Mrs.

Wood as mayor pro tem. The largely ceremonial position involves representing the city at various functions and presiding over board meetings in the mayor's absence.

Mayor Wayne A. Corpening made the initial motions, including a slate of committee assignments and the nomination of Mrs. Harpe for mayor pro tem.

The board, however, rejected those recommendations, accepting Womble's motion instead.

Womble substituted himself for Northington on the Public Safety Committee and nominated first-time Alderman Frye for the Finance Committee in place of Mrs. Harpe. His motions passed 6-2, with Mrs. Harpe and Northington opposing both.

Womble will chair the Public Works Committee, taking the reins from former North Ward Alderman Larry D. Little, who did not seek re-election. Hairston, who will succeed Little on the board, will be vice chairman. Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Please see page A12



The Guard Changes

Former North Ward Alderman Larry Little literally stands behind his successor, Patrick Hairston (photo by James Parker).

White clergy support Hunt

Predominantly white group says it is concerned by case

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
 Chronicle Staff Writer

A coalition of predominantly white churches released a statement Friday supporting Darryl Hunt's appeal and making what many see as a significant first step by the white clergy toward bridging the gap between it and the city's black churches.

The Forsyth Ministers' Fellowship, an ecumenical organization representing some 60 predominantly white churches in the area, held the press conference to express its concern about developments in the Hunt case and the effects of the case on the Winston-Salem community.

Hunt, a 20-year-old black man, was convicted last summer of the August 1984 rape and murder of newspaper copy editor Deborah Sykes, and is now serving a life sentence.

Hunt's arrest, prosecution and conviction came amid widespread charges of weak evidence and improprieties by the police department and district attorney's office. Those charges are now under official investigation by the city.

The Rev. Henry J. Keating, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Winston-Salem and president of the Fellowship, read from a prepared statement, noting that the organization had focused its September meeting "on the impact of the recent Darryl Hunt murder trial on the communities in Forsyth County served by its churches and their spiritual leaders."

"The planned appeal in the courts was discussed, and the general consensus of the meeting was one of Please see page A15

Teacher's working to raise low test scores

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
 Chronicle Staff Writer

Concerned that the county's black first-graders score nearly 30 percentage points lower on achievement tests than their white counterparts, a Winston-Salem teacher is literally trying to hit home with a message to black parents.

Annette Beatty, a first-grade teacher at Southwest Elementary School, has begun sponsoring seminars for parents to get them more involved in their children's education.

"I have always been a strong believer in parent accountability," she says. "Black children are not performing well on the achievement test and their scores are getting lower every year. I am convinced that, no matter what you do, if you don't have parents' support it will not be effective.

I have decided to teach parents how to help educate their children."

The scores are the result of the California Achievement Tests (CAT) issued annually to Forsyth County first-graders. The tests are standardized and designed to measure how well students have mastered basic skills.

A typical seminar by Miss Beatty includes informing parents about the structure of the educational system, telling parents what teachers expect from their children and advising parents about the assistance teachers need from students' homes.

"There's a rumor going around that parents just don't care," she says. "Well, I don't happen to believe it. Parents do care; it's just that they don't know what questions to ask about their kids' education."

Miss Beatty says her seminars are for all parents and stresses that, while parents whose children do well on the test consider it "someone else's" problem, test scores affect all students in the school system. There are so many students with low test scores, she says, that it lowers the overall average and even students who perform well on the test have their scores affected by the low average.

"What so many parents fail to realize is that this is not an isolated problem," Miss Beatty says. "True, black students score low on the tests, but it is not just one parent's problem. All students come in contact with each other and one student's low scores affect the overall average. It's a problem all parents need to look at."

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Annette Beatty in the classroom: Black parents must become more involved, she says (photo by James Parker).

Fallout from Sykes report continues

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
 Chronicle Staff Writer

New documents obtained by Assistant City Manager Alexander R. Beatty concerning police conduct in the Deborah B. Sykes murder investigation confirm findings in his office's original report to the aldermen, Beatty said Monday.

"The new information clearly addresses the relationship between the district attorney's staff and the police department," Beatty said.

The documents also further indicate that Terry Thomas, whom Darryl Hunt supporters had said all along was first picked by eyewitness Johnny Gray as the man who attacked Mrs. Sykes, was indeed viewed by the police department as a suspect and identified by Gray.

Hunt, a 20-year-old black man, was found guilty of the murder and sentenced to life imprisonment last summer.

The initial report concluded that the police department relinquished too much of its investigative responsibilities in the Sykes case to the district attorney's office. The report also said that

police Detective J.I. Daulton's testimony during the trial that Thomas was not a suspect is contradicted by police transcripts of Daulton's interview with Gray.

Beatty, who, with City Manager Bill Stuart, prepared the 200-page review of the police investigation, obtained the additional documents at the request of aldermen Martha S. Wood and Virginia K. Newell.

Among the items requested were an Oct. 19, 1984, letter from District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale to then-Acting Police Chief Joseph E. Masten, a subsequent memorandum dated Oct. 29, 1984, from Capt. G.G. Cornatzer, head of the police's Criminal Investigative Division, to Masten responding to Tisdale's letter, the information used by the police to establish probable cause to charge Darryl Hunt with the crime, and the transcripts of a call made by then-Managing Editor Fred Flagler of the Winston-Salem *Sentinel* to police reporting that Mrs. Sykes was missing from work and of an interview with Brian Watts, the man who found Mrs. Please see page A3



Assistant City Attorney Fox hopes to save the city money (photo by James Parker).

Anthony Fox likes what he's seen so far

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
 Chronicle Staff Writer

A new black assistant in the city attorney's office says he's looking forward to being involved in Winston-Salem's growth and hopes to be able to save the city some money.

Anthony Fox, one of two new assistants in City Attorney Ronald G. Seeber's office, will represent the city in legal affairs such as purchasing, loans, contracts and zoning enforcement.

Fox and Chuck Greene replace Ralph Karpinos, who left the assistant's position to become town attorney for Chapel Hill.

"The philosophy of our office is that we will try to work a matter out as opposed to taking it to court," Fox says. "We will make every effort to resolve matters. This will save the city time and the cost of litigation."

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