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Remembering Austin Benjamin



Carolyn Huntley makes her point

Top Ladies to convene

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40 Pages This Week

Report's results may not be told to general public

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS Chronicle Staff Writer

Police Chief Joseph E. Masten said Friday that his department's internal investigation of its handling of the Deborah B. Sykes murder case, due on Feb. 20, may be finished ahead of schedule.

But whether or not the public will know its findings remains to be seen.

The internal investigation, ordered by City Manager Bill Stuart as part of his Nov. 20 review of police behavior during the Sykes investigation, centers on possible misconduct by individual department employees.

Mrs. Sykes, a local newspaper copy editor, was raped, sodomized and stabbed to death in August 1984. The police investigation of her murder led to the September 1984 arrest and eventual conviction last summer of Darryl Eugene Hunt, a black man whose supporters say he was railroaded. Hunt, 20, is serving a life sentence.

Masten said he would discuss the findings of the internal investigation with Stuart, but, because the investigation concerns personnel matters, "it shouldn't be available to the public."

Assistant City Manager Alexander R. Beaty, who prepared the review of the investigation along with Stuart, said that how much of the internal investigation's findings will be released to

A Difference Of Opinion

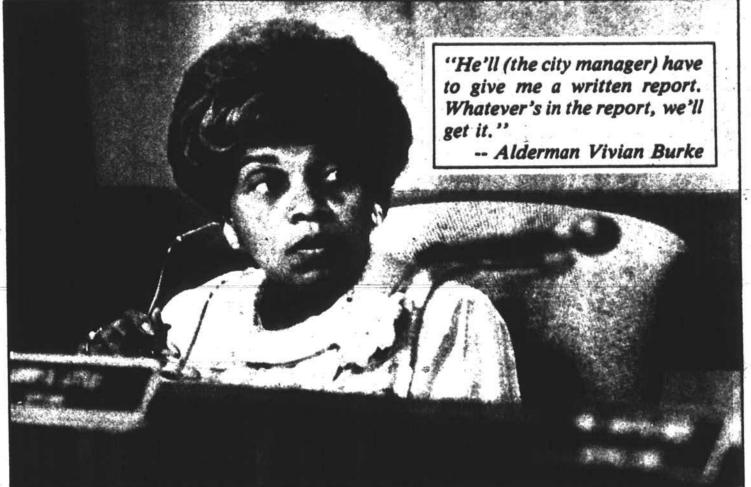


Photo by James Parker.

the public will depend on what it says and who it involves.

Beaty said that certain personnel matters are deemed confidential by state law.

"We reviewed the overall conduct of the department during the investigation," Beaty said Tuesday "Individual employee conduct will be covered in the internal investigation. (But) those matters dealing with employee matters will not be public, because that information is protected under state law. We can't comment on disciplinary action. The only way for it to get to

the public is if the persons disciplined speak to the press."

Beaty said he expects the internal report to be ready in "a week or so."

Under a state law governing the release of city employee records, titled the "Privacy of Employee Personnel Records (160A-168)," matters of public record include an employee's name, age, date of original employment, current position/title, current salary, date and amount of most recent increase or decrease in salary, date Please see page A2

Policy will end, says lobby head

Robinson: Apartheid's days are definitely numbered

By ROBIN ADAMS Chronicle Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL -- It makes no sense to remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday without continuing the work he started, Randall Robinson told a University of North Carolina audience recently.

"It is of no value to honor him (King) unless we make our lives count," said Robinson, executive director of TransAfrica, a Washington-based lobbying group that spearheaded anti-apartheid protests in America. "It is of no consequence to talk about Martin ... unless we understand the broader implications of his life. Martin Luther King was a global leader. We live in times now which are increasingly dangerous. We need a renewed commitment to make our lives count."

One way of continuing King's work, Robinson, 44, told the largely student audience is to support the Free South Africa Movement. On Thanksgiving Day 1984, Robinson and several others were arrested for protesting in front of the South African embassy. As the year progressed, thousands more were jailed for staging similar protests. But now, said Robinson, the protest is expanding into the board rooms of U.S. companies that do business in South Africa.

The day before Robinson's speech, he, Congressman Walter Fauntroy and Dr. Mary Berry had spent the night on the floor of Shell Oil Co. in Washington protesting the company's involvement Please see page A2

'Joel Coliseum' to be discussed Monday

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS Chronicle Staff Writer

Both opponents and proponents of a resolution to name the new coliseum for a black war hero are standing firm as the Board of Aldermen prepares to consider the matter for a second time Monday night.

The board's vote on Alderman Virginia K. Newell's resolution to name the \$24 million, yet-to-be-built facility the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum was delayed during the aldermen's Feb. 3 meeting when Alderman Robert S. Northington Jr. moved for no consideration.

Northington made his motion after two hours of heated debate between forces for and against the resolution.

Alderman Martha S. Wood had appeared to break a deadlock between the city's eight aldermen by indicating she was ready to vote in favor of the Joel name.

Since the meeting, Mrs. Wood has given no indication that her position has changed, though she has informed city officials that she will introduce a resolution to build a special memorial inside the coliseum to honor all of Forsyth County's war dead.

Joel was the only city native to win

the nation's highest military honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was decorated at the White House in 1967 for saving the lives of at least 13 soldiers in Vietnam while wounded himself.

Veterans groups on both sides of the issue restated their positions this week and responded to the outcome of the Feb. 3 meeting.

Worth Kepley, commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 55, said his post and the county's other VFW and American Legion posts still oppose the Joel name. Both groups voted Please see page A2



Medal of Honor winner Lawrence Joel.

DWI case continued

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS Chronicle Staff Writer

Forsyth County District Court judges disqualified themselves from hearing a drunk-driving case last Friday because District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale is involved and may be a possible witness in the case.

The case against Tisdale's friend, Vicki Matthews Oakley, who was charged with driving Tisdale's 1966 Volkswagen while impaired during a Dec. 19 accident, was continued until March 6, while another judge could be found to hear the case.

District Court Judge Lynn P. Burleson disqualified himself from the case, saying that he knew Please see page A2

Three hoping to succeed Hauser in 67th District

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS Chronicle Staff Writer

The seat in the State House representing the 67th District is of particular concern to black voters.

The 67th and the 66th districts are two predominantly black single-member districts formed in 1984, when the then five-member 39th House District was reapportioned. Black candidates were

Election Year '86

elected in 1984 to represent both districts.

Black Democrat C.B. Hauser, who won the seat in 1984 by defeating Republican Briggs D. Miles, is not seeking re-election. A Three-Way Contest

Two Democrats, one black and one white, and one black Republican have filed for the seat.

Hauser says he is taking a lowkey approach to the race for the seat, only saying that he wants to see a Democrat replace him. He says the voters should "follow their own best judgment."

"I'd like to see a Democrat win that's not elected because of his race," Hauser said last week. "He should have sound values -- American middle-class values, values such as the work ethic, Please see page A14



Burke



Clark



Williams-Henry

Black History

Professor: We need to examine our past before plotting our future

By ROBIN BARKSDALE Chronicle Staff Writer

If blacks are to move ahead, they must first look back, says a Winston-Salem State University professor who will present a program on black genealogy Feb. 13 at the Main Public Library.

Dr. William J. Rice will host the discussion along with the Rev. Henry S. Lewis and Joseph Bradshaw. Bradshaw, a retired history teacher, has compiled volumes of information on the history of black Winston-Salem and will present a special exhibit on the topic. Lewis is the pastoral counselor at R.J. Reynolds Industries.

Rice says he feels that it is especially important that black Americans know who they are and where they come from so that they will be better equipped to face the future.

"There are many black Americans who can trace their roots to white people," he says. "When we really get back to our roots, we will discover that, not only do our ancestors come from Africa, but they also come from areas of Europe."

While tracing one's roots can be exciting and revealing, Rice admits that the process is not always easy. He says too many black families have disregarded their best links to their past — the elderly.

"Somewhere along the line we stopped listening to what our older people were talking about," Rice says. "They are the ones that can give us some idea about where we come from. It is not easy to trace your roots. It can be a painstaking task and often it is more difficult to deal with the present than the past."

Genealogy, says Rice, is a very important topic for black Americans because it can reveal many things about the present conditions in Black America. This is most evident, he says, when observing the black family.

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