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Brown may become envoy

Ambassador to S. Africa

From Staff And Wire Reports

WASHINGTON - A Reagan administration source, who asked not to be identified, confirmed Monday that Robert Brown, a High Point public relations consultant and former special assistant to President Richard M. Nixon, is being considered for the post of American ambassador to South Africa.

Brown could not be reached for comment. A staff member answering the telephone at Brown's consulting firm, B&C Associates, said Brown was out of town.

High Point Mayor Judy Mendenhall said that she had been contacted by a State Department agent who was compiling background on Brown. She said she was not told what post he was being considered for, but thought Brown would make a good ambassador.

"It would certainly make a statement (to the South African government)," she said.

Friends of Brown in Winston-Salem said that he is more than qualified for the position.

"I've known Bob Brown for a long time," said John G. Medlin Jr., chairman of the board at Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. "My opinion is that Bob is an extremely capable person who has a wide range of talents that would enable him to solve many kinds of difficult problems.

"Certainly, whoever is appointed would need the kind of talents and experience that Bob



High Point businessman Robert Brown is reportedly being considered for the post of American ambassador to South Africa (photo by James Parker).

Brown has had," he said.

Another friend of Brown's, North Ward Alderman Patrick Hairston, said that he is pleased that Brown is being considered.

Hairston said he has known Brown for about 15 years.

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"He (Masten) has not demonstrated an ability to lead the department. He needs to retire."
-- Alderman Patrick Hairston

Hairston seeks removal of Police Chief Masten

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Staff Writer

North Ward Alderman Patrick Hairston is calling for the resignation or retirement of Police Chief Joseph E. Masten and demanding that the city hire more blacks in administrative positions in every department.

Hairston also wants the merit pay plan for city employees to be abolished.

Hairston stated his grievances about city government in a memorandum to City Manager Bryce A. Stuart.

Hairston also sent copies of the memorandum to the seven other aldermen, he said.

Stuart would not comment specifically on any of Hairston's statements. "It is something that we will take into account," Stuart said Wednesday.

When Masten was in charge of investigations, there were more unsolved murders in the black

community than at any time in the history of Winston-Salem, Hairston said in the memorandum.

"This has to be reflective of top management," Hairston said. "He has not demonstrated an ability to lead the department. He needs to retire."

Masten said Tuesday that he hasn't seen Hairston's memorandum and could not comment on it. "I can't comment on anything that I assume is an internal matter in city government," he said.

Many black leaders criticized the police department for its handling of the Deborah Sykes investigation. Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian H. Burke asked Stuart to review the police's handling of the Sykes investigation.

Masten reopened eight unsolved murders in December and announced a rearrangement in the department's murder investigation unit after Stuart's review.

Mrs. Sykes, a white newspaper copy editor, was raped and murdered in August 1984. Darryl E. Hunt, 21, was convicted of the murder in a highly publicized trial in June 1985 and was sentenced to life in prison.

James I. Daulton, the officer in charge of the Sykes investigation, was fired as a result of the review. Masten and three other officers received reprimands.

When told that Hairston was calling for his retirement or resignation, Masten said, "Retirement is a personal matter. It is my business, and I will make that decision," he said.

Masten, 60, said Hairston has never spoken with him about the operation of the police department. "If he wanted me to know about it, he should have given me a copy of the memo," he said.

Hairston also suggested ways in which the police department

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\$5.25 million lawsuit

Employee demands justice

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

While Curtis E. Dixon, a city employee, awaits an Aug. 4 hearing on a motion to dismiss his \$5.25 million lawsuit against the city, he has issued details of his claims that some of the city's top administrators have conspired against him.

In a written statement to the *Chronicle*, Dixon, a senior program evaluation analyst with the city, outlined what he said has been a pattern of conspiracy to keep him from being promoted.

Dixon's lawsuit was filed on May 15 and contends that three city officials conspired to hamper Dixon's career advancement with the city.

He is seeking \$5 million in

punitive damages and \$250,000 in compensatory damages.

Dixon said that he has been working for the city for 16 years and has not been promoted since he was first hired.

The three named as defendants are City Manager Bryce A. Stuart, Assistant City Manager Alexander R. Beaty and Sam H. Owen, director of the city's Management Information Systems and Services Department.

Beaty and Owen refused to comment on the lawsuit. Stuart could not be reached for comment.

Anthony H. Brett, attorney for the defendants, said that in response to the lawsuit, he had filed a motion to dismiss the suit.

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James Hardy and Shumaleita Wesley find refuge from the recent 90-plus-degree temperatures in a refreshing water shower (photo by James Parker).

SBI continues probe of inmates' allegations

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Staff Writer

The State Bureau of Investigation is continuing its investigation of allegations that a female guard offered drugs to two female inmates in the Forsyth County Jail in June.

W.E. Hunt, district supervisor of the SBI office in Greensboro, declined to comment Monday on the details of the investigation. "I can't disclose what we are finding in an investigation that is still in progress," he said.

Sheriff E. Preston Oldham asked the SBI to investigate the allegations made by the inmates, who say they met in jail. "This way the investigation will be up-front and straight and done by an independent source outside the county," Oldham said last week.

Oldham declined to comment on the investigation Monday. "I turned all my information, including the letter, over to the state," he said. Oldham is referring to a letter written by Van Ester Hailes in which she said that two female inmates were offered drugs by a female guard.

Wanda K. Newmon, 20, and Savannah Dodd, 30, say a female guard offered them marijuana, cocaine and heroin on June 14 to entice them to do special cleaning at the jail. Neither woman took the

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QUOTABLE: "This issue is not a race question. It is a partisan question with racial implications that should have been, but were not, handled delicately."
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Black administrators: Few top positions open in school system

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Several black administrators in the city/county school system say that it doesn't matter whether you're black or white, it would be hard for you to move upward in the system at this time.

They say there are few or no openings for positions such as assistant principal and principal.

Dr. Marcia Epstein, assistant superintendent of personnel, agrees. She said that no principals retired this year and only two assistant principals retired.

Annie R. Hairston, an assistant superintendent for Area 3, which includes about 17 schools, said that the system has had few retirements and resignations in

administration within the last several years.

Dr. Barbara K. Phillips, assistant to the superintendent, said that although the system does not have the openings, she realizes that there are a lot of qualified people in the system who are waiting.

Mrs. Phillips said that in the next five years many principals will be eligible to retire and may do so. "When that occurs, things will loosen up," she said.

But NAACP President Walter Marshall feels that the city/county school system is in danger of losing some very qualified blacks in administrative positions because of their inability to move upward in the school system.

"After so many years, black administrators may become discouraged,"

he said.

Mrs. Phillips said that many people are becoming impatient, and rightfully so.

Limited openings mean that a lot of good people will have the years slip by them, she said.

Mrs. Phillips said that she knew of a white assistant principal who last year left the system for a position with another school system.

"We're going to have people who are qualified, well-trained, and who don't want to wait until their number is up," she said.

Administrators said that when the opportunities are available, blacks are given a fair chance for advancement.

The fact that blacks can advance is evident in Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Hairston,

black women who hold two of the top positions occupied by blacks in the system.

Both advanced through the system, serving as teacher, assistant principal, principal and administrator.

These two were joined last school year by 39 other blacks who held administrative positions in the system. The figure counts those blacks who held administrative positions in the central office, assistant principals and principals.

The other 110 administrative positions were held by whites.

But the figures don't impress Marshall, who said that more blacks should be represented in the administrative ranks.

"There's no real push on the part of
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