

# Mitchell and Hunt

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Little's testimony came during Mitchell's trial, which began on Monday. The jury of seven men and five women -- including three blacks -- was not in the courtroom when Little testified.

Mitchell, dressed in a yellow shirt and pants, smiled when Little was testifying.

Defense attorneys had made a motion Tuesday to have Ford brought to the Forsyth County Superior Court so he could testify.

Rousseau criticized the defense for not bringing the information to the court's attention sooner. "This is coming right out of the blue," he said.

Assistant District Attorney C.C. Walker said Little was attempting to disrupt the trial.

"You have learned enough law to know better than to come up here in the middle of a trial and try to disrupt it," Walker said to Little, an organizer of the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee who was subpoenaed to testify.

"That statement is beneath comment," said Little, a second-year law student at Wake Forest University.

Little, who said he has known Ford for 15 years, also said he had told police Detective Otis Belton what Ford had said.

But Belton later denied on the witness stand that Little told him of Ford's calls.

Ford said he had told Wilson's stepson that he saw the incident but did not want to get involved, Little said.

"The stepson contacted the police department and told officers 'that you ought to make him talk,'" Little said.

Little said he waited before he

told the defense attorneys because he wanted to verify Ford's statements first.

"I remember what I went through with Mr. Tisdale during the Deborah Sykes trial," Little said, referring to the fact that he had been accused by the prosecution of intimidating witnesses and misrepresenting himself as a lawyer during that 1985 trial. "My name was called as much as the defendant's name was. I was a little gun-shy to come forward with the information."

Hunt, the defendant in that case, is serving a life sentence in prison after he was convicted in June 1985 of the murder of Mrs. Sykes, a newspaper copy editor.

Little has raised \$30,000 to help pay for Hunt's appeal.

Hunt's attorney, James E. Ferguson of Charlotte, hired private investigator Les Burns to go to the Columbia prison and interview Ford.

Burns presented a three-page statement from Ford about the murder that Rousseau ordered sealed.

Local attorney Bannister R. Browder Jr. testified Wednesday that he represented Ford in October 1983 when Ford was charged with larceny.

Ford said he told two police officers that he witnessed the murder of Wilson, Browder said. Ford said two brothers were involved but he did not know their names, Browder said.

When police learned of Ford's knowledge of the crime, they reportedly offered to drop the charges against him if he would give them the information about Wilson's death, Browder said.

Ronald McGee of Winston-

Salem testified Wednesday that he saw three men attacking Wilson on Sept. 17, but he didn't recognize any of them. "I didn't see any of them, but I didn't see Sammy Mitchell either," he said.

Earlier on Wednesday, SBI agent John W. Benbur had testified that fibers found in an ax handle considered to be the murder weapon matched fibers on the pants Wilson had been

wearing the night he was killed.

Rousseau and District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale seemed surprised by Burns' revelation.

"This is a set-up," Tisdale said angrily.

Boles defended the defense's actions. "We needed to make sure what we were talking about before we presented it to the

court," he said. "The state didn't have any witnesses until April. This case has a potential for harm to Mr. Mitchell."

The prosecution, which is seeking the death penalty against Mitchell, presented most of its case Monday and Tuesday.

Tisdale and Walker called five witnesses who said they saw Mitchell and Wilson arguing in the drink house. One woman said she

later saw Mitchell beating Wilson with an ax handle while Hunt was kicking the man.

Under cross-examination by defense attorneys, the witnesses said they had been drinking the night of Wilson's death and did not see each other.

The defense also pointed out contradictions in the witnesses' accounts.

## 'Gold rush': U.S. is once more minting gold coins

By The Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- The United States is back into the gold coin business, with Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III striking the first American gold bullion coin.

The coin, the American Eagle, was struck in a ceremony Monday at the U.S. Mint Bullion Depository at West Point and will offer investors an alternative to the South African Kruggerand.

The coin, bearing the likeness of the female symbol of Liberty on the front and the American eagle on the back, weighed one troy ounce and contained 22 karats of gold.

One side depicts a male eagle carrying an olive branch flying above a nest containing a female eagle and hatchlings, symbolizing "the unity and family tradition of America," officials said.

The other side of the coin features artist Augustus Saint-Gaudens' design of Liberty, which was used on U.S. \$20 gold pieces from 1907 until 1933.

"Today we are extending the

range of options available to millions of investors throughout the world," said treasurer Katherine D. Ortega.

According to Ms. Ortega, Americans spent \$1 billion on foreign bullion coins in 1985.

The Reagan administration has adopted limited sanctions against South Africa, including restrictions on the Kruggerand. Similar sanctions have been approved by the Commonwealth of Britain, which includes 48 of its former colonies.

Congress last December approved legislation authorizing the first general-circulation gold coins in half a century. The coins go on sale in October, with the selling price determined by the market price of gold rather than the dollar denomination on the coins. The price of gold stood at \$419 per ounce on London exchanges as the first coin was struck.

The gold coins will be issued in denominations of \$50, containing an ounce of gold; \$25, containing half an ounce; \$10, containing a quarter-ounce, and \$5, contain-

ing one-tenth of an ounce.

A silver coin will be issued in a one-dollar denomination and will contain one ounce of silver.

All coins will be legal tender. Minimum amounts for bulk purchases will be 5,000 ounces of gold coin or 50,000 ounces of

silver coin.

"The United States Mint is seeking viable and experienced firms interested in working with us to make our gold and silver coins the world's premier bullion coins," said Donna Pope, director of the mint.

## Editorial

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timizes qualified black candidates who by all rights should be elected, they sometimes victimize themselves through ignorance or lack of planning.

Whatever else it may be, politics is a science that ought to be studied before it is undertaken. It requires work -- lots of it -- and strategy, and more than a little help from your friends.

This stuff is serious business.

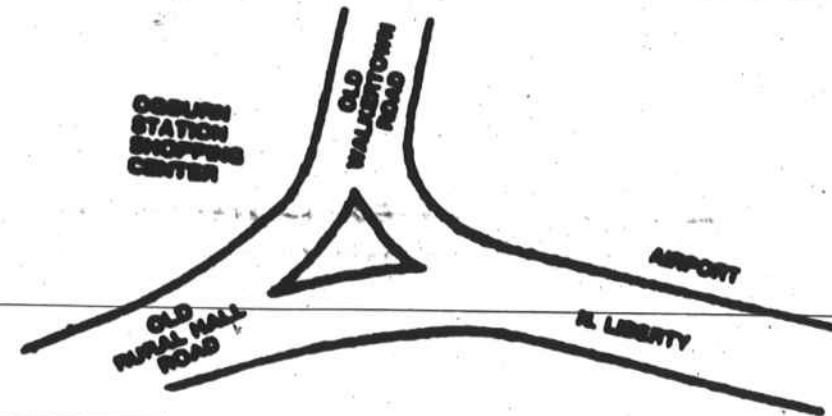
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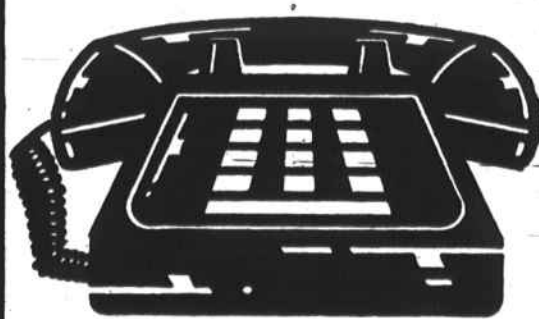
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