

A topsy-turvy football season

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WSSU actors bring new play to life

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Oubre makes art out of hangers

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Chavis speaks out at Wentz Memorial

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44 Pages This Week

Drayton convicted of Wilson murder

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Merritt W. Drayton's plea of guilty to second-degree murder and his subsequent conviction Tuesday disappointed members of the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee, some of whom also questioned his sanity.

Drayton, 28, is one of three men charged with the 1983 beating death of Arthur Lee Wilson, a 57-year-old Winston-Salem man.

Drayton pleaded guilty to second-degree murder after a plea-bargain arrangement between prosecutors and his attorneys. He had been charged with first-degree murder.

Judge Julius A. Rousseau Jr. sentenced him to life in prison and denied the defense's arguments for a lighter sentence on the grounds that Drayton had come forward last May and confessed to the crime.

"We knew all along that Mr. Drayton was a very unstable person," said Khalid Fattah-Griggs, a member of the defense committee. "He has contended to us since May that he did not do it -- that he was forced into giving his original testimony. So we were shocked that he came into court and did that yesterday."

"I don't have any malice toward him," Griggs said. "I actually feel sorry for him. He is another person being victimized by (District Attorney Donald K.) Tisdale's office. He may come out tomorrow and change the whole story."

Griggs said that Drayton's actions on Monday and Tuesday are evidence of his mental instability.

"First, he tries to convince the judge he's crazy, and then he wants to defend himself," he said. "Then, he pleads guilty and commends the judge, Tisdale and the police."

Drayton had asked Monday that his attorneys be dismissed and that he be granted a sanity hearing.

At a press conference in October, members of the Hunt committee announced that Drayton had recanted his May testimony in which he said that he, Sammy Lee Mitchell and Darryl E. Hunt murdered and robbed Wilson outside a Claremont Avenue drink house.

The committee said it had several letters in which Drayton said that he was pressured to make up his May testimony by the police.

The Rev. Carlton A.G. Eversley, another member of the Hunt committee, said Drayton's Please see page A2

MUD AND GUTS



NORTH Carolina A&T, led by Alan Hooker, slogged to a win Saturday over rival N.C. Central. Story on B1.

Public safety concept abandoned by aldermen

Now Womble wants neighborhood foot patrols

By ALLEN H. JOHNSON
Chronicle Executive Editor

Now that the city intends to abolish its public safety program, the chief architect of that change, Alderman Larry W. Womble, is eyeing other concerns.

Womble said in an interview Tuesday that he plans to fight next for police foot patrols in residential areas and that he'll raise the issue at the next meeting of the Board of Aldermen's Public Safety Committee.

In the meantime, he seemed content to favor the board's actions Monday night.

Womble and his fellow aldermen voted unanimously then to let policemen fight crime and firemen fight fires, unless a catastrophe requires them to share duties.

Womble had moved earlier to scrap shared duties altogether but accepted a compromise motion from Alderman Robert S. Northington Jr. to allow them during major emergencies.

"Essentially, we've heard the call of the community," Womble said in an interview Tuesday afternoon. "And hopefully we can get the service (of policemen) back on the street where it's needed."

Since 1973, the city has cut the costs of police and fire protection by requiring public safety officers to act both as policemen and as firefighters.

The city currently employs 235 public safety officers who fight fires part time, 39 officers who serve strictly as policemen and 168 who serve solely as firefighters.

But Womble, Alderman Martha S. Wood and others have criticized the setup as being inefficient and jeopardizing the ability of policemen to fight crime effectively.

At Monday night's Board of Aldermen meeting and a Public Safety Committee meeting last Tuesday, both citizens and public safety officers complained that the public safety format caused slow police responses to emergency calls, manpower

shortages and low morale among officers.

One of the citizens, Duane P. Jackson, told the Public Safety Committee that police took 45 minutes to respond to the call of a neighbor who discovered an intruder in her house.

Jackson appeared again at the aldermen's meeting Monday. He said Tuesday that he was pleased with the outcome, particularly because it would prevent public safety officers from having to travel long distances to assist firemen.

"I listen to a scanner, and I hear these policemen running from one part of town to another," Jackson said.

For instance, Jackson said, public safety officers were called Sunday from the western part of town to a fire in the east.

"We don't have any losers. Everybody's a winner on this one. Everybody got a piece of the action."

—LARRY W. WOMBLE

When it was discovered that the call only involved a burning curtain, Jackson said, the dispatcher asked whether the firemen on the scene still wanted assistance from the public safety officers.

"They said, 'Yeah,'" Jackson said. "They (the public safety officers) can put up the fans."

While public safety officers set up fans to draw smoke from a curtain fire, Jackson said, someone somewhere is lacking police protection.

Womble said policemen have been justifiably upset by the public safety concept because "it is demeaning for them to have to help firemen fight fires when firemen don't help them fight crime."

Mrs. Wood agreed. "The burden of this whole public safety concept has essentially been on the police department," she said.

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UPDATE

Report in on school bus incident

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

■ **Chronicle Update** is a regular feature that focuses on developments in news and feature stories previously printed in the newspaper. It will appear during the third week of each month.

A state official has said the investigation is complete and a final report has been made concerning a city/county school bus

incident that occurred on March 14.

But George R. Parker, a claims adjuster with the N.C. attorney general's office, would not discuss the results of the investigation.

Parker said that his office is negotiating a settlement with the attorney of Sheila Jeter, a parent who alleged that a 27-year-old bus driver, Roderick Orr, invited a busload of students to attack her sons, Kenneth and Reginald.

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The Rev. Benjamin Chavis: B11.

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Residents rally to fight connector

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

A strip of the proposed Northern Beltway known as the 311 Connector has been sharply attacked by residents in the southeastern part of the city who say that it will destroy their neighborhood.

Joyce Burton of 1141 Salem Lake Road is president of Friends of Salem Lake, a group that is circulating a petition opposing the connector.

The new thoroughfare, which would link Please see page A2

UNCF chairmen: Three -- no, make that four -- capable heads

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

■ **Related editorial on A4.**

It's sometimes said that two heads are better than one. But in the case of the United Negro College Fund Telethon, make it four.

Fire Chief Lester E. Ervin, attorney Michael A. Grace and businessman Richard Halverson are this year's UNCF chairmen. They've been gearing up since last year's telethon for the main event on Dec. 27.

Recently added to the team as an honorary chairman was Dr. Charlie L. Kennedy, a local pediatrician.

The telethon is held each year to raise

money for 43 of the nation's private, historically black colleges.

A lot of work goes into preparing for the fund-raising event, and both the chairmen and a network of committees hope to make sure the local UNCF goal is reached.

This year is the second year of chairing the telethon for Ervin and Grace. And Marilyn Baldwin, area development coordinator for UNCF, said she's happy to have them back.

"Both display attributes of strong leadership and worked very diligently as chairpersons," Ms. Baldwin said. "They were most instrumental in recruiting Rich Halverson."

"We feel real good about Rich," she said. "The leadership within UNCF

should be biracial. I feel certain that with Rich aboard, we'll have an even stronger campaign this year."

She said she also is delighted to have Kennedy's help.

"All four have a real strong commitment to the desire of a young person to receive a college education," she said.

The two veteran chairmen say they are delighted to be back in the forefront of the campaign this year.

"It was a rewarding and interesting experience," Ervin said of last year. "I had a chance to meet a lot of people."

"When I got involved last year it was an eye-opener as far as involving the community in it," he said. "I have been on the United Way board for a number of years but had never had the oppor-

tunity to introduce UNCF to the white community."

Grace said Ervin got him involved in the UNCF campaign last year. "It is a worthwhile cause and one that he didn't have any trouble talking me into," he said.

"I think it is important to keep schools up because in part they give our children a sense of tradition and history they may not otherwise get," Grace said. "There definitely is a history at these schools that other schools can't offer."

"To know where you're going, I think you have to be aware of from whence you came," he said.

Grace said he felt an obligation to par-

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UNCF REVENUE '85/'86

8,019 CORPORATIONS \$11,003,211

1,272 FOUNDATIONS 5,263,149

181,280 INDIVIDUALS 9,272,782

3,336 ORGANIZATIONS 1,324,288

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 3,042,461

OTHER SOURCES 8,419,213