

Black woman awarded \$9,800

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

An Afro-American woman was awarded \$9,800 in damages last week when she won a lawsuit against two white rental agents who managed her house at 1712 East Third Street.

After a week-long trial, jurors in Forsyth Civil Superior Court found that the house Katherine Leary Surratt lived in was in violation of the city Housing Code and was not fit for human habitation. The \$9,800 represented approximately \$300 a month in rent for the last three years that Surratt lived in the house.

Jerry L. Newton, of Jerry's Realty Service, and Paul Jeffrey Newton, of Newton Brothers, manage and are rental agents for several rental units in Winston-Salem including the one in which Surratt lived. The Newtons, who are father and son, received a commission for managing the property for the owners of Surratt's building.

"It just really was in poor condition and run down," Surratt said of the house she lived in for 12 years. "To look at the outside of it you wouldn't think it looked like it did on the inside."

The home had a faulty electrical system and often didn't have hot water, Surratt said. There were rats, leaky ceilings and raw sewage overflowing in the house, she said.

"I'd be sitting there talking and I would hear something bubbling and it was that sewage overflowing in the bathroom downstairs," Surratt said of the two-story structure.

During the trial Surratt testified that she told the Newtons about the problems but that they weren't corrected. Jeffrey Newton would tell her, "Get your son to do it," when she told him something needed to be fixed, Surratt testified.

A few weeks before Surratt moved out of the house (she now lives in Southgate Apartments), the city inspectors discovered that the house violated the city's housing code and declared it unfit for human habitation. Both Darwin Hudler, director of the Housing Inspection Code Enforcement Division, and George Purvis, who inspected Surratt's house, testified at the trial.

The jury's ruling in Surratt's favor sent a strong signal that this community will not tolerate owners or their managing agents who ignore the laws requiring them to properly maintain rental units, said Kate A. Mewhinney, staff attorney

with the Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina and one of the attorney's representing Surratt. Joseph P. Henry, also a Legal Aid Society attorney, also represented Surratt during the trial.

She had no intention of suing when she went to the Legal Aid Society, Surratt said.

"I really went to Legal Aid and asked for their advice because I felt I had been done wrong," Surratt, 66, said.

The staff at the Legal Aid Society simultaneously handles about a dozen or so cases similar to Surratt's, Mewhinney said.

"I think more and more tenants are becoming aware of their rights, but many people don't realize they can sue until they come in," she said.

The Legal Aid Society is federally funded and represents low-income people in civil cases, Mewhinney said. City residents who believe their housing is in substandard condition should contact the city housing inspector who will come do a free inspection and notify the owners of any code violations, she said. Owners are given 90 days to make repairs, Mewhinney added.

The city housing inspector can be reached at 727-8486.

A&T gets short end of funding stick

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

There is a \$60 million difference between the agricultural programs at North Carolina A&T and North Carolina State universities, said Dr. Burleigh C. Webb. Unfortunately, the predominantly Afro-American university is on the fundless end of the stick, he said.

During a Feb. 20 public forum, House Speaker Josephus L. Mavretic, D-Edgecombe, said N.C. A&T did not have a solid agriculture program.

"We only have two schools of agriculture, and one of them is not much of a school at all," Mavretic said.

Mavretic later told an Associated Press reporter that his statement was misunderstood.

"It wasn't the intent of the quote," Mavretic said. "I said the funding levels are not the same for both schools. I'll tell you this. I sat on the Agriculture Committee for eight years and never heard A&T's

name mentioned once."

There's a reason for that, said Webb, dean of N.C. A&T's School of Agriculture.

"Here's the situation," Webb explained. A full and mature land-grant agriculture school would have the following components: resident instruction, agriculture research and agriculture extension. Those are funded from a combination of funds from the state and the U.S. Department of Education, the federal government.

"We get no state funding for those. While the state college in Raleigh receives over \$60 million for a combination of research and extension, we get nothing."

N.C. A&T is one of 16 state colleges in the University of North Carolina system.

"Our budget is from the state's general fund and we get allotments," said Webb. "We don't have anything earmarked for our program."

About 430 students are in the university's predominantly Afro-

American School of Agriculture, Webb said. The School of Agriculture is organized into the following departments: Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Agricultural Education and Extension, Animal Science, Home Economics and Plant Science and Technology.

The school's curricula offers a bachelor of science degree; a master of science degree is offered in Agricultural Education, Agricultural Economics, and Foods and Nutrition.

The School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State has an honors program for undergraduate students, 200 scholarships available annually and an international studies program. The school offers a bachelor of science degree; master of science, master of agriculture and master of life science degrees; and doctor of philosophy degrees in several subject areas including: animal science, biochemistry, biological and agricultural engineering, biochemistry, botany and crop science.

Jesse Jackson joins picket lines at O'Hare

CHICAGO (AP) -- Jesse Jackson joined striking Eastern Airline employees on picket lines at O'Hare International Airport Saturday while frustrated travelers lined up at ticket counters seeking alternate routes to their destinations.

"Just as Mr. Reagan busted the PATCO union (Professional Air Traffic Controllers Association)," Jackson told the picketers, "now there's a move by this administration to bust the machinist union."

Jackson donned a placard with the union's acronym and carried a "Bushed-wacked" bumper sticker in his hands as he briefly joined the picket. He said he advocated civil disobedience to resolve the strike by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

"People will march in the cold, even to go to jail," for better wages and working conditions, he said.

The machinist's union went on strike at midnight Friday, and most flight attendants and pilots honored the machinist lines, throwing the company's strike battle plan into disarray.

"I've been running around this airport since 7 a.m.," said Chuck Matt of Arlington Heights, who was scheduled to fly on Eastern to Jamaica. "At the ticket counter they told us to go and find another flight, but who knows?"

Only 35 planes got off the ground nationwide by late Saturday.

Earlier in the day, about 45 people carrying picket signs protested outside O'Hare International Air-

port in favor of the strikers.

The demonstrators carried small signs and banners, said city department of aviation spokeswoman Cynthia-Val Jones.

"They are orderly," she said. "The police are out there."

Chicago police officer said more protests involving about a dozen people were going on inside the airport.

"There are only a few in the cargo area ... a couple more in the baggage area, and about a half dozen at the terminal," said Officer Chuck Haybrock. "They're very orderly, no problem at all."

Eastern normally schedules 16 flights per day departing for Miami, Atlanta and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Airline spokeswoman Helen Hunt said she could not say whether any of those flights were still running, but WBBM-

TV reported all had been canceled.

The Chicago-area commuter railroads, METRA, are among 12 nationwide governed by the federal Railway Labor Act and are vulnerable to a secondary boycott from the Eastern machinists union.

METRA spokesman Chris Knapton said the system had experienced no delays as of Saturday evening. He said he did not know whether the system would be hit by a secondary boycott on Monday.

In New York Saturday, lawyers for three metropolitan commuter rail lines asked a federal judge to block a threatened sympathy strike, but there was no initial indication of how the judge might rule, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said.

CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM HOUSING/NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be accepting applications for Section 8 Rental Assistance for Rehabilitated Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Dwelling for Homeless Individuals. Private or non-profit developers and property owners interested in participating in this program should contact the Housing/Neighborhood Development Department at 727-8595 for additional information. The application to HUD will be submitted by the City and Housing Authority of Winston-Salem as part of a national competition. The deadline for statements of interest is March 24, 1989.

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