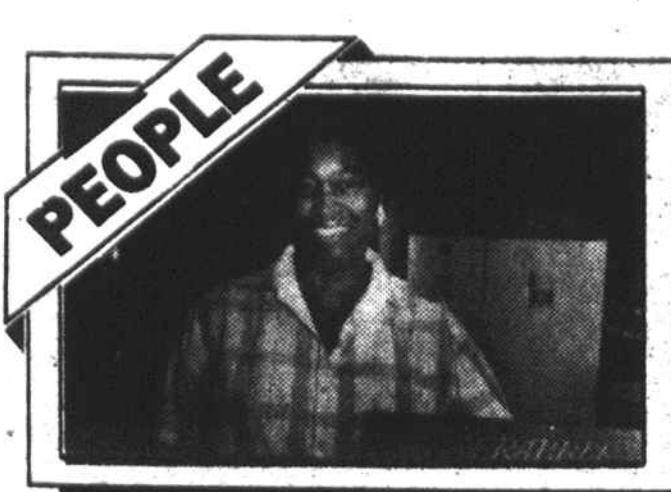




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The Stars Came Out



Maya Angelou and Oprah Winfrey participate in a press conference on Monday where an overview of the festival and the state of black theatre was given. For more details on the festival, please see page A9 and A10.

Photo by Mike Cunningham

Officials see no wrong in employee's actions

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

A city employee allegedly told Commissioner Gerald H. Long's campaign finance manager that his job may be in jeopardy if he received a personal check for his political consulting work.

Mr. Long said Dalton Ruffin gave a check for \$5,726 to William R. Tatum for distributing campaign promotional material in East Winston. The vice chair of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners said Mr. Tatum asked Mr. Ruffin to make the check payable to Associate Consultants because he "couldn't take a check payable to himself because he would have trouble with his job."

Mr. Tatum, a housing inspector for the city, has refused to comment on any work he may have done or monies received from Mr. Long.

According to the city of Winston-Salem's personnel policies, "it is improper for any employee of the city . . . to file and/or campaign for a public elective office while actively serving as an employee of the city."

However, while declining to comment on Mr. Tatum's situation, City Manager Bryce A. Stuart said he doesn't interpret the policy as meaning that a city employee could not campaign for someone else.

"I suppose that it says that an employee could not campaign for someone else while on duty but if that person wanted to

do it on weekends or evenings I don't see anything wrong with that," Mr. Stuart said.

City employees wishing to run for public elective federal, state, county or city office would ask Mr. Stuart for an unpaid leave of absence during the campaign.

Engaging in any political activity while on duty, or using any city supplies or equipment for political purposes are violations of the city personnel code and may result in the loss of employment.

Before city employees take a second job, they must "submit information regarding outside employment for

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Turner gives update on plans for new plaza

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

One tenant has signed and others have made commitments to locate in the New Walkertown Shopping Center contingent upon the final decision of a grocery store which is six weeks away from committing, said Herman L. Turner, the project's developer.

"At this point we are still negotiating with our anchor tenant and we have been told by the grocery store tenant that they will have a decision within the next 45 days," said Mr. Turner. "They are finalizing a feasibility analysis to

determine the size of the store they wish to locate and how much they will pay as a lessee."

Mr. Turner has not divulged the identity of the grocery store which will be the neighborhood shopping center's anchor tenant nor that of a company which has committed to build a \$500,000 facility and hire five people. The New Walkertown center will be built on 9.3 acres of land located off New Walkertown Road between Dellabrook Road and Gerald Street. The \$4 million project will provide up to 150 new jobs.

The facility the grocery store constructs will be a \$1.1 million investment, Mr. Turner

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Friende to assist Dr. Coble

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

An Afro-American, who was once passed over for the number one post in the city-county school system has been appointed as the interim executive assistant to Superintendent Larry D. Coble.

Palmer G. Friende, who retired as associate superintendent of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools in 1984, was appointed by Dr. Coble Tuesday.

Mr. Friende, 61, will hold the position until a permanent appointment is made, or until June 30, 1990 - whichever comes first, according to a news release.

The executive assistant position is a new one which blossomed out of Dr. Coble's reorganization plan, adopted last month. It is the number two spot in the system. According to a job description, the executive assistant:

- reports directly to the superintendent and is a member of the executive staff, thus participating in major decision-making sessions that will affect the system's operation;

- advises the superintendent on human relations and culturally diverse issues,

- investigates and helps to settle complaints, advises the superintendent on Afro-American issues,

- convenes and facilitates regular Board of Education agenda planning meetings and staff management team meetings,

- coordinates the development of comprehensive/strategic planning for the system,

- plans and implements special projects as directed by the superintendent,

- has overall management responsibilities for the Community School Program, volunteers and Business/Education Partnerships.

Mr. Friende, who worked in the local system for 28 years and logged an additional four in education, admitted he had no intention of coming out of retirement until meeting earlier this week with Dr. Coble.

"I just kind of felt he was very sincere in his approach and about his ideas and I felt if I could assist him with the installation of his initial program," said Mr. Friende, "I would gladly do so because it's a program I hope would lead to progress for all students, I think."

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NEWS ANALYSIS: The Darryl Hunt case: Is justice on trial?

By ROOSEVELT WILSON
Chronicle Staff Writer

This is the final part of a series of articles examining the investigation, conviction and possible retrial of Darryl E. Hunt for the 1984 murder of Deborah B. Sykes.

The rape and brutal stabbing murder of newspaper copy editor Deborah B. Sykes in 1984 cast the Winston-Salem Police Department into the spotlight like it had never been before.

Concurrently, it created the perfect setting for Winston-Salem to demonstrate whether justice or a lynch-mob attitude would prevail because Ms. Sykes, who was white, was said to have been murdered by an Afro-American man.

American history is replete with similar cases and invariably some Afro-American male, guilty or not, pays for such crime.

This case was so sensational that representatives of 12 media organizations were assigned to cover it, and it was virtually everyone's lead story for the greater part of a year. During the trial, cameras were allowed in the court room in Forsyth County for the first time.

Ms. Sykes worked for the now-defunct Winston-Salem Sentinel, the afternoon partner to the Winston-Salem Journal, and the papers kept the case before the public.

District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale, who as an elected official was already on shaky ground, was under intense pressure to solve the case, and when Winston-Salem police charged Darryl Eugene Hunt with the murder, records show that a conviction, not justice, became the priority.

Properly handled, it was a case that could have saved Mr. Tisdale's public career. But after the trial, records and newspaper accounts show that in the next primary voters - particularly those in the Afro-American community - did not vote for present D.A. Warren Sparrow as much as they voted against Mr. Tisdale.

Mr. Hunt was convicted in 1985, but last May the North Carolina Supreme Court overturned the conviction, citing in one instance the use of testimony that should not have been allowed.

But is Mr. Hunt guilty? Or, is he, like his supporters maintain, just a man of questionable character who happened to be the wrong color and got caught up in a white system bent on vengeance?

That question remains unanswered, but the Supreme Court's ruling and the results of an investigation by the city into the way the case was handled by the WSPD offer strong evidence that Mr. Hunt, guilty or not, did not get a fair trial.

A state medical examiner and a State Bureau of Investigation pathologist both testified that there was no physical evidence that linked Mr. Hunt to Ms. Sykes.

Without physical evidence the prosecution relied heavily on the testi-

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THE KING AND QUEEN OF BLACK THEATRE

Two veterans discuss black theatre, past and present

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

You simply can't talk black theater and not talk Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis. Since Monday's high-profile opening of the National Black Theatre Festival, conversations have pointed to the "old days" of black theater, to the struggles and to the actors that brought the institution to prominence. And it was rare to hear a conversation that did not include the names Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis.

Tuesday evening, Ms. Dee and Mr. Davis made their first appearance at the festival as the special guests for the night's festivities. Greeted by a flood of camera flashes in a packed Stouffer's Hotel meeting room, the actors joined writer Micki Grant and artist Maya Angelou in a discussion of black theater, its past and its future.

Mr. Davis credited the Afro-American actors that preceded him in black theater with furnishing his love of the theater in general and

black theater in particular. He said he is especially grateful for Afro-American actors such as Paul Robeson because he originally had no intention of becoming an actor.

"I always wanted to be a writer. I got into acting because it was said that if I wanted to write, I should study all parts of the theater," said Mr. Davis, whose Broadway debut was in the play, "Jeb." "My inspirations were the people performing at the time I was a youngster. There was a vibrant black theater during

that time. I think all of us were affected by Robeson, his grandeur, his style."

Mr. Davis pointed out, too, that the societal restrictions Afro-Americans faced in those days filtered over into the theater. But he said he feels that the special challenges presented by the country's racial climate, had the result of making the black theater innovative and creative in reaching their audiences.

"In those days, we had an even

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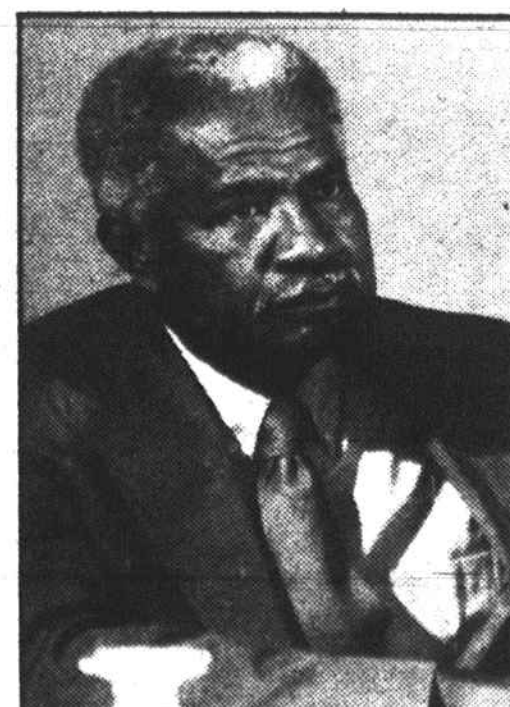


Photo by Mike Cunningham
Ossie Davis



Photo by Mike Cunningham
Ruby Dee