



Trading places
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Gospel drama resembles real-life drama of the drug problem.

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Plea bargain leaves neighborhood in fear

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

Residents in a southeast Winston-Salem neighborhood say they believe the handling of a child sex-abuse case last week may eventually put other children and other residents in their community in jeopardy once the man convicted for the crime is released.

"If the children in these cases had been white, and it was a black man accused of these crimes, I just think the outcome would have been a whole lot different," said Sandra Imes, the parent of one of two children at the center of a sexual-abuse case heard last Monday.

Imes, who is white, has two sons through an inter-racial marriage. A neighbor, Carolyn Crump, who is an African-

American, feels the same way. Her 13-year-old niece was the alleged victim of a rape, and Imes' son was exposed to hard core pornographic material by the same man with a criminal history involving similar abuses dating back to 1953.

But the children, nor their relatives, ever had their day in court, because a Forsyth County assistant district attorney handling the case decided on a plea-bargain arrangement. And that has both Crump and Imes furious because they say they were neither consulted about the prosecutor's plans nor told that the case would not be heard.

"I was told to go back home because the case would not be heard by assistant district attorney Janet Branch," said Imes, who said she came to court early with her child.

"Why should our children be made to feel that what happened to them doesn't matter?"

- Carolyn Crump

But the case involving Bobby Junior Oldham, a white man, was heard. And as part of a plea bargain, the second-degree rape charge against him was dismissed and he pleaded guilty to two counts of taking indecent liberties with a minor for which he got a four year prison sentence plus five years probation.

Both women believe that because the more serious offense was dropped, Oldham

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Chronicle staff photo
Carolyn Crump (left) and Sandra Imes (right) believe their children were treated unfairly by the justice system.

City/County leaders wrestle with budgets

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

The Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen, and the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, were both debating with major decisions about adopting operating budgets for the coming fiscal year.

City aldermen, uncertain of what state reimbursements may be coming from the state legislature approved an interim budget Monday to begin July 1, in order for the city to continue operating until a final budget could be adopted. That proposed budget calls for a two cent increase in property taxes from \$.60 to \$.62 cents per \$100 valuation.

The county commissioners

have tentatively agreed to raise property taxes by as much as five and a half cents above the current rate.

It is a frustrating time for both city and county officials who have to make decisions about what services, programs, and employees will have to be let go, or drastically curtailed.

The commissioners informally agreed on a budget of \$ 169.3 million with a property tax rate at \$.70 for each \$ 100 of value on property. The rate is a penny more than what county manager Graham Pervier had proposed, and would be used to raise an extra million plus dollars

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Photo by David Amundson

Annette Scippio (left) and Margaret Newman (right) talk it over as they prepare to assume their new roles.

Leadership program names new director

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

The executive director of the Delta Arts Center has been named the new executive director of Leadership Winston-Salem. The announcement was made last week that Annette Scippio would assume her duties with the Leadership program effective July 1.

The announcement was made by Jean Irvin, president of Leadership Winston-Salem. "Annette, a native of Winston-Salem, has a broad range of experience in the corporate and private non-profit sectors in Winston-

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First round begins

Center lays off 12

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

Reynolds Health Center administrators began notifying the employees targeted for layoff last Friday in what will become a recurring exercise in the wake of massive budget cuts for both the city and the county.

For those who fall victim to the budget axe, how the decisions are made on who will go and who will stay will never be fair.

Take Darlene Brown for example. She has worked at Reynolds Health Center for 17 years. She is a medical records clerk, who schedules appointments for patients. She got the news Friday. As you might expect, she was devastated.

She is the sole head of her household. She was widowed with three children age 17, 14, and 3. The oldest child is suppose to be headed for college in the fall.

For Brown and 11 other health center workers, their worlds have been turned upside down.

"I had a feeling they were going to come after me," Brown

said Friday. "It's just hard for me to think right now, but I'm not just going to lie and take this," she said.

Brown doesn't feel she was treated fairly after having worked in her position for 17 years, when a white co-worker doing the same job she does was not touched, who has none of the responsibilities Brown has in caring for a family.

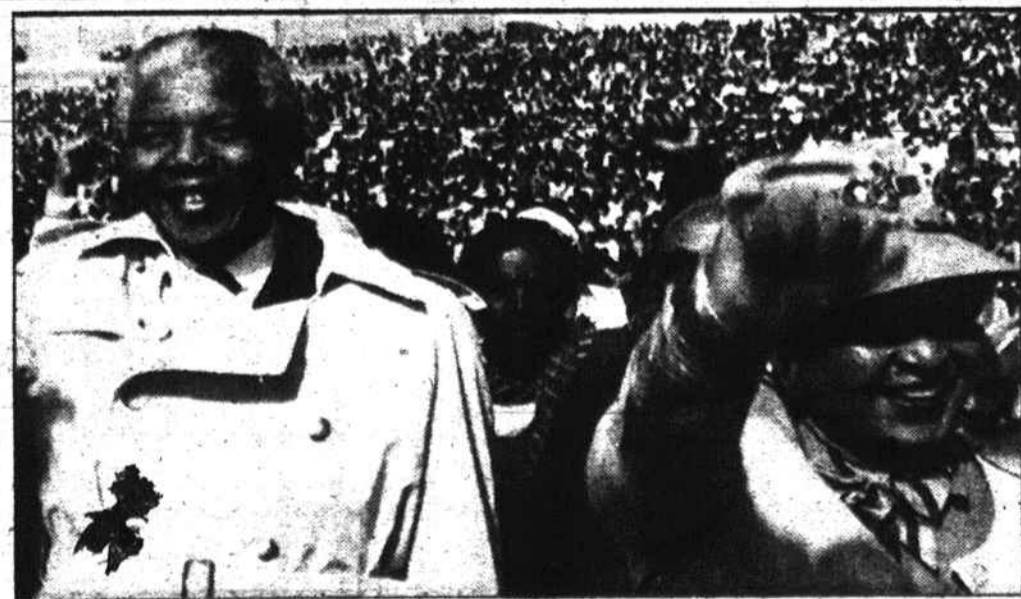
Hazel Scott, who has been the center's sickle cell coordinator for 18 years, was also notified that she would be laid off. She does all of the center's outside test screening. "The fact that they are letting me go isn't as much a concern with me as the fact they are planning to cancel the whole program," Scott said.

"Right now we are the only sickle cell testing cite, other than Forsyth Hospital where only new born babies are tested," she said.

But center administrator Dennis McGovern, said the center hasn't had a program for the last 13 years, since federal funds for the program ran out. He said the center will continue to do the screening, probably

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NATIONAL NEWS



Associated Press photo

ANC leader Nelson Mandela and wife, Winnie, greet crowds to commemorate 15th anniversary of Soweto riots.

Apartheid law repeal does little to help

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Anti-apartheid leaders and ordinary people alike say parliament's repeal of the 41-year-old law that classified all South Africans by race does little to improve the lot of blacks.

"It doesn't give us the right to vote. We are still not represented in parliament," said one black man questioned about the repeal Monday of the Population Registration Act.

Newspapers today urged the main opposition African National Congress to quickly enter negotiations with President F.W. de Klerk.

Statehouse corruption hurts blacks

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The Statehouse corruption scandal has weakened chances to address key issues for blacks, the Columbia Urban League said in a report issued Monday.

The report said key black concerns in political ethics and accountability, teen violence, the prison system, workplace diversity and education are suffering because of the scandal.

Bias: 'Youth must be own moral agent'

RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

She has a voice that resounds like thunder, and eyes that flash like lightning bolts when she speaks to young people hoping to teach them to be unafraid to stand for what's right. And for a woman who has buried two sons, cut down in the prime of their young lives, the strength of Lonise Bias is something one can only hope God will give should we ever have to face such an ordeal ourselves.

Bias, who received an honorary doctor of education degree in honor of her work with young people around the country, came to Winston-Salem last week to speak to students of Vision '94, a drug prevention and leadership program at Carver High School for rising 10th grade students. The program is sponsored through the Crosby Foundation, Sara Lee Corporation, and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System.

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Photo by Mike Cunningham

Lonise Bias makes appeal for youth to stand for right.

Teen abortion is on the rise

By Yvette N. Freeman
Chronicle Staff Writer

Over the past decade, as teen pregnancies have increased, so has the number of abortions among teenage girls, both white and African-American in the United States. In fact, according to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. (PPFA), the U.S. has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the western world — "twice as high as rates found in England, France, and Canada, three times as high as that in Sweden; and seven times as high as the Dutch rate." And the number increases every year. More than one million American teenagers get pregnant each year. Of those, 85% are unintended, and consequently, about half end in abortion. Here in North Carolina, 75 teenagers become pregnant each day. In 1988, that came to a total of 26,268 teen pregnancies. The girls ranged in age from 10 to 19 years of age. More than 10,000 of them had abortions.

In Forsyth County, during the following year, 26 non-white girls aged 10-14 had abortions, compared to only two white teens. With

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