



Guest appearance

Coretta Scott King attends the opening show of *TRACKS!*

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Graffiti Graf-X

New downtown shop prints on everything but paper.

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75 cents

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Anatomy of a murder

Experts analyze what may have been a crime of passion

▲ Trace how a domestic argument turns from anger to violence and then to murder

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE
Chronicle Staff writer

At 4 p.m. on Sunday, Antioch Baptist Church on Lansing Drive was filled to capacity. But this crowd did not come to hear a sermon. This crowd was there for a funeral. The crowd, made up of

family members, children, friends and church members, were all there to pay their last respects to Angela Vernetta Johnson.

To many of them, Johnson was an old friend, cherished family member, mother of two, someone they had seen grow up in the church as a little girl.

To the community, 29-year-old Johnson only recently became known when the details of her tragic death hit the newspaper headlines.

Early Thursday morning, April 2, Johnson was stabbed to death with a butcher knife by her boyfriend on the 2800-block of Old

Greensboro Road, while her 13-year-old daughter battled to help her.

A neighbor, hearing Johnson's screams fired a gun into the air and the boyfriend fled. But by that time, Johnson laid naked in a pool of

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Angela Johnson



Minister Lee Faye Mack was relieved when conspiracy charges against her were dropped.

Mack dismissed from trial . . . almost

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Assistant Editor

In the on-going political corruption trial of four local black leaders, Judge William Osteen dismissed two of the four charges against minister Lee Faye Mack, and postponed the remaining two charges.

Judge Osteen has instructed the jury that if they hear evidence or testimony that mentions Mack, they should not consider it against her. However, he strongly suggested that she remain in court so that she will be fully informed of court proceedings.

After three weeks of sitting on a hard wooden bench in the chilly courtroom, Mack was disappointed she was

not dismissed, but said she is thankful nevertheless.

"I want to give God the glory, because He's the one in charge," she said. "And I want to thank my supporters. Through all of the heartache, discouragement and sleepless nights this has caused, I still believe that these bones can live."

Mack and three other local black leaders, including Alderman Larry Womble, are charged in a 28-count federal indictment of political corruption. Political consultant Rodney Sumler has been described by the government as man who forced businesses to hire him and to make donations to black non-prof-

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Courtroom quips

"The government's case is a series of disgruntled white businessmen who resented black elected officials who responded to the needs of their constituents for a return of economic benefits into their community. The issue of race here is so fundamental to the presumptions of illegality. If it were white aldermen, white charities, white lobbyists, none of this would be nearly as questionable." — Lewis Pitts, director of the Southern Justice Institute and one of the attorneys for Rev. Lee Faye Mack

"I'm trying to be objective, and I'm waiting to see, but I see Rodney

being a lobbyist conducting business as businessmen do. I see nothing wrong with Rodney's actions." — A woman who described herself as a supporter

"All the defendants are my friends. I want them to be found not guilty. From what I've seen, I've not discovered anything that seems amiss in this trial, except for the fact that it's being held in Greensboro. That's an injustice to the defendants and an inconvenience to their friends and supporters." — Joe Felant, executive member of the Winston-Salem NAACP

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Sumler's use of contributions questioned



ON THE AVANT-GARDE

By TANG NIVRI

Things I secretly desire

The Good Book warns us to avoid the temptation of evil and most of us know why. Evil is that icing on the hot buttery cinnamon roll. It looks good, smells heavenly, and it tastes divine. It's trying to swallow it that'll damned near kill you.

Which is why it is good to sometimes fantasize about things that aren't evil — just stupid. I love to indulge in stupid fantasies. It's safe, simple, and it won't cause you to go to hell — such as the desire of wanting to use the oxygen mask that the airline stewardess swears will drop down from the overhead storage bin "should the airplane cabin lose pressure." Wonder how I would react? Would I start hollering like a wild man, grabbing and carrying on, threatening the lady, demanding that she come put my mask on right NOW before she puts hers on or "I'm never gonna fly Delta again!"

And speaking of flying, I'd really like to see if those floor lights will light up leading the way toward the exit door should the "plane lose power." And I'd like to use those seats as a flotation device and be rescued after being in the warm water for three minutes. On the other hand, I'd love to jump out of a plane buck naked. Yes, without a single stitch, landing in the world's greatest pillow filled with goose feathers.

And speaking of Mother Goose, I'd love to listen to nothing but fairy tales for a month while my children did all of the reading. I'd just sit there and eat grapes and ask for oranges and apples. And speaking of children, I wish that I knew what I know now, and could be one of my children's playmates. Imagine how much fun that would be. I could be of such help in their learning to see things differently. It is part of the parent's stupid desire to always want to help their child to learn life's lessons without enduring life's pain.

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WXII-TV 12 target of community protest rally

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Community News Editor

Members of the Awakening Giants, the Grassroots Alliance, the Nation of Islam, and friends and supporters of the Winston-Salem Four plan to hold a protest rally at WXII Channel 12 on Coliseum Drive, Friday, April 10 from 12-2 p.m.

The rally is in protest of the station's alleged biased coverage of the racketeering and extortion trial of Alderman Larry Womble, the Rev. Lee Faye Mack, former alderman Patrick Hairston, and

political consultant Rodney Sumler.

According to Rasheed Bey, the president and founder of The Awakening Giants, the rally is "to respond to the unfair and biased coverage of the Winston-Salem Four trial. They are trying to portray that these people are guilty before a verdict is reached."

The members of the participating organizations are encouraging that the African-American community boycott watching programs on WXII, as well as not buying the *Winston-Salem Journal* newspaper. "They too have been working

hand-in-hand to establish an atmosphere of guilt," Bey said of the Journal's reporting of the trial. "The television station and the Journal are actively working as a propaganda arm to destroy the reputation and integrity of the Winston-Salem Four." Officials at the *Winston-Salem Journal* could not be reached for comment.

But WXII officials deny that their coverage of the trial has been biased in any way. According to news director, Bill Sandefur, "We have been very fair and objective in what has been transpiring in the courtroom. And if they have

had a problem, there hasn't been one person who's brought it to our attention."

He went on to say that the station has been covering the trial as it would any other trial, where the prosecution presents its case first. "The important thing to know here is that the judicial system provides for the prosecution to go first, so that's the only side we have to report right now," he said. Sandefur also stated that once the defense begins to present its testimony, the station will provide the same coverage as it has for the prosecution.

Voter registration turnout minimal

▲ Less than 200 people turned out, even less registered; cold weather may have kept many home

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Community News Editor

Cold weather may have kept most of Winston-Salem's residents home Saturday instead of at a voter registration drive in the parking lot of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank in East Winston.

Just under 200 people braved the cold weather and less than 50 actually registered to vote at the drive, which was sponsored by the Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

In addition to encouraging residents to register to vote, local candidates for the school

board and the new 12th congressional district were also on hand to share with the audience their views on the political issues. Among the school board candidates who spoke at the rally were Beaufort Bailey, Walter Marshall, Annette Morgan Wilson, Henry Jones, and David Thompkins. Also in attendance were candidate for District Court Judge, Nancy Wooten; Republican candidate for governor, Gary Dunn; and Republican candidate for the 12th congressional district, George Jones.

Wilson stated that she was glad to have been a part of the drive. "Whether you reach one person or you reach a thousand, it's important," she said.



Joan Lane of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority watches as Rick Alexander (right) registers to vote at the voter registration drive held Saturday.

"So I appreciate this organization for giving us the opportunity and making it available. And I think the weather, of course, is

an important factor. But you've got to have these kinds of things happening because all too often people have forgotten and take

for granted that everybody's going to be registered to vote.

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