

# Sumler's use of contributions questioned

▲ In the on-going political corruption trial of local black leaders, the government is portraying Rodney Sumler as the ringleader.

By SHERIDAN HILL  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

The prosecution has successfully raised questions about how political consultant Rodney Sumler used contributions that he solicited on behalf of black non-profit groups.

James V. Fisher II, former general manager for Naegele Outdoor Advertising of the Triad, testified that in 1987 when Sumler was conducting public relations work for Naegele, Sumler requested that checks for non-profit groups be made payable to Sumler's company and given to Sumler. After making thousands of dollars of donations in that manner, Naegele changed its policy and made the checks payable to the organization. However, some of the organizations testified they never received the money.

Donald L. Pierce, general manager for Naegele of Raleigh, testified that he gave Sumler \$8,000 for the NAACP in Durham, but NAACP officials

testified that they did not receive the money.

## Favorable testimony

There was some favorable testimony during the past week. Former Naegele executive and William Whiteheart, president of Whiteheart Outdoor Advertising, both testified that they were never intimidated by Sumler or Hairston, and expressed satisfaction with the work performed by Sumler's company, Associate Consultants.

## The PATH house

The prosecution also showed that on February 25, 1986, Naegele decided to People Are Treated Human (PATH), a house which Hairston and Sumler said would be used for homeless and needy women. Naegele also donated \$5,000 to help renovate the house, located at 1322 Cunningham Street. Sumler solicited another \$12,000 for renovations, including \$5,000 from county commissioner Gerry Long.

During the past week the government has attempted to show, through testimony and videotapes, that the house has remained in a state of disrepair and was rented to students from Winston-Salem State University.

Sumler's attorney, John Dusenbury, and Hairston's attorney, James Ferguson II, tried to show that FBI agents were not thorough when they went to the house on March 16, 1990 to observe its condition. FBI agent William Schatzman testified that none of the three agents in the house that day asked Lee Faye Mack what repairs had been done, even though she was there.

"The house was generally in disrepair when we got there," said Schatzman, "but I don't know what repairs had been done before or what was planned for."

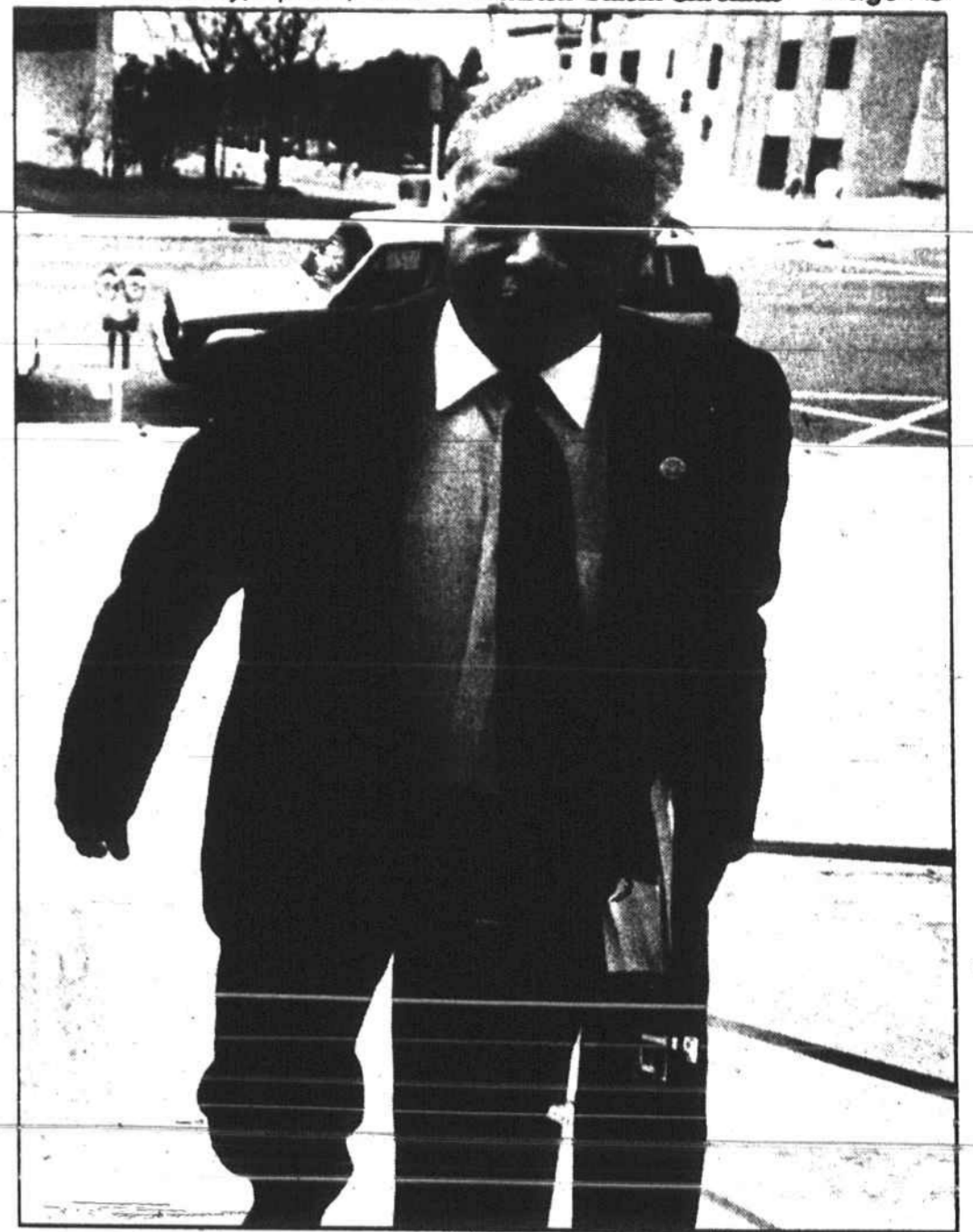
## The intimidation factor

The most damaging testimony for Sumler and Hairston in the past week was that of Scott L.

Gwyn, president of Idlewild Company. Gwyn testified that he felt "intimidated" in 1987 when political consultant Rodney Sumler and then-Alderman Patrick Hairston visited him and asked him to lend Hairston money to help pay withholding taxes for employees of his cleaning company, Patrick Hairston Cleaning Services. Gwyn testified he gave Sumler two checks for \$2,500, which subsequently were returned for insufficient funds. Gwyn said he issued two more \$2,500 checks, but Sumler cashed all four for a total of \$10,000. Less than \$2000 was paid back, according to Gwyn.

At Sumler's request, Gwyn made donations to the NAACP, PATH and other organizations. "I felt like I wouldn't get favorable zoning [to develop shopping centers] if I didn't."

Sumler, Gwyn and Hairston met more than five times, according to Gwyn, to discuss issues Gwyn had before the board of alderman and the public relations programs Sumler had proposed.



The prosecution is trying to show that Rodney Sumler solicited money for black, non-profit groups, but kept the money.

# Army promotes Jarrett to Major

James E. Jarrett has been promoted to the rank of Major in the United States Army. The promotion went into effect the first of February.

Major Jarrett is a native of Winston-Salem, and is currently assigned as the acquisitions plans officer of the Test and Experimentation Command (TEXCOM) at Fort Hood, Texas. He was also recently selected to attend the resident command and general staff college in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas upon completion of his current assignment.

He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in May of 1980 through the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. He attended the infantry officers basic course and ranger school at Fort Benning, Ga. from May 1980 until Nov. 1980.

Upon completion of this initial training, his first assignment was with the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division at Fort Campbell, Ky, as an infantry platoon leader and executive officer of Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment; anti-tank platoon leader, company executive



Major James E. Jarrett is pinned by Major General William C. Page (left) and wife, Stephanie (right).

officer and company commander of the anti-tank company, Company D, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment.

In June 1984, he was assigned to Fort Benning, Ga. to attend the infantry officers advanced course. Upon completion in December of that year, he was assigned to Fort Stewart, Ga.

From Jan. 1985 to June 1990, he held various command and staff positions while assigned to the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Stewart, Ga., includ-

ing battalion personnel officer (adjutant) of the 2nd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, company commander of C Company of that same battalion, assistant operations officer of 1st Brigade 24th Infantry Division and company commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Brigade.

Major Jarrett is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Jarrett of Winston-Salem. He is married to the former Stephanie Harris and they are expecting their first child in August of this year.

# NAACP holds economic summit

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE  
Chronicle Staff writer

The state of affairs in the black community in a crisis, according to Andrea Harris, president of the North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development. "It's critical," Harris told the small audience attending the NAACP Mini-Economic Summit on Saturday.

National figures indicate an extreme increase in the economic disparity between blacks and whites across the board, she said.

"In North Carolina, which has the 7th largest black population, we find that we are falling further and further behind. When you look at housing that is owner-occupied and blacks represent 40 percent of the population in this county, that should represent a value of \$1 billion. Instead it's just \$376 million—that's a \$600 million gap," Harris said.

"Blacks still trail behind white men and women in yearly income. This is all because of the lack of access to affordable capital. If we had access to the dollars, we could save more," she said.

"We have to remember that black people are the only people who came here with nothing. You're talking about a people who were not allowed to do anything. We had to go under those barriers that were put up in front of us and that are still prevalent today," she said.

Other guest speakers at the summit were Kermit M. Waddell, North Carolina Project director of the NAACP Resource Economic Development Center and vice presi-

dent chairman of the state legal committee; Julian Brown, president of N.C. Association of Minority Businesses, Inc.; Bert Wayne, senior vice president, Wachovia Bank of N.C.; Nancy Young, corporate affairs director, Sara Lee Corporation, and Zack Wall, co-chairman for economic development/Fair Share committee for local NAACP.

The mini-economic summit was sponsored by the local NAACP Chapter. A question and answer forum was held to address ways to add more jobs in the black community, following the summit.

"We need to first increase the money that comes into our community and make it stay in our community. Our crisis is more than just drugs and crime and teenage pregnancy, it's about economics," said Harris.

James Grace, co-chairman of the NAACP economic development/Fair Share committee, called for more community involvement and support and stressed the importance of blacks supporting black-owned businesses. Panelists also included local black business owners Tom Trollinger and Carl Brown.

The NAACP Fair Share program was also introduced at the summit by Waddell. The program is designed to "enable blacks to participate in the employment, business and public sector policy information opportunities common to other Americans." The objectives of the program is to increase employment, promotions and utilization of blacks and other minorities at all levels in the public and private sec-

tor; to increase the placement of blacks into professional and managerial positions; to establish effective minority procurement programs that would utilize black contractors, accountants, consultants, etc.; and, to include blacks in the policy making, governing and advisory boards, commissions and other entities.

Wall, who announced the 1992 goals for the chapter, said the NAACP was in the process of supporting the East Winston Community Development Corporation in applying for a state matching grant to initiate a Microenterprise Loan Fund for Minorities. The loan fund, Grace said, if granted, would allow minorities to take out loans for businesses or home-ownership.

The NAACP will also be undergoing support for the establishment of a business assistance center to be located in East Winston to provide technical assistance to African American businesses. The center is an East Area Council of the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce project identified in Common Vision.

Wall outlined the development of business forums for area businesses to share ideas and a minority business roundtable.

The chapter is also working to assist financial institutions in meeting the requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) of 1977.

Through and investment program, Wayne said, Wachovia was currently attempting to make loans more available for low to moderate income applicants by providing relaxed requirements to its clients.

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