



**Winston Lake Y**

The board, membership and other stories about the Waterworks Road facility.

PAGE A4



**"The Meeting"**

Larry Leon Hamlin to star as Malcolm X in black repertory production.

PAGE B2

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglas

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## Hunt Asks N.C. High Court For Retrial

▲ **Lawyers claim police withheld information**

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

The murder conviction of Darryl Eugene Hunt, a black teenager found guilty of killing a white journalist eight years ago in Winston-Salem, should be overturned, a lawyer argued in the appellate division of State Supreme Court yesterday.

Benjamin Sendor, an assistant appellate defender in Raleigh, said Hunt was unjustly con-

victed in the slaying of Deborah Brotherton Sykes, whose body was found on a grassy slope downtown in 1984.

"Some serious errors were committed in Hunt's second trial. I just hope the court agrees with me," Sendor said this week in a telephone interview. Hunt won an appeal for a second trial in 1990, but again was convicted.

According to court documents introduced yesterday by Sendor, three witnesses who could have testified on Hunt's behalf during his second trial, but did not because Winston-Salem Police Department detectives "coerced" two witnesses from testifying and withheld the address of a third witness. The three witnesses, the documents said, were Lisa Rene McBride, Willis Wayne

Reynolds and Al Morrison Kelly. The documents said a key prosecution witness, Johnny Gray, "confessed to each of them separately before (Hunt's) second trial."

According to the court documents, McBride, who lived with Gray shortly after the murder and who testified at the first trial, claims Gray came home "half drunk" and flew into a rage when he realized his dinner was not ready. Wielding a knife, he chased McBride into a bedroom, knocked her on the bed, and said, "I'll stab you in the damn heart, like I did that Sykes woman." The documents said he stabbed her but she turned in time to avoid being seriously injured.

Please see page A3



Darryl Eugene Hunt, right, shown entering courtroom at previous trial.

## Sign Of The Times



▲ **Interpreter uses hands to communicate**

By KAREN M. HANNON  
Chronicle Staff Writer

This is one of an occasional series of articles that will look at blacks working in unconventional jobs.

Sharon Agnew-Oliver uses her hands to tell an entire story.

While most teachers at Ashley Middle School are signing report cards, Agnew-Oliver is doing another kind of signing.

She is an educational interpreter using sign language to communicate with hearing-impaired students.

"I've always had a fascination about sign language," Agnew-Oliver said. "In high school, I saw hearing-impaired students at Carver and East Forsyth. But after high school, I got involved with the deaf community and learned more signs."

Agnew-Oliver, who has worked for the Winston-Salem school system for two years, is one of 12 educational interpreters who work with hearing-impaired students who attend classes in regular classrooms. There are four full-time instruc-

Please see page A12

## Monroe: Gaines Deserves Better Treatment at WSSU

▲ **Says matter should have been kept in-house**

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Earl "The Pearl" Monroe, a member of the NBA Hall of Fame and the greatest basketball player to wear a Winston-Salem State University uniform, calls it disgraceful the way the school has allowed the controversy surrounding Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines' tenure to swell.

"When you have an international figure at your disposal, you should try to put that person up to be a role model to attract other quality people," Monroe said.

Monroe, the Baltimore Bullets top draft pick in 1967, is in town this week to help raise money for a trophy case to be installed at the C. E. Gaines Center. The case will hold memorabilia of Gaines collected over the 30 years he has been the Rams head coach.

Monroe said Gaines should have been afforded the respect to not allow the controversy to be debated in a public forum.

"I think this is an in-house issue and should be treated as such," he said. "It always seems like we (African Americans) are always airing our differences in public. They should have sat down and talked about this."

At issue is whether Gaines, basketball's winningest active coach with 828 victories and who turns 70 in will be forced to retire by the state's mandatory retirement law. The



Earl Monroe and Clarence Gaines school's administration sent him a letter in January informing him of the state's policy, and Gaines recently sent a letter to the administration asking that his tenure be extended.

However, Alex Johnson, the university's vice president of Academic Affairs, has recommended to Chancellor Cleon Thompson that Gaines not be retained. Last week, faculty representatives voted unanimously to recommend to the chancellor that Gaines be allowed to fulfill his coaching and teaching responsibilities.

Neither Johnson nor Thompson could be reached for comment. Blanche Carter, director of public relations, said the school's policy is not to comment on personnel matters.

Monroe enjoyed a record-setting career at WSSU from 1964-67 under Gaines and went on to star in the National Basketball Association. He and other alumni want the

Please see page A11

**ON THE AVANT GARDE**  
BY TANG NIVRI

### Is It Any Wonder?

The trial was finally over. Another young black male was on his way through the justice system. Two teen-age defendants had been convicted of burglary for stealing a gun and other accessories from a local, small business owner. The gun, a 357 Magnum, was later found near the premises of one of the local middle schools.

The judge had seen one of the defendants too many times before. Apparently this criminal behavior was becoming a habit, a way of life. In a last-ditch effort to get the young man's attention, the judge offered him two options: an opportunity to be sent to a detention center, where he would have a chance to acquire some basic skills, and based on his performance and behavior, a chance for early release; or he could go straight to jail with the big boys. His mother was standing there with him. He would have to decide.

The youngster stood before the judge defiantly, as if he hadn't heard a word she'd said. She repeated her offer but he still refused to answer. Finally he responded, saying something like, "I

Please see page A11

## HRC Chairman To Seek Race Solutions

▲ **WSSU grad named chairman**

By SHERIDAN HILL  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

The chairman of the Human Relations Commission wants the group to be a catalyst in solving the city's race relations problems.

"There is a problem here with race relations, and we have to admit that," said John P. Rankins, a personnel supervisor for Sara Lee Knit Products and the commission's new chairman. "Winston-Salem is a great American city, but there are citizens who feel they're being dealt an injustice because of their geographical location. I'd love to see the day we wouldn't have a need for Citizens United for Justice, wouldn't need the Human Relations Commission, because human beings are treating each other as human beings. I think the city has the compassion and the ability to do that."

In the past, the commission has dealt largely with housing discrimination complaints.

Rankins, 26, who graduated from Winston-Salem State University in 1989 with a degree in political science, replaces Kelly O.P. Goodwin as chairman.

Mayor Martha Wood, who makes recommendations to the commission, said Rankins impressed members when he first met with them in December that he was

chosen as chairman in January.

Rankins said his leadership ability emerged while he was a student at Winston-Salem State University, where he belonged to several organizations.

Rankins said he hopes a member of Citizens United For Justice will join the community relations task group that he started.

"Not everyone views Citizens United For Justice as they should," Rankins said. "I think they are a group who wants to hear some reasonable answers to some

*"I'd love to see the day we wouldn't have a need for Citizens United for Justice."*

— John P. Rankins

unreasonable actions. They want to see justice prevail, see justice become color blind, see justice occur regardless of your address."

He plans for the task force's efforts to tie in with other community efforts to address race relations, including Common Vision, United Way and the Minister's Association.

"We need to get all these resources in one bucket and pour them out and let them blanket the community," he said. "We need to strategically institute programs that will be progressive."



John P. Rankins