



The Arts

Delta Fine Arts Inc. announces fund raiser for African-American Arts.

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JV Track

Invitational track meet held at West Forsyth High School.

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Winston-Salem Chronicle

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1993

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

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Leaders Say Keith's 'Mind Made Up'

Keith: Not influenced by Justice Department

By MARK R. MOSS Chronicle Staff Writer

Despite assurances from Forsyth County District Attorney Tom Keith that the U.S. Department of Justice's decision to drop the Sheila McKellar case will have no bearing on his decision, members of the black community believe Keith has already made up his mind to exonerate the five police officers from wrongdoing in her death.

The Rev. John Mendez of Citizens United for Justice said he was

"very upset" that the Justice Department decided not to prosecute the police officers who were responsible for bounding and gagging her on July 18, two days before she died.

"Her death was not taken very seriously by this city, period," said Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church. "From the very beginning, the DA wanted to exonerate the officers involved."

Mendez said Keith's "mind was made up" before the Justice Department's ruling in March and that the report will be used to "substantiate"

Keith's decision.

"The job of the district attorney is to prosecute, and Keith has betrayed the community's trust in him," Mendez said. "He should present the evidence before the grand jury and let them decide if they should be prosecuted."

William Tatum, president of the local NAACP, said: "The community at large will have to come together and demand that justice be done."

Tatum said evidence will surface that shows that two of the officers may be more culpable than the others. Those two officers, and a third are white, and two are black. McKellar was black.

McKellar, 33, died two days after police responded to a call at a

New Walkertown Road apartment and found McKellar struggling with an elderly man at a New Walkertown Road apartment. While trying to arrest her, McKellar attempted to bite one of the officers, according to police reports. When brought to the warrant office, police said, she again tried to bite the officers, so they placed gauze in her mouth, put tape around it and placed her face down on the floor of a holding cell. She also had been handcuffed and her ankles were bound. Moments later, officers found her unconscious. She died two days later at Baptist Hospital.

Dr. Donald Jason, a pathologist at Baptist Hospital, ruled that McKellar died of "positional asphyxia" and said a high level of

cocaine in her system was a contributing factor.

Keith said that the position McKellar was placed in would not alone have caused her death.

"You can't die from that alone without a high degree of cocaine in your system," Keith said. "Jason's opinion was that it was an accidental death."

Keith defended his consulting other pathologists and reading medical journals.

"This is a medical case and I'm not a doctor," he said. Dr. Page Hudson, who retired as the state's chief medical examiner, has not made a final ruling, Keith said.

Keith, who expects to announce whether the officers will face prosecution at the end of this month, said



Sheila McKellar

he is in the process of summarizing the 4,000 pages the case's investigation has produced. Obern A. Rainey, a Justice Department spokeswoman, said it was department's policy not to comment on why a case has been dropped.

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NAACP: Changing of the Guard

Chavis: Man of the people

By SONYA ROSS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The NAACP gave the Rev. Benjamin Chavis his start in the civil rights movement. Now, more than 30 years later, he is being asked to give the timeworn group its rebirth.

Chavis was chosen last Friday as the NAACP's new executive director, succeeding the retiring Benjamin Hooks. He brings varied experience to the job: civil-rights activist, theologian, environmentalist, presidential adviser, defendant in the celebrated Wilmington 10 firebombing case of the 1970s.

He is regarded as a man of the people.

"He is very alliance oriented and very people oriented," said the Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., and a close friend. "He cares about the poor and the oppressed. He'll bring that grassroots vision and concern to the NAACP."

Other leaders across the country agree Chavis' grassroots appeal will allow him to steer the organization in the direction it needs to go.

"One of the things I think will make a difference in his leadership is his being able to touch the local folks," said Chicago NAACP official Louis Myers, a close friend of Chavis.

Chavis says his top priorities



Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis, left, with NAACP chairman William F. Gibson.

for the nation's oldest civil-rights organization are bringing young blacks — particularly disadvantaged or disaffected youth — into the NAACP, and curbing a tendency to look to government for racial justice.

"The federal government, even under the Clinton administration, will not do all of what's needed until the African-American community is better organized and mobilized," Chavis said. "We have to be careful how we position the destiny of our communities on the person in the White House. It's much more realistic to put it more into the people's hands."

To show his intentions, he said, he was to be in Los Angeles this week to monitor the mood in black communities in anticipation of a verdict in the federal civil-rights trial of four white police officers accused of beating black motorist

NAME - Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. BIRTH DATE - Jan. 22, 1948 EDUCATION - B.A., University of North Carolina; Master of Divinity, Duke University Divinity School; Ph.D., theology, Howard University. EXPERIENCE - executive director, Commission for Racial Justice, United Church of Christ; author, "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States," report on environmental racism; clergy coordinator, the Rev. Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign; imprisoned 1976-1980 for Wilmington firebombing; a conviction overturned by a federal appeals court. FAMILY - married; six children.

Rodney King.

He also pledged to continue his work with community activists and gang members on building a

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Congresswoman Clayton to Address NAACP.

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS Chronicle Managing Editor

Four months ago, Eva M. Clayton made history by becoming the first woman ever elected to Congress from this state.

The Warrenton native has continued to gather momentum following her victory last November in the 1st Congressional district and is fast becoming a major player on Capitol Hill.

"My brief stay in Washington has been hectic," Clayton said this week in a telephone interview. "My experience has been more than I would have ever expected."

Clayton said that during her stay in Congress, she hopes to make a difference in the lives of North Carolinians, particularly among her constituents in the eastern part of the state. She has a seat on several key committees, including the Agriculture Committee and Small Business Committee. She also was elected president of the Democratic freshmen class, the first woman to hold such office.

Clayton will share her Congressional experience — and her experience of being a longtime member of the NAACP — when she speaks at the civil-rights group's annual Freedom Fund Gala tomorrow at 7 p.m. at the Benton Convention Center.

Although Winston-Salem is not a part of her dis-

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Eva Clayton

Farrakhan to Showcase Musical Talents at Gateways

From staff reports

Some know him as a militant, outspoken African-American of the Nation of Islam who travels the world giving speeches of emotional appeal for self-empowerment.

But there is a genteel side to the Minister Louis Farrakhan that even those close to him are unaware — that side being an accomplished classical violinist.

That other side of Farrakhan will be displayed this weekend during "Gateways: Classical Music and the Black Musician," a symposium featuring an array of nationally known African-American musicians.

A member of the Nation of Islam in Chicago confirmed this week that Farrakhan would perform at Gateways on Saturday. The member, Laweeda X, executive secretary of the editor of The Final Call newspaper, said Farrakhan would perform Saturday. Farrakhan is the publisher of the newspaper.

A spokesperson at Gateways said Farrakhan was not on the program, but declined to say whether he would make a guest performance.

As a youngster in Boston, Farrakhan was a vocalist, calypso singer and dancer and an accomplished violinist.

Farrakhan's mother had insisted that both of her sons learn a musical instrument. As a young man, he won an amateur competition on the "Ted Mack Amateur Hour." While headlining a show called "Calypso Follies" on Chicago's Rush Street in 1955, he was invited to attend the Nation of Islam's National Savior's Day Convention, which was being held at the newly purchased Muhammad's Temple No. 2.

Malcolm X was informed that the young, talented musician from Boston would be at the convention. As Elijah Muhammad, the leader of the Nation of Islam, began to teach that afternoon, Farrakhan, seated in the balcony, said to himself, "This man can't speak." An

excellent student in English himself, the minister was criticizing Muhammad's use of the language.

As these thoughts crossed Farrakhan's mind, Muhammad looked up in the balcony at him and said: "Don't pay attention to how I say it. Pay attention to what I say. Then you take it and put it into that fine language that you know."

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Louis Farrakhan

National NEWS

Jackson to Meet UNC Chancellor... JACKSON, N.C. — The Rev. Jesse Jackson Jr. visited the campus Friday to talk to the students.

Professor Back in School

RALEIGH — A white professor who was a discriminator against the historically black college said he would be back in the classroom this week after he won a \$743,000 race discrimination suit against the school.

Business Brace For King Verdict

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With verdicts drawing closer in the Rodney King beating trial, small businesses are increasingly seeking property insurance, but finding coverage more difficult to buy than it was a year ago.

The state's last-resort insurer, the Fair plan, reported a 65 percent increase in business in the first three months of this year compared with the same period a year ago, said general manager Stuart M. Wilkinson.

BUSINESS B8 CLASSIFIEDS B12 COMMUNITY NEWS A3 EDITORIALS A12 ENTERTAINMENT B9 OBITUARIES B11 RELIGION B10 SPORTS B1

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY On April 18, 1966, Bill Russell was named coach of the Boston Celtics, becoming the first black coach of an established team in professional sports.