

## ARA Worker Fired After Complaints

▲ **Employees hold second meeting with management**

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Following allegations of discrimination by employees of a cleaning and food service company, one white employee has been fired and company officials from Atlanta and Philadelphia met with local employees this week, company officials said.

Tom McCoy, an assistant manager, was fired from ARA/ESI Services shortly after employees met with officials earlier this month at the company's Winston-Salem offices on North Point Boulevard.

David Flaherty, director of public affairs at the company's Philadelphia headquarters, said McCoy had been forced to resign. He would not say why.

"It is not in keeping with personnel policy to get into why people

leave the company," he said.

McCoy did not return several messages left at his Burlington home.

About a dozen current and former employees of the international company, which employs about 670 people in Forsyth County, held a news conference on May 5 at Emmanuel Baptist Church to air their complaints against management and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, which contracts out to ARA its housekeeping chores.

Most of those at the news conference were vociferous in their complaints about the company's management. They told stories about being terminated for no reason, 3-cent-an-hour raises, insurance benefits that are too costly, being overlooked for promotions, raises that are given and then taken away a week later and racist remarks made to them.

"McCoy was one of those who was making the racial comments," said Paul Gwyn, an ARA assistant manager. "But we're still having problems" with another manager, he

said.

"I can't say we're particularly overjoyed with the meeting," said Shirley Porter, another assistant manager. "But they did promise to consider our grievances."

Gwyn said that those issues raised at the news conference were also raised at the meeting with management.

Porter said that one of the changes that resulted from the meeting was the introduction of job posting, but "we've yet to get written job descriptions with salary ranges."

The subject of benefits was also broached, but Gwyn said the employees were still waiting to hear what the company has to offer.

"One of the concerns raised," Flaherty said, "was lack of communication. We want to try to foster better communication with people." Flaherty confirmed that the company recently started posting job openings, and added that another result of their complaints was that management will meet with the employees on a monthly basis.



Eddie Easley, (left) president of Alpha Pi Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. of Winston-Salem, congratulates Tori Vaughns for her science project. Lowden Anderson (right) Chairman of the committee.

## Student Wins Sorority Science Award

Tori Vaughns gave a presentation of her science fair project, "The Most Effective Substance Used to Clean Teeth," at Les Arbres Club at the May meeting of the Alpha Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and the Alphas on May 16.

Vaughns is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Vaughns. She is a 10th-grader at North Forsyth High School and an honor student with a 3.90 grade point average. She was recently inducted into the National Honor Society and the Future Business Leaders of America. She is a

member of the track and field team at North Forsyth and qualified for the Regional Trials held in Chapel Hill on May 21.

She was a participant in two events, the 400 meters and 4 x 4 relay.

## Minister Conference Extends Deadline

The Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity is extending the deadline for its Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Seed Scholarship until June 4. Several \$1,000 scholarships are available

for 1993 high school graduates who are enrolling in a historically black college or university.

Scholarship applications can be obtained from and returned to Mt. Zion Baptist Church, located on

Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, and St. John C.M.E. Church, located on Crawford Place.

The Rev. Serenus T. Churn is scholarship chair. The Rev. Ronald P. Davis is conference president.

## Starting Out Achieving

from page A1

the only black practicing lawyer in the district and, for a while, the sole woman in the district attorney's office.

"It was a lot of experience in a very short period of time," she said.

She learned impromptu case evaluation, how to interview witnesses and came to adore talking to juries, keeping them involved through body antics and the rise and fall of her clear voice.

It was experience she'd need.

With three years left on his term, District Judge Jack Hooks was leaving to replace a retiring superior court judge. The district

Bar Association gathered to nominate three candidates for Hunt to consider.

Of 82 votes cast in the Brunswick County Courthouse on April 16, Lewis won 77.

On May 6, Lewis interviewed with the governor's general counsel, and, four days later, with the governor himself. Their meeting lasted 20 minutes. Hunt asked for her views on crime control, women and children issues. Then he asked her to become a judge.

Lewis wanted to shout. Instead, she told the governor: "I've got a grandmother who's 102. She's seen a lot of things in her life, but

this is the first time she's seen a judge in her family."

"Well, call your grandmother first, then," Hunt said.

To take the bench immediately, she was sworn in the next day with little fanfare, in blue jeans. When she ordered her robe — a \$2-inch crepe drape for \$152.40 at S&J Gospel Shop in downtown Fayetteville — she couldn't resist confiding to the salesclerks, "I am a judge!"

Although her official swearing-in was this week, Lewis took the bench last Monday.

## Fatal Illness Halts Dream

from page A1

well for the conditions he has been under — watching his son die."

Hyatt said the elder Munoz stayed with her, despite the language barrier. The doctors and nurses at Baptist made sure he was comfortable and that there were translators daily.

Betsy Silva, secretary of the Hispanic League of the Piedmont Triad and who served as the translator, said it was difficult for Ramiro Munoz to grieve with others. "He has faced a lot of anxiety because he came here without his family," she said.

Hyatt said although a trans-

lator was needed, Hyatt was able to feel a closeness to Ramiro Munoz.

"Human kindness transcends all barriers," she said. "He taught us about his culture, and his grief which is important when you have a critically ill family member. It's going to be hard saying goodbye."

Hyatt said she realizes the Munoz's are a proud people, but one evening sadness overcame Ramiro. "I saw him with his head down and asked him if he was sad and he said 'yes.' And I say to him 'It's going to be OK.' He looked up at me and said, 'Why are y'all being so good to

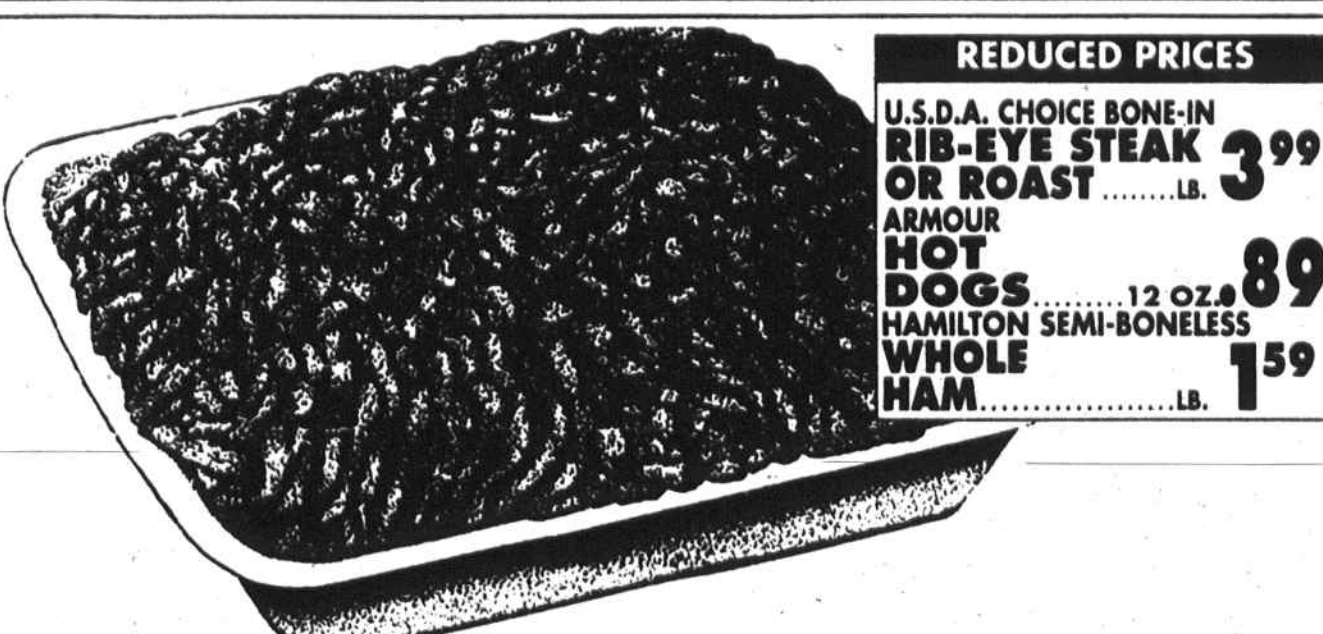
me?' Betsy said this is God's work and told him to remain humble.

"It really hasn't been hard caring for him. In the sorrow there has been a lot of joy," Hyatt said.

Ramiro Munoz wanted the funeral to take place in Mexico so his family can see his son's body for the last time.

Through a fund raiser Sunday at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, more than \$3,500 was raised to send Ramiro Munoz and his son's body back to Mexico.

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