

Black Hair-Care Now Attracts Whites from page A1

Thomas P. Polke, Johnson Products' chief financial officer, disagreed with the position that the consolidation and demise of black-owned cosmetic-care companies had begun.

"This is something that is going to benefit our customers, our community," Polke said. "This is really viewed as a milestone."

"I think to try to resurrect some black-white issue is unfair," Polke said.

J. Lance Clarke, senior vice president and general manager of Fashion Fair Cosmetics, called the Johnson Products sale "sad because you've got black businesses out there and you want them to succeed."

Fashion Fair was created by John H. Johnson, owner of Johnson Publishing Co., parent of Ebony and Jet magazines, who had tried to get major cosmetic companies to advertise in his magazines 20 years ago.

"Mr. Johnson wanted Estee Lauder and Revlon to advertise in Ebony. They said they didn't need to," Clarke said. Fashion Fair is now a major player with shelf space in Macy's, Dillard's, May Co. stores and Dayton Hudson stores.

But Earl Graves, owner of Black Enterprise magazine, said the Johnson Products sale is positive

for black business. "That means we're going to acquire as well as be acquired," he said. "It's a healthy part of being in mainstream America."

Jones found another negative aspect to black firms being acquired by white owners. Top black talent, reaching concrete and glass ceilings in corporate America, had a chance to flourish within black-owned companies. They may lose that opportunity, he said.

Moreover, black companies tend to use black suppliers, who generally will lose out in consolidations — if not specifically at Johnson Products, he said.

Jones pointed to himself as an example of someone who benefited from black ownership of businesses: He was a vice president at Johnson Products and also at Johnson Publishing and used that entrepreneurial experience to form his own company.

"It's a lost opportunity," Jones said.

Ivax chairman Phillip Frost said Johnson Products will continue to be run by its co-founder and chairwoman, Joan Johnson, and its employees will stay on.

"We've made a specific commitment to continue" the company as is, he said.



Dudley Products Inc. in Kernersville

Frost said Ivax made the Johnson Products and Flori Roberts acquisitions for "greater profitability."

"We just think that's a good area for growth both domestically and internationally," he said.

Already, Frost said, Flori Roberts is sold in South Africa, and "we think almost all of the African

continent is a market for our products."

Dudley Products Inc. of Kernersville is one of the country's largest black hair-care companies, with a sprawling cosmetology school off Interstate-40. Owner Joe Dudley Sr. could not be reached for comment.

Ex-Worker from page A1

to carry out her job responsibilities, Robinson said she backed up the woman.

"I was on the side of right," said Robinson.

It turned out to be the wrong side of Maloney, she said. Robinson, who was once president of the Winston-Salem Association of Insurance Women, said her responsibilities were taken away and given to a "younger white woman" — a friend of Maloney's.

She said she was given "back-up jobs" to fill when workers went on vacation.

"It was demeaning, stressful... I went from doing 160 hours of work a month to 25 hours," she said.

Integon didn't cut her salary, she said.

Last June, she filed a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which found no evidence that her civil rights statutes had been violated.

She then found an attorney, she said, but days before the 90-day timeframe established by the EEOC to file suit, he reneged. Robinson hurried to Greensboro and filed her handwritten brief with the U.S. District Court on the last day of the deadline.

The case is in "discovery" now — a process, she explained, where both parties reveal their witnesses and the information that will be used in court when the case comes to trial on August 14.

Rescue from page A1

home. It has eyes on a dwelling much larger than the current building. If the mission is fruitful, the structure will be able to house the squad's three rescue vehicles and will allow members to hold meetings without having to borrow space elsewhere.

Crawford explained that "Air King" refers to the hobby that was the reason for the group's formation: they were citizens band (CBers) operators. Eventually, the group realized that with its access to the airwaves they could help people. There were times when they used their own vehicles and their own gas money to answer calls, Crawford said.

Crawford, whose tenure with the squad is as long as Glenn's, said there was also a time when they made emergency calls in a used hearse.

The North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services granted the squad its charter in 1970, and in 1981 the squad adopted its current name. In 1982, it began receiving funding from the United Way of Forsyth County. Last year's operating budget was

\$36,000, Crawford said.

Last year, the squad responded to 2,500 emergency calls dispatched through 911. It hopes to respond to even more this year, if it can attract more donations and grants.

Although the squad can respond to any call anywhere, its main territory is East Winston, southeast Winston-Salem and the Happy Hill Gardens community.

"Our members have seen as much action as members in the Forsyth squad," said Glenn, referring to the Forsyth County Emergency Medical Service.

Sixteen members in the Southeast squad have been trained as emergency medical technicians.

Glenn, who is a machine operator in Thomasville, said his most memorable emergency call came the first time he resuscitated someone. To see the person's eyes open and to start breathing again, he said, "really freaked me out."

He recalled one woman who had had a heart attack while playing bingo. Glenn performed CPR on the woman, and later at the hospital she



Rescue squad volunteers share a light moment.

asked him if could he take her back to the game.

"She told me she was winning," he said, laughing.

WS chronicle June 24, 1993

"I know we don't save lives," Glenn said, "God just gives us the ability to give a person another chance."

Cops Threaten Hunt Witness from page A1

Reynolds testified in Forsyth Superior Court on Tuesday that in the fall of 1989 he was visited by two police officers who threatened to revoke his probation if he testified for Hunt.

"I was afraid of what the police might do to me," Reynolds said. "They said if I testified for Hunt, I would get my probation revoked."

The officers came to his home, Reynolds testified, and one said: "You ain't going downtown to testify are you? You know the damn nigger is guilty anyway."

Reynolds' testimony on Tuesday was opposite what he said Monday, when he testified that he had no information regarding the case and made up the sworn statements that are in an affidavit.

He told state Judge Metzger Morgan Jr. that his life and the well-being of his family would be in danger if he testified on Hunt's behalf.

Hunt, 28, is seeking a third trial in the 1984 death of Deborah B. Sykes, a 25-year-old journalist with the now-defunct Winston-Salem Sentinel. His 1985 conviction was overturned, and he was again convicted in 1990. Hunt could be granted yet a third trial based on testimony by key witnesses, including Reynolds, who were not allowed to testify at his second trial. Those witnesses, they argue, would have said that it was Johnny Gray, not Hunt, who killed Sykes.

Hunt's supporters have said that prosecutors withheld evidence that would have cleared Hunt — that he was "railroaded" because he is black

and the victim was white.

After moments of denial and refusal to answer questions pertaining to his testimony, Morgan ordered Reynolds to say what made him refute his previous statements at the last moment.

"I had a phone call, and he told me not to testify for Darryl Hunt," Reynolds said. "He said, 'SOB if you testify for Darryl Hunt, I'll kill you and your whole family.'"

Reynolds said he didn't know who called him, but said the call came during Monday's lunch break immediately before he took the witness stand that afternoon.

Reynolds, a former cellmate and confidant of Gray in 1985, sur-

prised the defense attorneys on Monday when he testified that his statements given to a private investigator were "mostly fabricated." After learning about the death threat, Morgan allowed the defense to re-question Reynolds, who then admitted that the statements were true.

Reynolds' affidavit, dated Jan. 7, 1993, said Gray had "big blood stains on his clothes." He said he criticized Gray for allowing Hunt to be charged with the murder and Gray told him "better him than me."

Reynolds on Tuesday admitted that he had discussed the Sykes murder with Gray.

"He came to my house and

there was a lot of blood on him. I asked him about the blood, and he said he got in to a fight on West End Boulevard. I said there was a girl killed on West End Boulevard," Reynolds said. "I asked him if he had anything to do with the murder of Sykes. He said 'Don't worry about it' and laughed."

Reynolds said Gray showed him a pin knife while talking about the murder, but he never admitted to killing Sykes. Sykes was raped and stabbed to death.

"He never confessed the murder to me," he said. "He might have hinted around to it, but he never came out and said he killed her."

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