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

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Kennedy Won't Seek Re-election to Legislature

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

State Rep. Annie Brown Kennedy, the first African-American woman to serve in the North Carolina Legislature, said she will not seek re-election to a sixth term.

The five-term Democrat, whose district includes East Winston, said time has come for her to step aside.

"I'm going to retire because I'm tired," she said. "I've been there long enough. . . . I've served long enough."

Kennedy, 69, said that although her term won't expire until December 1994, she is making the announcement now because she

wants to give whoever wants to run the chance to file for her seat.

The filing period begins Jan. 3 and ends later next month.

"It's been a challenging experience, but very confining," Kennedy said.

She said that when the legislature is in session, there are lots of meetings to attend and various demands on time. Kennedy serves on six committees, chairs one and is the vice chairperson of two. She has served on the Appropriations Committee since she has been in the General Assembly. She also serves on the General Statute Commission.

Kennedy said she has also grown weary

of traveling between Winston-Salem and Raleigh.

Kennedy, who works with her husband and sons in the law firm of Kennedy, Kennedy & Kennedy, was appointed to the state legislature in 1979 to fill the unexpired term of Judson DeRamus. She ran in 1980 to keep the seat, but lost. She tried again two years later, and has been the representative for the 66th District, which also includes parts of Kernersville, ever since.

Kennedy's colleagues said she will be missed.

"Anyone who has had the experience she has had . . . is going to be missed," said state

Rep. Warren C. "Pete" Oldham, the other African-American legislator from Forsyth.

Oldham, who is in his second term representing the 67th District, said that "as a new legislator you're always looking around for someone who can give you advice and show you the ropes," and it was Kennedy who he turned to as a freshman politician.

What he will miss most, he said, is "her guidance — particularly those things in the county that pertained to blacks."

Among the accomplishments she's most proudest of, she said, was co-sponsoring leg-

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Annie Brown Kennedy



Michelle Lowery, a sophomore at WSSU, looks for Afrocentric gifts for the holidays at Special Occasions on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Dept. Stores Seize Market on Afrocentric Gifts; Brisk Sales Hurt Black-Owned Businesses

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Major department stores are realizing the power of black consumers by offering more culturally diverse products, a trend that some African-American business owners feel is cutting them out of the market they built.

Eresterine Parker White, owner of African American Art in Greensboro, said that the major businesses "borrow" ideas from her and stock their shelves with similar items.

"Over the years, major department stores have not catered to (African Americans)," White said. "Now it's popular to carry African-American stuff."

While department stores like Belk's generally target cosmetics to the African-American con-

sumer, some stores such as Sears have seen tremendous success in selling African-American dolls.

Mark Testerman, Sears toy department manager, said they are going out of the toy business next year. But so far, the store has sold out of African-American rag dolls and plain dolls.

"We have sold out except for the black Barbie dolls," Testerman said. "Last year we didn't have as many, so I wanted to get a good mixture this year. There is definitely a market for it."

Kevin McClustey, store manager of Dillard's department store at Hanes Mall, said the store this year is carrying black Santas, which have been a popular item.

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Police Hunt for Suspect in West End Stabbing Death

WSJ Dec. 16, 1993 P.1
▲ Victim becomes the city's 37th homicide this year

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

City police have yet to make an arrest in the stabbing death of a Winston-Salem man found Friday lying in a pool of blood in his mother's West End apartment.

Sergio William Roane, 24, of 1654 Bridgton Road, died at Baptist Hospital where he was taken after being stabbed several times.

Roane becomes the city's 37th homicide this year.

Police Lt. A. D. Vance said officers were called to 1316 Forsyth St., Apt. A, to investigate reports of an assault on a female. When officers

arrived, they found Roane on the floor of the bathroom, Vance said.

Roane's wife, Tonya Coleman Roane, was at the residence but Roane's mother, Jennifer Long, was

We don't think it was a break in."

The apartment where Roane was found is on the ground floor of a small, four-apartment building. The brick structure is flanked by large

"We don't think it was a random crime."

at work. Tonya Roane was questioned by police but had not been charged in the crime Wednesday morning.

Police said the victim was stationed in the U.S. Navy and was visiting home in between assignments.

"We don't think it was a random crime," Capt. Linda P. Davis said.

homes and is in a predominantly white, middle-class neighborhood. The Roane home, a two-story gray structure with a large yard, is in a modern development off Highway 150.

Roane's brother-in-law, found outside the home, refused to talk to a Chronicle reporter.

Mace: To Spray or Not to Spray

▲ NAACP wants further study of effects of pepper spray

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

The pepper-spray jury remains deadlocked. Officials from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People continue to argue that Winston-Salem police officers should stop until further studies are done to ensure safety of the spray.

City Police Chief George Sweat said pepper spray is safer than using a gun to subdue a suspect.

Both sides went back and forth last week at a panel discussion put on by the Human Relations Commission at city hall on the usage of pepper mace.

Romallus Murphey, general counsel of the state NAACP, said although some studies were conducted on the effects of pepper spray, more scientific studies need to be conducted.

"Before we rush judgement on how good it is, there needs to be more scientific studies," Murphey said. "We're not in a position to say there are no long-term

effects."

Sweat remains unwavering. "Pepper spray is less harmful to the person and the police officer," he said. "It's not perfect, guns are not perfect; the baton is not perfect, but OC (pepper mace) is close and it's been safe in the majority of cases."

Brenda Rapley, a community activist who lives in Lakeside, said she supports police usage of pepper spray and carries it for her own protection.

"I'd rather see pepper spray used than a pistol," she said. "I believe it's a better alternative, but it needs to be used fairly."

Murphey said that blacks, who are more likely to be sprayed with pepper mace, would be more cooperative with police if they had more dialogue.

"The real or perceived unfairness of justice is the real problem," he said. "Black people are the most victimized by crime and the most victimized by the police

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HIMPRESSIONS:

The Blackwoman's Guide to Pampering the Blackman

The African-American man has been treated like an "abused puppy or a neglected child." Therefore, in order to maintain a good relationship with him, the African-American woman should pamper him.

That theme is the starting point of a well-intentioned but overly simplistic

book called *Himpressions: The Blackwoman's Guide to Pampering the Blackman* by Valerie B. Shaw. (Turn the Page Productions, \$14)

The 48-year-old Shaw, a divorced mother and businesswoman, has compiled a how-to book on the maintenance of relations between the black

man and the black woman. The book is, as the title suggests, a guide for the black woman. It is, however, interesting — from a male's perspective — to hear the novel ideas expounded by Shaw.

The word "himpressions," by the way, is the black woman's impressions

of the black man, which Shaw maintains has been negative since the days of slavery.

"We haven't really spoken civilly to each other since slavery, when we had only one common oppressor," Shaw writes.

"Forgetting that our men are also see BLACKWOMAN page A2

BOOK REVIEW/MARK R. MOSS

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THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY
On Dec. 18, 1865, the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery ratified.