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NASA Picks Three Blacks

Three black men were among the thirty-five candidates named by NASA to fly on space shuttles with the U.S. Astronaut Corps.

Robert A. Frosch, head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, announced Monday in Washington that the new astronauts will report for training on July first at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, and will be able to make shuttle flights by 1980.

The new group of astronauts, which will join the present corps of twenty-seven, also includes six women and one oriental in a list of twenty mission specialists who will conduct scientific and medical experiments in space.

The three blacks selected as astronauts are: Air Force Major Bluford Guidon, Jr., 35, of Dayton, Ohio, chief of aerodynamics at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Air Force Major Frederick D.

Gregory, 37, of Hampton, Va., at the Armed Services Staff College in Norfolk—chosen as shuttle pilot; and Ronald E. McNair, 27, of Marina Del Rey, Calif., a physicist with Hughes Research Laboratories. These men were selected from 8,079 applications received by NASA last year, and represent, according to Frosch, "the best of the country."

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City Leases Davis Building

All three blacks on the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen voted "No" to the proposed leasing of a building owned by former alderman Richard N. Davis, but it passed when Mayor Wayne A. Corpening cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of the measure.

The building, which will lease for \$14,000, will house Team One of the police department's neighborhood teams. The lease to their present

quarters in the Hanes Building at Ivy Avenue and Northwest Boulevard expires in eight weeks.

While criticizing the way in which the city handled the matter, Republican Jack Cavanaugh termed it an "honest mistake," but he cautioned city officials, saying: "If ever I'm put in this position again, you can expect... what you can expect."

The aldermen objected to the fact that the ownership of the building was not made public until after the matter had been passed by the finance committee. The building, located at 3112-3114 Indiana Avenue, was requested by the police officers in Team One, said City Manager Orville Powell. Lt. William Klinsing of Team One testified that the building was the best site available for the division, reminding the aldermen that their

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WSSU Chancellor Dr. H. Douglas Covington foresees many improvements in the university's curriculum, including the addition of graduate programs.

Chancellor Plans New Program At WSSU

The establishment of graduate programs at Winston-Salem State University is one of the projects that Chancellor H. Douglas Covington plans for the foreseeable future. The university is presently engaged in a self-study for its ten-year reaffirmation of its accreditation status.

"This is an appropriate time for revisions in our long-range plan," the Chancellor noted. "We plan to strengthen a number of programs within the university. We will focus on teacher education and nursing. We also plan to strengthen the business department."

A major innovation in the business department is the establishment of the Business-Industry Cluster, in which fifteen corporate representatives assist the university in curriculum planning, career placement, and career counseling. Some businessmen may serve as visiting professors at the university. This program will enlist corporate sup-

port for scholarships, placement of graduates, and equipment donations.

The extended education program will be expanded to encompass a broader student range with the offering of more night courses and courses taught off-campus. Some of the possible off-campus course offerings are business management, office administration, and business administration.

WSSU will also ask the university board of governors for permission to establish graduate programs in business, public administration, and education. These programs should be operating within four years.

The communicative arts program will expand and a closed-circuit television system is one of its major goals. The university also plans to work with the School of Arts on some media projects.

In allied health programs, the Chancellor stated that the university plans to offer degrees in such fields as exercise

At press time Rodney Sumler's suit against the city of Winston-Salem was in its fourth day before Judge Hiram Ward in U.S. Middle District Court.

Sumler, who was fired from the Winston-Salem Recreation Department in 1974 for violations of the city purchasing procedures, is suing the city for damages and reinstatement, charging that the city discriminated against him.

Sumler's dismissal stemmed from the fact that in December 1974 he purchased three televisions from Ed Kelly's,

which he says were intended as door prizes at a teen dance. The sets, however, were delivered to Our Shop and to the Dungeon Club on the day Sumler picked them up.

The city maintains that the dance had been cancelled in November, and that Sumler knew when he bought the televisions that there would be no dance. Bill Racek, an events coordinator at the M.C. Benton Convention Center, testified that the recreation department's January seventeenth leasing of the convention center had been cancelled in November, and that no alternate date had been reserved. Sumler maintains that the dance was rescheduled for February, and that it was not finally cancelled until after he purchased the televisions.

Sumler concedes that he violated the city purchasing procedure but he maintains that this was common practice among city employees. The city,

he charges, merely chose to enforce the rules in his case because they wished to be rid of him.

"Everybody breaks the city purchasing policy, because it is so stupid," commented one former recreation department employee in an interview. "If you have \$30.00 in the teen club treasury, and you want to buy two records for a dance, you can't do it. First, you have to make out a purchase order, but before you can make out a purchase order, you have to go to the store where you're going to buy the records, list the records and their prices, take the purchase order to the secretary, and then wait from a week to ten days before she gives you a check to buy the records."

Several city employees testified that they purchased items such as ceramics with their own money, and were later

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The Middle East

The Roots Of Conflict

[Editors Note!]

This is Part 1 of a four part series on the Middle Eastern Conflict.

By Sharyn Bratcher

The Arab-Israeli war is a modern conflict in terms of weaponry, urgency, and immediate issues, but its beginnings are as ancient as the Bible.

Both Jews and Muslims readily admit that the problem is essentially a family quarrel, because the two races are closely related.

"In fact," explained one Arab, "If Abraham had stuck to one woman, the whole thing might never have happened."

The modern Arabs and Israelis are quarreling over the ownership of the land of Israel, or Palestine, as it was formerly called. The Jews say that it is the historic homeland of their people, and that a covenant with God is their original deed to the land.

The transaction is recorded in the book of Genesis.

In Genesis 17:4 God appears to Abraham and tells him: "... Behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt to a father of many nations. ..."

"And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be thy God."

The Arabs agree that God gave the land to Abraham and his descendants. But WHICH descendants?

Abraham had two sons by two wives. The Jews trace their lineage back to

Isaac, son of Sarah, and the Arabs are descended from Ishmael, son of Hagar.

Abraham had married Sarah, but the couple had no children, so Sarah "took Hagar, her maid the

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BBAL Seeks City Grant



John X. Williamson

On January 31st the Black Business Action League will again present its case before the Board of Aldermen to request a \$14,000 grant for the purpose of keeping the organization going while other funding can be obtained.

"I want people to understand that I won't get a penny of that," says Johnny X. Williamson, founder of the Black Business Action League.

He explained that his position was not a salaried one. The portion of the requested city grant slated for salaries will go to secretarial help and to the organization's paid administrator Melvin Dabose. That position, Williamson noted, is one of the requirements for re-

ceiving federal funding.

Under the Community Development Corporation program, the BBAL would receive \$150,000 to set up an office with a staff of eight people. In the second year the group would be eligible for another \$250,000 to use in actual programs.

Despite the fact that Williamson receives no pay for his efforts, and that community cooperation has not been good, he continues trying to make the organization work.

"If there were anybody else in the community who would work to organize the community, I would work with them," said Williamson.

He attributed the lack of community support to the organization's lack of funds, but maintains that his group's track record is better for minority businesses than any other organization.

"We do more counseling, give out more information in the community, and hold more business seminars than anyone else," said Williamson.

He explained that the difference between the BBAL and Mid-West

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Davis Runs For Senate

Judson S. Davis, former regional campaign manager for both Senator Robert Morgan and N.C. attorney general Rufus Edmiston, announced his candidacy for the North Carolina State Senate in a press conference January 10th.

Davis, executive vice-president of R.G. Abernethy Inc., a shoe manufacturing concern, listed among his campaign issues mountain management, to prevent overdevelopment and over-



Judson Davis

commercialization in the North Carolina mountains; public education, including a lower pupil-teacher ratio, and upgrading the quality of teachers.

He also expressed his willingness to assist the Forsyth County Commissioners in property-re-evaluation problems requiring changes in the North Carolina General Statutes.

Davis is the son of

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Smith Wants Full Employment

WINSTON-SALEM -- State Senator McNeill Smith called today for full employment as the best method of controlling inflation.

"Some powerful money interests, a few ivory tower economists and Jesse Helms say it is impossible to put everybody to work in our capitalist system. I think that is a lot of bunk," Smith said.

Senator Smith filed Tuesday for the United States Senate seat currently held by Jesse Helms.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. -- Joe Felmet, a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, will try to

"I am convinced that the best way to end inflation is to have a fully employed and producing society," Smith said. "We can do anything we want to do. That includes putting all of our people to work."

Smith called for dealing with inflation by trying to bring down interest rates through decreased governmental spending and balancing the budget.

Smith said that full employment could be brought about through tax incentives and wage subsidies to business. Should

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Felmet Petitions Governor

hand Gov. Jim Hunt a petition to free the Wil-

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Post Office Plans To Shut Out Drunks

The Winston-Salem Main Post Office is considering closing its lobby from 9 p.m. until 6 a.m. because of problems with drunks and transients frequenting the premises.

Postmaster J.R. Schoolfield has sent a letter to the post office's box customers, requesting their opinion on the proposal. In the letter, Schoolfield stated that people have been sleeping in the lobby of the post office, and using it as a rest room.

The proposed changes, he continued, are in response to numerous complaints received from post office customers.

The cold weather has driven the Trade Street Mall habitués to seek warmer quarters, and the post office located just across the street from the Mall has apparently been chosen as their winter refuge.

The postmaster will finalize his decision in about one week, when the post office box customers have been given an opportunity to respond to the proposal. If the post office begins to close for the night at 9 p.m., the old men who want to get in out of the cold will probably have to turn to the Lighthouse Ministries on West Eighth Street--or the traditional standby: the county jail.



Luther Hodges, Jr.

Hodges

Health Care

Luther Hodges, Jr., Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, said in Greenville Monday that the nation has the capability to develop a health care system which would service the American family "without bankrupting the national economy."

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