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City Passes Over 'Qualified' Black

By Yvette McCullough
Staff Writer

Robert C. Bobb is "articulate, talented, well polished, top notch and absolutely outstanding" depending on which alderman you ask, but he will not be Winston-Salem's next city manager.

Bryce A. "Bill" Stuart, 39, one of four assistant city managers in Charlotte has been selected for the position of city manager for the city of Winston-Salem. Stuart, although highly regarded by his co-workers, has not had any experience as city manager.

Robert C. Bobb, the 34-year old city manager of Kalamazoo, Mich. and the only black interviewed for the city manager's position, was passed over, according to

They're Doing It in Winston-Salem?

insiders because he didn't have managerial experience outside of Kalamazoo.

However one alderman told the Chronicle that he sees the fact of Bobb being black as a main reason for his disqualification.

"Robert Bobb would have made an excellent city manager here," Alderman Larry Little told the Chronicle. "If he had been a white skin he would have

been chosen.

Alderman Jon Devries told the Chronicle that he thought Bobb was very talented and hoped he thought well of Winston-Salem. However he did state that the fact Bobb was a city manager "was not decisive" in their decision because some of the finalists were not city managers.

Devries said the aldermen were united in their

selection.

"A racist attitude still exists in this city when it comes to accepting blacks as chiefs of anything," Little continued. "He was excellently qualified but reasons given were that he had no experience outside of Kalamazoo, Mich."

Alderman Vivian Burke said she was also impressed with Bobb and that he was very professional.

"I was very pleased with the top three, they talked the kind of talk we wanted to hear," Alderman Burke said. "Bobb was articulate, well groomed and well polished," Alderman Newell also said she was very impressed

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Red Tape Irks CETA Employers

By Yvette McCullough
Staff Writer

Inconsistent regulations are making the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act program (CETA) a bigger hassle than many employers are willing to deal with, according to several agency directors, who handles CETA contracts.

Grover Teeter, local manager of the Employment Security Commission said that he thinks the program is a good one but it is very inconsistent.

"The hassle most people may have with CETA is its inconsistency, you never know month to month what's going on," Teeter said. "That's not the fault of anyone local, it's the government."

The CETA program a few weeks ago received a funding freeze which will be implemented across the country. Here in Winston-Salem, each agency will be required to cut their budget by one-third.

Only recently CETA agencies were told that job guidelines were changed where only the hardcore unemployed would receive first priority.

CETA was created to counter double-digit unemployment during 1974-75 recession. Hiring guidelines became more strict about two years ago where top priority was to be given to people on welfare or those who have been out of work for 15 to 20 weeks.

Dennis Magovern, administrator of the Reynolds Health Center, said that because of the funding freeze he has seven vacant positions he will not be able to fill.

"We have had continued difficulty with CETA," Magovern said. "This (freeze) is a superb example of how utterly futile CETA is as a reliable source for assistance."

Magovern said that he, along with the supervisors at the health center and the advisory council, have decided that CETA is no longer a dependable program and the present CETA workers they have will be transitioned in as the time come.

"We're going to get away from the CETA program because it is altogether disruptive," he said. "At one time the program was very worthwhile but now because of the red tape, the numerous requirements it is more difficult to administer the program."

Teeter said the restrictions placed on CETA employees may also hamper the program.

"Most employers would prefer not to have any strings attached, because this may be where part of the hassle

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Photo by Sentans

Ever wonder what an Aggie looks like. Here, in the living flesh, is the A&T mascot as the four-legged hero looks on during the 23-20 A&T win over N.C. Central which closed out a disappointing season for the gridders from Greensboro.

Sick Leave Firing Sparks Bias Charges

By Patrice E. Lee
Staff Writer

Former employees of a company now being sued for racial discrimination have testified that racial animosity, a 96 percent failure rate of blacks tested in Continental Can Co.'s promotion program and selective enforcement of company rules show a pattern of racial discrimination.

In a case now being argued by Atty. Annie Brown Kennedy, James A. Epps contends that he was fired from the company Oct. 25, 1973 because of his race and is seeking approximately \$37,000 in back pay.

Atty. Robert Lawing, representing Continental Can Co, contends that the company fired Epps because he failed to report his planned absence as required and not because Epps is black.

Epps is also alleging that Local 2611 of the United Steel Workers of America failed to represent him adequately in questioning his termination. The parent union, is also included in the suit.

The 39-year-old Winston-Salem man claims he was fired while he was out sick, but company officials claim that Epps has quit because he allegedly failed to notify the company of his planned absence on three consecutive

days, as required by the union contract.

According to a union rule on seniority, "an employee will lose all seniority and continuous service if such service is interrupted...if he is absent for three consecutive days without notifying the local management, unless he produces a good and sufficient cause for not notifying the local management."

Mrs. Kennedy contends that Epps was discharged on a "pretext" because he was never given the opportunity to give a good reason and because the company cited a union rule on seniority to substantiate Epps' firing.

Epps has testified that he and his supervisor, Alex Powell, had agreed on Oct. 22 that Epps should call only after he found out what treatment he would require for a stomach disorder.

Franklin Bennett, an employee of Continental Can Co. from 1969 until the plant's closing here in 1975, agreed with the contention that a co-worker's discharge could have been racially motivated.

Bennett, now a state corrections officer, testified last week that Alex Powell, a white supervisor sometimes "hollered and used profanity to black employees" and in

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Seniors Regain Hot Lunch Program

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

For a couple dozen senior citizens from Kimberly Park, the lunch they ate Monday may have been one of the best meals in their lives.

The seniors had successfully fought to regain their hot lunch program, terminated last February after a decrease in Title XX funds provided Forsyth County's Department of Social Services.

Gerald C. Thornton, social services director and the target of some of the angry phone calls and petitions the seniors sent out, was a hero Monday as he and Louise G. Wilson, ESR director, announced that \$36,000 had been found to provide 116 new slots in the senior citizen lunch program.

Thornton said the county's \$32,000 share of the money came from a special state appropriation to aid senior citizens. ESR put up the matching funds of \$4,000.

Referring to Mrs. Wilson, Thornton said, "I told Louise that if I found any

money I would give her a call." The ESR director confirmed with a nod that Thornton had kept his promise.

Nathaniel McLaughlin, ESR nutrition director, credited the fuss the meal recipients raised with the re-emergence of the hot lunches.

"If they hadn't done it, nobody would have cared about it," he said.

Housing authority deputy director David Thompkins was there to express the authority's appreciation for the program. "Mrs. Fries had come to us and asked us to provide 40 cents a meal per day for 100 people and we didn't have the funds for it," said Thompkins.

Fifty of the new slots will be available at Kimberly Park, said McLaughlin. Eleven new slots will be added at the six other senior lunch centers operated by ESR under funding from Title VII of the Older Americans Act.

Funding for the 116 new slots will last until the end of the fiscal year in June, although Thornton noted that the state program is funded for two years.



County social services director Gerald Thornton and ESR outreach worker Charles Thomas listen as Mrs. Louise

Wilson tells how hot lunches for senior citizens were restored at Kimberly Park this week.

If You Can Convince 1 Man..

Second in a Three-Part Series

By Patrice E. Lee
Staff Writer

If a family member or friend can convince commitment clerk Larry Councilman that your mental instability or drug or alcohol inebriation presents a danger to yourself or others, you could be a candidate for involuntary commitment to any of the three licensed mental health hospitals in Forsyth County.

"I just listen to facts. I want them to tell me in layman's language what he's doing or not doing that makes him a danger to himself or others. It's not a simple thing...there are safeguards built into it...I'm the first obstacle," Councilman said.

Councilman draws on his 15 years experience as a court clerk in Forsyth County and military training to "talk common sense" and determine whether the person

being discussed is just "marching to a different drummer" or if he is actually a danger to himself or others.

If the "person who has knowledge" is convincing, a custody order—a short statement of facts approximately five lines long—is issued to have you picked up for observation.

"Most of the time you can determine with one-half hour and that includes paperwork," Councilman said. Rarely does Councilman see the person suspected of being mentally unstable or a drug or alcohol inebriate.

"It's not recommended that they be brought in here. The petitioner may hold back. If they're sick they don't need to be brought down here," Councilman said.

By the time the alleged incompetent has been picked up by law enforcement officials, two to four hours have expired; ten more days may pass before a judge determines whether you are in need of continue hospitalization.

North Carolina state law requires that a hearing to examine the facts be conducted within 10 days.

Prior to the hearing, a second doctor examines the patient—the third safeguard.

"If that doctor does not concur or the person has improved so much within that span of time, he has the authority to release him," Councilman said.

Staff doctors at any of the three licensed mental health facilities in Forsyth County—Forsyth-Stokes Area Mental Health Authority, Forsyth Memorial or Mandala—must determine whether the alleged incompetent should be hospitalized by comparing the person's demeanor with the facts in a sworn petition that is only about five lines long.

"We get a body with a police officer and we get a piece of paper. That really limits our information unless we get a phone number (of the petitioner) to get more information," said Dr. Selwyn Rose, staff doctor at the mental health authority.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 588 petitions to have family members or friends involuntarily committed were filed, while only 563 were filed during fiscal year

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INSIDE

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•Why do we need an NAACP. See editorial and Chronicle Camera in Viewpoints, page 4.

•A lot of couples have gotten married lately. See your friends and relatives in Social Whirl, pages 6 and 7.

•A duo who can lay claim to being among the stage's best artists have begun their gallery right on Patterson Avenue. See Vibes, page 9.

•The Boys Club Tiny Indians and the Gladiators Boxing Club had very successful weekends in midget football and boxing, see page 13.