



BARGAIN DAYS



Miss Black America

The newly crowned Miss Black America 1980, Sharon Wright of Chicago, made the Bahamas her first official visit to a foreign country, and she said she couldn't have enjoyed it more.

Arriving in Nassau three days after she won the title, Miss Wright described the

Bahamas as "great and absolutely beautiful." The 24-year-old beauty queen, who is a communications consultant for the Illinois Bell Telephone Company, paid a courtesy call on Minister of Tourism, The Honourable Livingstone N. Coakley.

Party Will Back Burkins

By Donna Oldham
Staff Writer

The Forsyth County Democratic Party has expressed continuing support for District Court Judge candidate V. Jean Burkins. Burkins, who was fired last week from her job as assistant prosecuting attorney following an incident involving two parking tickets she received said Tuesday that she has no plans to withdraw from the judge's race, contrary to rumors circulating throughout the city.

"I am not moving my name off the ballot and I am not resigning my candidacy," she said. Joe Parrish Jr., chairman of the Forsyth County Democratic Party said that

Burkins has the party's support if she decides to remain on the ballot. "It is the philosophy that the party is larger than any candidate. Jean's situation is unfortunate, but she will receive support from the executive committee of the Forsyth County Democratic Party," Parrish said. The chairman said that

whether Burkins would remain on the ballot. "There has been some conversation about whether she will remain as a candidate. We (the party) will not enter into any removal process. We support all our candidates and we want Jean to work within the party," Parrish said. Parrish was not the only person to hear rumors or

have inquiries made about whether Burkins' name would remain on the ballot. Officials of the Forsyth County Board of Elections have had phone calls and personal questions about Burkins' candidacy. James Armentrout, chairman of the board of elections said that several "active democrats," have asked him the procedure

to remove Burkins' name from the ballot. "She would have to resign, that's the only way short of dying, to get her name off the ballot," Armentrout said. He continued, "there is no procedure that I know of, and I have investigated, to get her name off the ballot. Even if she were to

See Page 2

Officers Say Goon Squad Does Exist

By Donna Oldham
Staff Writer

Reaction to a story run in last week's Chronicle about the possibility of a vigilante squad existing in the Winston-Salem Police Department has been mostly positive, and at least 10 police officers and five sheriff's department deputies said that the whole truth still is unknown. One white veteran of the police force called the story citing an alleged plot by officers in several departments

of the WSPD to discredit prominent and out-spoken members of the black community and liberal whites "the most truth I've seen printed about the department in quite a while."

"That goon thing has been going on for a long while, and I believe it all started with affirmative action. Most of these officers that had been with the department a while, didn't want to see black officers promoted ahead of them simply because they were black. They really resented it."

"It's about time somebody found out about the mess they're trying to pull," was the response of another officer, who also cited affirmative action as the reason for several problems on the force.

"The fact that a lot of those black officers were college boys sure didn't help any," he said using Maj. Oliver Redd as an example. "He (Redd) has been with the force since 1967 and he's already a major. There are a lot of guys that have been there longer and they aren't a major."

One deputy called the article "hogwash," and said that no "self-respecting cop would get involved in anything like that. They're a good bunch of boys and I think the Chronicle was way out of line," he said.

While many policemen and deputies reacted to the article publicly and with their peers, others sought out

See Page 2



Pat Hairston answers questions during rally for Jean Burkins.

75 Rally In Support Of Burkins

More than 75 people came out in 90 degree weather after work last Thursday to show support for District Court judge candidate V. Jean Burkins.

They were forced to crowd together on a sidewalk across the street from Shiloh Baptist Church after church officials declined to open the building, which had been advertised as the rally site.

Alderman, Larry D. Little, D-North, apologized for the inconvenience and explained that pastor Dr. J. Ray Butler was out of town and wanted to be at the church for such a meeting.

The rally attracted a cross-section of people ranging from fellow black lawyers of Burkins to one man

See Page 22

3,000 Baptists To Visit Here

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

About 3,000 Baptists from across the state will gather in Winston-Salem next week for four days of meetings and worship known as the All-Baptist Assembly of the General Baptist State Convention.

The July 27-31 event, which happens every four years, is a joint meeting of the convention, its Baptist Training Union, ushers, laymen's, women's and youth conventions.

Featured speakers include GBSC president Dr. John R. Manley of Chapel Hill, Mayor Rev. Noel C. Taylor of Roanoke, Va. and Dr. T. J. Jimison, secretary of the National Baptist Convention of USA, Inc.

"There's more of a spiritual focus to the assembly than our annual business sessions," said Rev. Cureton E. Johnson, editor of the Baptist Informer's, the convention's newspaper, in a telephone interview from Baptist Headquarters in Raleigh.

Highlights of the assembly include a massive gospel concert in the Benton Convention Center Sunday, July 27, and nightly evangelistic services at Galilee Baptist Church.

Local Baptist churches are preparing to give the incoming delegates a royal welcome to Winston-Salem. Dr. J.

D. Ballard, pastor of United Metropolitan Baptist Church, said choirs have been practicing regularly for the Sunday concert and assembly ushers meet this week for a final orientation.

Revs. S. L. Hodges and Ellis Austin have been working on transportation and Revs. S. W. Mack, J. Ray Butler and Ballard are organizing the usher force. Waverly Camp Jr., the convention's director of music, is organizing the musical aspect of the assembly.

Headquarters for the assembly will be in the Benton Convention Center. However, the usher's convention will meet at New Bethel Baptist Church, the laymen's conven-

See Page 22

McGee, Ervin Get Top Jobs

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

Due to a freak turn of events, the number of black department heads in city government doubled last Thursday in the wake of protests about affirmative action.

William W. McGee, former restaurant owner, was picked out of a field of 30 by City Manager Bryce A. "Bill" Stuart to become director of the convention center/coliseum department in a move that had been expected.

What surprised everyone in city government was the sudden death of fire chief A.B. Bullard last Wednesday. Bullard suffered a heart attack while sitting in a training meeting at Beneath the Elms.

Deputy Fire Chief Lester E. Ervin, himself hospitalized undergoing surgery, was named acting fire chief. Ervin was a member of the first group of black firemen hired by the city in 1951 and one of four still with the department.

"I was still in surgery when it (Bullard's death) happened," said Ervin

Monday after being released from Medical Park Hospital. "I was just speechless. He had talked to me the night before to wish me well."

Ervin has named District Chief M.A. Gilbert to run the day-to-day operations of the department until he returns to work in 10 days. McGee began work Wednesday, administering a 28-person department and an overall budget of \$1.5 million. Under his supervision is the Benton Convention Center, the Winston-Salem Coliseum, Beneath the Elms skating rink, City concessions and Ernie Shore Field.

For the previous seven years, McGee has operated a Sambo's franchise and a Burger King franchise in Winston-Salem. Stuart said that background helped McGee get the position. "I am impressed with his ability to handle himself in the management function of a service industry."

Mrs. Bessie H. Allen, chairman of the Convention Center/Coliseum Commission which recommended McGee and one other candidate to Stuart

See Page 5



Down to the Wire

Duke Power and Southern Bell Employees try to repair a power line that was knocked down last week when a City of Winston-Salem truck blew a tire on Northwest Boulevard between Thurmond and Chatham Streets, sending the truck into the pole. The pole, which was severed in two, blocked the street for almost seven hours as work crews repaired the damage. The truck driver was not injured.

Some After 30 Years

Chestnut St. Residents Forced To Relocate

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

After 29 years of living in the 700 block of Chestnut Street, Mrs. Vivian Tate finally installed an oil stove last winter so she would not have to haul coal in her house during the cold.

"It was the first time I had really been comfortable here during the cold," she said.

However, her investment and 30 years of friendship and community spirit may go down the drain. Her house and four others between 733 and 747 Chestnut St. are slated to be demolished although no one thinks the houses can be repaired.

owner of the property, said he plans to demolish the houses in line with a city policy to clear out substandard houses in the Liberty-Patterson area. He chose not to comment further during a telephone interview.

L.F. Reed and Son real estate firm, manager of the houses, sent the tenants a notice dated June 30 asking Mrs. Tate and others to vacate by July 15.

After the intervention of Legal Aid attorney Ben Erlitz and North Ward Alderman Larry Little, a three-month extension was granted.

But Mrs. Tate asks, "Where in the world do you

See Page 17

NAACP Raps County Hiring

By Donna Oldham
Staff Writer

The Winston-Salem Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has asked the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the hiring and firing practices in county government department by department.

NAACP President Patrick Hairston and Rev. Warner Durnell, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church, appeared before the commissioners during their regular Thursday briefing session last week, and told the board that there was a lack of an effective affirmative action plan

for Forsyth County government.

"We urge you not to pass off our recommendations lightly. The level of anger and frustration by the disenfranchised members of our communities is increasing with each passing day. Black citizens of our community have had to endure for too long the practice of double standards of justice and the saga of unkept promises made by our social systems. The lid on this dissatisfaction and delusion cannot be contained much longer. What happened in Dade County, Florida, most recently, could happen here," Durnell told the board in a prepared statement.

Commission chairman See Page 2