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24 Pages This Week

DA to Contest Burkins Claim

By Donna Oldham
Staff Writer

Forsyth County District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale said this week that he will contest an attempt by former assistant DA V. Jean Burkins to collect unemployment benefits. Tisdale also said that an incident involving two unpaid traffic tickets, which lead to Ms. Burkins' dismissal in July was not the only reason that he fired her.

"I don't feel that she's qualified to draw unemployment. I might have my own philosophy and it may have nothing to do with if they'll allow it or not. Of course, it would be up to the panel," Tisdale continued. "My own philosophy is that she holds a law license and she can practice law."

Burkins, who filed on Nov. 20, two weeks after she was defeated in her bid for a District Court judgeship and four months after she was fired from her assistant DA's job, said Tuesday that she had no comment about the matter.

When asked by the Chronicle if her decision to file for unemployment benefits meant that she was planning to stay in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County area, Burkins again replied with, "I have no comment."

Burkins was fired from her position July 16, after it was discovered that she had removed two of her own cases involving unpaid parking tickets before the cases could be put on the District Court calendar and tried.

Although, at the time she was dismissed for the incident, District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale said that the

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"Pigeon Man"

A University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill student won second place in the "Rainbow in Black" photo contest sponsored by the school's African/Afro-American Studies Curriculum and Black student movement. Other photos and a story on page 11.

Problems Lead To Resignation

By Donna Oldham
Staff Writer

"I was fighting for a program with very little internal and community support," said Dorothy Graham-Wheeler of her resignation last week as director of the Urban Arts program of the Arts Council, Inc.

My resignation was a surprise because I was supposed to report back to work on Dec. 1, after being out for three months. I guess they weren't prepared for it," said Mrs. Graham-Wheeler, who added that the growing frustration with the Arts Council, its board of trustees and lack of funds for her program were also reasons for her resignation.

In a release announcing



Dorothy Graham-Wheeler

Mrs. Graham-Wheeler's resignation, Arts Council executive director Milton Rhodes stated that "Mrs. Graham-Wheeler's health problems prevent her from continuing her work with the council."

The release also stated that since Mrs. Graham-Wheeler joined the Arts Council staff in February of 1977, "she has been instrumental in continuing to

broaden the base of arts support for numerous people in the community; particularly minority and ethnic groups."

In an interview earlier in the week, Mrs. Graham-Wheeler echoed Rhodes' statements regarding her health, adding "I quit for a lot of reasons."

She said that she had been absent from her job due to a back ailment, which she described as a problem with a cervical disc and a pinched nerve in her neck.

"I am under a doctor's care and I don't have any idea when I would have been able to return to work; that is the main reason that I resigned," Mrs. Graham-Wheeler said, adding that she was also frustrated with the lack of funds that her

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A Trap!

Black Suburbanization

A disturbing pattern of resegregation is developing within many of the nation's suburbs after a decade of rapid black suburbanization, says Rutgers University Professor Thomas A. Clark, an urban planner and geographer.

Clark is the author of "Blacks in Suburbs: A National Perspective," part of a three-year project by the State University's Center for Urban Policy Research to study the movement of blacks from the cities to the suburbs.

The project is believed to be the most thorough assessment to date of the black middle-class migration to suburbia. Clark's book represents the first part of the study while a forthcoming book by project director Robert W. Lake covers race and home-buying experience. The third stage of the study looks at rental units.

According to Clark, who teaches at the State University's Livingston College in addition to his research duties, black migration to the suburbs has spawned residential patterns that resemble the housing discrimination which occurred in the central cities.

"We are now at a real turning point," Clark said. "Will we have suburban ghettos? Will we continue to recreate in the suburbs the central city patterns of racial and ethnic segregation?"

Clark explained that even though the black families moving to suburbia are predominantly middle class, many have, on a nationwide scale, been steered to the older and poorer sections of suburban communities and the older ring of suburbia that surrounds the central cities. His study found, for example, that 42 percent of all suburban black families reside in housing built before 1950.

Hence, new black suburbanites share neighborhoods with poorer blacks, often descendants of those who migrated from rural areas to work for the suburban and exurban upper class, Clark said. The white middle class, he added, tends to reside apart from its black counterpart in the kind of neighborhoods that fit the description of the ideal suburb -- one-family housing, tree-lined streets and expansive lawns.

Furthermore, the racial home-buying pattern in many of these older suburban areas is predominantly white to black, or black to black. From 1967 to 1971, for example, 65 percent of the housing sold in certain of these areas was sold to blacks. Twenty-two percent of the houses passed hands from whites to blacks, and 43 percent of the houses were purchased by blacks from blacks.

Even worse, Clark said, this trend toward resegregation has surfaced when the number of blacks residing in the suburbs, 4.6 million, is still minuscule when compared to the number of whites, 77.2 million. There are approximately 24.5 million blacks in America, of whom 13.5 million live in cities while 6.4 million reside in rural areas.

Over 90 percent of the increase in the national black suburban population between 1970 and 1978 was due to migration, Clark determined. Between 1960 and 1977, the number of suburban blacks increased by 1.9 million (71.8 percent), while the proportion of all blacks who resided in the suburbs increased by a mere 4.2 percent over the same period, his study showed.

That wide disparity initially raised several questions about the scale, pace, substance and geography of black suburbanization in the last two decades and ultimately led to the center's project. Lake and Clark began their study by asking, "Why in the mid-1970s -- after the

assumed impact of civil rights legislation proscribing discrimination in education, housing and jobs and with the documented growth of the black middle class -- had

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Black Unemployment Remains Constant

By Mari Wooden
Staff Writer

In a recent new release from the North Carolina Employment Security Commission the state's unemployment rate dropped for the third straight month. In the Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point areas, the rate remained the same at six percent.

Grover Teeter, manager of the local ESC office said the "although the black unemployment rate was higher in Winston-Salem at 8.2 percent he felt that there had been no drastic changes this year."

When asked why he felt that the rate of unemployment remains higher for blacks he stated that "in addition to the discrimination practices of some employers, black job applicants lacked much of the necessary training that would enable them to compete for many positions, he said adding that some potential employers felt uncomfortable with some of the cultural differences within the black race."

Prospects for future decline in black unemployment looked good in the area of training," Teeter stated.

NAACP To Hold Public Forum

The local branch of the NAACP will sponsor a "Public Forum" at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Monday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of this forum is for the discussion and development of an "AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTIES," so that the local branch of the NAACP might better know how to serve the community in this present decade.

Issues that concern all the citizens of the community will be addressed and strategies for confronting the problems that plague blacks will begin to be formulated at this meeting.

"With forty-seven per cent of all black youth and young adults unemployed, and with the retreat from affirmative action; with the continued deterioration of the families, and with the call for anti-busing measures in Congress; with the resurgence of racism and classism, and with the denial of justice under the law; we are in need of such a "Public Forum." Now is the time for us to redefine our dreams and goals," said NAACP president Patrick Hairston.

Now is the time for us to regroup and rediscover our resources. Now is the time to come together, to pray together, to work together for the common good! None of us can afford to play the ostrich, we can no longer act as if our problems will be solved by others or will simply go away! If possible progress is to be made for the citizens of our community, then we are the one who will have to bring it about," Hairston added.



Willette Thompson of Winston-Salem, left, is a member of the Jack Tale Players at Ferrum College. Shown with her are Jennifer Crane of McLean, Va., and Margaret Walker of Wichita, Kan.

Native Sings With Jack Tale Players

Ferrum, Va. -- Willette Thompson has been selected as a member of Ferrum College's "Jack Tale Players," a nationally recognized touring children's theatre group which presents programs based upon the folklore and music of the Blue Ridge mountain area.

Willette is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie E. Thompson of Winston-Salem, N.C. This is her third year with the 11-member drama group which will perform throughout Virginia and neighboring states this year.

The "Jack Tale Players" are part of a four-year educational theatre program at Ferrum College. Through a joint program at New York University,

during that time the group has given more than 500 performances from New York City to New Orleans to California. In 1978 they were selected by the USO (United Service Organization) to tour Veterans Administration Hospitals around the country and are now a permanent USO touring company.

Willette was one of eight members of the Jack Tale Players who toured VA hospitals in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., during the Thanksgiving holidays.

students spend one semester studying at the University, which specializes in educational theatre.

This is the "Jack Tale Players" sixth year and

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Mazie Woodruff

Not satisfied with Reynolds Health Center

By Donna Oldham
Staff Writer

The Winston-Salem Chronicle last week interviewed former Forsyth County Commissioner Mazie S. Woodruff about what she deemed the highlights and disappointments of her four years on the board.

Mrs. Woodruff, a Democrat, was defeated in her bid for a second term in last month's general election. She was the county's first and only black, female commissioner.

Mrs. Woodruff was interviewed by Donna Oldham, the Chronicle's city editor.

Chronicle--Were you pleased with your tenure as a county commissioner?

Woodruff--In a sense I was pleased with it, but I don't think we got enough done because we were constantly putting out fires left by a previous board and, of course, these are the kinds of things that the public doesn't know about.

One of the things that we did while in office, it took almost three years to get it done though, was the reevaluation of every single employee that we had in the county. We threw out the old application blanks that were there and got some new application blanks so when you applied for a job you'd have something decent to look at.



"We were constantly putting out fires"...

Right now, we're still in the process of rewriting the personnel manual. Mind you, we started this the first year we were there, and it still isn't all finished. But we did get all of the personnel reclassified. I have constantly seen in my lifetime, people who go to work for the government as a janitor or maid and they retire some 30 years hence as a maid or janitor still. So, this is one of the things I had certainly looked at real hard and we worked on it real hard. All of the commissioners worked together on that.

Of course, we had to juggle around our personnel department so that we would have a personnel department to work with. I think the county has a pretty good personnel department; we've had such a good one before then but, it's better. Beverly Murrell (a former personnel officer for the county,

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