



Someone You Should Know

Name: Cookie Thompson
Job Title: Founder, producer, choreographer and fashion commentator for T&T Productions
Hometown: Winston-Salem
Describe Yourself: A free lance satellite
Hobbies: Singing, dancing and horseback riding
Favorite Book: "Woman" by Toni Morrison
Favorite Movie: "The Untouchables of Life"
Persons admired: Billie Holiday, Ross the Boss, Jay McInerney
Career Goal: I would like to choose my modeling and travel from city to city

(photo by James Porter)

NEWS DIGEST

National, state and local news briefs compiled by Greg Brown

Journalists criticize reporter's conduct

ATLANTA -- The black reporter who disclosed Jesse Jackson's "Hymietown" remarks told the National Association of Black Journalists last week that the underlying issue in the controversy was whether he regarded himself primarily as a black or a news reporter.

"Are you a black first or a journalist first? Which side are you on?" asked Milton Coleman, a reporter for *The Washington Post*, at the opening of the association's annual convention last Thursday.

Coleman said he considered himself a black first and last, "but being black doesn't mean that I automatically accept lower professional standards when I cover blacks or whites."

Many of the journalists at the convention, however, said Coleman violated one of the basic rules of journalism when he knowingly reported remarks he knew were intended to be off the record. Coleman said he knew Jackson did not want the

remarks attributed to him when Jackson prefaced the statements by saying, "Let's talk black talk."

Former CBS News correspondent Randy Daniels, now a media consultant, said, "The bottom line is, and I think most people in the room would agree, if you hear a background quote, regardless of how offensive it is, if that statement is made off the record or on background, certain rules apply that you are duty-bound to conform to."

The convention also discussed means of increasing the number of blacks in journalism. The American Society of Newspaper Editors indicates there were 2,862 black journalists on newspaper staffs at the beginning of 1984, representing about 5.8 percent of all journalists at newspapers.

An examination of hiring practices in the journalism industry by Jay Harris, a Gannett Newspapers columnist, found that 63 percent of America's daily newspapers do not employ blacks in any capacity.

400 march to call for Reagan's ouster

CHARLOTTE -- The Southern Christian Leadership Conference ended its 27th annual convention with a march through Charlotte Saturday for "jobs, peace and freedom" by civil rights and labor groups.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, the SCLC's national president, led the march, walking arm-in-arm with Coretta Scott King, president of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and widow of the slain civil rights leader.

Joining them early in the march were Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, comedian Dick Gregory

and Walter Fauntroy, delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives from the District of Columbia. Al Kehrer and Harold McIver of the AFL-CIO, Joe Davis of the United Auto Workers union and the Rev. Joe Nettles and Carrie Graves of the SCLC also were among the estimated 400 persons marching.

The march reflected a reconciliation of sorts between labor and civil rights leaders who are divided on their degree of support for Democratic presidential nominee Walter Mondale. But all called for the defeat of President Reagan in November's general election.

Rumor of police slaying sparks violence

WAYNESBORO, Ga. -- Rumors that a black man had been beaten to death while in police custody triggered several nights of firebombings and dusk-to-dawn curfews last weekend.

Thirty-two-year-old Larry Gardner died shortly after being arrested for drug offenses and shoplifting last Friday. Authorities said Gardner became ill at the county jail and was taken immediately to the county hospital.

A local news story reported that rumors were circulating which indicated Gardner was beaten and died while in police custody. But details of a preliminary autopsy report showed Gardner died of heat exhaustion and was not a victim of police brutality.

More than 100 officers from surrounding jurisdictions were called into this city of about 6,000 persons located approximately 30 miles south of Augusta. At least 30 persons were arrested for curfew violations, carrying firearms and other charges.

Three fires were started within 15 minutes of each other on Saturday night, with minor looting, broken windows in the downtown area and several random gunshots also reported.

Lone majority-white board

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board members.

Black Schools, White Boards

"As a rule of thumb, black schools were established for black students and the majority of the faculty members were black, but they were ruled by a white board of trustees," said Ross.

In fact, WSSU, established in 1892, did not get its first black board member until 1940 and has had only two black board chairmen -- Ross and Dr. Joseph Battle. Never, during that time, have black people been in the majority on the board.

"It was jus. the times we were in," said Ross. "Whites were in charge of things then."

Why has WSSU been so slow to change? The reasons, said Ross, are varied. For one, Winston-Salem as a city is different from most others in the state where public institutions are located, he said; second, it is the only public univer-

sity in this area.

"What you have here are the Bowman Grays, the Reynolds and the Haneses," Ross said. "They (white people) could make things happen quicker. What they (the UNC Board of Governors) tried to do was put people on who had the influence."

"... It was the feeling of some that we should have people like Aurelia Gray Eller (of the Bowman Gray family) and people who have some influence and can have the funds to get things done."

Nevertheless, Ross added, WSSU should have more black members on its board.

"We should at least have a balance," Ross said. "Maybe one or two more black members. Black people know the needs of our struggle. Some white people can't identify with the black struggle."

Racial Makeup Shouldn't Matter

Alderman Vivian Burke, who serves as a member
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Chief Powell resigns

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While Powell provided "strong, decisive leadership," Womble said, not everyone in the department was "comfortable" with that leadership style.

"He upset some people, but I think that style was needed," he said.

East Ward Alderman Virginia Newell gave Powell good marks overall, but said he had difficulty dealing with some of the women aldermen who had more authority. She cited Public Safety Committee Chairman Burke and herself (she is Finance Committee chairman) as specific examples.

"I think he's a strong leader," Newell said. "When he makes a decision, I think it's going to stand. I thought that Lu Powell did a pretty good job. I have been pleased with the way he has tried to abate crime and the kind of things that have beset our community."

Newell expressed shock at Powell's resignation because he already had survived a major controversy over his decision to throw out a promotional examination which he said was racially biased against black policemen.

"I thought he would not be able to weather that storm and would have to leave then," Newell said.

The president of the local NAACP chapter, Pat Hairston, said Powell came under considerable pressure because of that decision and that the post requires a successor with similar convictions.

"I thought he was a man capable of making decisions and I think that's the kind of man we need now," Hairston said.

In other action, the board: •voted 4-3 along racial lines (Larry Little was not present when the vote was taken) to lease the Reynolds Park Golf Course to a Los Angeles-based company, American Gold Corp., for \$48,000 annually.

Black aldermen opposed the lease, saying they feared that some golf-course employees

could lose their jobs. They also contended that local companies should manage the course.

"I still am not convinced we have used all of our local resources to take care of the golf course as we ought to," Alderman Newell said.

City Manager Bryce Stuart told the aldermen that the management company would be encouraged to hire the present employees at the course and assured them that the city would provide comparable employment if some of the employees were not hired.

•instructed Planning Director Douglas Carroll to redraw the city's ward boundaries to equalize the number of voters in each ward as much as possible.

The city has annexed two areas since the wards were drawn last and Carroll recommended new boundaries before aldermanic elections next year. The South, Southwest, West and Northwest wards -- all represented by white aldermen -- are now larger than the ideal mean ward size.

Womble's Southeast ward, which is already 60 percent white, could include more white voters when the lines are redrawn.

But North Ward Alderman Little said he intends to work with the planners closely. "I can assure there will be no racial dilution of the North Ward," he said.

Little said Womble might be affected, "but I think we have that under control."

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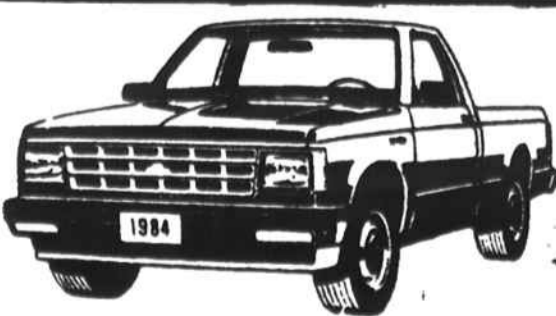
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