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SBI is investigating Hunt support group

Little: He expects to be indicted

By DAVID R. RANKIN
Chronicle Staff Writer

North Ward Alderman Larry D. Little says he expects the district attorney to "manufacture" charges against him for intimidating witnesses, among other allegations, and ultimately to indict him.

Little, private investigator Charles "Slick" Poteat and other supporters of Darryl Eugene Hunt are being investigated by the State Bureau

"Little and Poteat had contacted certain witnesses and the evidence showed that these witnesses were intimidated, threatened, told not to cooperate or told not to tell the truth."

-- Donald K. Tisdale

of Investigation at Forsyth County District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale's request.

Hunt, 20, was convicted last month of murdering *Sentinel* copy editor Deborah Brotherton Sykes on Aug. 10, 1984. Sykes was raped, sodomized and stabbed to death. Hunt was sentenced to life in prison by a jury of 11 whites and one black.

If Tisdale could convict Hunt for murder on what he

considers very weak evidence, Little said Friday, the district attorney can do the same to him.

"I anticipate that Tisdale will be able to manufacture something to get me indicted," Little said. "And I want to emphasize that it will be a trumped-up something. He's been successful in trumping up charges against Darryl."

Little said Tisdale is attempting to "intimidate people not to question his actions."

But he also said he believes he will be vindicated in the end.

Tisdale said Tuesday that the investigation was prompted by a suggestion by Superior Court Judge Preston Cornelius to look into "improper contacts by Little, Poteat and some other people." Cornelius, who presided over the Hunt trial, could not be reached for comment.

Little founded the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee, and Poteat was a private investigator hired to gather information for Hunt's defense attorneys.

Tisdale said during the Hunt trial that Little and Poteat "flashed badges" at potential witnesses and that the two misrepresented themselves as Please see page A13



At The Eye Of The Storm

Alderman Larry Little: Tisdale is attempting to intimidate those who question his actions (photo by James Parker).



Burke: An outside inquiry is possible (photo by James Parker).

Probe of police possible

By DAVID R. RANKIN
Chronicle Staff Writer

An investigation of local police's handling of the Deborah Sykes murder case has not yet begun, says Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian H. Burke, but steps are being taken that will lead to one.

Burke, who is also chairman of the aldermen's Public Safety Committee, confronted City Manager Bill Stuart during the July 1 aldermen's meeting about police conduct during

the case and asked for an investigation.

Hunt, 20, was convicted on June 14 of first-degree murder in the Aug. 10, 1984, rape and stabbing death of *Sentinel* copy editor Deborah B. Sykes.

Burke expressed concern during the aldermen's meeting that the detectives who worked on the case may have hidden or destroyed information.

"If we haven't done anything wrong, we should have nothing to hide," she said during the meeting. Please see page A13

Corporation for housing established

By BILL HAMILTON
Chronicle Staff Writer

The city's long-awaited housing corporation has been formed.

The Winston-Salem Foundation has established a private, non-profit housing corporation to facilitate loans to local low- and middle-income families in conjunction with the city.

The corporation is called the Twin City Development Corporation.

According to Ralph M. Stockton Jr., president of the Winston-Salem Foundation, "The corporation has been formed to respond to the housing needs in the inner city as identified in the CBT/Crane Associates study (which addressed Winston-Salem's economic needs.)"

The 12 financial institutions that will back the corporation have made tentative commitments to loan funds for housing totaling about \$4.5 million.

Henry M. Carter Jr., executive director of the foundation, said the board of directors has been named but has not yet met. Carter said many questions about the corporation will be unresolved until the board of directors has its first meeting.

Named to the board were James A. Hancock, James E. Humphreys Jr., Dr. Barbara K. Phillips, Ralph M. Stockton, Nick Mitchell Jr., Isaiah Tidwell and Alderman Virginia K. Newell.

Among the things the board Please see page A3



Black says he'll have to adjust to hearing a siren and not rushing off to quell a fire (photo by James Parker).

Chief Black: Sifting through pages of fond memories

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Raphael O'Hara Black once told a reporter that "it's quite an adventure to be a fireman. It's something that gets in your blood. You wouldn't want to give it up."

After 34 years of that addiction, Black, 57, better known these days as "Chief Black," has grudgingly kicked the habit.

Black joined the Winston-Salem Fire Department with seven other black men on March 1, 1951. Those eight, including present Fire Chief Lester Ervin, were the city's first black firemen.

As Black stood before family, friends, fellow employees and city staff at a retirement party at the city's central fire station on Friday, June 28, his eyes filled with tears. Fellow employees presented him with the traditional gift. But this one was extra

special -- a scrapbook of his years with the Fire Department.

Black says it will be a long time before he loses the title "Chief" -- "The only thing I don't have now is the responsibility," he

"I would say we were the sharpest company in the city. The company was made up of good men. All of us either graduated from college or had some years of college."

-- Raphael O'Hara Black

joked. The veteran firefighter sifted through more than three decades of memories recently as he sat in the family room of his home on New Walkertown Road, a police radio blaring in the background.

"It was a new experience," said Black, when asked about his first day on the job. "It was an emotional experience. There wasn't any hostility (on the part of the white firemen). It was just emotional."

Despite the odds and the long, grueling training regimen, the all-black company consisting of Black, Ervin, Willie James Carter, Robert Lindsey Grier, John Roy Thomas, John Franklin Meredith Jr., George Waddell Penn and Henry Ford perfected the technique of firefighting.

"I would say we were the sharpest company in the city," said Black. "The company was made up of good men. All of us either graduated from college or had some years of college."

Black decided to apply for the job at the urging of a friend. After graduating from Please see page A3

Chronicle will play host to '86 NNPA convention

By BILL HAMILTON
Chronicle Staff Writer

The *Chronicle* will host the June 1986 convention of the National Newspaper Publishers Association at the Winston Plaza Stouffer Hotel.

Chronicle Publisher Ernest H. Pitt said he is pleased and excited that the national organization of black publishers chose the Twin City for its next summer meeting.

"We want to make this a convention they will remember," Pitt said. "Usually, the organization does not hold its convention in small cities, so this is a coup for us. It says a lot about the *Chronicle* and the city."

The NNPA was founded in 1940 by John Sengstacke, publisher of the *Chicago Defender*, and lists 138 black Please see page A10



Rep. Annie Brown Kennedy: The bill's sponsor.

Legislation may or may not do the job

By DAVID R. RANKIN
Chronicle Staff Writer

A bill which would allow the city's aldermen to set the quotas for city contracts with minorities and women is now law. However, how effective the new law will be may depend on how the state attorney general interprets it.

Winston-Salem City Attorney Ronald G. Seeber said Monday that language in the bill requiring the aldermen to choose the "lowest responsible bidder" may render the law useless.

"With that language in there, they (the aldermen) can't do any more than they can do

now," Seeber said.

Seeber said the law's wording doesn't give the aldermen the authority they asked for.

He said he will write state Attorney General Lacy Thornburg and ask his interpretation of the clause.

In the past, the aldermen were forced by state law to choose the lowest bidder on city contracts regardless of the number of minority subcontractors or employees the low bidder would use. They requested the legislation so they could require large companies to use more minorities in city Please see page A3