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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

VOL. XII NO. 2

U.S.P.S. No. 067910

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Thursday, September 5, 1985

35 cents

30 Pages This Week



## There'll Be More .....

Despite the low turnout at Friday's meeting, Gov. Jim Martin says he plans to hold similar sessions with representatives of the state's black press in the future (photo by James Parker).

## Raleigh meeting with governor attracts four black newspapers

Some black newspapermen say they weren't aware of session

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

RALEIGH -- Representatives from only four of the state's 11 black newspapers showed for a Friday morning meeting with the governor.

The meeting, organized by Gov. Jim Martin's special assistant, Thomas Stith III, was intended to give the members of the minority press an opportunity to "discuss the concerns facing the minority community in this state," said a July 29 letter announcing the meeting.

Martin told the *Chronicle* that the publishers had asked for the meeting and that this was only one of many such sessions he intends to hold.

"They wanted to meet with me to talk about issues of jobs, unemployment and education," said Martin. "The whole purpose of it is to increase understanding and two-way communication. It was not intended for me to make a speech or to sell, but to report to them on what we are doing ... and to show that we haven't achieved all the goals we've set but we are working on them. We are making headway."

The governor's press secretary, Tim Pittman, said his office went through "great lengths" to get the names of all of the state's black publications

and invite them to the meeting. Despite Pittman's efforts, executives at three black newspapers, two of them ironically located in Raleigh and Durham, said they knew nothing about the meeting.

Attending the meeting were Bill Johnson, publisher of the *Charlotte Post*, Bernard Robinson, publisher of *The Iredell County News*, and Donald Wess, publisher of the *The Rocky Mount Sentinel*. Although *Chronicle* Publisher Ernest Pitt did not

"I know his (Martin's) position already. He can say what he has to say to me in the mail ...."

-- Thomas Jervay

attend the meeting, the newspaper sent a representative.

Most obviously missing from the Friday meeting was a representative from Raleigh's *The Carolinian*. Grover Bailey, editor of the newspaper, said he was not informed of the meeting.

"If I had known about it, I would have been there," said Bailey.

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## Burke instructs city manager: Make Hunt report a priority

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Alderman Vivian Burke reminded City Manager Bill Stuart Thursday afternoon that a citizen's report on questions raised concerning police behavior during the Darryl Hunt trial and investigation should be given a high priority.

"Mr. Stuart was concerned that the report was so detailed that it would take some time," said Burke. "But it shouldn't take all that time."

Burke presented the seven-page report to Stuart two weeks ago. The report, prepared by the Rev. Leonard Lassiter, addresses six

areas of concern with most of the questions surrounding Johnny Gray, alias Johnny McConnell, one of the state's key witnesses, and the conduct of the Winston-Salem Police Department during the investigation of Deborah Sykes' murder.

Twenty-year-old Darryl Eugene Hunt was sentenced to life in prison for the murder and rape of Sykes, a copy editor for the now-defunct *Winston-Salem Sentinel*.

Members of the black and white communities have said Hunt was railroaded on questionable evidence and the Darryl Hunt Please see page A13



Lawrence Wofford: The Justice Department is "corrupt from the top down."

## Wofford: Justice Department aims to intimidate black voters

By DAVID R. RANKIN  
Chronicle Staff Writer

A Selma, Ala., civil rights activist last week called the U.S. Justice Department "corrupt" and accused the department of trying to intimidate black voters in Alabama's five-county "black belt."

Lawrence Wofford, 36, director of the Campaign for a New South, said the Justice Department has prosecuted black leaders and harassed black voters in an attempt to dilute black political strength in five predominantly black Alabama counties.

Seven blacks and one white have been in-

dicted by federal grand juries for allegedly altering absentee ballots during the September 1984 Alabama Democratic primary. Three of the blacks have been acquitted.

Wofford said that the Justice Department's investigation was racially motivated.

"(These cases) are the single most significant thing in America," he told students while visiting Winston-Salem State University. "Twenty years ago in the black belt, there was not one black elected official. Now ... five counties where there have been Please see page A2

## New office building on the way

By DAVID R. RANKIN  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Dr. Jonathan D. Weston will own and manage a new, 6,000-square-foot building under construction on Fifth Street, in the shadow of the Winston Mutual Building.

Weston, 43, said he will lease space in the building to professional tenants, whom he expects to start moving in around late September. Weston said the building, which he has not named, has no relationship to the Winston Mutual Building.

Weston has lived in Winston-Salem for six years and for four of those years has operated his private medical practice out of the Winston Mutual Building.

Office space in East Winston is needed badly, he said.

"East Winston has little office space available," Weston said. "When I started

here (in the Winston Mutual Building), there was no other office space in East Winston. We need to attract more black professionals and black businesses to East Winston."

Even though Weston plans for the building primarily to house offices, he said businesses are welcome to rent space as well. "I have been talking to a beautician who wants to rent space," he said.

Weston plans to move his medical office into the new building when it is completed. He said that he is the first and only tenant right now, but he is actively seeking other tenants.

The building, with an estimated construction cost of between \$300,000 and \$400,000, is not a new idea, said Weston. He has been thinking about putting a Please see page A3



Jim Warren: Friends say he has moved on to Atlanta (photo by James Parker).

## WAIR's Warren resigns

ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

WAIR General Manager Jim Warren resigned late last week, said Nick Patella, general manager of WSEZ-FM, WAIR's sister station, and the owner of both radio stations.

Patella said Warren, who could not be reached for comment, left to pursue other interests.

Warren's friends say he has taken a job with a radio station in Atlanta.

Patella said Warren surprised him with a written resignation last Thursday. Patella added that, as far as he knows, Warren was under no pressure to resign.

Warren has been station manager at WAIR since January 1983. Before then, he worked at the 24-hour black-oriented station as an account executive. Before joining WAIR, Warren worked on the sales staff and as sales manager at WAAA-AM, WAIR's local competitor for black listeners.

Warren was also once the owner of a local nightclub, Diamond Jim's.

Warren's resignation comes at a time when WAIR is experimenting with a new format in an attempt to boost lagging advertising sales.

Patella said he will not hire a new general manager to replace Warren. Please see page A3

## Transit mall changes made, but opponents say they're still reserving judgment

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Despite changes in the design of a ramp for the city's proposed new \$3.6 million transit mall, the project's chief critic still won't endorse the plan.

Clerk of the United States Middle District Court Joseph P. Creekmore, who has spearheaded a campaign against the bus terminal, said he isn't sure if the change is enough.

"It's an improvement, but whether or not it will be sufficient enough to alleviate the problem is yet to be determined," said Creekmore. "There are still other factors involved."

The city plans to locate the sheltered bus terminal at the corner of Third and Main streets in front of the Federal Building and across the street from the Wachovia Building. The heated terminal, which would accommodate 350 riders, would be placed on the upper level of what is now a small parking deck. Buses would enter the terminal from Main Street and exit down a ramp to Church Street, which is 14 feet lower than Main.

The ramp, which was originally located about five feet from the entrance and exit of the Federal Building's underground parking garage, is the cause of at least part of the controversy. Traffic coming in and out of the parking garage, combined with buses from the

ramp and regular street traffic would create a hazard, contends Creekmore.

Two weeks ago, the plan was changed so that, instead of the traffic from the bus terminal flowing into the same lane as the cars using the underground garage, the ramp would be placed over the first lane of traffic and flow into the middle lane of the three-lane one-way street.

The change is expected to cost approximately \$200,000, said James Ritchey, general manager of the Winston-Salem Transit Authority.

Ritchey said he has written letters to the people who wrote to the Please see page A13