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Head To Head
The Rams went head to head with the Golden Bulls and came out ahead.

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32 Pages This Week

A Passion For Fashion



Dozens of Ebony Fashion Fair models razzed and dazzled the audience during Friday night's Body Language show. The 28th annual Ebony Fashion Fair was sponsored by the Urban League Guild, with proceeds benefiting the guild's scholarship fund. For more on the Fashion Fair, see Page A6 (photo by James Parker).

V.K. Newell: Fashionably victorious

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
 Chronicle Staff Writer

Resplendent in a red suede outfit, Alderman Virginia K. Newell celebrated her re-election Tuesday with a small group of supporters at Reynolds Health Center Cafeteria. There is a new way to spell victory, she said, and it is R-E-D.

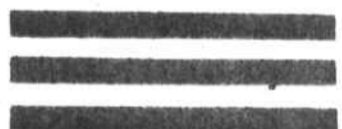
"Red spells victory," Mrs. Newell said, smiling from ear to ear. "My constituents like for me to wear red, so I'm going to wear it."

As for her landslide victory over Republican candidate Richard L. Rowell, Mrs. Newell said she is pleased to learn of the impact she has made in the East Ward.

"I'm really overjoyed to see my constituents come out," she said. "It makes me realize I have a lot of friends in the East Ward. I see it as a mandate to keep doing what I'm doing. The vote shows that we in the East Ward are about the business of doing something."

Although she defeated Rowell 842 votes to 33,

Election Year '85



Mrs. Newell praised her opponent nevertheless.

"My opponent is a very fine young man with a lot of good ideas," she said.

By contrast, Rowell, 39, was, at best, disappointed with the way the ward voted.

"To be quite honest, I think the East Ward has condemned itself to apartment living, no home ownership and a sort of ghetto existence," Rowell said upon learning of Mrs. Newell's victory. "What can I say? That community lacks a cohesive force, and it has done itself another losing job."

Rowell placed part of the blame for his loss on what he says is apparent community apathy.

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Black businesses: Not that rosy

Special To The Chronicle

Although a Census Bureau report released two weeks ago documented a 47 percent increase in the number of black-owned firms between 1977 and 1982, a closer look at the report and a detailed analysis of its findings reveal far less to cheer about, according to the Joint Center for Political Studies.

The condition of most black businesses actually deteriorated in that period, a recent study by the Center shows.

The study, "Recent Changes in Black-Owned Businesses," finds that the average annual receipts of black-owned firms fell from \$37,392 in 1977 to \$36,685 in 1982. When inflation is taken into account, the decline is actually from \$37,000 to \$23,000 in constant 1977 dollars.

These conclusions, contained in the study conducted by Joint Center researchers Robert Suggs and William O'Hare, sharply contrast to the conclusions reached in the Census Bureau report. The disagreement apparently lies in the standards used to gauge progress.

While conceding that increases in the number of black-owned businesses are important, Suggs and O'Hare contend that "what really is important is whether those businesses are making any money, and whether they are making more now than they were several years ago."

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Griggs: DA creating a 'smoke screen'

By ROBIN ADAMS
 Chronicle Assistant Editor

The black community should consider the source and timing of an announcement of new evidence in the Deborah B. Sykes murder case before believing it, said a member of the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee this week.

"This is an attempt to camouflage the inept way the original and follow-up investigations have been handled," said Khalid Abdul-Fattah Griggs. "(District Attorney Donald K.) Tisdale is trying to deflect attention away from himself and whatever may be the findings of the investigation the city manager is supposed to be filing."

City Manager Bill Stuart is conducting an investigation of the police's handling of the Sykes case at the request of Alderman Vivian H. Burke.

Hunt, 20, was convicted last summer for the rape and murder of Mrs. Sykes, a copy editor for the Winston-Salem *Sentinel*.

During a press conference last Wednesday, Tisdale announced that a State Bureau of Investigation report revealed no criminal wrongdoing by Alderman Larry D. Little, Hunt defense attorneys Gordon Jenkins and S. Mark Rabil, or private investigator Charles "Slick" Poteat.

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Democrats flex their muscles in city's aldermanic elections

Newcomer Hairston, incumbent Newell register big wins

By ROBIN ADAMS
 Chronicle Assistant Editor

Related story below left.

Three Democratic incumbents and a pair of newcomers cruised to wins in Tuesday's five contested races for city alderman, ensuring the board of at least four more years of 50-percent black representation and evening its male-female makeup.

East Ward Alderman Virginia K. Newell easily won her third term over Republican challenger Richard L. Rowell, 842-33. But the most decisive race was in the North Ward, where Alderman Larry D. Little did not run for re-election and NAACP President Patrick T. Hairston trounced Republican opponent James L. Knox 1,172-274.

In the South Ward, Democratic candidate Frank L. Frye, who beat incumbent Ernestine Wilson in a run-off primary, edged Republican opponent Gregory B. Fountaine 989-703 in the day's closest race.

Hairston and Frye will be the board's two newcomers, joining five other Democrats and the lone Republican board member, West Ward Alderman Robert S. Northington Jr.

In the Northwest Ward, Alderman Martha S. Wood netted the largest voter turnout, beating Republican opponent Brian C. Miller, 1,421-823.

In the Southwest Ward, Alderman Lynne Harpe beat Republican Ronald W. Pegrarn 1,060-662.

Mayor Wayne A. Corpening, who ran unopposed for his third term, garnered 6,819 votes, according to unofficial tallies. Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian H. Burke, who beat opponent Victor Johnson Jr. in a heated primary, ran unopposed, as did Southeast Ward Alderman Larry W. Womble and West Ward Alderman Northington.

Approximately 12.2 percent -- or only 9,503 of the city's 78,058 registered voters -- cast ballots in the election. The largest turnout was in the Northwest Ward, where 19.9 percent of the registered voters turned out; the smallest in the West Ward, where the unopposed Northington attracted 4.9 percent of the ward's electorate to the polls for his 561 votes.

The lack of a mayoral race combined with an off-year election, said observers, caused the lowest turnout by far for an aldermanic election in the city's history.

"In races where there is no fight or contest, people don't get aroused," said H.B. Goodson, former chairman of the Board of Elections. "Any election

with less than 80 percent is a poor turnout."

Although Mrs. Newell had run the campaign of a candidate in trouble, she had no trouble beating Rowell, a political newcomer. Mrs. Newell swept all of the ward's five precincts as approximately 11.3 percent of the East Ward's registered voters went to the polls.

"I'm just really overjoyed," said Mrs. Newell. "To know that my constituents would give me the vote made me feel real good."

Mrs. Newell didn't make the customary trip to the Board of Elections to await the results. Instead, she stayed home and later came to Reynolds Health Center Cafeteria, where a few of her friends and



Patrick Hairston



Virginia Newell

(photos by James Parker)

campaign workers gathered to celebrate her win.

Although Mrs. Newell had said she was worried about her opponent, she seemed as confident as the blood-red, ultra-suede suit and blouse she wore.

"The color red spells victory," said Mrs. Newell. "Most of my constituents like for me to wear red."

Her win, said Mrs. Newell, means that she can continue working on her agenda.

"Housing, unemployment, underemployment, jobs, crime and investments, that's my agenda," said Mrs. Newell. "The people have sent me back."

Rowell blamed low voter turnout for his loss.

"Black voters have taken a step to go 100 years backwards," said Rowell. "The people voted for the party instead of the man."

Meanwhile, Hairston quietly celebrated finally being able to vote on issues and concerns he has fought for and against for years.

"The people wanted a chosen leader and they picked me," said Hairston, whose sleepy eyes showed signs of a long day's work.

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Tisdale: He's got some questions, too

By ROBIN ADAMS
 Chronicle Assistant Editor

Related editorial on A4.

District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale said Monday that he has as many unanswered questions about the Darryl Hunt case as anyone else.

"There were a lot of questions left unanswered," said Tisdale in a rare interview with the *Chronicle* in his office. "In fact, during the trial I conceded that. If I can answer some things that weren't answered, I want to."

That, said Tisdale, who in 1983 refused to talk with *Chronicle* reporters for nearly a full year, is the main reason he has asked the police department to reopen the Deborah B. Sykes murder investigation. Hunt, a 20-year-old black man, was found guilty of the Aug. 10, 1984, rape and murder of Mrs. Sykes, a 26-year-old white copy editor for the now-defunct Winston-Salem *Sentinel*, and sentenced to life in prison last summer.

Hunt's friends and supporters maintain that he was railroaded by shoddy evidence and shoddy, unethical police work, in response to public pressure to arrest someone -- anyone -- for Mrs. Sykes' heavily publicized murder.

Last week, Tisdale revealed that he has given

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Tisdale: He is not a racist (photo by James Parker).