



Hai-Yah!

The Black Political Awareness League is sponsoring several Hanes Middle School students in martial arts tests at Wake Forest University. Above, the club's president, Naomi Jones, presents a check to students, left to right, Bryant Washington, Lasha Smith, Coach Cal Stamp, Trina Reid, Mrs. Jones, Zoi Wiley and Brian Rowdy (photo by James Parker).

Marshall elected

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as having a head and no body and that's not the case."

Marshall also plans to work more closely with church organizations, noting that "the church is just as important to our organization now as it was when the NAACP was started." He says he sees the church as the cornerstone of the NAACP's success.

"In years past -- at least the last two or three decades -- civil rights organizations like the NAACP have not been as involved with the church as they should have been," Marshall said. "The church is the basis of black progress. We have to involve the church more in our programs."

Marshall, who worked with Hairston for many years in the NAACP, said he anticipates a smooth transition from one administration to the next. William Tatum, the new vice president, agrees.

"I don't foresee any problems in making the

transition to a new president," says Tatum, who was second vice president under Hairston. "You can't easily replace a man of Pat's stature, but we're getting a man just as dedicated and capable. Mr. Marshall is equally as capable as Mr. Hairston and I plan to be very supportive in order to make the NAACP more viable and more visible."

At the Jan. 12 NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner, Hairston's resignation becomes effective and the torch of the local organization's presidency will officially be passed to Marshall.

Marshall said he is not so much concerned about duplicating Hairston's NAACP achievements as he is about "maintaining and carrying on" the NAACP's work.

The executive board also elected Rodney J. Sumler as NAACP second vice president Tuesday night.

McCoy assumes new post

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black man, was convicted of the Sykes murder and is currently serving a life sentence. Hunt's arrest, and subsequent prosecution and conviction, have led to a groundswell of support demanding a new trial for Hunt and the reopening of the investigation.

"I will be reviewing the case strictly from an investigative standpoint," McCoy said. The police department is conducting its own internal review of the handling of the case to see if misconduct charges or a reprimand will come to any officers who performed the original investigation, he said.

"I am looking into the crime itself," McCoy said. "This is a lengthy case. I'm in the process of thoroughly analyzing the case and then we will outline our course of action."

He said he has contacted the Rev. John Mendez, co-chairman of the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee, and informed Mendez of his assignment to the Sykes case.

"I informed him that my door is open for any information he or anyone in the community could provide that would assist the investigation," McCoy said. "I requested that, if he had any information, to please let me know."

"The Deborah Sykes case is extremely important, as all other homicides are -- no more, no less," McCoy said. "We do not put one murder above any other. All of the investigations require the department's best effort."

Aldermen, church leaders, and a city manager's report have concluded that, if the Sykes investigation represents the police department's best effort, then the city is in deep trouble. Into this scenario steps McCoy.

He graduated with honors from Winston-Salem State University in 1974 with a major in sociology and a minor in political science. He says he interned at the police department during his senior year at WSSU and accepted a position there four days after graduation.

McCoy was a patrol officer for four years before being promoted to sergeant in 1978. He was then assigned to the Internal Affairs Division, where he processed complaints and handled staff in-

spections. McCoy also served in the Career Development Center of the department as a training specialist for new recruits before becoming a field superintendent overseeing a squad of eight in the Field Services Division.

His most recent promotion came in March, when he was placed in charge of the Administrative Section of the Investigative Services Bureau. The Administrative Section functions as a support group for the criminal and special investiga-

"I have to gather and analyze information and establish the validity of the information, as well as the credibility of the source," McCoy said. "Through my training and experience, it's clear that you not only gather information which shows a person's guilt, but also that which shows his innocence."

The Crimes Against Persons section handles homicides, rapes, aggravated assaults and armed robberies. Lt. L.A. Stokely is McCoy's immediate supervisor. McCoy replaces Sgt. F.E.



Sgt. M.V. McCoy: He's well-prepared for the job (photo by James Parker).

tions divisions, reviewing and processing cases and reports.

McCoy served three years (1980, '81 and '82) as president of the North State Law Enforcement Officers Association, a statewide organization of predominantly black law enforcement officers. He has also registered superior grades in all of his evaluations since joining the department.

Masten said McCoy will serve as the department's chief homicide investigator. His responsibilities entail the overall supervision of murder investigations, including identifying witnesses and potential witnesses, assisting in evidence collection, advising and assisting detectives in follow-up investigations, identifying and locating criminals, and gathering information for a successful prosecution.

Those very areas were identified in the city manager's report as weaknesses in the police's investigation of the Sykes case.

Mason, who held the position during the Sykes investigation.

Although some concern has been expressed over McCoy's lack of experience, he says he is ready.

"My formal education and my law enforcement training have prepared me," McCoy said. "I can't say I'm surprised. I am confident in my ability. I'm ready for this position."

"My responsibilities are different but I hope to have a great deal of contact with witnesses and victims."

"No one has come to me and told me to spend more time with my men," McCoy added. "I'll do it because it's my job to supervise my personnel."

McCoy will supervise a squad of six detectives.

"I hope I was chosen because my skills and abilities were recognized," he said. "I believe the Chief (Assistant Chief O.D. Redd) had confidence that I could do the job."

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