

Man and Woman of the Year

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Motion for Joël

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Shuttle casualty

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A passion for history

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PHOTOS FROM '85



Clockwise from the top right, photos by James Parker, James Parker, Brian Branch-Piles, Winston-Salem Journal and James Parker.



Clockwise from the top right, Darryl Hunt supporters hold a sunrise vigil, Bishop Desmond Tutu spreads the gospel against apartheid, A&T and Howard trade threats on the hardwood, Darryl Hunt arrives in court, Mary Denning struggles with Alzheimer's disease and Tina Turner makes a controversial comeback.

The top story of last year? The Darryl Hunt murder case, hands down

By ALLEN H. JOHNSON
Chronicle Executive Editor

AN UNEMPLOYED high school dropout who spent most of the year in jail had the biggest local impact of any single man during 1985.

Darryl Eugene Hunt, 20, was convicted in June of raping and murdering *Sentinel* copy editor Deborah B. Sykes. However, long before the controversial trial and long after it, the Hunt case has cast a lingering shadow.

Swelling numbers of Hunt supporters believe he was convicted on flimsy evidence. A white eyewitness who says Hunt was not the man he saw near the scene of the crime never was called to testify.

Other eyewitness accounts conflict. The state's star witness, Johnny Gray (alias McConnell), was in jail himself on robbery charges when he testified. Both the prosecution and the defense

have questioned his honesty and credibility. No physical evidence links Hunt to the murder.

The repercussions continue even into 1986. An investigation called for last fall by Alderman Vivian H. Burke and conducted by the city manager revealed procedural violations by the police department.

The case has been reopened, police personnel have been shuffled, and an internal investigation of the police's conduct continues. Rumors say "60 Minutes" may conduct an investigation of its own.

While Hunt awaits a request for an appeal, it seems certain that his case will be a major news story in 1986, too.

Other developments in 1985 that significantly affected the black community:

- Dr. Cleon F. Thompson brought his relaxed demeanor and sometimes startling sense of humor to Winston-Salem State University. So far the successor to Dr. H. Douglas Covington has been well received by faculty and staff at WSSU, many of whom considered Covington stuffy and unapproachable.

- The new Winston Lake YMCA opened, with Norman Joyner as director. Former Director Richard Glover, who had been asked to resign, filed a lawsuit against his fellow employees, later settling out of court for an undisclosed amount.

- WAAA-AM, one of two black-owned radio stations in the Twin City, faced financial woes and appealed to the community for help.

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