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32 Pages This Week

She spoke with a pen

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

AS SHE CHATTED informally with students, fans and friends at a reception held in her honor, the small black woman with braids in her hair appeared more of a next-door neighbor than a famous author. And more a natural-born talker than a childhood stutterer.

In fact, Sonia Sanchez, the author of 12 books, says she began writing because she was self-conscious about her speech as a youngster.

"As a little girl, I wrote because I was a stutterer," recalls Ms. Sanchez, who was in town last week as part of Winston-Salem State University's Lyceum Series. "I wrote so that I could explain things more clearly than I could say them. At first, it was more of a necessity than an interest, but as time went on, I developed a deep interest in expressing myself with words."

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Writer Sonia Sanchez last Thursday during a talk at WSSU. Her childhood stuttering problem spurred her to write (photo by James Parker).

Police chief reprimanded after internal investigation

Masten among police employees disciplined in the wake of the investigation, reports say

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Police Chief Joseph E. Masten has been disciplined in the wake of an internal investigation, published reports said Wednesday.

City personnel records indicate that three other officers have also been disciplined for their conduct during the department's handling of the Deborah B. Sykes murder case.

City Manager Bryce A. Stuart announced Monday that the investigation had been completed and that actions taken included demotions and suspensions and involved personnel in the police department's communications and detective divisions.

Stuart also said Masten has called in the State Bureau of Investigation to help reinvestigate the murder. SBI agents are already working with department detectives, he said.

According to a story published in Wednesday morning's *Winston-Salem Journal* and attributed to anonymous sources, Masten has been reprimanded. State statutes do not include reprimands of public employees as public information.

When asked about the story, Masten said Wednesday afternoon, "I cannot comment on disciplinary actions."

In the other actions, Officer J.I. Daulton, the chief investigator in the Sykes case, has been taken off the force and given a civilian job as a communications operator, city records indicate. Daulton had been reassigned in December to the police fraud squad as part of a departmental shake-up in its murder investigations unit. His demotion becomes effective March 3.

If he accepts the new position, Daulton's

pay will fall from \$21,403 yearly to \$17,566.

Sgt. F.E. Mason, who served as Daulton's superior during the Sykes investigation, was suspended, effective Feb.

25, for five days without pay, city records indicate. Mason is the former head of the department's Crimes Against Persons Section and was responsible for overseeing Daulton's handling of the Sykes investigation.

Mason voluntarily transferred to the Patrol Division in December.

Lt. Jerry K. Raker, Mason's superior during the Sykes investigation, was suspended, effective Feb. 25, for seven working days. Raker was responsible for overseeing the Crimes Against Persons Section during the Sykes investigation.

He was transferred to the warrants squad in December.

Daulton, Mason and Raker were not at work on Wednesday and could not be reached for comment.

Mrs. Sykes was raped and murdered on Aug. 10, 1984. Darryl E. Hunt, a 20-year-old black man, was convicted of the crime last June and is currently serving a life sentence.

Hunt's supporters say he was convicted on weak evidence to quell public pressure on the police to solve the crime.

A city manager's review of the police department's handling of the Sykes investigation, released in November, said the department made numerous mistakes in the course of its investigation. City Manager Stuart told the department to conduct the internal investigation following the report.

Masten was a major in charge of the investigation. Please see page A14



Photo by James Parker
Alderman Vivian H. Burke: Can the police police themselves?

Police: They won't charge DA

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale, saying he is "going to take the heat off the police department," asked Police Chief Joseph E. Masten Friday to cite him for aiding and abetting a drunk driver. But Masten said Monday that he will not issue the ticket.

Tisdale asked Masten to take the action after learning that police attempted to charge him two weeks ago. The clerk of court on duty at the time did not issue the warrant, saying the police lacked sufficient evidence.

Tisdale's request stems from a Dec. 19 accident in which Tisdale was a passenger

in his car and its driver, Vicki Matthews Oakley, was charged with driving while impaired. No charges were filed at that time against Tisdale.

Aiding and abetting DWI is called "allowing" DWI in police terminology. According to police warrants, allowing is "unlawfully and willfully allowing another person to operate a vehicle while subject to an impairing substance."

Assistant Police Chief George L. Sweat said Tuesday that Officer Brenda S. Setzer, who wrote Oakley's ticket, tried to obtain a warrant for Tisdale on the night of the accident, and again two weeks ago. On each occasion, she was turned down by the clerk on duty, he said.

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Police Chief Joseph E. Masten (photo by James Parker).

Firm donates house to shelter the homeless

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

A private, non-profit housing organization announced Monday that an area advertising company has donated a house to help the group shelter the city's homeless.

Naegele Outdoor Advertising Co. donated the three-bedroom house on 1322 Cunningham St. to People Are Treated Human Inc. (PATH), a community-based organization serving the needy.

Naegele General Manager James W.

Fisher II said the house was being given to PATH in exchange for Naegele's right to operate a billboard in the rear of the property. PATH President Rodney J. Sumler said the house will be used as an emergency shelter for women and their families.

Sumler appeared at a Monday press conference in the house's front yard to accept the house and a \$4,000 check from Fisher to help renovate the building. Naegele has also agreed to pay the monthly utility bills.

"We're really appreciative of this

contribution to the community," Sumler said. "We hope other corporations will follow the lead of Naegele in trying to make positive contributions to our community. We hope others will step forward to help us help homeless people. We will need furniture and beds and other items to furnish the facility. With all the cutbacks in government dollars, more efforts like this are needed to solve some of the social problems we're faced with today."

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YOUNG SCHOLARS Natasha Gambrell, left, Bryant Fowler and Victor Bethea walked a mile in their heroes' shoes during a Black History Month class last week at Easton Elementary School. Story in About Town on A6 (photo by James Parker).

Black Muslims and Jews form rare partnership to run low-income housing

By SUZANNE WETLAUFER
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON - Four months ago, Don Muhammad, a black Muslim minister, got a call from an official at City Hall. The question: Would he consider going into business with a man - a Jewish man - who needed his help?

"I'm not concerned whether or not he's Jewish," Muhammad told the official. "Is he honest?"

The answer was yes, and soon afterward Muhammad and real estate developer Edwin D. Abrams formed an alliance to devise a plan for managing 220 units of low-income housing in Roxbury, a predominantly black neighborhood in Boston.

Renovating Relationships

If the Muhammad-Abrams plan is approved by a Boston housing court judge, the men intend to buy, repair and renovate the apartments, clear the hallways of drug users and vandals, and eventually give tenants ownership of the apartments.

The units are currently in receivership.

Both men and city officials believe the alliance also will improve the relationship between blacks and Jews - a relationship wounded in 1984 when Louis Farrakhan, the fiery leader of the Nation of Islam, made comments some considered to be anti-Semitic.

An Good Example

"I think these two men can be a good example for all of us," says Benjamin Thompson, the City Hall equal rights adviser who brought Muhammad and Abrams together.

"We can do anything in this city if we do not allow stereotypical perceptions of people to stop us from working together for the common good."

Muhammad and Abrams prefer to downplay the novelty of their joint enterprise and instead focus on what it will mean for about 800 poor Boston blacks - a decent, safe place to live and a sense of

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