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30 Pages This Week

"The object of Fair Housing Month every April is to use the time for rededication and re-acceptance. It is a time to make the promises a reality."
-- Ernest Fulton

Fair Housing Month: Gains and challenges

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

■ Related editorial on A4.

The Twin City kicked off a month of fair housing activities Tuesday afternoon with a downtown ceremony.

Mayor Wayne A. Corpening opened the program by reading a proclamation officially declaring the month of April Fair Housing Month in Winston-Salem. The proclamation challenged citizens to "rededicate themselves to the freedom of choice" that the Fair Housing Act guarantees.

The ceremony's keynote speaker, Ernest Fulton, area director for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, told the lunchtime crowd at Winston Square Park that each Winston-Salem resident should make a special effort during the month to help fulfill the promises of the Fair Housing Act.

"The object of Fair Housing Month every April is to use the time for rededication and re-acceptance," said Fulton, who works out of the Greensboro HUD office. "It is a time to make the promises a reality. The law offers all Americans, regardless of race, creed or sex, a free choice to choose their living places."

Fulton said he is "particularly proud" of Winston-Salem's efforts to fulfill the housing guarantees that the 18-year-old act makes. The city's Human Relations Commission and its Fair Housing Committee have scheduled a special activity for each week of this month.

Though gains have been made in fair housing, Fulton noted, discrimination is still a concern.

"As a country, we have come a long way over the last 18 years," he said. "(But) discrimination Please see page A3



REACHING FOR A STAR

Vocalist William Bess' performance of "For You" earned him a first-place finish in last week's "Showcase '86" talent competition and a chance to audition for television's "Star Search." A story and more photos appear on A6 (photo by James Parker).

Police making progress on reopened murder cases

Six of the nine new investigations involve unsolved murders of blacks

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Local police are making progress toward the solution of nine murder cases reopened as a result of a December departmental shake-up, said Sgt. M.V. McCoy, head of the Crimes Against Persons Section, Thursday.

"We're following up on fresh leads in almost all of the cases," McCoy said. "We haven't solved one yet, but we've uncovered some things."

The reopening of the unsolved murder cases dating back to 1980, six of them involving black victims, coincided with McCoy's appointment by Police Chief Joseph E. Masten, who made the moves following a city manager's report that criticized the manner in which a much-publicized murder was investigated.

The report, released by City Manager Bryce A. Stuart in November, cited several deficiencies in the department's handling in the Deborah B. Sykes case. Mrs. Sykes was raped and stabbed to death in August 1984.

Masten reopened the Sykes case, despite the conviction last June of 21-year-old Darryl E. Hunt for Mrs. Sykes' murder.

Hunt, who was sentenced to life imprisonment, is seeking a new trial.

The other cases were reopened, Masten said, to assure the public that the department is committed to quality police protection. He also increased from six to eight the number of detectives in the murder investigation unit.

Some black leaders have said that the high number of unsolved murders involving black victims shows that the department does not investigate crimes in the black community as vigorously as those involving white victims.

McCoy would not say whether the new leads developed indicate a mismanagement of the office before he got there. He replaced Sgt. F.E. Mason, who resigned his post in December but was disciplined in late February along with Detective J.I. Daulton, Lt. Jerry K. Raker and Masten as a result of an internal investigation of the department's conduct during the Sykes investigation.

Daulton, the chief investigator in the case, lost his police certificate and was demoted to a civilian communications job.

"I'm optimistic about solving some, and not so optimistic about others. It's a slow process."

SGT. M.V. MCCOY

"I'm trying to improve the organization and controls in murder-case management," McCoy said. "We have increased the supervision, and I take a more active part in the investigations."

He said cases are now assigned to him, whereas before they were assigned to the detectives.

"They now report to me," he said. "I am responsible for handling the cases." He said the department has developed a case-management handbook and training guide for supervisors and investigators.

Four murders have been committed since he took over in December, two involving black victims and two involving white victims, McCoy said. Arrests have been made in three of the cases. He said he has spent much of his time on the recent cases.

The murder of Blanch Ragins Bryson, a Please see page A14

Johnson: Burke does not impress him

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

■ Related story below.

Victor Johnson Jr., who unsuccessfully challenged Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian H. Burke last fall, is now challenging her husband.

"How can anybody that can't get a job for himself expect to get jobs for others?" Johnson said of state House candidate Logan Burke, who currently does not work. "He's been unemployed for two years."

Burke will face fellow Democrat John D. Clark in the May 6 primary. "This seat was not made for

somebody to earn his livelihood," Johnson added. "A man that doesn't have anything will go for anything. We must be careful when we put peo-



ple in politics. I'll have to look at this thing very closely."

While Johnson said he is not campaigning to elect Clark, the lone white candidate in both primaries, he said

he is likely to support him.

The 67th District is a predominantly black, single-member district created in 1984 to increase black representation in the state House. Incumbent C.B. Hauser has decided not to seek re-election.

"He is a candidate worthy of support," Johnson said of Clark. "He's a personal friend of mine, and if I had to vote today, I would vote for him."

As for Burke, Johnson said he didn't take advantage of a job he held in former Gov. James B. Hunt Jr.'s administration.

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Victor Johnson Jr.: Logan Burke can't find a job (photo by James Parker).

A black senator or a white one? The dilemma has split a black district

By The Associated Press

■ Next week: A look at the same issue in the 67th House District.

HALIFAX — Rep. Frank Ballance is trying to become one of the few blacks in the state Senate, but opponent J.J. Monk Harrington says he doesn't believe blacks should automatically represent predominantly black Senate districts.

"The United States is not made that way," said Harrington, a white senator who represents the 2nd District. "The judges have said this is a black district. But the voters are the ones who'll put in who they want."

Not A Guarantee, But An Opportunity

Ballance, 44, of Warrenton, agrees that there should be no guarantee.

"But there ought to be an opportunity," he said. "I'm not trying to get back at anybody for any past discrimination. What happened

in the past is in the past."

The two Democrats are vying in the May 6 primary to represent an eight-county section of northeastern North Carolina, where 61 percent of the population is black. The winner faces no Republican opposition in November.

The scenario is similar in Winston-Salem's predominantly black

"The United States is not made that way. The judges have said this is a black district. But the voters are the ones who'll put in who they want."

—J.J. MONK HARRINGTON

67th District, where a white Democrat, John D. Clark, and a black Democrat, Logan Burke, face one another in the primary for the state House.

A black Republican, Diana Williams-Henry, will take on the winner in November.

A Matter Of Timing

The Rev. Robert Holloman, a 33-year-old black Baptist minister from Hertford County, said it is time the district sent a black to Raleigh.

"It's fine for me to tell my daughter, 'Look, if you work hard and go to school, you can be a state senator one day,'" Holloman said.

"But then she can look at the state Senate and say, 'But why is everybody there white?'"

Getting Things Done

The 50-member Senate contains three blacks in a state that is 20 percent black. But since 1963, most of what is now the 2nd District has been represented by Harrington, 67, who also has won support from some politically active black ministers.

"I don't believe people should be in power just because they're Please see page A2