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Goodbye Afros; hello 'bobs'

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32 Pages This Week

"We are not animals. We are human beings, just as you are out there on the other side of these bars."
-- Van Ester Hailes

Inmates say guard offered them drugs

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Staff Writer

Two female inmates at the Forsyth County Jail say they were offered drugs by a guard in June. Wanda K. Newmon and Savannah Dodd, both of Winston-Salem, say that a female guard offered them marijuana, cocaine and heroin on June 14. Neither woman took the drugs from the guard, they say.

Another inmate, Van Ester Hailes, also said that the inmates were offered drugs by the same guard in a letter she wrote to the *Chronicle* in June and addressed to the residents of Forsyth County.

The female guard had offered the inmates drugs to entice them to do special cleaning in the jail, Ms. Hailes wrote in a letter that was hand-delivered to a *Chronicle* reporter.

"She enticed them by offering them cocaine, heroin, marijuana, beer and mood-altering pills," said Ms. Hailes, 33, a native of West Palm Beach, Fla.

No Complaints Filed

Sheriff E. Preston Oldham said Tuesday that he will ask the SBI to conduct an independent investigation of the allegations made by the inmates, who say they met while in jail. "This way the investigation will be up-front and straight and done by an independent source outside the county," Oldham said.

None of the inmates has filed a complaint with the Sheriff's Department about the alleged drug offer, Oldham said.

"This has been brought to my attention by the media," he said. "This matter will be fully investigated."

Oldham said he will keep the media informed on the status of the investigation.

The inmates identified the guard only by her first name. Ms. Newmon, 20, who was given a six-month suspended sentence for trespassing and sentenced to time served for assault and delaying Please see page A16

'HIS BADNESS' IN WYOMING?



ROCK STAR Prince, whom one newspaper has dubbed "His Badness," appeared at the premiere of his second film, "Under the Cherry Moon" last week in, of all places, Sheridan, Wyo., a town of 15,146 that received the honor because one of its residents won an MTV contest. A review of the film appears here next week.

NAACP plans to file a lawsuit

Marshall: Chapter wants at-large elections for school board, commissioner races

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Staff Writer

THE CITY'S NAACP chapter plans to file a lawsuit against Forsyth County contending that at-large elections discriminate against black candidates for countywide offices.

"At-large elections discriminate against blacks," said NAACP President Walter Marshall Tuesday. "We will do whatever we have to do to get the county to redraw the lines and create single-member districts for the county commissioner and school board races."

Marshall told the *Chronicle* in May that NAACP would delay any legal action challenging the at-large voting system until after the November elections.

However, the city's NAACP was given permission recently to file the suit by Kelly Alexander Jr. of Charlotte, state president of the NAACP, Carolyn Coleman, the state field director of the civil rights group, and Joyce Knox, the NAACP's associate counsel.

Marshall said he spoke with Alexander, Mrs. Coleman and Ms. Knox about a possible lawsuit recently at the NAACP's national convention in Baltimore. The local chapter's executive board will meet next week to discuss the suit.

The chapter has hired Lumberton attorney Angus B. Thompson to work on the lawsuit. "As soon as everything is worked out, we are going to file the lawsuit,"

Marshall said.

The city's NAACP chapter must raise \$2,000 to pay the initial attorney's fees, Marshall said.

The NAACP decided to file the suit after the defeat of incumbent Mazie S. Woodruff, the lone black county commissioner, in the May 6 Democratic primary. The at-large system used to elect county commissioners was partly blamed for Mrs. Woodruff's defeat.

"Her defeat was embarrassing," Marshall said. "She was a victim of at-large elections that dilute the black vote and discriminate against black candidates."

Mrs. Woodruff, the second woman and the only black ever to serve as a county commissioner, declined to comment on the pending lawsuit. Mrs. Woodruff had said earlier that she favors a ward voting system.

Although they have that option, Marshall said the county commissioners will not voluntarily replace at-large elections with a district system. "They are opposed to that," he said, "and they don't vote for us in elections."

Mrs. Woodruff finished third in the Democratic primary with 10,968 votes behind John S. Holleman, who led the ticket with 12,397 votes, and runner-up Wayne G. Willard, who totaled 12,321 votes.

The city's NAACP chapter considered legal action against Please see page A3

Womble: City-funded agencies need to improve minority hiring

Science Center, Chamber, Old Salem concern him

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Staff Writer

Three local agencies receiving \$282,000 in city funds for fiscal year 1986-87 should hire and promote more blacks and women, Southeast Ward Alderman Larry W. Womble said recently.

"I want to put these grantee agencies on notice," Womble said at the June 26 Board

of Aldermen's meeting. "They need to hire more blacks and women and put them in meaningful jobs."

The aldermen unanimously approved the city's \$145.5 million budget two weeks ago. "We have been very generous to these agencies," Womble said during the meeting. "Many of these agencies didn't have any blacks or females on their staffs." Please see page A16



Firefighters worked 12 hours Tuesday to extinguish a burning tanker truck at Fourth Street and Maple

Avenue. The tanker had collided with a tractor-trailer and overturned, but, amazingly, no one was injured.

School board: A busy fall

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

A news analysis.

Sometimes the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Take the city/county school board, for instance. Some of the issues it considered last year probably will be major issues again this year.

One item board members can expect to hear more about this fall is district lines.

The board authorized the

superintendent's staff to study school enrollments during the 1986-87 school year. Racial imbalances in some schools were criticized last year by some white parents who felt that classes containing too many black students hurt their children's education. But figures then showed that only six schools didn't meet the board's guidelines for racial balance.

Board member John S. Holleman Jr. said he wouldn't like to see any of the lines changed.

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QUOTABLE: "... Blacks as a group must not be a party to our own destruction by tolerating insensitive leadership in any organization that we help to support." PAGE A4.

The Piedmont Club

Despite open-door policy, blacks aren't rushing to join

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Although the city's newest private dining club has an open-door membership policy, blacks aren't exactly flocking to get in.

The Piedmont Club, which is scheduled to open next year, will be located on the top floor of the One Triad Park tower.

The club so far has a membership of 665, but only approximately 30 are black, according to a club roster.

Dr. James D. Branch, one of the blacks on the club's board of governors, said that he and the

other board members were invited to submit a list of people to be sent invitations to join the club.

He said he submitted a list of 100 names, most of them blacks.

Branch said a number of blacks may be cautious about the amount of money required to become a member. They have to look at how it fits into their overall budgets, he said.

Branch said that the club's membership is not exclusively for Winston-Salem residents but is opening up to include the Triad.

As the club gains more visibility, he said, blacks from other areas may join.

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