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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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48 Pages This Week

## Police chief's retirement: Views mixed

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Black leaders say they have mixed feelings about the retirement of Police Chief Joseph E. Masten, who will leave his post on Jan. 1, 1987.

"I felt all along that (Masten's retirement) would just be a matter of time," said Walter Marshall, president of the city's NAACP chapter. "He made the right decision."

Masten, 61, announced his retirement last week after serving 39 years on the police force. He said he is retiring so he could take advantage of improved pension benefits. "My spendable income will increase about 42 percent," said Masten, who has an annual salary of about \$48,000.

"This is my decision," Masten said Tuesday. "If pressure had been the reason for me leaving, I would have left a long time ago."

Masten began working with the police in 1947 as a patrolman. He rose through the ranks and was promoted to lieutenant in 1967.

Masten was promoted to captain in 1972 and became head of the Criminal Investigation Division in 1973. He was promoted to chief in 1984.

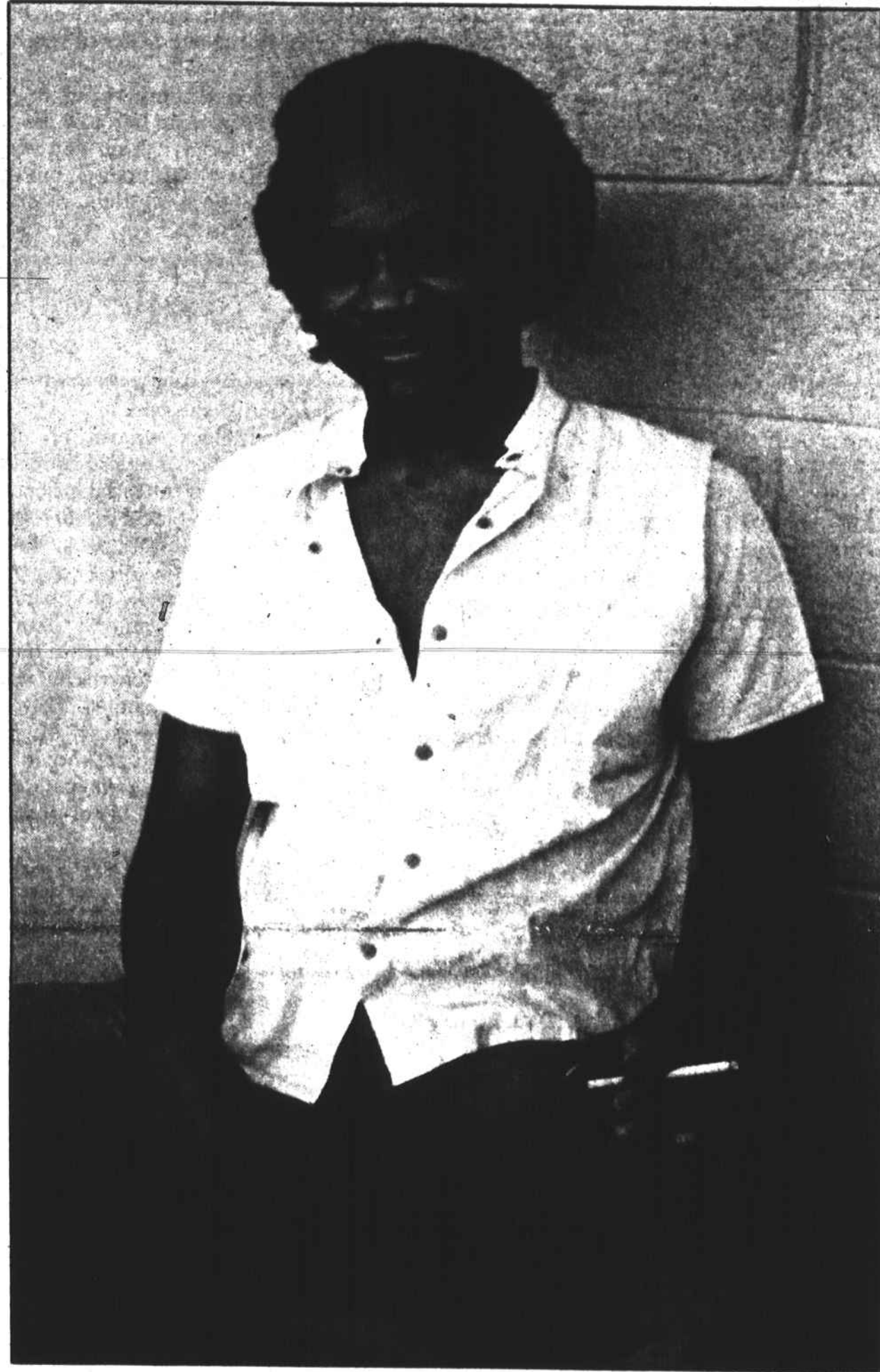
Many black leaders criticized Masten and the police department for their handling of the Deborah Sykes murder investigation.

Mrs. Sykes, a white newspaper copy editor, was raped and murdered in August 1984. Darryl E. Hunt, 22, was convicted of the murder in a highly publicized trial in June 1985. Hunt was sentenced to life in prison.

Masten and three other officers received reprimands after City

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## TWO MORE TRIALS



Darryl Eugene Hunt, pictured above in a file photo, and Merritt Drayton face separate trials for allegedly helping Sammy Mitchell rob and beat Arthur Wilson (photo by James Parker).

## Mitchell found guilty of second-degree murder

Jury deliberated 12 hours over three days

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Staff Writer

An all-white jury found Sammy Lee Mitchell guilty Monday of second-degree murder after deliberating 12 hours over a three-day period.

Judge Julius A. Rousseau sentenced Mitchell to 50 years in prison for the 1983 murder of Arthur Wilson outside a Claremont Avenue drink house. Mitchell, a 31-year-old black man, rested his head on the defense attorneys' table when Rousseau read the verdict.

"Even though I have been convicted, I want you and the jury to know that I didn't kill anybody," Mitchell said to Rousseau.

"It is too late to say that now," Rousseau replied to Mitchell, who will be eligible for parole after serving 25 years in prison. "Sheriff, take him out of the courtroom."

Mitchell, of 760 N. Patterson Ave., was moved to Central Prison in Raleigh Monday night.

Wilson, 57, of 3045 N. Patterson Ave., was found robbed of \$110 and beaten to death on Sept. 17, 1983.

Mitchell's first trial in September ended in a mistrial with a jury of nine whites and three blacks deadlocked at 11-1 for conviction. A lone black female juror held out for acquittal.

Darryl E. Hunt and Merritt William Drayton are co-defendants in Wilson's murder and will be tried sometime this year.

Hunt, Mitchell's best friend, is serving a life sentence after being convicted of the murder of Deborah Sykes, a copy editor for the now-defunct *Sentinel* daily newspaper. Many black leaders have said that Hunt and Mitchell were railroaded on flimsy evidence.

His attorneys said they would appeal Mitchell's conviction. Neither Mitchell nor Drayton testified in Mitchell's defense.

District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale said

he would have preferred a first-degree conviction.

"It was my job to prosecute the case, not to get a verdict," he said to reporters after the trial. "I would have preferred the death penalty."



Mitchell leaves the County Jail to appear in court (photo by James Parker).

Tisdale said that Hunt and Drayton will be tried before he leaves office in December, although no trial dates have been set.

Mattie Mitchell, Sammy Mitchell's mother, turned and glared at the court as

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## Private schools: Viable option?

By CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

More black parents should consider sending their children to private or independent schools, a group of parents and school officials said during a recent panel discussion at the Urban League.

The group, which calls itself Advocates for Minority Education in Independent Schools, or AMEIS, consists of representatives from five private schools in the area and five black parents. Its purpose, say its members, is to

increase minority interest and enrollment and to educate the public about independent schools.

"Diversity is important to us," said Dr. Sandra P. Adams, coordinator of counseling at Summit School. "We think we can give students educational opportunities as well as rich backgrounds."

Salem Academy, Summit School, Oak Ridge Military Academy, Forsyth Country Day

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Tisdale: He wanted the death penalty (photo by James Parker).

## Seating of all-white jury in trial is criticized by black leaders

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Several black leaders said this week that Sammy Lee Mitchell did not receive a fair trial because an all-white jury decided his fate.

The jury of seven women and five men deliberated three days before it found Mitchell guilty of second-degree murder Monday in the September 1983 beating death of Arthur Wilson.

Mitchell, a 31-year-old black man, was given a 50-year prison sentence. Wilson was found dead in the 1800 block of Claremont Avenue near an illegal drink house on Sept. 17, 1983.

"Sammy was denied the opportunity of having a fair trial because there were no blacks on the jury," said Khalid Fattah Griggs, co-chairman of the Dar-

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## Numbing numbers

### Black males: Are they fast becoming an endangered species?

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Staff Writer

This article is the second in a three-part series.

BLACK MEN are losing the numbers game in Winston-Salem.

Disproportionate numbers of black males have criminal records and are unemployed. Black men have the shortest average life expectancy among black and white males and females. A disproportionate number of black men join the military and serve time behind bars.



Those realities do not bode well for black women.

Similar statistics

The statistics regarding black men in

Winston-Salem are similar to the numbers in other American cities, said Dr. William Turner, chairman of the social sciences department at Winston-Salem State University. "The unemployment rate of black men is one of the biggest reasons why there is a shortage of black men in this city," Turner said.

The unemployment rate among blacks in Forsyth County was about 7.3 percent in 1985, officials say. Nationally, more than 15 percent of all black men ages 25 to 35 are

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## THIS WEEK

## Rangel endorses Neal by phone during rally

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., endorsed the reelection campaign of Rep. Stephen L. Neal when he spoke last Friday via telephone to a Democratic campaign rally in Winston-Salem.

"Steve Neal understands how blacks had to struggle during the civil rights movement," said Rangel, who is black. "The people in North Carolina need to re-elect Neal so he can continue his work in Congress."

Neal is locked in a bitter campaign struggle with Stuart Epperson, the Republican candidate who is

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