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Larco, state NAACP fair share connection stirs ire

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Tuesday's announcement of Larco Construction Inc. signing a fair share agreement was viewed as a landmark move by state NAACP President Kelly Alexander Jr. and local businessman Rodney Sumler.

But local NAACP President Walter Marshall is not happy with the agreement, which he says presents a conflict of interest for

Sumler, vice president of the local NAACP branch. Sumler is also a member of the N.C. State Conference of the NAACP's Fair Share Committee.

At a press conference Tuesday, Alexander and Sumler said that Larco's agreement with the state NAACP, is the first such agreement with a construction company anywhere in the country.

Alexander said that the agreement is important because of



Sumler



Smith



Alexander

the reluctance within the construction industry to meet goals in using minority and women businesses.

"This is a step in the right direction," he said. "Somebody has to be first."

The agreement, which applies to the company's public and private contracts, sets a goal of 15 percent minority participation on Larco's contracts.

The agreement also calls for

the use of a consultant to improve Larco's relations in the African-American community. Associate Consultants of which Sumler is president, has been hired to do this.

Larco is also requested to increase the number of African-American vendors, using more of their services and buying more products from them such as office supplies, landscaping materials and

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Howse murder still a mystery

By MARDELL GRIFFIN
Chronicle Staff Writer

A police official says there are no suspects in the murder last week of an East Winston woman. And investigators are questioning anyone who knew her in an attempt to generate leads in the case.

Brenda Charlsina Howse, 42, was found stabbed and beaten to death in her home at 1211 Pleasant St. in the Morningside area. The body was discovered by her son on July 21st.

"We're going back to all her friends and acquaintances to see if they can give us some route to take," said Capt. G. G. Cornatzer, head of the detective division of the Winston-Salem police department.

And her relatives and coworkers are being interviewed for anything that might help solve the case. "There were no witnesses," Cornatzer said. "We have no leads."

He refused to discuss the condition of Mrs. Howse.

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In The Shade



Some WSSU summer school students got the chance to beat the heat and catch up on their studies. Left to right are Marchelle Foster, India Brown, Joel McIver and Tina Bruton (photo by Michael Cunningham).

Charges fly in trial, but lawyers acquitted

By MARDELL GRIFFIN
Chronicle Staff Writer

Two Winston-Salem attorneys charged with assaulting their pregnant former secretary were found innocent in a three-hour trial Tuesday that drew a gallery full of spectating lawyers and, according to one defendant's wife, was monitored by the North Carolina Bar Association.

Immediately following closing arguments by the prosecution and with no further comments to the crowded court room, Judge William Reingold pronounced Robert Ernest Winfrey, 36, of 2860 Deerwood Drive and Gary Devon Henderson, 37, of 1244 W. Fourth St. not guilty of assaulting Beverly Reid Corpening, 31, of 1582 Longview Drive.

The announcement was followed by clapping and cheering from the defendants' supporters in the courtroom.

But Mrs. Corpening claims she was treated unfairly by a system "that protects its own." "When they said justice is blind, they knew what they were talking about and had probably been in the Winston-Salem justice system as a victim," she told the *Chronicle* after court adjourned.

Calling the case a "nightmare," Joe Williams, a Greensboro attorney who represented Winfrey and Henderson, jabbed his finger through the air

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Chisholm: Dems need Jesse

By The Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — A Democratic presidential campaign by the Rev. Jesse Jackson is unrealistic, but blacks may ultimately decide the party's ticket, said former U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm.

"No candidacy in the United States, I'd dare say, is realistic unless it's a white male," Chisholm said. "But ... the fact of the matter is that, although the country is not yet ready for a woman for president or a black for president for that matter, the fact is that Jesse Jackson could possibly become the most important power-broker at the Democratic convention. I can see that happening."

In an interview with The Fayetteville Observer-Times last week, Chisholm also said she has changed her long-held belief that a black would be president before a woman. But with the re-emergence in recent years of racism and hate groups, she believes a woman will reach the White House first.

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QUOTABLE: "I believe that attitudes will change toward women in the ministry ..."

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What story will Drayton tell now?

Is he telling the truth, or isn't he? Is he capable of telling the truth, or isn't he? Those questions will no doubt be on the minds of the public, Judge William H. Freeman of the Forsyth Superior and the 12 jurors who will sit in judgement of Merritt W. Drayton, the 29-year old East Winston man on trial this week for the murder of Blanche Bryson.

She is the mother of a local African-American attorney closely associated with the Darryl Hunt Defense committee and some of its most prominent members.

"I don't believe that either the defense or the prosecution wants to

put Drayton on the stand," mused one prominent leader of the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee. "There's no telling what he's going to say or what he's going to do."

That statement pretty much sums up how knowledgeable people feel about the defendant. "Our basic stance with Drayton," notes the committeemember, who asked not to be identified, is that he is mentally unstable."

Drayton stands trial this week for the murder of Blanche Bryson, who was found strangled in her Gilmer Ave. home. Her car and over

\$350 was stolen, according to police reports.

The victim is the mother of Jeffrey Bryson, a local attorney who represented the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee and then Alderman Larry Little in 1985 when former District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale attempted to impound the Committee's finances and further limit its "freedom of speech."

Bryson, one of four children of the former cafeteria worker at Aikens High School, found his mother's body shortly after she died. He was the prosecution's first witness.

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Education badly needed, UNCF exec says

African-Americans are so far behind in educational attainment in the United States "that we literally need every class(room experience) we can get in order to reach parity with white America," says the executive director of the United Negro College Fund.

Christopher Edley, in Winston-Salem this week to address prominent business and community leaders, says that historically African-American colleges are responsible for nearly 40 percent of all African-American college graduates. Of the 42 UNCF colleges and universities, six are located in North Carolina. They are Barber-Scotia College, Concord; Bennett College, Greensboro; Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte; Livingstone College, Salisbury; Saint Augustine's College and Shaw University in



Edley

Raleigh.

These institutions combined enroll some 7,000 students and employ over 1,300 people. In 1986 they received \$3,654,138 in general operating funds from UNCF.

Edley says that he "is both

pleased and displeased" with local corporate and community support for UNCF. R.J. Reynolds and Wachovia Bank are two of the area's biggest contributors. Reynolds is the nation's largest corporate contributor, donating over \$1 million since 1983, he said.

In the past, most of the major African-American organizations have given generously to the Fund, says Edley. Among the largest contributors are the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Links, the Masons, Shriners, Alpha Phi Alpha and Omega Psi Phi fraternities.

One of the most popular sources of fundraising in the African-American community is through the annual Telethon, says Edley. "But we are still not reaching the Black community with the

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Generous Gift

RJR Nabisco Inc. made a \$55,000 contribution to the NAACP during the 78th annual NAACP convention in New York City recently. Before the presentation, Benjamin L. Hooks, center, executive director and CEO of the NAACP, met with guest speakers, Marshall B. Bass, left, senior vice president of RJR Nabisco, and Mario M. Cuomo, governor of New York.