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Isaiah Tidwell: The top Afro-American at Wachovia

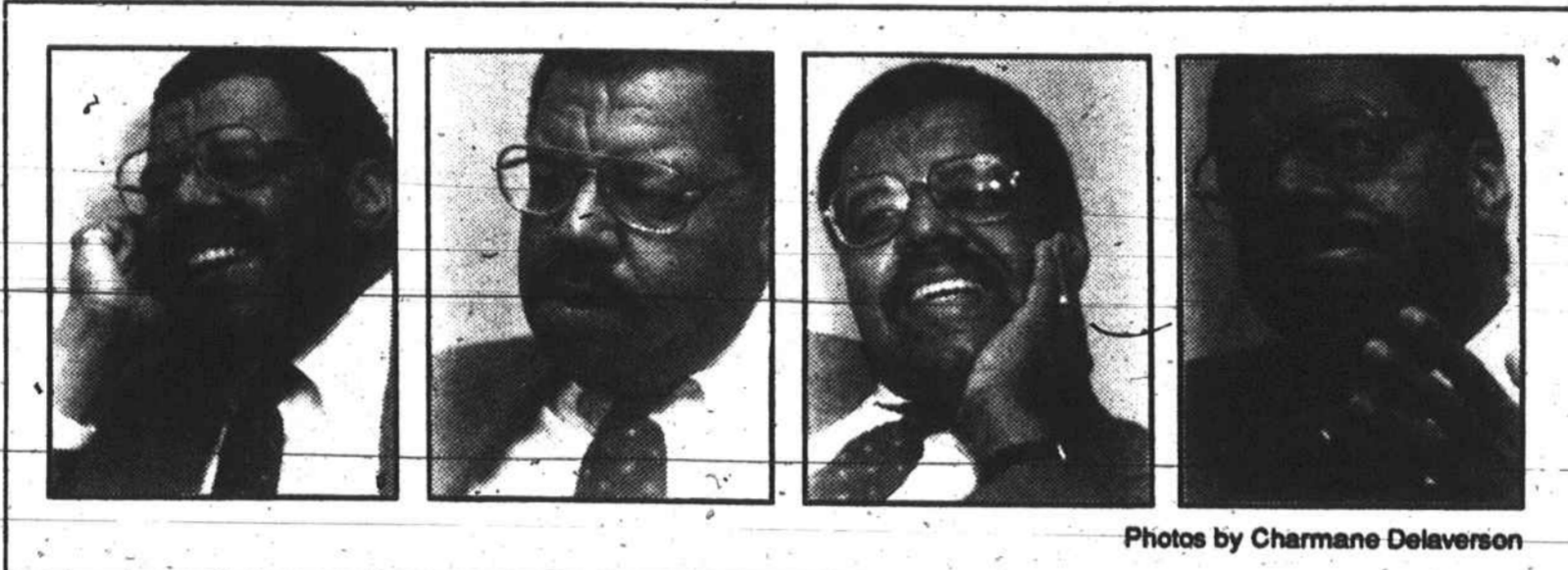
By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Like most people, Isaiah Tidwell is resolving to do certain things at the brink of this new year. But what makes him different is that his entire personal and professional life have revolved around his lifetime resolution to succeed.

In line with that resolution is Tidwell's new position. Officially effective Sunday, Tidwell now holds the highest position ever by an Afro-American at Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. He is city executive in charge of the bank's 20 offices in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

Tidwell, 43, admits that as a young boy growing up in Charlotte he didn't dream of becoming a bank executive.

"I grew up with both my mother and father at



Photos by Charmane Delaverson

home... but there had not been a history of banking in the family," Tidwell said. "I have a picture, one of

my favorite pictures, it's in the third grade and it's a trip to Wachovia Bank and we came back and we set

up a bank in the third grade."

While he was a student at West Charlotte High School, Tidwell decided he wanted to go into the business field. One of his teachers, Elizabeth Gaddy, stands out in his mind as someone who was a significant motivator during those early years.

"Elizabeth Gaddy is significant because we had taken... two bookkeeping courses in the 11th grade and there were three guys (Tidwell included) who wanted to have more bookkeeping and so Elizabeth Gaddy taught us on her lunch hour, the three of us, because there was no other time to teach it," Tidwell said. "So she taught us the advanced bookkeeping class, and ironically, all three of us left high school and went to college majoring in accounting."

Unlike most college freshmen, Tidwell declared his major during his first year at North Carolina Central University. *Please see page A10*

Ridding yourself of post-holiday blues

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

As holly and mistletoe are packed away and plastic champagne glasses and party hats are trashed, post-holiday, midwinter depression begins to set into the minds and bodies.

Beginning in late January through February the Rev. Ted Dougherty, director of the Pastoral Counseling Center of N.C. Baptist Hospital, and his staff expect to see many people depressed by the change in climate.

"Shorter days and less holidays, people have less things to look forward to and they begin to say, 'Gosh, will spring ever come,'" Dougherty said. "The cold and severe weather we experience this time of the year causes people to bundle up more and stay in the house."

Studies of places that have more severe and longer winters have showed increases in homicide

and suicide during the winter months, Dougherty said.

"Alaska has a longer winter and we know that in places like it the homicides and suicides go up in more isolated, cold places," Dougherty said. "In places with longer winters you often find mental illness. The mental health center will tell you the number of their clientele goes up."

The depression will heavily hit those recently recovering from pre-holiday depression, Dougherty said.

"People who are going through the holidays for the first time with a lost, whether that's separation or the lost of job, tend to get depressed during the holidays," Dougherty said. "The media, movies and commercialism of the holidays makes everything look great, and for some people it isn't that great."

The pre-holiday depressors are

Please see pag A8



SUMMER SIZZLER!

Associated Press Laser Photo

Despite the winter winds, swimsuit season will be here before you know it. Above, a swimsuit designed by Christian Lacroix for the 1989 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection.

Fire chief responds to rescuers' claims

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Competition is fierce and openings are few in the Winston-Salem Fire Department, and that is part of the reason why two firefighters who risked their lives to save a family from a flame-engulfed home are unemployed, said Chief Lester Ervin.

Leonard Davis, 26, and Reginald McCummings, 25, rescued Linda Hawthorne and her three children out of their burning home at 812 Broad St. Dec. 7.

Davis, a former firefighter with the U.S. Navy, said he has been trying to secure employment with the city fire department for two years.

McCummings was a firefighter for the city for a year and a half. He said Ervin forced him to resign in September 1988 after he was charged with driving while intoxicated. McCummings also said Ervin had personal reasons for wanting to see him leave the fire department. McCummings said he dated Ervin's daughter and, when the two broke up, the chief was disgruntled.

Ervin declined to comment on McCummings' leaving the city fire department.

"The circumstances surrounding that other incident (McCummings' resignation) is a dead issue," said Ervin.

Assistant City Manager Al Beay, Ervin's boss, said all firefighters are required to have a driver's license, adding that McCummings' license was revoked upon his DWI conviction.

While admitting his license was revoked, McCummings said he does have limited driving privileges to transport himself to and from work.

Please see page A2

Afro-American to direct Kernersville production

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

From the bloody battlefields of "Shenandoah" to the mint juleps of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof", Juan Fernandez is an Afro-American theater actor and director who has found his niche in the arts.

Fernandez is guest director for the February production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof", sponsored by the Kernersville Little Theater. His is a unique task -- directing a play set in the South during the 1950s when the only roles Afro-

Americans played were those of servants.

"It's going to be a challenge getting over the types of people Tennessee Williams writes about, especially knowing that the blacks in his plays were either servants or field hands," Fernandez said. "My main job is to remain as true as I can to the spirit in which Tennessee Williams wrote the play and still put my two cents in about what I think is going on."

Although born in Fort Bragg, N.C., Fernandez spent most of his childhood in Hartford, Conn. Dur-

ing his teenage years his family moved back to Greensboro where Fernandez got his first taste of life on the stage.

"Acting and directing is not exactly something I planned to do, I kind of fell into it," Fernandez said. "I'd always been interested in singing, and at Page (High School) I got into the ensemble."

The ensemble members were often drafted to sing in the choruses of the school's productions -- something Fernandez liked a lot.

"Then I started working for the barn dinner theater and realized

that people would pay me for having so much fun," Fernandez said.

After high school, Fernandez enrolled as an English major at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. But his preoccupation with the performing arts quickly motivated him to change his major.

Among his acting credits are roles in "Evita", "Ain't Misbehavin'", "Pippin", "Purlie" and "You Can't Take it with You". He has directed "Matchmaker", "Jacques Brel", "Anything Goes", "Blithe Spirit", "A Funny Thing

Forum", "Godspell", "The Long Way Home" and "Little Shop of Horrors".

Today, Fernandez reluctantly describes himself as an actor/director.

"I was kind of reluctant to describe myself as a director because I had acted for so long, 16-17 years," said Fernandez.

"Directing is something I really enjoy and was a natural offshoot from what I was doing."

He sometimes misses acting

Please see page A8



Juan Fernandez



Associated Press Laser Photo

A black student sits awake while others sleep as they wait for a train bound for Beijing at Nanking Station following a bloody Christmas Eve clash between African students and Chinese.

Chinese and African students clash

By The Associated Press

NANKING, China -- There was intensifying of racial unrest in Beijing Tuesday when 200 Chinese students staged a protest against an alleged attack on a Chinese woman, who they believe was attacked by an African student.

The demonstration, held at the Beijing Languages Institute became the third incident between the Chinese and Africans in the past few days.

Chinese officials denied reports that Chinese police beat and applied electric shock to African students during a weekend encounter.

Chinese officials said late last week they probably would punish at least seven African students for a brawl with Chinese workers, students and teachers that set off days of anti-black demonstrations.

They said no Chinese students would be punished for participating in the clash and subsequent demonstrations, or for sacking the rooms of some African students.

"We know who the Africans are that carried out the beating," said Yang Ruiju, president of Hehai University where the clash took place. "The African students did this in a planned way."

But the Chinese students "demonstrated out of anger. They didn't hurt anybody so none of them will be punished," Yang said in an interview.

About 140 African students, joined by about a dozen other foreign students, remained in isolation at a guest house about a 90-minute drive outside of this eastern China city. Yang said the seven "suspects" were at the guest house.

The students have been at the house since Monday night, when Chinese police forced them there from the Nanking train station. The students wanted to travel to Beijing because they fear for their safety.

Officials said last Thursday that all the students except the seven or eight Africans involved in the fracas could leave the guest house as long as they returned to their schools in Nanking.

Two Western reporters who went to the guest house Thursday were refused permission to speak with the students. Chinese officials at the Jiangsu provincial foreign affairs office also refused to let reporters talk with the students.

Young Chinese took to the streets for the fifth straight day since Saturday,

Please see page A8