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Thursday, July 19, 1990

Winston-Salem Chronicle

50 cents "The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly" VOL. XVI, No. 47

Federal probe of Sumler, others continues

Burke no longer being investigated

By PATRICIA SMITH-DEERING
 Special to the Chronicle

"Operation Mushroom Cloud," code name for the ongoing federal investigation of suspected political malfeasance among some of Winston-Salem's black elected officials has apparently ended further attempts to seek indictments against Vivian Burke, alderman for the Northeast Ward, sources involved in the investigation say.

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"I have no reason to even involve myself in this."
 -- Vivian Burke



"They've been investigating me ... for almost four years and still have nothing."
 -- Rodney Sumler



"I'm carrying on my life as I always have. I'm concerned but not worried."
 -- Larry W. Womble



"If they have indictments, let them come on."
 -- Lee Faye Mack

Fed probe: Leaders question rules' use

By PATRICIA SMITH-DEERING
 Special to the Chronicle

Local political consultant and community activist Rodney Sumler and Greensboro City Councilman Earl Jones have both raised the question of whether the FBI/IRS investigation is being conducted according to the specifications described in General Rules of Criminal Procedure, specifically Rule 6(e): Recording and Disclosure of Grand Jury Proceedings.

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Property owners claim Legal Aid is hurting poor

By TRACY L. PROSSER
 Chronicle Staff Writer

Some of Winston-Salem's property owners say the Legal Aid Society and the city's Housing Authority have created such a mess in dealing with public housing tenants that it may be doing the city and its poorer residents a lot of harm.

The Housing Authority oversees Section 8 housing, which helps low income families pay for accommodations based on what the family can afford to pay. Legal Aid is an organization designed to provide legal help to those who can't afford to pay a lawyer out of their own pockets.

The costly legal entanglements into which property owners can get ensnared by the involvement of Legal Aid, they say, discourages them from dealing

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Sen. Helms claims he never authorized James Meredith's news release but says he finds merit in some of what his aide had to say.

Helms' aide draws fire from Afro-American leadership

By RUDY ANDERSON
 Chronicle Managing Editor

Accusations by Sen. Jesse Helms' special assistant, James Meredith, against the leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has incurred the wrath of that leadership across the nation and particularly in North Carolina.

In a news release issued Saturday, July 14, Meredith claimed that more than 60 percent of the 3,000 delegates to the NAACP National Convention, in Los Angeles, were into the drug culture and that at least 80 percent had been or are involved in either criminal or immoral activity or both.

"I have a background profile on more than half of the delegates (to the convention)," the release charged. "The only way way they can stay out of jail is to apply enough political pressure to keep government prosecutors.....from bringing charges that they have proof to support the charges against them."

The claims so enraged Kelly Alexander Jr., executive director of the North Carolina NAACP that he sent a letter to Sen. Helms calling for Meredith's dismissal from the senator's staff.

"It strains belief almost to the breaking point to assume that Mr. Meredith, on his own authority, could issue a press release that was not at a minimum approved by your Chief of Staff," Alexander writes. "Senator Helms, we have not seen eye to eye on major issues of public policy facing our nation. However, I have credited you with running a Senate office that would not issue patented falsehoods."

Helms has denied that he ordered the release to go out even though he feels that

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WSSU establishes drug policy for its athletes

By TRACY L. PROSSER
 Chronicle Staff Writer

Winston-Salem State University athletes will be subject to random drug testing beginning this fall.

The executive committee of the WSSU board of trustees voted unanimously to accept a drug education, screening and counseling program for intercollegiate athletics which was proposed by the Student Affairs committee of the board of trustees.

A prototype policy was developed by a committee called together by the general administration of the University of North Carolina system. "The (WSSU) policy is identical in all materials and respects to the model policy," said Robert A. Emken, chairman of the board.

The policy requires athletes to enter into an agreement to participate in unannounced random drug testing to be performed by an outside laboratory. A certain

percentage of each team will be selected through a blind drawing of names from the roster at various times during the academic year to be tested for drugs.

Athletes will also be tested before each sport season begins. The cost of the tests will be born by the university.

Administration of drug tests by a third party would be cheaper than creating a drug testing laboratory at the school, said Haywood L. Wilson Jr., vice-chancellor for student affairs. By using the bidding process to determine the laboratory that will perform the tests, Wilson hopes costs will be kept to a minimum.

The drug policy has a component for drug education and counseling as well. Campus based resources such as lectures, videos, and student media will be utilized as well as external resources such as Step One, the Council on Drug Abuse, and Reynolds Health Center.

Clarence E. "Bighouse" Gaines, WSSU's head basketball coach, said that Division II athletes have always signed a form subjecting them to random drug tests at the tournament level. He doesn't think this new policy will have a big effect, other than the cost, on the WSSU athletic department, he said.

The board of trustees of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill did not approve the model policy formulated by the UNG board of governors because of concerns about violating constitutional rights and the possibility of litigation, Emken said.

The board of governors did not accept the decision of the Chapel Hill board of trustees to continue with the university's voluntary drug testing policy.

Emken said the decision made by the WSSU board of trustees was not motivated by the board of governors' decision not to accept Chapel Hill's non-adoption

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Convicted In Assault Case

Woman claims she was victim

By TRACY L. PROSSER
 Chronicle Staff Writer

Two conflicting accounts of an arrest of a local Afro-American woman were heard Friday, July 13, in District Court. She was charged with four offenses and was convicted of two but is appealing the case.

Patrice Lockhart was at her boyfriend's apartment around 1:30 a.m. on July 3. They were having a fight, she said, and he asked her to leave. When she got to her car, she realized she had left her keys and her bag in the apartment, so she went back to get them. Her boyfriend didn't let her in and called the police.

Lockhart said she explained the situation to police officer Patrick S. Lane, who told her to get

her keys and bag from the apartment and leave. She got in her car, she said, and saw Lane go around the car. She said she thought he was going back upstairs to her boyfriend's apartment, so she backed out of the parking place to leave. She said she didn't see him behind her car when she backed up.

Apparently, Lane had gone to the back of the car to get Lockhart's license plate number and she hit him when she pulled out of the parking space. She said he put his hands on the side of the car, looked at her, paused, and looked away.

As Lockhart was waiting at a red traffic signal several blocks down the road, a police car pulled in front of her, she said. Lane approached

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Patrice Lockhart says her crimes, biting and spitting on an officer, were provoked.

Winston-Salem Chronicle NewsUpdate

Sheriff's deputies move protester
 MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - Sheriff's deputies move protester Jacqueline Smith Monday from her two-year-old campaign outside the small motel where Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered.
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