

Police conduct

"I'm fed up and tired of being the dumping ground for America," said James Grace. "No one in this country validates us (African-Americans), but us. When is the other side of the tracks (white America) going to give me some validity."

The Rev. Carl Major Potter, who was a victim of police brutality earlier this summer when numerous police officers jumped him outside his home allegedly for disorderly conduct and assaulting an officer, said that he was happy to see so many people out to tell the stories of the community.

He also gave a fiery speech which described the conditions in Winston-Salem as explosive.

"It is time for you to take the

handcuffs off for people who pay taxes in Forsyth County," said William Falls. He went on to describe unjust conditions in education, politics and city government. He said that it is "bad when they (white officials) don't think that black people can govern themselves" or occupy positions of authority.

R.B. Nicholson, who is white and a strong advocate for the police in recent weeks, expressed his support for victims of 'injustice', but he said that he believes that others take advantage of victims for their own puposes.

Other white citizens shared different sentiments. They called for unity and the white community's involvement in solving the prob-

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lems in Winston-Salem.

"We have been unable as a community to work together," said Martha Wilson, frequent spokesperson for the National Organization of Women and for gay rights. "We as a people have the responsibility to treat each other as human beings, but when police officers ignore the well-being of someone in their custody, that is a sad statement. It is not just the folks in east Winston who have a lot to do, it is all the people in Winston."

Salem College professor Sid Kelly drew a standing ovation as he made reference to the Rev. Lee Faye Mack, who was recently sentenced to a five-month prison term for perjury in connection with an alleged racketeering scheme that

also involved three other black leaders.

Kelly described Mack as a mother to the Winston-Salem community and said that anyone who knew her would tell you that her sentencing was "wrong."

"I've been homeless for two years," said Chuck Snyder, "and I've seen a skull cracked over two dollars and a pack of cigarettes. I've seen violence that scares the hell out of me... How many times does someone have to die before something is done."

The hearing was organized by the Rev. John Mendez, a leader of the advocacy group Citizens United for Justice, when he wrote to

Jim Stowe, executive director of the N.C. Human Relations Commission.

"The Rodney King situation is not an exception to the rule," said Mendez, "in the African-American

community it is the rule." Mendez said that a need exist for more black police officers, so that children and the community can recognize and relate to individuals "who look like them."

The state commission has no legal authority to conduct an investigation or impose penalties in areas under the jurisdiction of local district attorneys, however representatives recorded complaints and will forward recommendations to the appropriate city officials (ie., the mayor, aldermen, city manager and police chief).

Stowe said that usually their recommendations are acted upon, but they have no real means of implementing change.

"I thought there were some heartfelt expressions tonight that were articulated as real concerns," he said. "We will forward those concerns and recommendations to

the proper city authorities but the community will have to constantly petition government officials and keep holding them accountable for things."

Another public meeting, led by the local Human Relations Commission, will be held on Thursday, August 27 at the St. Phillips Moravian Church, 3002 Bon Air Ave., at 7:00 p.m.

Emery Rand, director of the Department of Human Relations said that the meeting on Thursday was scheduled a month ago. Recently, allegations have surfaced that the local commission has been complacent about the problems in Winston-Salem.

Some sources have implicated members of the local commission and the city manager's office in trying to abort Tuesday's hearing. At press time those allegations could not be confirmed.

Mentally handicapped

arrested him and took him to jail. Sample said that there were five officers on the scene.

"At first I ran (at the sight of officers) and then I stopped," said he said. "I am scared of police officers. After they got close to me they said that I was under arrest and they grabbed my arm and pushed me against a wall to put handcuffs on me, then they slammed me into the car." He said that once they got him downtown that he was told that he would remain there because he did not answer their questions.

Sample was booked under \$500 bond and charged with disorderly conduct.

He said that a black police officer who knew him helped negotiate his release three hours later in the custody of his mother. On September 28th, a district judge will hear his case.

His mother, Phyllis Sample, Assistant Dean of Health Technologies at Forsyth Tech, said she can

understand why police would think that someone walking in a mall parking lot a 3 a.m. would be suspicious. However, she said that did not give them the right or authorization to arrest him.

"Charles is afraid of the police because of the Rodney King incident and the McKellar situation," she said. "It made an impact on him and they frightened him. If you listen to him talk you can understand that he is mentally handicapped." Ms. Sample said her son filed an official complaint with the internal affairs division (IAD) of the police department Tuesday afternoon.

"This has happened before," she said, and then went on to describe an earlier case of mistaken identity. "In December 1990 police stopped and searched him because he fit the description of a black male trying to break into a Teller II machine, but in that case the officers involved came and apologized to us for the mistake."

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Ms. Sample said that she has always supported the police department 100 percent, but decided to come forward in lue of recent developments in Winston-Salem.

"I have supported the police department to the point of reprimanding my youngest son, whenever he had negative things to say about officers," said Ms. Sample, "but after this recent incident I have had to eat my words."

Captain G.G. Cornatzer, (IAD) said the the matter is under investigation. He confirmed that Sample was arrested Tuesday and later released.

Complaints Against the Police Department

From July 1988-August 21, 1992 there were 112 claims either pending or settled against the Winston-Salem Police Department for a total of \$154,779.97

Total resignations since February 1987: 188

In 1991 the total miles logged by police officers: 3,436,524 miles

Internal (filed within the police department): 154 (with 184 alleged violations)
External (filed by citizens): 37 (51 alleged violations)

"I read these numbers as a department who is striving for professionalism. Most of those investigations are initiated by superiors in the department who recognize the need to improve."

— Chief George Sweat

Source: City Manager's Office and Internal Affairs Division Winston-Salem Police Department

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be dealt with appropriately. You can't have people being killed that are arrested."

He also admitted that "There's so much more that can be done that's not being done, because people are afraid of how they'll be perceived."

Not all whites interviewed were speechless on the subject. Gail Citron, a Winston-Salem native and real estate developer, was a member of the first Leadership Winston-Salem class, and has stayed active as a member of one if its biracial committees, which she chairs this year.

"When there's a negative confrontation (between blacks and whites), it's frightening, but denial doesn't solve anything: it's not pro-

ductive." The biracial committees are composed of black and white alumni who meet regularly in each other's homes to talk.

"Because of that dialogue, I know people are hurting (from the effects of racism). We are peers, we are equals in every way, and that makes it more poignant. We don't always agree, but we find we can talk and listen to each other. Maybe it's more important that we listen more than talk."

Whites are called to listen to and talk with African-Americans, but they bear a heavier burden. It is the white community that holds the power to make a difference, to change the oppressive conditions: they must act.

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worst light possible." Sumler said John Dusenbury, the attorney who defended him during the trial, will not represent him in the appeal.

Greg Davis, who represented the Rev. Lee Faye Mack during the trial, says her appeal is based on the contention that Judge William Osteen did not allow him to fully pursue a line of questioning "to demonstrate the disparity in education, training and experience between Ms. Mack and the assistant U.S. attorney who conducted the examination." Davis says the prosecutor and Mack did not have a mutual understanding of the questions and the terms used in the questions.

He also maintains that the indictment stated her testimony was

material to the grand jury's investigation because she could verify whether or not certain non-profit organizations had received contributions solicited for them by Rodney Sumler — "yet the evidence presented at trial did not even deal with that issue."

Instead, testimony elicited from Mack from the grand jury dealt with who prepared the list of contributions.

A spokesperson for James Ferguson, a prominent civil rights attorney who defended Hairston in the trial, said their office assisted Hairston in filing an appeal in his behalf, as well as a request for a court-appointed attorney.

All three are scheduled to report to prison on Sept. 16th unless the judge grants a stay of execution.

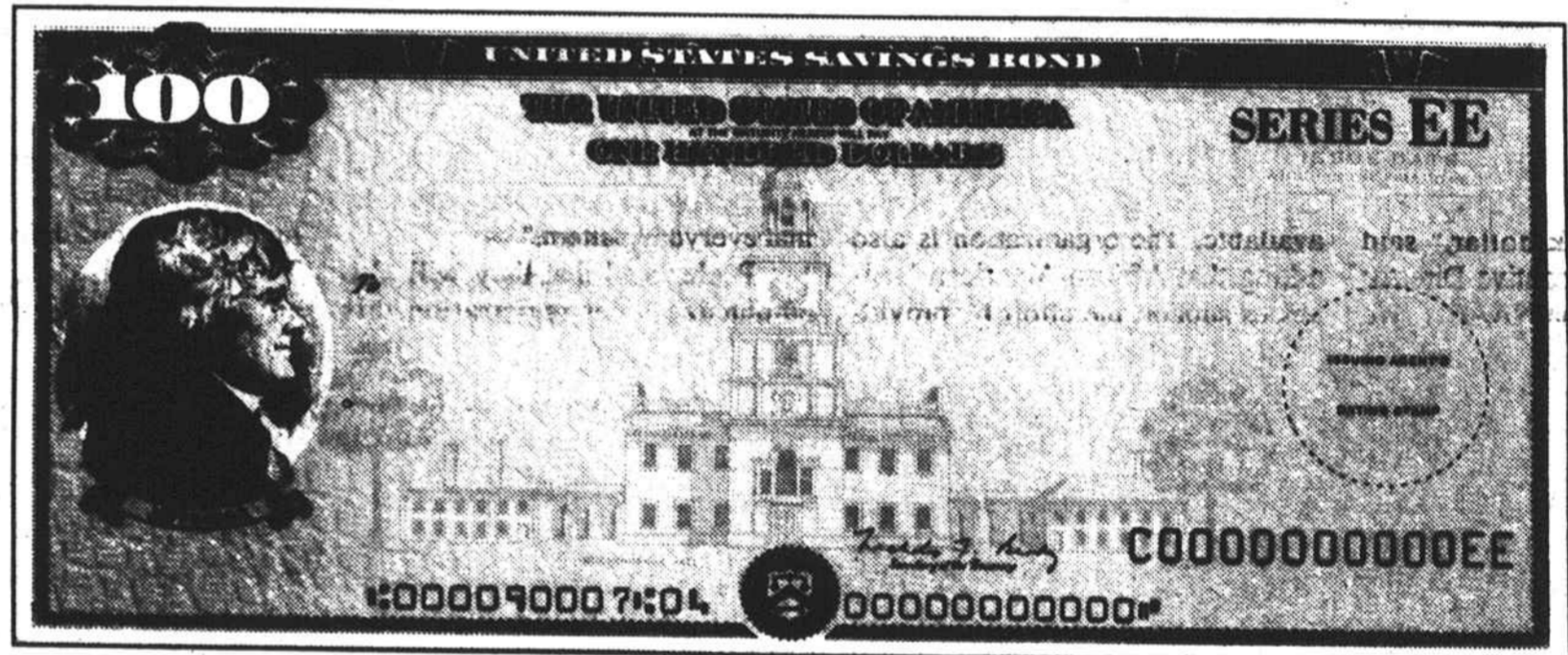
Chronicle correction

Last week's editorial on African-American curriculum credited the wrong committee.

The Board of Education curriculum committee, composed of Grace Eflord, Jane Goins, and Gloria Whisenant, unanimously approved on March 25 a plan for African-American curriculum in public schools.

On April 2, the entire board heard the proposal and unanimously voted to adopt it. The minority affairs committee arranged for the proposal to be publicly presented.

Last week's article about ward realignment incorrectly stated Nancy Pleasant's political party. She is a Republican.



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