

Exclusive Interview
Actress Helen Martin discusses
life and show biz with Chronicle.

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Pop Warner Football
Game results and standings
inside. And other area sports.

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Clinton Swept In; Black Vote Heavy

NC Sends First Black Female To U.S. Congress

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The first black woman in North Carolina's history is going to Congress, and the state's voters made new State Auditor Ralph Campbell the first black ever to win a state wide office.

"How sweet it is," Campbell said Tuesday as he claimed victory. "How sweet it is to be standing with my fellow North Carolinians on the edge of tomorrow. ... We have chosen hope over fear."

President Bush and Bill Clinton had made the state a battleground, with each visiting the state four times between July 1 and Election Day. The Republicans prevailed.

With 97 percent of precincts reporting, Bush had 1,065,916 votes, or 44 percent, while Clinton had 1,046,011 votes, or 43 percent. Independent Ross Perot had 334,073 votes, or 14 percent.

In congressional races, Eva Clayton became the first black woman elected in state history.

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Virginia Newell, Leon Kay, Lillie Gauze, Walter Marshall, Mary Hargrave, and Geneva Brown. Sitting is Dorothy, cheering when Clinton reaches the 370 electoral vote count.

Biggs Defeats Roemer in Racist Judicial Battle

By TRAVIS MITCHELL
Chronicle Staff Writer



African-Americans turned out heavily on Election Day. And they have more black representation to show for it.

Mel Watt, 12th Congressional District, and Eva Clayton, 1st Congressional District, will be the first African-Americans to represent North Carolina in the U.S. House of Representatives since the Reconstruction Era, more than 100 years ago.

Ralph Campbell Jr., of Raleigh, made another historic first. Campbell becomes the first African-American state auditor.

In local elections, incumbent Judge Loretta C. Biggs narrowly defeated Tori Roemer in District 21's

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ON THE AVANT GARDE

BY LANG NIVRI

US Gets New Preacher

For months it had been rumored that there was something rotten in the cotton. Something had to give. Somebody had to go. Word was, Baptist church USA was looking for a new preacher, and come the annual fall annual meeting, the old preacher would be given his walking papers. Things had gotten to the point where it was either them or him, and they weren't going anywhere.

Sure enough, this past Tuesday, they fired the preacher, telling him in so many words that his services would no longer be needed come December 31, 1992.

So much for the golden rule. So much for the 13th chapter of Corinthians. Business is business and so is church politics.

The chief complaint seems to have been that the preacher had somehow lost touch with the congregation. He didn't seem to know the names of the members like he ought to. He had forgotten about the important things — things that church members never forget: birthdays, anniversaries, deaths, baptisms, weddings, etc.

The good reverend had started to forget to call the names of the "sick and the shut-in" when he would offer the morning prayer. He forgot to say the blessing before he ate. He even forgot to mention that sister Wilamina Jones had died during a terrible house fire just last week. And when he conducted the funeral services, he didn't even recognize the woman's family who was sitting right there in front of him.

People said that the preacher was too distant, and that it was getting worse.

Used to be that people would look forward to hearing the good reverend deliver his wonderful messages about light and how there were thousands of points everywhere in God's universe.

People would leave the services feeling pumped up, ready to do good deeds for everybody. Folks couldn't wait to hear what he would say next Sunday. Indeed they marveled at his wonderful dulcet tones expounding the theories of spiritual growth and how it all started with a tiny mustard seed, and somehow, it just trickled on up into a marvelous plan feeding thousands just as the scriptures said that it would. Now people were complaining that the sermons were too long on symbolism and too short on substance.

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Officer, Victim May Have Dated

Blair Awaiting Trial In Sex Case

By TRAVIS MITCHELL
Chronicle Staff Writer

New allegations that a black police officer, indicted on sexual assault charges, may have had a 3 1/2 month affair with the white woman who charged him, has set the black community abuzz.

Earlier this month, officials charged Officer Leroy Blair Jr., 26, with second-degree rape and second-degree sexual offense.

According to Captain Linda Petree, Patti Melinda Mills went down to the Public Safety Center on Oct. 21 and filed a sexual assault complaint indicating that she was assaulted by a neighbor.

Mills said the assault took place at 3 a.m. on Oct. 21 in the 5000 block of Eltha Drive.

Petree said the complaint was filed at 8:30 a.m. Blair was indicted Monday and his trial date will be set next week.

However, neighbors and sources close to the case said that Blair and Mills were dating at the time of the alleged rape. They also said that Mills was dating another black male at the time of the arrest.

Prosecutors said that Mills' children were present when the assault took place.

"We felt strongly enough to push for the indictment," said District Attorney Vince Rabil. "In my view she

reported the incident immediately," he said in response to skeptics who have questioned why she waited five hours to report the incident.

Rabil refused to disclose if evidence showed that forced entry into the home was involved or what forensic evidence may have linked Blair to the crime.

Blair is the second officer accused of sexual assault and the third with a felony during the past few months.

"Based on the history of our department this is an unusual occurrence," Petree said. "We have not had officers charged during my career. It is an embarrassment for all of us, and it hurts both personally and professionally."

Richard Reynolds Bowman, 28,



Leroy Blair, Jr.

was charged on August 20, with second-degree rape and first-degree burglary. Danah Marchell Shaw, 21, reported that Bowman broke into her home and raped her on August 16. Bowman, who is white, has not been indicted.

Joy M. Barber, 26, was charged Sept. 17 with assisting her boyfriend to sell crack cocaine. Barber was indicted on Monday and will be arraigned next week.

Suspect Eludes Authorities In Happy Hill Blaze

By TRAVIS MITCHELL
Chronicle Staff Writer

A unidentified woman of Happy Hill Gardens surprised fire department officials as she confessed to starting the blaze that killed three children.

"We worked on it for two days," said Fire Department Investigator Dave Brooks. "We picked her up for questioning, but she passed a polygraph test and came out smelling like roses. We are still not ruling out the possibility of arson."

Brooks said that the woman, who lives two houses down, apparently had been in a feud with members of

the Westmoreland family, who lived in the house. After the fire eyewitnesses said that she confessed. Brooks said that she was released, but that they have other suspects.

"We have eliminated all accidental causes to the best of our abilities," he said. "Those things including electrical, mechanical and any failure of appliances have been ruled out."

Officials said that the State Bureau of Investigation arrived this week with dogs specially trained to detect combustible and flammable liquids. Brooks said that they did not find anything. He is hoping to find some explanation in tests done at the SBI laboratory in

Raleigh which analyzed physical samples from the fire scene.

"We are asking that they expedite the process due to the nature of the case involving three fatalities," he said.

Shedrika Jamell Byers, 15; Sheconda Denise Byers, 13; and Delmar Greg Byers, 11, died in the fire at 1239 Alder St. Their mother Vickie Byers Westmoreland, 36, and her husband 35-year-old Edward Westmoreland escaped. Records indicate that Mrs. Westmoreland has been a victim of fire before. In 1989 her Short St. home caught fire and earlier this year her home on Manly St. caught fire.

Are Blacks Being Left Out Of The CIAA Planning Loop?

By MARK MOSS
Special To The Chronicle

Although the CIAA tournament won't be held in Winston-Salem until 1994, city officials and business leaders are already gearing up for the long-anticipated event. Unfortunately, it appears that those involved in the early preparations are mostly white.

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) tournament, which the city won the rights to host in September for three years, is expected to generate about \$8 million each year from the approximately 20,000 fans who will visit the city.

CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry and the association's treasurer, Martha Marcolini, arrived in the city

Nov. 4, and according to an agenda from the Winston-Salem Convention and Visitors Bureau, the two had a full day of meetings with officials connected with the upcoming event.

To some of the city's African-Americans, it appears that the black community is being kept out of the loop in the early stages of these meetings.

Ernest H. Pitt, the Winston-Salem Chronicle's publisher and co-chair of the host committee responsible for convincing community leaders that bringing the tournament here would be good business, said that if black business leaders are not involved in the early stages of the planning process, it will be difficult for the community to reap the benefits.

"My concern is to make certain that blacks get in

on the ground floor, when things really start happening, so that the black community won't be left with empty pockets. The event should be an economic windfall for all of Winston-Salem, including the black community," Pitt said.

Pitt explained that he had no input in creating the agenda for the visiting CIAA officials, and that he was the only African-American invited to attend the luncheon meeting scheduled at the Piedmont Club yesterday.

The three-day agenda outlined meetings-involving Kerry and Marcolini and officials from the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, the Benton Con-

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