

# Court Date Set

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cover the D.A.'s reluctance to prosecute Bowman, the Carlos Stoner murderers and the officers under investigation in the Sheila Epps McKellar death.

"There are too many unsolved cases out there," said the Rev. John Mendez, spokesman for Citizens United for justice. "Trial dates were almost immediately set for these two black officers. It seems as if they are scapegoats."

"I wish I was that organized," said District Attorney Thomas J. Keith. "We go through 4,500 cases a year. We don't put stuff together to run by the black community."

Vince Rabil, an assistant D.A. to Keith, said, "Sometimes we take a year in some cases before we can authorize charges. It is not done on purpose."

Carlos Stoner, a black male, was castrated and murdered by four white males in June. No trial date has been set for the men charged in his death.

Rabil will prosecute Mark Smith, Dwayne Dolby, Ricky Knight, and James Andrew Gilbert for the Stoner death. Dolby pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and agreed to testify against the other three. He will be sentenced after testifying.

"We will prosecute the Stoner case before the Tise case because we don't want the black community to think that we are biased," said Keith.

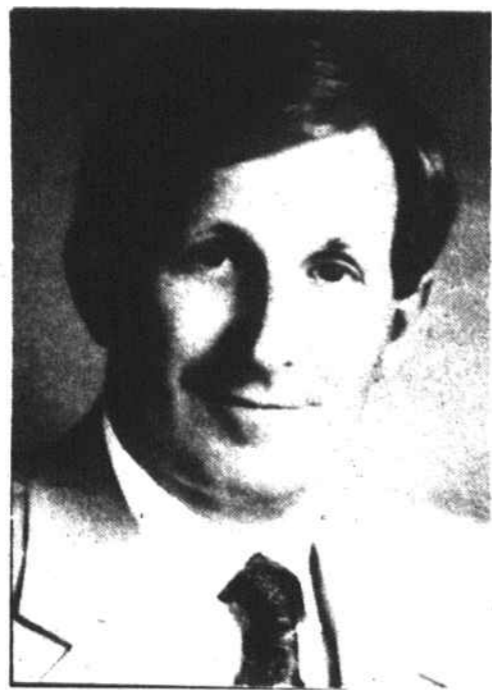
The Winston-Salem community was torn in June as four black teenagers were charged with crushing Tise, a Winston-Salem police officer, with a motor grader in the Lakeside area. The youngsters had taken the grader on a joy ride. But they allegedly steered in the direction of Tise's vehicle, fatally crushing.

Charges were dropped against three, but Crews was indicted.

Community leaders have pointed to the fact that law enforce-

ment officials quickly apprehended the suspects and immediately indicted Crews, to substantiate their claim that Keith is stoking the political flames.

Black leaders also cite the



D.A. Thomas J. Keith

Sheila Epps McKellar case.

McKellar, an African-American woman, died after being arrested, handcuffed and gagged by Winston-Salem police officers who responded to an apparent domestic dispute. The disclosure of her death further polarized the city.

According to Capt. G.C. Cornatzer, Internal Affairs Division Winston-Salem Police Department, the officers involved in the McKellar case have been relegated to desk duty.

The officers are D.A. Jackson, a black male; K.A. Alridge, a white male; T.J. Trentini, a white female; L.O. Saunders, a black male; and S.B. Yoder, a white female.

"As soon as I get the SBI report, I will take my knowledge of the case and create a time-line," said Keith. "I was side-tracked by the John Sterling Gardner case for six weeks." Gardner was the Winston-Salem man executed in central prison last month.

Keith said that he has received the background data on McKellar's medical records and is putting together a medical team of physicians to analyze them.

The state's medical examiner, Dr. Donald Jason, ruled that McKellar died of positional asphyxia with cocaine being a contributory factor. Jason said that cocaine levels found in her body were not high enough to kill her.

Keith is on record as being skeptical about the ruling.

"The medical team is looking at more definition," he said. "With positional asphyxiation it is just an opinion of the medical examiner."

Keith said that if his findings lead him to conclude that it was an accident, the officers would be cleared of any criminal wrongdoings.

"It takes a tremendous amount of misconduct to justify that," he said. "At this point I have not seen anything in the police report that indicates gross negligence."

If found guilty, the officers could be charged with involuntary manslaughter.

"You don't have to have intention to kill someone to be tried for murder," Keith said. "If there is thoughtless disregard for consequences then it is involuntary manslaughter."

In early August Keith's first assessment was that McKellar's death "could have been a freak accident." Black leaders responded abruptly. "We think the fact that the D.A. makes statements which seem to label McKellar's death as a freak accident before he has any evidence or has conducted any interviews is irresponsible," said the Rev. Carlton Eversley, community activist. "It is not the D.A.'s job to seek exoneration for the police. He should seek justice for Mrs. McKellar."

Black leaders acknowledge that the D.A. may be overwhelmed with

# Dems Predict

Clinton is said to consult presidential scholars, advisers and others — a process that will take several weeks — before making cabinet decisions, expected in December.

"He'd be moving too fast if he appointed anyone right now. But December should be very exciting," Newell said.

Decidedly, the promise of jobs for blacks to the polls.

But Republicans used family values as a recurring campaign theme.

"The family values that Republicans talked about during their convention was not a concern for black people," Newell said, "because the morals of black people were higher than white people's anyway."

"Look at poor Bush: He's implicated in the Iran-Contra affair. And he lied when he said he didn't know anything about it."

"There are a lot of things more immoral than going after a woman," she said.

Bush captured North Carolina's 14 electoral votes by winning 44 percent of the turnout, with Clinton trailing Bush by 1 percent statewide.

Patricia Fetter, Forsyth County board of election deputy supervisor, said 74.2 percent of registered voters went to the polls countywide. This surpassed the 68.1 percent turnout in the 1988 general election, and the 1980 turnout of 69.5 percent.

Fetter said the county board of election has no record comparing voter turnout in predominately black

with white districts, as such.

However, The Winston-Salem Journal tabulated those comparisons based on information gathered in the county office. Its report showed that nearly 64 percent of registered voters from mostly black precincts turned out on Election Day. Further, 76.1 percent of registered voters in mostly white precincts turned out.

Mary F. Powe, registrar at St. Andrews United Methodist Church on Butler Street, said 1,353 voters went to the polls in her district, which is 85 percent black.

"This was a record-breaking turnout," Powe said. "The most voter turnout activity we've had in this precinct was the (Jesse) Helms and (Harvey) Gantt senatorial race. Less than 1,000 voters showed up."

North Carolina voted two blacks into Washington: representatives-elect Eva Clayton and Mel Watt.

There are 39 blacks in the House and one in the Senate. The 103rd Congress has the largest number of minority representatives in both houses since the 1870 Civil War Reconstruction.

During Clinton's campaign, he was criticized for keeping the Rev. Jesse Jackson in the political back burner.

Clinton proved he could circumvent Jackson and still get black support because "he saw there were other leaders he could depend upon to hold the black vote," said Samuel Moseley, A&T State University

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political science professor.

"Clinton made an appeal to the black elected officials, mayors, state black caucus individuals," he said.

"North Carolina didn't carry Clinton — we are not real pleased with that," Parmon said. "But the number of votes for the Democrats will show the hard work we (blacks) did for the campaign. We certainly feel some ownership."

Clinton's appointing Vernon Jordan for his transition team shows that the efforts of blacks during his campaign have not gone unnoticed."

In the meantime, the Piedmont leaders agreed that blacks should establish a unified agenda.

"The NAACP and the National Urban League will play a role in helping. But we need an organization that is more broad-based," said Moseley.

Newell said, "I would like to see black people join together and network rather than jockeying for the positions. Networking allows us to amass. We have not done that, as the Italians and the Jews have done."

"The black community should forever keep pressure at the forefront," Rev. Summers said. "They are not to let up until they actually see those changes taking place."

"Stay in touch with those people who have position and influence position," Parmon said. "We need to let Dan Blue know what we are interested in."

"Blue has a direct line to the campaign."

# NAACP Launches Boycott from page A1

Last week, national television audiences who viewed ABC's Prime Time Live telecast were shocked to see footage of Food Lion employees repackaging old meat and spoiled food.

An ABC producer went undercover for several months posing, as a meat packager and then used hidden cameras to record employees. Food Lion executives said that the employees were disgruntled and broke company rules.

Food Lion is suing ABC for libel.

Customers at several local Food Lion stores, said that they were not affected by that report.

"I don't think much of the reports," said one customer. "I've been shopping at this Food Lion, located in East Winston Shopping Center, since it opened and I don't remember anything like this happening before."

While many customer's shared his sentiments, some agreed that it would be wise to shop with caution.

One woman, wishing to remain anonymous, said, "I just look at the meat and check it before I purchase anything."

According to Food Lion management in East Winston, business has been normal.

"There has been no change at

this location," said Carletta Rice, manager of the East Winston Shopping Center Food Lion. "We have just been following guidelines that have been set. There have been no complaints from our customers."

Kevin Scott, manager of the Wauhtown Food Lion, agreed.

"It is not really a decline," he said. "Some customers have just had concerns."

In response to the ABC News broadcast, Tom Smith, Food Lion's president and chief executive, said the footage was faked.

Food Lion stock dropped by more than 10 percent after the broadcast.

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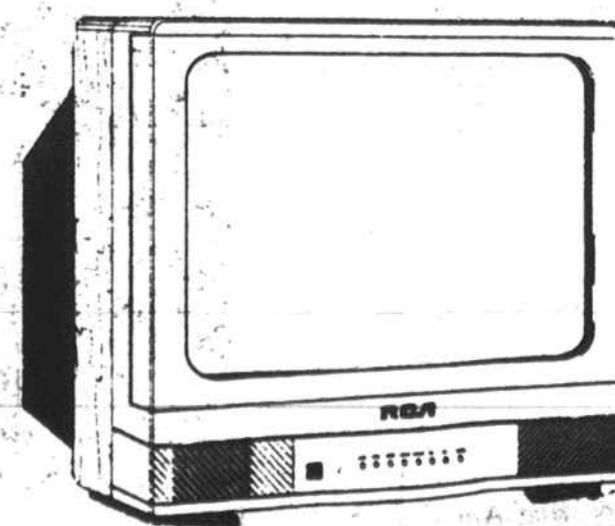
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