

Law Forum Brings Praise and Criticism

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wrong." Humbly said residents want police to stop outsiders from bringing drugs into their neighborhoods, but she said in their fervent quest to catch outsiders, mostly residents have been harassed.

Sweat said teen-agers 16 and under are committing crimes such as armed robbery, rape, larceny and murder. He said to stop the growing crime rate, the community must develop programs to help youths.

"We have got to redesign the

system again and focus on youths instead of adults," he said. "Our foot patrols are working but we won't see a significant difference (in crime reduction) until we include the youth."

Sociologist William H. Turner Jr. said crime must be analyzed in the context of larger social and economic conditions.

"We must provide greater opportunities for our youth," Turner said. "Many youths turn to crime as a way of sustaining their livelihood. A lot of (crime) has to do with a lack of eco-

conomic opportunity and that must be addressed."

Keith, who described his role as "the undertaker of the criminal justice system," said 80 percent of inmates in Forsyth County jail are African-American.

"This doesn't mean that's where crime is coming from; I also think it is economics," he said. "I'm the undertaker of the criminal justice system. By the time it gets to me, it's too late. We must find a way to deal with people. It is a social issue."

Barker said he tries to instill a work ethic in the inmates by allowing them to clean up highways and plant flowers and beautify public housing communities. He said inmates must be given work, but not slave labor.

"We can't give them hard labor, but there are no luxuries in the jail," Barker said. "Inmates must have discipline, but we can't do it through punishing them."

Barker says the department tries to work on behavior modifi-

cation and offers counseling programs to help inmates change their lives.

Rep. Larry Womble said minorities seem to be targeted for crimes, but the best way to decrease crime is to prevent it from happening by providing more jobs. Womble said the community has a lot of resources and all races of people should come together to solve the problems.

"We have to stop people from going in the system in the first place," he said. "We need

more communities coming together, but we need fairness in the system to start our healing process and move this community forward."

Officials said the meeting was beneficial and that it helped them understand concerns in the African-American community.

"It was great to hear people say they want law enforcement," Keith said. "I was happy to know the black community strongly supported law enforcement and that they want to help us take care of the bad apples."

Hunt Supporters Continue to Rally Support from Black and White Community

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and he confirmed that Gray was working on a case with him. I was concerned about getting my money."

Thompson said from his conversation with Dalton that he discovered it was the Deborah Sykes case Gray was working on and he questioned Gray's roommate — Ronald Wiles — about Gray's involvement.

"His roommate said to me that (Gray) told him he was not close enough to identify Hunt

and that he was doing it only to get the money to pay his rent," Thompson said. "That's when I talked to (Hunt's) defense."

Thompson was applauded last week at Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church for his work in helping the defense locate Gray.

District Attorney Tom Keith was scheduled to debate Hunt's attorney Mark Rabil about the case but Keith didn't show up. Instead, Rabil attacked the initial

case and the intimidation the defense claims took place during the first trial in 1985.

"There was something wrong with all of the witnesses they had and the black witnesses were treated different from white witnesses," Rabil said.

He said black witnesses were intimidated and threatened to say that Hunt was involved, and those who didn't were excluded from the trial.

Rabil said three key defense

witnesses — Al Kelly, who is black, Lisa McBride and Willis Reynolds — were not allowed to testify at the first trial and when they were allowed at a hearing in April 1994, Judge Melzer A. Morgan "rejected their testimonies" and denied Hunt a third trial.

Hunt supporter Larry Little said that it was important to examine Gray's character because he was the state's star witness who fingered Hunt.

"This whole case revolves around Johnny Gray," Little said. "The state has no proof, but anytime a white woman is raped and killed and they think a black man did it, somebody is going to get charged."

Little said that Hunt didn't have any family support making him an easy target.

"It's black men like Darryl Hunt who are usually targeted by our system to be railroaded," he said.

While the defense team awaits a possible Supreme Court ruling on whether or not to grant a third trial, they are urging black and white citizens to rally around Hunt. Little said a major rally for Hunt, which could include poet Maya Angelou, is being planned in the next few weeks.

The Supreme Court, which will lose three members in January, is expected to make a decision before the end of the year.

Black Leaders Treat Him Unfairly

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month after Judge Melzer Morgan again denied Hunt a third trial. Morgan previously denied Hunt a third trial in August.

Eversley said he wasn't attacking Keith personally, but he was attacking the way justice was administered to African-Americans.

"I don't hate Mr. Keith; I hate racism and injustice," Eversley said.

Eversley said former District Attorneys Don Tisdale and Warren Sparrow were voted out of office because of the way they handled the Hunt case. He said Keith "inherited the mess," but had a chance to heal the community by making sure Hunt got a third trial that would be fair.

Keith said he is "sensitive"

to the concerns of the black community, but added that evidence was not there to release Hunt.

"It's not my job to be a hero. I have to do what the law says, not go in and do what (Eversley) wants," Keith said. "It's nice to be hero, but my job is to follow the law, not my heart."

Keith said DNA test results released in October exonerates Hunt and co-defendant Sammy Mitchell, but neither can be released because there was not enough semen from Sykes's anus that could be tested. However, Keith hinted that it's still possible for Hunt to be released.

"It's still an open case," he said. "We are trying to find out if we can match that specimen (from the vagina) with another



Carlton Eversley

person. We're trying to be fair to the defendant and the police."

Slain Security Guard Praised

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ated from Mount Tabor High School in 1989.

Cleave Williams, the victim's father, said the family is suffering from the loss of his son. He called his son brave.

Williams' death was the 43rd homicide in Forsyth County this year.

Sweat said police usually beef up security during the holiday season to protect shoppers from theft.

Russell William Tucker, 28, was attempting to steal a pair of shoes and a coat from the K mart Super Center on University Parkway at 10:10 p.m. last Thursday when he was approached by Williams. Tucker allegedly shot Williams and then shot inside the police car at Spencer and Bryant. After a



George Sweat

brief chase, he was caught near Oak Summit Road.

Tucker is charged with murder, armed robbery, larceny and two counts of assault with a deadly weapon. He is being held

in the Forsyth County detention center without bail.

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Ella Joyce is performing in "Medea and the Doll."

"Medea and the Doll" A Must For All

Those who attended the North Carolina Black Repertory Company's, 1995 National Black Theatre Festival Benefit Luncheon, held at the Adams Mark Hotel, Dec. 10, were afterwards treated to an extraordinary theatrical production. "Medea and the Doll" starring Ella Joyce of the famed Fox TV series "Roc" and co-starred by Dan Martin of "Beverly Hills Cop III."

Written by Dr. Ruby Gray, Medea and the Doll, is an emotion riveting, hard hitting drama, an odyssey traveled by patient, "Nilda Belmont" (Ella Joyce) and psychiatrist "Dr. Crew" (Dan Martin). Under the superb, moment-to-moment impact direction of Dick Anthony Williams of the renown TV series "Homefront" and Spike Lee's "Mo Better Blues," the play is a trek through impassioned sessions, where Nilda and Dr. Crews, search Nilda's personal and family history in an effort to help her better cope

with being a contemporary struggling, hard working, single parent of a beautiful, five year old daughter. With the help of a doll he keeps in his office, Dr. Crews has the task of uncovering secrets of Nilda's childhood in prayer that these revelations will free her psyche to perform as a fit parent. If Nilda can prove herself a fit parent to Dr. Crews and the doll, the doctor will sign a paper which, will lift a veil, that shadows the future of Nilda's custody of her daughter.

Ella Joyce provided a diva-performance, which exemplified a range and depth, which will mesmerize ten-fold all of us, who are familiar with her "Roc" character, "Eleanor." Joyce shows no limit to depth, range, and penetrating presence in this thriller whose edge-of-seat action, filled every moment. Dan Martin's depiction of the austere Dr. Crews, revealed his mastery of subtext and tremendous adeptness in making dry humor conjure hilarious laughter, while,

as griot to the audience, he provided a sinister atmosphere exceeded only by the unlooked reality of many in contemporary society who must transcend solemn pasts to appease tortured spirits who unleash pain in every act of love. Light and Set Designer Artie Reese created a show of his own which embellished this tumultuous love story to rival any Broadway production. Medea and the Doll is a play of hope which begs the question: can we all learn how to tender with mercy and protect the idea of "family" with the fierce grace to stop, look and listen? For everyone and anyone over the age of 13, your attendance is a must. The remaining performances of Medea and the Doll are Sat. Dec. 17, at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and Sun. Dec. 18 at 3:00 p.m., at the Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive. For further information and ticket reservations call the North Carolina Black Repertory Company at (910) 723-7907.

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Roger Moore-
Winston Salem Journal Arts Reporter

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The North Carolina Black Repertory Company is supported by The United Arts Council Fund Drive, N.C. Arts Council (Theatre Arts Section) and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.