



Greensboro's new top law enforcement official, Robert C. White (left) took the helm of the police department two weeks ago. Already, he's pledged to make the force more reflective of the community. Currently, only 66 of the city's 452 officers are African American. And only 8 African Americans hold the rank of sergeant.

New police chief 'good for Greensboro'

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

It's tough to replace a legend. But it's a challenge that new Greensboro Police Chief Robert C. White is more than ready to take on. White, a twenty-year veteran, took the helm June 1, replacing Sylvester Daughtry, the first African American to serve as chief, who retired almost two years ago. And while he knows it will be tough to replace Daughtry, who held

the top job for 11 years, he says he's raring to get started. "I actually think (Daughtry being African American) makes it easier because he did an excellent job here and he had an excellent national reputation and he had an excellent local reputation," White said. "The challenge is for me to build upon Sylvester's successes and I'm certainly up to that." White, a veteran law enforcement officer with more than 20 years experience, comes to Greensboro from

the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department where he served as Assistant Chief of Police for Patrol Operations. The move makes him the second African American to lead Greensboro's 452 officer force. Even though Daughtry, an alumnus of N.C. A&T State University, was a fixture in the community, White says doesn't feel a lot of pressure. "African Americans and non-African Americans can expect for

me to be sensitive to the needs of all," he said and added. "Some of my experiences in the police department have really exposed me to a lot of diverse (environments)." "I think he'll be good for Greensboro," said N.C. Rep. Alma Adams, D-Guilford. "I've heard nothing but good things about him out of Washington. We'll be looking for new innovative ideas and plans from him in the future."

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Former WSSU employee files suit

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Seeing his alma mater, Winston-Salem State, in the news lately is a little unsettling for Beaufort Bailey.

However, he sees it as a necessary evil. Bailey recently filed suit against the university and Chancellor Alvin J. Schexnider because Schexnider terminated Bailey's contract for advising the school's yearbook staff.

Bailey, a former employee of WSSU, also serves as the school's National Alumni President. In his suit, Bailey claimed that his contract was wrongfully terminated and he is entitled to \$18,666 in damages and attorney's fees.

The lawsuit against Schexnider is just another of a growing list of controversial issues confronting Schexnider. He has been accused of misusing state funds and his leadership style has been questioned by many members of the WSSU faculty. The Black Leadership Roundtable of Winston-Salem is scheduled to meet next Thursday to discuss the allegations against Schexnider.

Efforts to contact Schexnider were unsuccessful. However, he has agreed to be interviewed by The Chronicle June 22.

Bailey's contract was terminated prior to the start of the 1997-98 academic year. He said he didn't realize that he had a legitimate suit until he was advised by his attorney. Even then, he says, he was reluctant to take legal action.

"I am a graduate of the university and worked there for more than 25 years," says Bailey, who worked as an education-media specialist before his retirement in 1993. "I love that school. My wife and six children are all graduates of Winston-Salem State."

Bailey says the direction the school has taken under Schexnider is the primary reason he decided to file his suit. He believes the treatment he received from Schexnider is typical of the way he has dealt with many people who have ties to the school.

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Rice fields records

After six months, first African American city secretary settling into role

By JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

Renée Rice will never forget her first Winston-Salem Board of Alderman meeting.

Knees quaking, palms sweating she stood shakily before dozens of TV cameras and whizzed through the night's agenda.

She was used to being in the hot seat. For a year she'd been the person in charge of the city's wheel lock program and authorized the towing of all vehicles.

But that meeting was different.

"I felt I had simply bombed," she said with a chuckle. "I thought I had read like a first grader. When I got home from work I didn't have a message from anybody. I thought it was so bad that nobody had the heart to call and say anything."

"Public speaking had never been something that bothered me. But I had never been on TV. It's different when you know you're being recorded."

Now, six months after that fateful meeting, Rice is a pro. As Winston-Salem's City Secretary - the first African American to hold the position - she has moved easily into her role as keeper of all of the city's official records.

From contracts to board minutes, it all passes through her capable hands.

Want to know what happened at an 1860 Board of Alderman meeting in Winston or Salem - call Rice.

Want to know what's on the agenda for an upcoming Board of Alderman meeting - call Rice.

But, her responsibilities don't end when the motion is made to close board meetings.

She works closely with the city manager's office to put together meeting agendas, issues the city's official seal on all documents that need it and is the

mayor's right hand during meetings - timing speakers and making sure meetings flow smoothly and according to proper procedure.

She says the toughest part of the job so far is learning all the niggling details about how government is run.

"The meeting planning part doesn't bother me that much, I've done that before," she said. "But the technical and legal aspects are daunting. Everything that comes into this office is a public document. And we have files from the beginning of time...The city's charters and codes - that is an ongoing learning experience."

Her office also handles the city's Citizen's Service Line. Anytime a citizen has a question, comment or complaint - Rice's three-person staff is their first line of defense.

"Her office is very important," says Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke. "We have 160,000 plus citizens in the city of Winston-Salem. We have eight aldermen who each represent about 20,000 people. Some people in a ward can take care of their problems themselves but others need a little more help...Ms. Rice's office is a link between the Board of Alderman and the people we represent."

Burke, who presides over meetings when Mayor Jack Cavanagh can't attend, says an efficient city secretary is a must.

"She makes sure everything runs smoothly," Burke said. "The city secretary has to be capable and responsible in carrying out that duty."

A Winston-Salem native Rice says she never thought one day she would work at City Hall.

After graduating in 1971 from Atkins High School, she moved to Washington, D.C. and attended Lear Siegler Career

See Rice on A2



As city secretary, Renée Rice (above) and her three-person staff handle all of the city's official documents - from contracts to the minutes of meetings of the Board of Alderman. After six months on the job, Rice says she's handled countless pieces of paper. "I don't know how many documents come through my office each week," she said. "I wouldn't know where to begin to count. Everything passes through here."

Whose bowl is it? Gift stirs controversy

ARCHIE T. CLARK II
CONSOLIDATED MEDIA GROUP

RALEIGH — When a wealthy prince gives an elaborate one-of-a-kind bejeweled bowl to "Shaw" and the president of Shaw University is also named Shaw, does that mean he gets to keep the gift?

Talbert O. Shaw, Shaw University's president, took the bowl home, and later sold it for 1-50th of its worth. The bowl has been appraised at around \$500,000. According to documents, Shaw sold the bowl in 1996 at an auction for \$12,000. Which Shaw the bowl belonged to in the first place is an issue that seems destined for the court room.

Early last month three Shaw University alumni and a former faculty member filed a lawsuit against Talbert Shaw, alleging that he took a gift actually meant for the university.

Talbert Shaw declined comment on the lawsuit, but said that those associated with the claim against him were "a bunch of conspirators."

Shaw filed a \$100 million countersuit last Friday that claims he donated the proceeds from the bowl's auction to the university and alleges the original lawsuit



An ornate gift from a Saudi Arabian has caused controversy at Shaw University. Two lawsuits have been filed to gain control of the \$500,000 diamond studded bowl.

libeled him.

The dispute began in 1989 when Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal Al Saud of Saudi Arabia visited Shaw University to accept an honorary doctoral degree for his family's contributions to the school. After accepting the degree, the prince held a lavish reception the following afternoon at the Marriott Hotel where he stunned many in

attendance by presenting the bowl, complete with pearls and two diamond-studded birds perched on the sides. Minutes later, Talbert Shaw had university employees take the bowl to his home.

It was never seen again.

About three weeks later, Shaw University faculty received a letter from the prince. The letter thanked them for the

degree and asked if "The Shaw Family is enjoying its gift," the letter said.

During this time, Urabi Mustafa, the director of Shaw University's International Studies Center and a plaintiff in the suit, had growing concerns about the bowl's ownership. Mustafa said he thought there shouldn't have been any misunderstanding because the prince presented the bowl in Arabic, which was translated into English by an interpreter even though Al-Faisal speaks both languages well. According to Mustafa, who also speaks Arabic, the bowl was clearly given to the university and not the president.

"For Shaw to even think such a gift would be given to an individual is absurd," Mustafa said. "What he has done is theft and he knows it. If the prince wanted to give Mr. Shaw a gift, it would have been a personal effect, such as a watch. Shaw doesn't even know these people."

Mustafa said he has obtained millions of dollars from individuals in the Middle East for Shaw University. Support from the school's Saudi connections has been instrumental in keeping the school afloat.

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