

**Demotions**

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taking actions similar to Davis' with LVM coliseum director Bucky Dame.

"If anyone is to be held liable for the events at the Nasty Luke Show, Bucky Dame, not the officers, should," Griggs read.

Stuart's report was also critical of the coliseum staff, stating that Dame and his staff could've taken additional preemptive measures to ensure that the concert would go smoothly.

"These officers did not book that act. They did not sign any contracts," Womble said.

Fault should fall first with Dame, Womble said, for failing to take appropriate precautions and for turning back a police tactical squad, which was standing by outside in case the situation in the coliseum got out hand.

Dame has said that he is open to Stuart and aldermen reviewing his actions.

The officers have hired attorneys and are in the midst of appealing their demotions to Stuart.

Davis was on vacation last week and could not be reached for comment. Assistant Chief Mike McCoy said the criminal investigation into the alleged on-stage sex act at the concert is ongoing. He said it's

going slowly because all the parties involved live outside of the state; Dade County (Florida) law enforcement officials are helping with investigation.

McCoy calls the situation "unfortunate," especially because each of the officers had more than a decade of stellar police work under their belts at the time they were demoted.

Hairston, for example, has received the prestigious Jefferson Award for his community involvement and has been honored by the state, McCoy said.

Closure in this situation will be beneficial to all parties involved, he added.

"My desire is that some decision be made soon," he said, "because (not knowing) is a great amount of stress on these officers."

BLR members say they have not met with the demoted officers as a group, but individual members have spoken with them since the demotions were made last month.

BLR members met with Stuart a few hours after the news conference to discuss the situation.

A call to Stuart was not returned by press time.

Womble said the meeting went "well," but Stuart made no commitments, one way or the other, about BLR's request.

"We were very emphatic about what our concerns were, (and) Mr.

Stuart received us well," Womble said.

Womble added that Stuart was cold about the independent grievance officer idea; Stuart told BLR members that the city's charter charges him with hearing city employees' grievances and that the court system was always an option for those not satisfied with his rulings.

BLR has "problems" with Stuart's stance on the idea, Womble said, and it is encouraging citizens who support the officers to call Stuart and express themselves.

Winston-Salem will send a bad message to other cities by letting the demotions stand, Womble said.

One reason that the group came up with the independent liaison idea, is that several BLR members have said that the relationship between Stuart and Davis is "too cozy."

Earlier this year Stuart appointed Davis chief even though she had not applied for the job, overlooking four others who did go through the application process.

"It sends a message of a buddy system," Womble said. "I'm not saying that there is one, but it sends that message."

Stuart told the group that he is now waiting for the officers and



Photo by Kevin Walker  
Alderman Nelson Malloy discusses the demotions of three black police officers following a melee at a rap concert.

their attorneys to act so that the grievance process can go forward. Stuart's decision is expected soon.

"I'm hoping that (Stuart's) heart is in the right place and he does the right thing," Womble said.

Womble said BLR is keeping "all options open" in case Stuart does not overturn the demotions. Malloy said the Board of Aldermen will wait until Stuart makes his decision before it decides whether or not

to take any sort of action.

A majority of the board, five aldermen, could fire Stuart, but Malloy would not say if that was an option he'd like the board to explore.

**75th birthday tribute for Rev. Joseph R. Samuels**

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Rev Joseph R. Samuels, pastor of St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, was honored royally on his 75th birthday.

A banquet was held on Saturday, Nov. 27, at the Yeates Convention Center in Kernersville. This was a joyous occasion for both Rev. and Mrs. J.R. Samuels. The J.R. Samuels Ensemble II rendered music. He received tokens of love and appreciation from his friends and church family. The Pastor's Special Committee presented him with a beautiful pastoral robe. Several ministers, associates, deacons and special friends gave personal tribute to Rev. Samuels.

On Sunday, Nov. 28, his celebration continued with an

appreciation service at St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Dwight Hash of Rising Star Baptist Church in Walnut Cove was the 11 a.m. speaker and Rev. Paul A. Lowe Jr. of Shiloh Baptist Church was the speaker for the 4 p.m. service. More tokens of appreciation were presented to Rev. Samuels from his church family.

A fellowship dinner was held after the service.

The J. R. Samuels Day committee members were: Rev. Lelia Edgefield and Rev. Phyllis Faye (Founders), Deacon and Mrs. Leroy Miller, Deacon and Mrs. Nathaniel Barber, Deacon and Mrs. Phamon Jones, Deacon and Mrs. Hector Cox, Rev. Ervin Baker, Ms. Betty Harris, Ms. Charlene Oliver and the Hospitality Committee.

**Salvation Army**

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Marilyn Williams, another bell ringer, said, "I love doing this. I like helping people - the elderly, the children, the unfortunate."

The kettle drive, which started Nov. 16, is conducted six days a week (except Sunday) and will continue through Dec. 24.

In addition to its kettle drive, the Salvation Army offers several other services this time of year for the working poor and temporary assistance to needy families, said Twyla Nelson, director of Christmas services for Salvation Army. The Salvation Army collects and distributes new toys for children through its angel tree and toy shop programs; clothing through its

give a kid a coat program; non-perishable food items; and it has a stocking program.

Nelson said the Salvation Army will help about 1,500 needy families this year, including 3,500 to 3,800 children, up from over 3,300 children last year.

"Even though unemployment is relatively low, there are a lot of minimum wage jobs," Nelson said.

"They (working poor and the needy) don't have a lot of extra money to supply Christmas for their children."

The Salvation Army will accept donations of new toys, non-perishable food items and new clothes (ages birth through 14 years) through Dec. 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, at 2610 Trade Mart Blvd.

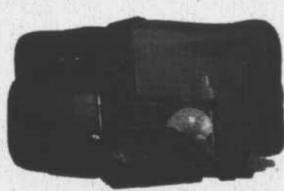
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**An Opportunity To Serve Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.**

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education is accepting applications and nominations for people to serve on its Equity Committee. This advisory board provides valuable feedback on issues regarding instruction, staffing, and resources among our 50 zone schools.

If you are interested in being considered for the committee, or if you know someone who could make positive contributions to our schools, contact Amanda Bell, Assistant Superintendent, at 727-2787, for an application and more information. Application deadline is January 3.



Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

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