

Chronicle Profile

Teacher Speaks Up For Education

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Willie Anderson has been called a lot of names in his lifetime. He attributes the name calling to his willingness to challenge anyone who doesn't give him a straight answer when it concerns education.

"I've been called everything from obnoxious to a radical," says Anderson. "People don't like to be challenged and especially people in power -- they don't like it."

"Yes, they've called me a radical," he says, "but they will tell you I'm a polite one."

A mathematics teacher at Wiley Junior High School, Anderson is about to enter his second term as president of the Forsyth County North Carolina Teachers Association. He served as president four years ago.

Between teaching and working with various commissions of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), the veteran teacher of 12 years found time to work in the campaign office of Congressman Steve Neal when he was seeking re-election, work with Larry Womble during his campaign for alderman, work extensively with the local NAACP voter registration drive and the list goes on. Despite being a husband and a father of one, Anderson doesn't believe he's spreading himself too thin.

"I'm just a multi-faceted person," says Anderson, who boasts that he can operate effectively on only four of five hours of sleep a day. "I spend a lot of time doing things simultaneously."

No one can argue that the 35-year-old Charleston, S.C., native isn't multi-faceted. Between attending

Livingstone College and Appalachian State University, Anderson managed to distinguish himself as a pall bearer at the funeral of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., work as a postman and become a statistic by dropping out of Morehouse College in Atlanta.

His explanation for removing himself from one of the most distinguished black institutions in the nation is this:

"There just was a lot going on in Atlanta in sixty-eight," he says. "It was an opportunity to be involved in the civil rights movement, rather than study calculus or write papers on literature."

"I love my job because I get a great deal of reward from teaching kids that I know will be able to cope with the year two thousand."

-- Willie Anderson

In the Winston-Salem community, however, Anderson is recognized as a man who speaks up and out for education, as well as getting things done.

Sound like a campaign testimonial? That's just the way it is and anybody who's ever heard of Anderson knows that if there's a school board meeting he will be there. To add to that, Anderson makes no secret of his ongoing battle with school board member Mary Margaret Lohr.

Out his disillusionment with Lohr's stance on the school reorganization plan, Anderson addressed a sassy, rhetorical Merry Christmas letter to Lohr, reprimanding her for her about-face in supporting



Willie Anderson: A quiet radical (photo by James Parker).

NCAE issues.

"I have a running disagreement with Mary Margaret Lohr," says Anderson, "because when she ran for office she said she would help support our issues and she hasn't."

"She hasn't spoken to me about the letter, but I'll address her at the school board meeting," he says. "People will say, 'She's a politician so don't expect her to support anything else. I say not so.'"

Unlike many who go into the teaching profession

and suffer burnout, Anderson shows no signs of giving up. He has his complaints and there have been a few who've argued his concern is too dramatic.

"I love my job because I get a great deal of reward from teaching kids that I know will be able to cope with the year two thousand," he says.

His complaints of education aren't aimed at just one source -- they come from all directions. And as an observer, a teacher and an activist for education,

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Howard Ward

Ward Installed

Clyde Alexander, 33rd degree and vice president of the Mountain Region, Orient of North Carolina, recently installed Grand Inspector General Howard L. Ward, 33rd degree, as the Illustrious Commander-In-Chief of King Solomon Consistory No. 64.

Ward, who is native of Winston-Salem and a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, has been a mason eight years.

As a mason, he has served all ranks from the Tyler to the Worshipful Master of Salem Lodge No. 139. Ward is Assistant Rabban of Sethos Temple No. 170 of the Prince Hall Shriners.

An industrial arts teacher at Anderson High School, Ward also holds memberships in the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Patterson Avenue YMCA's Board of Management,

Phalanx Fraternity, NAACP and Shiloh Baptist Church, where he serves on the trustee board. He is also a photographer.

Ward and his wife, Viola, have two children, Mrs. Gwendolyn Chandler and Howard L. Ward II.

Other officers include 1st Lt. Cmdr. William E. Stevenson, 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Lloyd Cuthrell, Minister of State and Orator; Rodell Lillie, Prior; Luther Littlejohn, Chancellor; Preston McConnell, Keeper of Seal and Archives; David Odom, Treasurer; Robert A. Scales, Hospitaler; Janava Deberry, Master of Ceremonies; James L. Lasiter, Standard Bearer; Edward Russell, Engineer and Architect; Muriel Floyd, Captain of Guard; Henry Williams, Sentinel; and Cardel Douth.

Girl Scouts To Perform At WSSU

Double dutch is a street game commonly played in large cities with two jump ropes, and became even more popular a couple of years ago when singer Frankie Smith recorded a tune about the urban recreation.

Scouts of the Martin Luther King and Piedmont Recreation Centers will demonstrate the double dutch techniques during the Winston-Salem State University Rams basketball season this year.

Cynthia Jeter is the coach at the Piedmont Center and

Dorothy Windgate is the coach at the Martin Luther King Center. Mattie Peebles is the Girl Scout field executive in the East Winston area.

The girls will perform at the 7:30 p.m. games in Gaines Gym on Jan. 11, 14, 17 and February 4, 6, 8, 16, 18.

Dr. Martin Luther King Community Calendar



The January 12 edition of the Winston-Salem Chronicle will commemorate the birth date of Dr. Martin Luther King. A Community Calendar of events at this special time will be published. Please contact the Chronicle with information about your activities, so that they will be included.

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