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Eyein' The Ice
 New skater brings a little soul to the Thunderbirds.

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Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

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You'll still hear from Mrs. Wilson

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
 Chronicle Staff Writer

"I've come too far from where I started from. Nobody told me that the way would be easy. But I don't believe He brought me this far to leave me."

The quote above appears on one of the few remaining signs on the walls in Room 203 of the Experiment in Self-Reliance building.

Appropriately, it is one of the last items that will be removed as Room 203's long-time resident packs to leave the office she has occupied for so many years. She's come a long way since she joined ESR in 1965 and, as she prepares for her retirement at month's end, she promises that we have not heard the last from Louise G. Wilson.

An active civil rights organizer, ESR's executive director says she came into the organization with some hesitancy.

"I came into the agency of ESR under protest," she says. "At that time there had not been any blacks hired in what we call the 'top echelon.' At that time, CORE, the NAACP and several of the black leaders felt they needed a black person in the 'top echelon.' I had just renewed my teaching certificate at Carver (High) School and I had been out in the civil rights field worrying everyone to death. A group approached me to see if I would apply for the job and I must admit that I was a little reluctant."

Following her initial ESR job interview two decades ago, Mrs. Wilson remembers thinking "they won't want me because I've been out in the street worrying people."

Smiling, she asks, "Would you believe they hired me anyway?"

ESR was organized in 1964 as part of the "War on Poverty" introduced during the Lyndon Johnson administration. Designed to help Please see page A2



St. Louise ...

... as a local reporter once called her, strikes an angelic pose as she awaits the results of a 1983 city-county bond referendum (photo by James Parker).

Dismissal of coordinator concerns 'Art-Is' boosters

Parents say they wonder if program will continue

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
 Chronicle Staff Writer

The dismissal of an Urban Arts employee due to budgetary constraints has placed the popular 'Art-Is House' program in jeopardy, some concerned parents feel.

Franklin O. Williams, a program assistant with Urban Arts and coordinator of the Art-Is House program for the last two years, was notified at the beginning of December by Arts Council Executive Director Joseph K. Walls that his position would be terminated as of Dec. 31. The reason given for Williams' dismissal in a letter from Walls was "budget constraints which necessitate serious cost-cutting measures."

The parents, members of the Art-Is House's Parents Advisory Committee, have written a letter to Walls and have met with Urban Arts Director Linwood Oglesby to express their concern over Williams' dismissal. They say he has been the key to the program's continuity and success.

"He has been such an asset to the Art-Is House program that I cannot understand why monies were not included for his position," said Bernadette E. Hairston, chairperson of the parents committee, Friday.

"He has been there, he keeps up with what's going on, he takes time with the children, and he cares about the program," she added. "I'm wondering whether this is the first step in discontinuing the program. Mr. Oglesby has assured us that the program will not end. We'll just have to wait and see."

The Art-Is House is a community cultural arts program providing professional training and classes in the visual and performing arts to talented youth. All Winston-Salem and Forsyth County youth between the ages of 6 and 15 are eligible to participate. It is one of the programs of Urban Arts, the first outreach program in America bringing art to communities not usually touched by traditional arts programs. Urban Arts is a program of the Arts Council.



Franklin Williams: Parents say he is the cornerstone of the program's success (photo by James Parker).

The Art-Is House operates out of a large building on Cleveland Avenue. Classes are taught in arts and crafts, dance (ballet, ethnic and modern), drama, drawing, painting, photography and pottery. Two 10-week sessions are held in the fall and spring of each year. The next session is scheduled to begin According to Williams, 89 students participated. Please see page A3

Tisdale involved in auto accident

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
 Chronicle Staff Writer

An automobile registered to District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale, and in which Tisdale was a passenger, was involved in an accident early last Thursday morning, bringing drunk driving charges against the car's driver, according to police reports.

Vicki Matthews Oakley, 34, of 3949-D Valley Court in Winston-Salem, the driver of Tisdale's 1966 Volkswagen, was charged with driving while impaired after the car smashed into a 1979 Honda driven by Todd Apperson Mercy, 21, of Charlotte.

The accident occurred at 12:15 a.m. Thursday morning at the intersection of Reynolda Road and Coliseum Drive just below Memorial Coliseum. Police estimated damages of \$3,000 to Mercy's vehicle and \$1,200 to the vehicle owned by Tisdale.

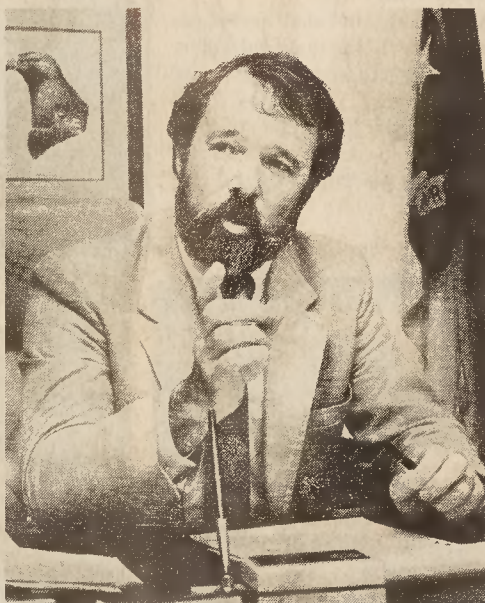
Tisdale, 43, was the only other passenger in his car and was listed in the police report as suffering "incapacitating" injuries, meaning, according to a police document, that his injuries were "obviously serious enough to prevent carrying on normal activities for at least 24 hours; for example, massive loss of blood, or broken bones."

Calls to local hospitals revealed no record of Tisdale being treated. Miss Oakley, however, was treated at Forsyth Memorial Hospital and released.

The hospital would not elaborate on the extent of her injuries, although the police report described them as "non-incapacitating."

Tisdale could not be reached for comment and is, according to his office, out for the rest of the week. He has not been to work since Thursday, a secretary said.

Mercy carried two other passengers in his Please see page A11



District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale (photo by James Parker)

Realtor discriminated, rules city housing panel

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
 Chronicle Staff Writer

The Hearing Board of the city's Human Relations Commission ruled Thursday that a Winston-Salem real estate company violated the city's fair housing ordinance by discriminating against a black woman in late 1983 and early 1984. The commission, in turn, voted to ask the city's aldermen to file a lawsuit against the company.

The hearing board said in its ruling that Grubbs Real Estate and Insurance Co. discriminated against the woman "by failing to rent an apartment to her on ac-

count of her race (black) in violation of Sec. 12-85 (Fair Housing Ordinance)."

The complaint to the Human Relations Commission was filed by Mary Ann Williams Gray in May of 1984 and charged racial and sexual discrimination against Grubbs, which served as the management agency for the Colonial Village Apartments on Charleston Court. Mrs. Gray charged that she was repeatedly mistreated and ignored in her efforts to rent an apartment there, despite meeting all of the criteria to do so.

The board ruled that the com- Please see page A2

Year-end report: North Carolina's Klan activity remains worst in the nation

Special To The Chronicle

North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence (NCARRV) issued a year-end report recently that cites 30 incidents of violence or other illegal activity motivated by bigotry in 1985.

"North Carolina continues to head up the list of states experiencing Klan activity," said Bill Stanton, director of Klanwatch, based in Montgomery, Ala. "The presence of Glenn Miller's pseudopolitical/military organization gives a stridency and militancy, a confrontation atmosphere, that makes North Carolina unique."

NCARRV Coordinator Mab Segrest called on Gov. James Martin to appoint a state task force on hate groups and bigoted violence. "This is the third year in a row we have been 'first-in-fringe,'" she said. "It is past time for the governor to act."

NCARRV's 1985 report shows the second-highest level of

recorded bigoted violence in North Carolina since 1979 -- second only to 1983, when there were 48 recorded violent/illegal incidents motivated by bigotry. The 30 incidents this year include eight crossburnings, five people injured in attacks, 15 threats or other illegal acts and two cases of vandalism.

There were at least 33 Klan/White Patriot Party marches and rallies in the state in 1985. According to NCARRV, some counties had two and three Klan factions organizing at once.

Some Trends

Although not able to say how many of the 30 incidents were perpetrated by active members of hate groups, the NCARRV report pointed up these trends:

- In only one instance did a violent/illegal incident take place in a county where there was no active hate group organizing.

- There is a rough one-to-one correlation between violent/illegal incidents and legal incidents of hate group activity, in both 1984 and 1985, demonstrating the hostile climate that such activity creates.

- 1985 saw active hate groups organizing in 23 of the state's 100 counties -- roughly 25 percent. Since 1979, at least one-third of the counties in the state have experienced significant levels of racist organizing. Dial-a-hate phone units were advertised for 23 towns and cities.

Incidents of bigoted violence in North Carolina in 1985 include: Statesville, Feb. 23 -- In a "neighborhood dispute" that started when a drunken white man yelled, "We're going to get us some niggers," four white men, one with a shotgun, two with M-14 rifles, shot into a black family's home, injuring three people, including a 13-year-old girl who ran back into a room to save an infant lying on

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