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Coble suspends principal with pay

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

An Afro-American parent who has known and worked with William E. Honeycutt, the man accused of slapping, kicking and/or shoving at least four Afro-American children, said he is not racist. However, parents of the allegedly abused students said something is wrong with a man who hits children and said he should be dismissed from the school system.

On Sept. 11 Mr. Honeycutt, principal at the school for ten years, allegedly boarded a bus loaded with Afro-American students from the northeast section of the city looking for a student. He reportedly began yelling at them and pushing and striking some of the students. Parents said their children came home crying, donning bruises allegedly inflicted on them by Mr. Honeycutt.

After a week-long investigation, Superintendent Larry D. Coble announced Monday that Mr. Honeycutt would be suspended with pay.

"I will make a further recom-

mendation to the Board of Education regarding Mr. Honeycutt based on the outcome of the police investigation and further internal investigation," said Dr. Coble.

Walter Marshall, local branch president of the NAACP, has said he was not surprised when he heard of the latest accusations made against Mr. Honeycutt because "he has the reputation of being some kind of racist."

However, an Afro-American parent, who is now the vice president of Mineral Spring's Parent/Teacher Association after serving two years as president of the organization, said she has worked closely with the principal for the past six years and he is not racist.

"I've worked with Mr. Honeycutt and a lot of the things being said about him aren't so," said Joyce T. Davidson, who has two children attending Mineral Springs Elementary School. "I've never seen him with a racist attitude. He has had problems with people, blacks and whites, but they were just per-

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Miss America!



Miss America 1990 Debbye Turner, left, of Missouri is crowned by former Miss America Gretchen Carlson in Atlantic City. See page A3 for more.

Associated Press Laser Photo

Low SAT marks worry officials, changes urged

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Recovering from the shock of listing the lowest average scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test in the country, educators are busy analyzing, studying and assessing student curriculums to determine what went wrong and what can be done to remedy the situation.

Superintendent Larry D. Coble has appointed a committee to study college board and advanced placement requirements and how the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools' curriculum prepares students for the tests. He also has recommended the expansion of extracurricular SAT preparation courses in the system's eight high schools and hopes Geneva Brown, the newly appointed director of minority/average child achievement, can study ways to help Afro-American students get higher scores.

Overall average scores for students in the city-county schools are down 15 points from those posted in 1988, which were up 16 points from 1987, according to figures released Monday by Dr. Coble. Average scores are up eight points since the 1985-86 academic year, which marked the first time all eight high schools had seniors, he said.

The 394 Afro-Americans taking the test during the last academic year had an average score of 689, down eight points from the previous year. Whites averaged 906

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Candidates step up campaign as primary approaches

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

The campaign trail will have fewer travelers when Democrat and Republican voters make their choice for mayor and alderman in the Sept. 26 primary elections.

Mayoral candidates G. Dee Smith and Martha S. Wood will face-off and some political onlookers say Afro-Americans may cast the deciding votes for the victor of the race.

Apparently aware of that possibility, Mrs. Wood, Mr. Smith and the other 24 candidates have been making appearances at NAACP political forums, churches, residents' association meetings and elsewhere in the Afro-American community.

Mr. Smith even set up his podium and "Dee Smith for Mayor" poster in the East Winston Shopping Center for a press conference Monday.

"Mr. Smith, I'm gonna' vote for you, but I hope you do what you say you're gonna do," said one Afro-American lady as she drove by.

"I will! Thank You!" Mr. Smith yelled after the lady as he waved to her.

City government should do more to encourage employment and business investments in eastern Winston-Salem, Mr. Smith said.

"Jobs and business development cross all neighborhood lines," he said. "Like other areas in Winston-Salem, the eastern part of the city must improve its economy before lasting improvements in the quality of life will occur."

His plan of action outlined the following steps he would take as mayor to attract more jobs and businesses to East Winston:

- Increase efforts to get state funding for the proposed Eastern Beltway, which would attract new businesses by creating new opportunities for development. The beltway should be built with minimal disruption to existing neighborhoods, he said.
- Aggressively recruit minority entrepreneurs.
- Encourage loan and real estate incentives to locate businesses in eastern Winston-Salem.

Mr. Smith said he would also attack the perception that drugs and crime are the main concerns in East Winston. Such publicity, he said, not only scares potential employers and hampers development, it also ignores the fact that drugs and crime are major concerns throughout Winston-Salem.

When asked what was the most significant contribution he could make to the city's Afro-American community, Mr. Smith said, "To make sure they are included in any of the benefits that are to go to the whole community. To make sure they share in the growth of this city."

Mrs. Wood, who leads the pack of candidates in political experience with eight years as Northwest Ward alderman, unveiled Tuesday an economic development plan that calls for the creation of a Medical and Scientific Technology (MAST) enterprise zone. The MAST zone would be concentrated downtown, she said, with satellite zones in the northern U.S. 52 corridor and in the western, Interstate 40/Silas Creek Parkway area.

Her plan would also include developing an engineering program or

school at Winston-Salem State University, comprehensive efforts to rehabilitate older downtown buildings and an emphasis on residential development in and near downtown.

Recalling the days when Patterson Avenue was the hub of economic activity for Afro-Americans, Mrs. Wood suggested the restoration and rehabilitation of the area adjacent to Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church.

"Those store fronts on Patterson Avenue are some of the same stores I patronized as a client," Mrs. Wood said. "I would like to see the restoration of those buildings. I see all kinds of things, businesses locating there, offices and retail opportunities."

When Mrs. Wood's campaign team was formulating her slogan they deemed her the "people's choice." Why? Because of her love for all people, a characteristic Mrs. Wood said would be her greatest contribution to the city's Afro-American population.

"I love people. I have a care and concern for people that has nothing to do with the color of their skin, their height, weight, sex or economic status," Mrs. Wood said, choking down tears on a topic she said emotionally moves her. "I believe very much in Dr. (M.L.) King's dream, and I believe it can come true if enough of us want to make it come true: judging people by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin. I support his dream and what Martha Wood has is a record of eight years to show I support (it)."

A former director of the county's social services department, Gerald

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Back on solid ground

WSSU nursing program gets major overhaul

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

In 1968, when Sylvia Ann Flack was pinned during a graduation ceremony, Winston-Salem State University had one of the best nursing programs in the state.

Twenty-one years later, Dr. Flack returned to her alma mater as nursing school coordinator to find that the program's once sparkling reputation had tarnished.

Low passing rates for graduates taking the state licensing exam for the first time have kept WSSU and the other traditionally Afro-American universities, which offer bachelor's of science degrees, in the spot light.

In 1975 the University of North Carolina Board of Governors issued a report on "Nursing Education in North Carolina, 1975-1980," which cited WSSU, North Carolina A&T and North Carolina Central univer-

sities as having only a small proportion of its graduates passing the licensing exam. Subsequent reports indicated that the universities were making progress some years and taking steps backwards during other years.

"A lot of women who once went into nursing are going into other fields like law and what they don't realize is that nursing is just as professional as that area."

--Dr. Sylvia A. Flack

It seemed that when WSSU graduates excelled on the test, those at NCCU or A&T had bad years. For instance, in 1988 all eight students taking the exam at A&T passed, a 100 percent passing rate. Also in that year, NCCU had 88 per-

cent of its nursing students pass the state boards. However, only 50 percent of WSSU's students passed the test.

This year the percentage of passing students rose to 64 percent. It will be Dr. Flack's job to boost that percentage even higher.

"I am the coordinator of the nursing program," she said. "What that means in lay terms is that I coordinate all activities related to the nursing program. That includes recruitment of students, curriculum development, faculty development, public relations as it relates to the program and everything involving the day-to-day operation and evaluation of the program."

Dr. Flack has built a reputation on her ability to put nursing programs on firm, productive footing, said Sadie B. Webster, director of WSSU's Division of Nursing and Allied Health.

"We needed someone to assist



Sadie Webster, left, director of the Division of Nursing and Allied Health, and Sylvia A. Flack, new nursing program coordinator, review plans to increase students' scores on state board exams.

Photo by Mike Cunningham

in the day-to-day operations of our nursing program and also to assist in upgrading our program and I feel that we are very fortunate to have Dr. Flack's expertise in that area," Mrs. Webster said.

Dr. Flack coordinated a nursing

program at Roanoke Chowan Community College that turned out to be one of the best in the state, she said. Her primary objective at WSSU is to bring the nursing program back to the strength it had when she was a student there. A dedicated faculty

and committed, hard working students are the key to reaching that goal, she said.

"A good nursing program needs dedicated faculty," said Dr. Flack,

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