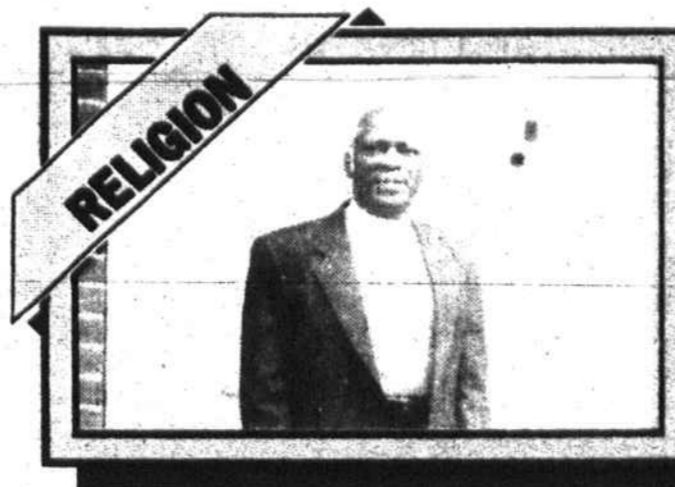




Ms. Commissioner

Delores Todd returns to her old alma mater to spread the word.

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Saving history!

Rev. Cedric Rodney works to save N.C.'s oldest black church

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Winston-Salem Chronicle

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First grader gets school suspension

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

An African-American seven-year old first grade student was suspended from school last week at South Fork Elementary school for "disruptive behavior", according to the school's principal Rodger Eckard.

But the child's mother said of her daughter's suspension during an interview Tuesday, she is not a holy terror, she is just a child who needs attention.

The child served her three day suspension this week at the LIFT Learning Center and Academy, a community-based school that provides counseling and academic instructional services for children not involved in a regular school setting. Currently there are more than 50 such children at the academy. But LIFT officials said this was their first experience with a child so young coming into their program.

"I'm kind of surprised and

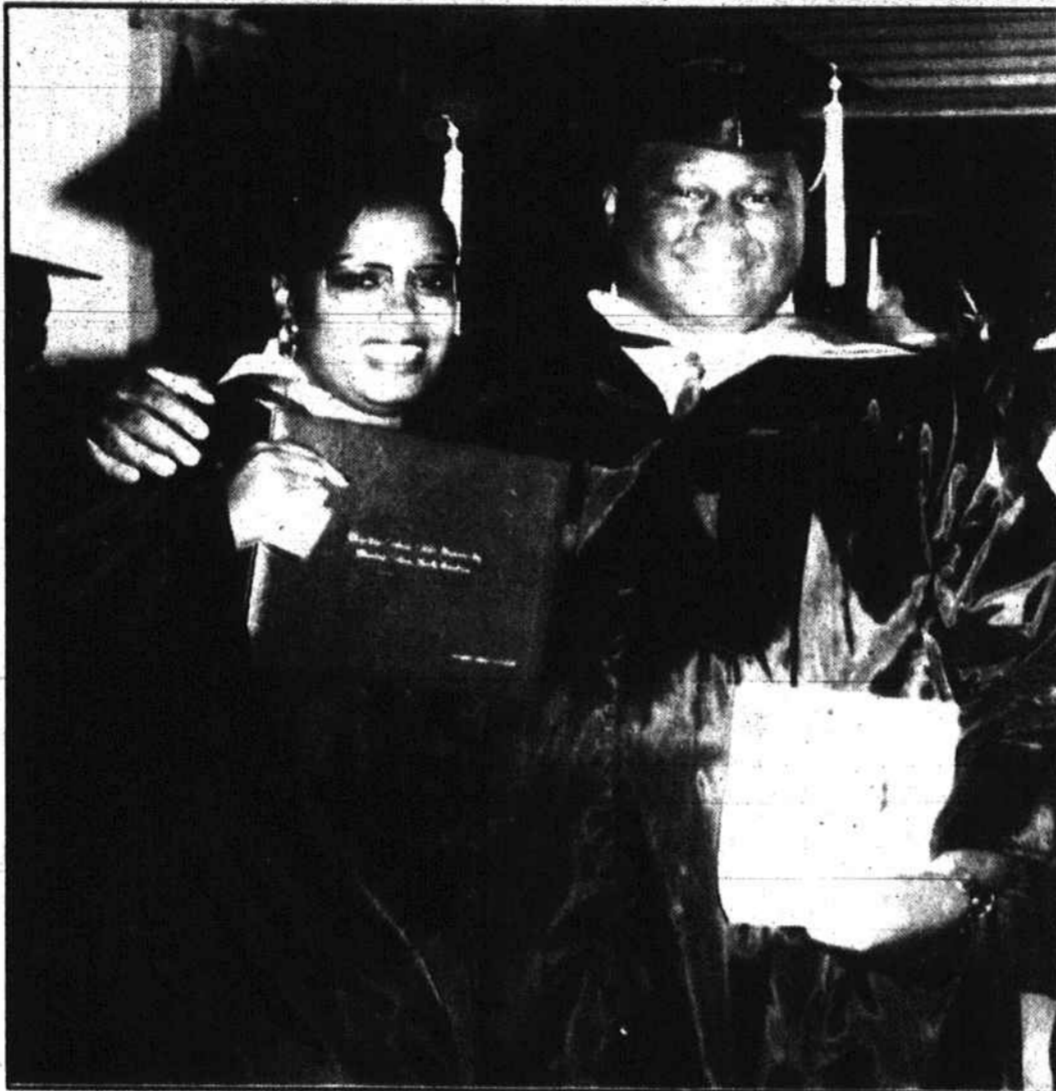
amazed that there are not some other kinds of disciplinary measures available in the school system to deal with this without resorting to this," said William Fails, LIFT's counselor/coordinator. He said he understood the school system's point of view but he was concerned about the state of mind an action like this would have on the child.

"A seven year-old doesn't need this kind of mark on their personality," he said. "What I'm afraid of is a behavioral pattern being established as a result of this. This is a new thing for us, and we hope the school system can understand our shock over this," Fails said.

Asked how she behaved while in LIFT's care, Fails said the staff found her to be aggressive, strong willed, and extremely bright. Fails said the thing that seemed to work best with the child was to keep her busy, and not allow her time to get into any trouble.

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WE'VE DONE IT!



WSSU Graduates Donna Anita Cotton (left) from Scotland, N.C. and Richard Dwayne Alford (right) from Winston-Salem, are all smiles after obtaining their diplomas Saturday.

Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.

WSSU graduates 335

Franklin challenges senior class to serve

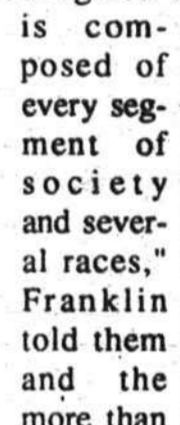
Chronicle Staff Report

Winston-Salem State University's 99th graduating class was challenged last Saturday to give something back to society by being sensitive to needs of their communities and by working to improve education across the country.

The challenge was offered by the noted African-American historian and author Dr. John Hope Franklin, the James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History at Duke University and a professor of legal history at the university's law school.

Franklin made his appeal to the more than 330 graduates of the 1991 senior class during commencement exercises held at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. It was one of the largest graduating classes the university has had in recent years.

Franklin urged the graduates to work toward improving the plight of the homeless, voter apathy, illiteracy and racism. "I am pleased and delighted that this graduating class is composed of every segment of society and several races," Franklin told them and the more than 2,000 others who attended the ceremony.



Dr. Franklin

"You've been accused of living in an ivory tower, but I urge you to be more sensitive to the needs of this country and your respective

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N.A.T.I.O.N.A.L NEWS

Yahweh Sect follower captured

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — A 45-year-old Winston-Salem man accused of decapitating a fellow member of the Yahweh black separatist religious sect in 1981 was arrested without incident, the FBI said Wednesday.

John W. Foster, also known as Enoch Israel, was arrested late Tuesday night at his Winston-Salem home, Florida special agent William Gavin said.

Police Commissioner quits

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The president of the Police Commission resigned Tuesday in a dispute over a fellow member's release of documents to a civil rights group pressing for the resignation of police Chief Daryl Gates.

Daniel Garcia said the integrity of the mayor-appointed board, which oversees the city's embattled Police Department, was jeopardized when secret commission documents were leaked.

Death-row inmate paroled

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The state parole board has ordered the release of a former death row inmate who captured international attention as supporters portrayed him as a victim of racism.

Johnny Harris, who has spent the last 21 years in prison including 15 on death row, will be freed on parole in two weeks.

Child is severely beaten

DETROIT (AP) — One of Michigan's largest adoption agencies could lose its state license over the disabling injuries suffered by a black child after he was separated from his white foster parents.

Catholic Social Services placed the child with a new family, then ignored evidence he was being abused until he suffered severe brain damage, the state Department of Social Services said in a report published Thursday in The Detroit News.

The agency's executive director said all employees involved in the "tragic and inexcusable" incident have been fired or quit.

Carver precinct divided, residents angry

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Chronicle Staff Writer

Alderman Vivian Burke and several other African-American community members challenged the Board of Elections' May 7th decision to send over half of the voters in the Carver School Road district, to Solid Rock Baptist Church, to cast their ballots, citing potential fire hazards and traffic problems.

The three-member board decided Tuesday to open a new voting precinct at the church for about 1500 people who normally vote at Carver High School, in an effort to solve the problem of long voter lines caused by too many registered voters at one precinct. About 1100 voters would continue going to Carver. Over 2600 voters turn out at Carver on election day, making the precinct the second largest in the county, based on voter

turnout, and the fifth largest, in terms of the percentage of registered voters.

But Alderman Burke says splitting Carver's precinct isn't the answer to the problem.

"The problem was not with the people who were voting; the problem is with the people who are inexperienced, who are the registrars."

Burke referred to an incident at Carver on last year's election day, when the registrar left the building, leaving another person in charge, who Burke says was not experienced enough to manage the large number of people.

Burke also expressed concern about moving 1500 people to a smaller building that does not have the capacity nor the parking space for them.

"I do not see this as being sound reasoning, when you are going to propose a church that will not

really be able to manage the people coming in there, when you're proposing it would be over 1500 or close to 1500; and then where you do have a facility, for a little over a thousand, to me that is not a sound proposal."

Burke added "We said there would be only 30 spaces for cars, and we do expect, knowing that Carver does have the area of heavy turnout, then with that many people in the building, they will not be in the vicinity of the voting place, because only about 20...could be there [in the room] voting. And then, the parking continues to be a problem....The safety is a major issue and concern.

Alderman Burke backed up her concerns with a review of the church compiled by Winston-Salem Fire Chief F.E. Harless, which stated that the room in which

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R.J.R. gives \$300,000 to Success Academy

Chronicle Wire Report



James W. Johnston

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company will continue its funding of the R.J. Success Academy program in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools during the 1991-92 school year, superintendent Larry Coble announced Wednesday. Coble said Reynolds has committed \$300,000 to fund the second year of the after school tutorial program.

"More than 1,000 students from 12 middle schools have participated in the program this school year, and we have seen many positive developments with the individual students," Coble added.

Several hundred students, parents, tutors, teachers and volunteers gathered at the Benton Convention Center to celebrate the success of the program's first year.

RJR Tobacco Chairman and CEO, James W. Johnston, whose wife is one of the volunteers in the program, said he has

heard many positive reports about the Success Academy.

"It has shown many students that having a set time to study makes learning easier... and in some cases it has even changed their attitudes about school. It has shown them they can succeed," Johnston said.

In a speech to Success Academy students Johnston said, "When you get ready to pick out your first car, we want you to be able to know a good deal from a bad deal. And, we want you to be able to decide if it's better to join a tape club or buy your tapes and CDs from the store at the mall. A good education will help with decisions like those."

RJR and the school system developed the program in a joint venture to target students in middle schools because the sixth through the eighth grades are considered to be the formative years in a child's development, said Coble. He added that it

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Choice School Bill introduced in legislature

Chronicle Wire Report

For the second time in four weeks, a bill impacting the quality of education for local African-American school children has been filed in the General Assembly. Rep. Steve Wood's (R-High Point) bill is named the Parental Choice and Legislative Tuition Grant Program for Low Income School Children Attending Non-public Schools. Wood introduced HB 937 earlier this week beating the filing deadline for all appropriations related bills by one day.

This bill is similar to that passed by the Wisconsin legislature last year. The bill's major provisions include 1) tuition

grants of state funds up to \$2,800 annually per child for families whose incomes qualify them for the full federal free lunch program (about \$14,000 for a family of 3); 2) authorization for local County Commissioners to increase the amount of the grant with the local school supplement (another \$1,800 in Forsyth County); 3) and establishing a pilot program starting with the '92-'93 school year in 9 counties including Forsyth.

While Black Legislative Caucus members have not declared a position on the Parental Choice bill, Wood hopes that his working relationship with members of the Caucus will lay the groundwork for cooperation. Wood, a native of

Winston-Salem, is serving his third term in the General Assembly. He has worked with the Black Caucus members on voter registration issues in the past and was one of three Republican legislators to support Rep. Dan Blue's bid to become Speaker of the NC House of Representatives earlier this year.

Wood also believes that support will come from a powerful source in the African-American community, the Black Church. Wood sees the church as the entity most able to provide the resources necessary to start a significant number of non-public schools. He is opposed to excluding church schools from the tuition program.

Local reaction to the Bill has been mixed.

"The Forsyth Association of Classroom Teachers believes that the bill may violate legal restrictions on public funds going to religious institutions and would definitely be challenged in the courts," said Ron McKinney, the District Representative of the North Carolina Association of Educators. McKinney added that he was also worried that such a plan could create all-black or racially identifiable schools to some degree and create real disparity between schools.

Beaufort Bailey, a recent former

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