

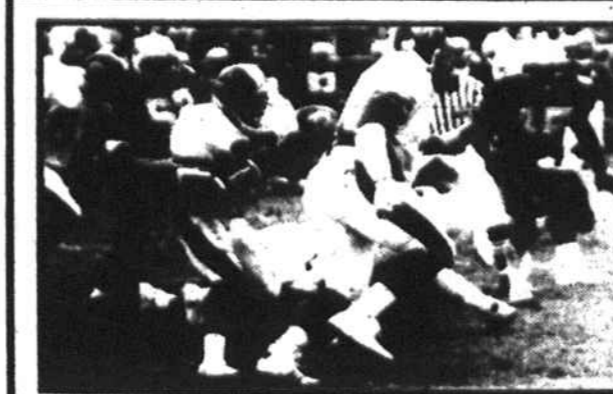
CLASSIC



A 'Classic' success

Cadillac dealer Chandler Lee defies economy with positive attitude.

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Major challenge

Winston's Rams rarin' to go as national playoff host.

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Winston-Salem Chronicle

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ON THE AVANT-GARDE

By TANG NIVRI

'Drifting to the Edge of Nothingness'

Isn't it time to return prayer to our schools?

Part 2

Americans are starting to reassess the decision to remove prayer from our public schools. There is something in the American psyche that says we made a serious mistake.

All of a sudden, Judges are now willing to go to the supreme court and insist on their right to begin their court sessions with prayer. School administrators are challenging the notion of removing prayer from high school graduation ceremonies and religious music from band literature. Here in North Carolina, a teacher was willing to be fired rather than cease offering a morning prayer. There is something going on. And I think it is good.

Parents are starting to listen to their children. Parents are starting to wonder if maybe the reason our children are so willing to kill each other for bomber jackets is because they think that life is void of all meaning. What's the use in hanging around till they run the credits? Why wait for the end of a fairy tale told by an idiot? But it's not told by an idiot and before it's too late we've got to turn back.

It's Time To Turn Back

Which is why more and more folks have decided that it is time to draw a line in the educational sand — they are saying that we made a wrong turn when we decided to take prayer out of our public schools. They are saying that it's time that we as parents, as educators, as people who are genuinely concerned about the future of this country — about our community, about our society, about our own children — it is time that we reexamine the role our schools play in helping to shape just what kind of person will literally walk down the sidewalk into a McDonald's and sit down beside you and me. That is what this is all about — and even more!

Our schools are not being used just for education — they are social laboratories in which we are helping to shape public policy by shaping the minds, hearts and souls of our young people — our future leaders — our future clerks, bankers, nurses, lawyers, doctors, mechanics, and teachers.

By our removing prayer from the schools — and replacing it with nothingness — our children figured that "the question as to whether a person is moral or not" is irrelevant — is not important; for if it was important, then we as parents would have made sure that they, our children, would have been exposed to it. We seem to have made more of an effort to protect their teeth — by adding fluoride to their drinking water — than we did to protect their very souls.

By taking God out of His rightful place in our society, we've created a learning environment in our schools that leaves youngsters inside for something else. They know that there must be more. Granted, this need to find some sense of spiritual purpose, spiritual value is certainly better served by the organized church, but answer me this: How do you teach children about living, and learning, and being civil with one another, to respect one's neighbor as one's self without addressing the question of ethical values, without broaching the subject of who in God's name made us in the first place? Imagine, in the earliest moments of a child's most basic curiosity, the whole idea as to why he is even here — why we all exist in the first place is beyond discussion — off limits.

No! I am not insisting on you or anybody else becoming a Christian, Moslem, Jew, or anything else. What many of us are saying is that in our effort to save the spotted owl, we've almost

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Parents: Black kids need sensitivity

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Staff Writer

The meeting started out like any other meeting, with a report, but an hour later school board members and central office administrators were listening quietly to the passionate remarks of black parents and teachers.

Last Thursday night, five members of the school board met twenty concerned parents, grandparents and teachers at the meeting of the school board's minority affairs committee. Dr. Larry Coble, Palmer Friende, and four division directors were also at the meeting at St. Phillips Moravian Church on Bon Aire Avenue.

As Kay Morgan, director of instruction, was concluding her report on a pilot program to help white

"We need teachers who will put their hands on his shoulder and say it's gonna be alright instead of throwing him out on the street."

— Concerned parent

teachers understand black students, a grandfather stood to say, "I am totally disarmed. You are making steps towards what I came here to address. You're already into it."

He told the group about his granddaughter, who was put in a corner for most of second grade. "The

teacher thought she was disruptive, and so she just turned her around to face the corner and didn't teach her. Then we got a note from the teacher that she would be retained into second grade," he said.

Fleming A. El-Amin, a teacher at Glenn High, said, "Teachers need to be sensitive to their perceptions of students so that learning, not snap judgment, is taking place." It's how teachers handle the little things, he said — such as asking a student to remove his hat and thanking him instead of walking up and snatching it off his head — that can escalate into students being suspended from school.

Quiet fell over the church as one mother described her son's suspensions and transfers to other schools, often, she said, without the guidance counselor being

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Dr. Maya Angelou converses with Alderman Virginia Newell, chairperson of the Maya Angelou Tribute to Achievement, and Marshall Bass.

Angelou named UNCF 'Friends' chair

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Chronicle Staff Writer

The poet, author, playwright, Dr. Maya Angelou was honored by the United Negro College Fund at a special dinner at the Graylyn Conference Cen-

ter, Monday, Nov. 18.

During the evening, Mrs. Billye S. Aaron, the UNCF Southern Regional Vice President officially appointed Dr. Angelou as the North Carolina Special Gifts Chairperson. Jonathan Bush, brother of President George Bush, is

the National Special Gifts Chairman.

After receiving the appointment from Aaron, Angelou expressed her gratitude and commitment to the cause of the UNCF. "I am so much a part of the Negro colleges. I am made because

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League narrows field to 3

D. Smith in the running

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Winston-Salem Urban League has narrowed a list of 15 applicants to three candidates for the position of executive director, including former director D. Smith. The other two candidates are from the west and mid-west part of the country.

The search for a new director began August 1, when the National Urban League declared that the position could not be filled without conducting a national search. Irreconcilable differences between D. Smith and the former board led to her resignation last December. Board member and city personnel director William Hill chaired the search com-

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Judge removes ban on minority scholarships

By LAURIE ASSEO
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge won't order the government to bar tax-supported colleges from awarding minority scholarships, saying the Education Department deserves the chance to finish reviewing its policy.

U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin on Monday dismissed a lawsuit brought by seven white college students who said minority scholarships violate the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Education Secretary Lamar Alexander has said he planned to announce a decision by next week on the issue. In the meantime, Sporkin said, "A court should not step in prematurely and make the agency's decision for it."

"This case presents the clash of two important societal principles — 'race neutrality' vs. programs designed to provide equal educational opportunity to a segment of our citizenry which has suffered past discrimination" and may still be discriminated against,

Sporkin wrote.

Alexander, speaking with reporters last week, refused to say whether he would allow schools to use public funds for minority scholarships, and he predicted the issue would wind up before the Supreme Court.

The seven students, represented by the conservative Washington Legal Foundation, were challenging the legality of scholarships available exclusively to blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans. Such scholarships make less money available to non-minority students, the plaintiffs said.

Sporkin said any discrimination lawsuits should be brought against the colleges involved, not against the Education Department.

The department sparked a storm last December when it advised promoters of the Fiesta Bowl football game that it would be illegal to set aside money for minority scholarships. The agency later modified its ruling to let tax-supported colleges offer minority scholarships as long as they are financed with

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WSSU students Marcia Wingfield (front, left), Eryn Gee (front, center), Patricia Erving (front, right), and Darryl Bryant (2nd row, left), recently participated in the Model U.N. Regional Conference at Appalachian State University, Oct. 18-20. Dr. Donald MacThompson was the WSSU Model U.N. advisor.