

### A Difficult Time

How should you help friends and loved ones during times of bereavement? Columnist JoAnne Falls offers some pointers.

Lifestyle, Page 17.

### Ladies' Night Out

It is called a "Ladies' Lock-Up." And what goes on behind those closed doors in local night clubs might surprise, outrage or even embarrass the uninitiated.

Arts and Leisure, Page 10.



### Dawson On The Strike

Former Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson offers his thoughts on the pro football players strike.

Sports, Page 14.



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### Animated Interviewer

Television Station WFMY news reporter Wanda Starke sets high aims for herself in the field. Ms. Starke, who handles health and medical news coverage along with general assignments, talks of her experiences in media and her perceptions on being a black reporter in a story on page 10 (photos by Santana).

## Black Sentiment Mixed On Selection Of Eargle

By Ruthell Howard and Edward Hill Jr.  
Staff Writers

A unanimous decision, announced earlier this week by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, to select Dr. Zane E. Eargle superintendent of the city-county school system, has evoked both support and disapproval from black leaders.

Eargle, who is white, was selected from a pool of five finalists that included one black.

The board's decision, which was made sooner than expected according to a representative in the administrative office, is supported by the local NAACP's Education

Committee Chairman, the Rev. Michael B. Curry and Palmer Friende, the lone black finalist vying for the position.

But NAACP President Patrick Hairston and North Ward Alderman Larry Little contend that Friende was the most qualified candidate for the position and should have gotten the job.

To Hairston, the board's decision came as no surprise. "I think Palmer Friende was the best man for the job," declared Hairston, "but regardless as to how qualified you are in America and in Winston-Salem, if you are black, you come in second."

He says the NAACP will work with Dr. Eargle because

he is now superintendent, "but I think they (the board) passed by Palmer because he is black."

"We (the NAACP) never really felt that Palmer was going to get it in the first place," Hairston confessed. "We know the system."

Little maintains that Friende was the best applicant because he had "run the whole gamut: he's been a teacher and a principal, and his experience as associate superintendent made him more than qualified."

Little admitted that he is aware that there are certain blacks who were not supportive of Friende's candidacy, but he quickly noted, "He certainly had my support."

"I watched him very closely during the interviewing at

the public forum (where Friende and other candidates met with residents)," Little said. "He was the most impressive candidate there."

"I feel that those of us in the black community who put pressure on the search committee forced them to place a black in the final five," Little added.

Friende said, earlier this week after the decision was announced, that he is happy to see the position finally filled, and that he feels Eargle is capable of providing the kind of leadership needed for the school system.

Friende, who was endorsed by the NAACP and supported by many in the black community, said he ap-

See Page 2

## A Reluctant Star

Once He Got Over Early Jitters,  
Michael Branch Charmed Cast, Crew

By Ruthell Howard  
Staff Writer

While the musical talent, the impressive lighting and dramatic plot of "Madame Butterfly," a production given by the Piedmont Opera Theatre last weekend, captivated the audience, Michael Branch also wowed them as the smallest star in the show.

In the production, Branch, son of Dr. and Mrs. David Branch, played a child named Sorrow, whose name was to become joy when his father, Madame Butterfly's long-awaited husband, returned.

And for members of the theatre, little Branch's casting for the role had its sorrows too, says Carl Strittmatter, board member of the theatre, as Branch was reluctant to portray the role at the first rehearsal.

With frantic last-minute searches, the production found another child, Jason Sloan, an eight-year-old,

to be a stand-in, but Branch soon warmed to the role.

So, those sorrows had turned to joy by Friday's opening night, as Branch confidently played his part.

Branch is a four-year-old and a third-year student at the Montessori Children's Center, a school that

"I was very nervous. We (his parents) were more nervous than he was."

--Sandy Branch

practices a European concept of working with children as soon as they are old enough to learn.

Before his part in "Madame Butterfly," Branch's acting experience was limited to a school May Day production and singing in a wedding.

See Page 2



Four-year-old Michael Branch sits beside sister Susan while he plays with his truck, a reward given to him by his parents for his acting performance in the Piedmont Opera Theatre's production of "Madame Butterfly" (photo by James Parker).



From left to right, Clemetine Fowler, Sarah Brown and Teresa Peterson take a break between classes at Winston-Salem State University. All juniors in the nursing program, they hope to duplicate fellow nursing students' recent 100 percent success rate on boards examination when their time comes.

## Nursing Program Reaps Harvest Of Revitalized Curriculum

Edward Hill Jr.  
Staff Writer

While many of us strive to achieve 100 percent success in our endeavors, few of us ever reach that goal.

This has particularly been a dilemma with predominately black educational institutions who often, their supporters say, are expected to do so much (in terms of goals) with so little (in terms of physical and financial resources).

That's why the recent success of the nursing program at Winston-Salem State University is especially gratifying for both students and faculty.

WSSU's 1982 nursing graduates achieved a 100 percent passing rate on the State Board Licensure Examination administered in July, the first perfect mark in the school's history.

What makes the accomplishment is even more im-

pressive is the fact that only one other school in the state (UNC-Wilmington) could claim as much this year.

Six of the 10 WSSU May graduates took the exam.

"By having stricter admission requirements, it afforded us the opportunity to screen applicants more thoroughly. We began to get those students who had been successful in high school and who were likely to succeed in an intense program."

-- Sadie Webster

Two others who finished their course work last December passed the exam in February while the remaining two entered the nursing program as registered nurses and