Hill gets Los Angeles appointment, says merger is a possibility

By ROBIN ADAMS Chronicle Assistant Editor

Although George E. Hill, president of Winston Mutual Life Insurance Co., would not confirm an impending merger between the companies, Hill has been named to the Golden State Mutual board and Golden State Mutual's president has been named chairman of the board at Winston Mutual.

In a Sept. 25 press release from Golden State Mutual, Ivan J. Houston, the company's chairman of the board, announced that Hill was recently elected to



George Hill

the black-owned firm's board. And a similar press release from Winston Mutual said that Larkin Teasley, president of Golden State Mutual, has been named chairman of the board at Winston Mutual.

"Merger is always a possibility," said Hill when asked if the exchange of company officials is a step toward a merger. "I can assure you that a merger won't happen this year and a merger won't happen in January."

Hill said the two recent announcements are just an exchange between the two companies -- exchanges that happen

often between similar companies. "All this is leading towards a better working relationship," said Hill. "Just accept it for what you see at the moment."

Golden State Mutual officials could not be reached for com-

News of a potential Winston Mutual-Golden State merger surfaced in late August. As of now, Hill said, there is a possibility his company will merge with Golden State Mutual.

Oscar Smith, director of public

affairs and ombudsman services for the state Department of Insurance, said both companies are

being audited in order to determine the finances of each and that it is "unusual" to discuss a merger until the merger is com-

W.J. Kennedy, president of North Carolina Mutual in Durham, said Winston Mutual is considering the merger because the firm is in financial trouble.

But both Hill and Smith said Winston Mutual is not financially troubled.

Still, Kennedy said Golden State Mutual had recently given Winston Mutual a loan in an effort to keep the company afloat. Hill would not comment on the matter in August.

But Hill did say late last week that Winston Mutual received a loan from Golden State Mutual but he would not specify the amount of the loan or when it

was given. He also would not indicate what the status of his company would be today if Golden State had not made the loan to Winston Mutual.

No role models

Wake law students upset over lack of black faculty, staff

By ROBIN ADAMS Chronicle Assistant Editor

The 15 black students enrolled in Wake Forest University's law school say they need a black role model -- and the school says it agrees -- but no one has been hired.

"The black presence in the law school is limited to two areas: 15 law students and the custodial staff," said Jeannette Tyner, president of the Wake Black Law Students Association. "We have asked the administration to hire a minority counselor or a black staff member, but they say they are trying. They have been trying for years. We wonder if they are committed. Their track record says no."

But John Scarlett, dean of the law school, said he has talked with the students about their concerns and is committed to seeing what can be done.

"We will look into it and see • what we can do," Scarlett said. - But Scarlett said hiring a minority counselor for 15 students is out of the question.

"Not in this budget year," Scarlett said. "We have 15 black law students in a school of 500. If we hire somebody we will be buying that person with the tuition of the other law students. We can only go so far."

Scarlett said that finding "good" black faculty members is also a problem for the school.

"We are trying to get some kind of black presence on the staff but good black law school professors can write their own ticket," said Scarlett, defining

Brooks reads poetry

By ALBERT NICKERSON Chronicle Staff Writer

Gwendolyn Brooks wrote her first poem when she was seven years old.

Brooks, 67, is now a Pultizer Prize-winning author, poet laureate of the state of Illinois succeeding Carl Sandburg, and has been appointed to the prestigious National Institute of Arts and Letters.

Brooks was at the Reynolda House Museum and the Delta Arts Center on Sunday, Sept. 30 for a poetry reading. She appeared along with Lois Mailou Jones, painter and teacher who displayed some of her paintings for the local community.

Brooks brought a message of hope and dignity for the audience - especially for the youth.

"Children are capable of understanding poetry, but the poetry has to be relevant," said Brooks who said Paul Laurence Dunbar was one of her favorite

For the youth, she read a poem entitled "Computer." People should control computers, Brooks said through the lines of the poem, technology shouldn't be allowed to master humankind.

And, she read a poem about a Please see page A14

"good" as a person who "can compete with the other faculty."

"There should be other criteria as well," said Tyner. "It should not be based solely on academics. They say they are trying but a lot of it is rhetoric. It depends on how committed the administration is. There's not even a black secretary. We don't have a role model."

Scarlett admitted that there are no blacks on the law school staff but said efforts are being made to correct that situation and that he will continue to work with the black students.

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"We are always looking for ways we can make it easier for them," Scarlett said. "Their concerns change radically from year to year, but we are trying to work

students have heard such assurances for years and now they are ready to see tangible changes.

"Instead of us telling them we

"We have 15 black law students in a school of 500. If we hire somebody we will be buying that person with the tuition of the other law students."

-- Wake Forest Law School Dean John Scarlett

closely with them and get them the best possible education and make them productive members of society."

But Tyner, a second-year law student, said the black law want changes, we are trying to be as specific as possible," said Tyner. "And we want the same from them."

Tyner said that many of the black law students miss out on available scholarships and grants because the law school doesn't have anybody responsible for keeping up with what's available.

"There is a federally-funded program with money earmarked for minority students," said Tyner. "The federal government provides matching grants and all the law school has to do is to write a plan and send it to the federal agency. We asked about the program and the law school told us the admissions office was in charge of that and the admissions office told us the law school was in charge of it.

"That could have been avoided if the law school had been concerned enough to institute the program. You don't let something like this drop if you are really concerned about the students."

Tyner added that most of the black law students' concerns are minor problems that add up to one big problem. But she said the problems faced by the black law students are not theirs alone.

"I don't think this is just a problem the law school is having," she said. "We are probably just more outspoken about it."



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