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The accepted emperor

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A scholar supreme

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excel academically

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Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

Vol. XIV, No. 15

U.S.P.S. No. 067910

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Thursday, December 3, 1987

50 cents

32 Pages This Week

COVER STORY

Elijah loses; Oct. 7 board reaffirmed

By ANGELA WRIGHT
Chronicle Managing Editor

On Monday the preliminary injunction that Thomas J. Elijah, Jr. sought to have imposed on six members of the Winston-Salem Urban League's board of directors was denied by Superior Court Judge C. Preston Cornelius. The judge dissolved a restraining order which had been imposed on seven members of the league's board of directors and Elijah, it's suspended president. In so doing, the judge ruled that the legitimate board of directors for the league was elected on Oct. 7 and has the power to conduct the business of the league.

The composition of the board was a main point of contention in the controversy which began several months ago after six board members were removed from service by Elijah and former board chairman Harvey L. Kennedy. The six defendants argued, in part, that they were removed from the board after inquiring into financial matters. Elijah and Kennedy maintained the defendants were procedurally rotated off the board because their terms had expired. They further maintained that in the case of a couple of the defendants, they voluntarily resigned after missing more than three consecutive meet-

ings. They stated that the league's bylaws required the removal of board members who miss more than three consecutive meetings.

Throughout the hearing the plaintiffs cited the league's bylaws and constitution to explain why the six board members -- Joseph Dickson, Harvey Allen, James Branch, Marshall Bass, Sterling Spainhour, and Renita Thompkins -- were removed from the board and barred from the league premises. But Cornelius found that the league had "in the past not operated in full accordance with its bylaws."

He noted specifically: the league's failure to hold its annual meeting in June, as required by the bylaws; the failure of the nominating committee to designate terms for board members or rotate members, as required by the bylaws; the failure to enforce the absenteeism provision; the fact that a nominating committee was chosen by Kennedy, contrary to the bylaws; the fact that Kennedy served as an ex-officio member of the nominating committee, contrary to the bylaws; the fact that many board members were allowed to serve more than three consecutive terms, contrary to the bylaws.

W. Andrew Copenhaver, attorney for the defendants, argued

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Television star Jackee spends time chatting with residents at a local nursing home during her visit to see her 103-year-old grandmother, Ester 'Ma' Perry. Jackee appears in the role of 'Sandra' on NBC's "227" (photo by Santana).



'Ma' Perry gets visit from famous granddaughter

By ANGIE MARTIN
Chronicle Staff Writer

Taking a break from her hip-swinging, eye-lash fluttering television role, actress Jackee, paid a visit to her 103-year-old grandmother and other residents at the Winston-Salem Convalescent Center Sunday.

Jackee, who plays the flirtatious Sandra Clark on the NBC sitcom "227," is but one of 16

grandchildren of Ester "Ma" Perry, a long-time resident of Winston-Salem.

Perry celebrated her 103rd birthday with Jackee and five generations of family members on Thanksgiving Day at the Holiday Inn North.

"This is the celebrity," Jackee said pointing to her grandmother. "That's the reason I'm here," she said. Throughout Jackee's visit to the care center, not-so-elderly fans

scurried to get her autograph as Ma Perry and 70 other seniors looked on.

"They ain't never done no more than I done," Perry had said earlier about her granddaughter's successful entertainment career. Perry said she was also an entertainer when she was young, dancing to "Georgia Buck is Dead," accompanied by the banjo.

But, Ma Perry did acknowledge the star quality in her grand-

daughter -- her son Warren's "baby girl."

"I didn't know Warren had such a good looking girl as you," Ma Perry said.

Ma Perry had nine children, however, she has outlived six of them. She attributes her longevity to exercise. "Do you think I'd have lived all these years without doing something?" she said.

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James Baldwin dead at 63

By The Associated Press

ST. PAUL DE VENCE, France -- James Baldwin, whose first novel "Go Tell It On The Mountain" established him as a major American writer and whose later works explored racism in the United States, has died at age 63.

Baldwin died Monday night at his home in southern France of stomach cancer, said Chantal Lopicque, a spokeswoman for Baldwin's French publisher, Editions Stock. He had undergone an operation last spring and his health had declined steadily since then, Ms. Lopicque said.

Surrounded by members of his family, including his brother David, Baldwin had not lost hope and was planning to finish a book on the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Despite his illness, he told friends he wanted to write a last play.

Baldwin lived in France for about 40 years. Four years ago, when he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Nice, he said he considered France a "refuge far from the American madness."

A friend, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a funeral would be held in New York on Friday.

Baldwin -- author of "Notes of a Native Son," "The Fire Next Time," and "No

Name in the Street" -- was called one of the "few indispensable American writers," by American critic Benjamin Demott.

Baldwin was remembered today as "one of the giants," who wrote daringly and passionately of racial discrimination in the early days of the civil rights movement.

Jesse Jackson, a presidential candidate and civil rights leader who knew Baldwin, called him "a great source of inspiration for that generation ... a prolific and sensitive writer."

Jackson, interviewed in Chicago, said Baldwin's "voice was not watered down by political considerations, and I suppose he expressed rage and anger with discipline. He was a great advocate of personal and racial freedom ..."

"He was one of the giants ... he will go down with the greats."

A slight, small man who had a sharp sense of humor, James Baldwin was the son of a pastor born in Harlem in New York City on Aug. 2, 1924.

His first novel, "Go Tell It On The Mountain," published in 1953, recalled his days as a teen-age preacher in a store-front church.

"'Mountain' is the book I had to write if I was ever going to write anything else,"

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Giving Thanks

Three-year-old Jason Waters, a student at WSSU's Early Childhood Center, says a prayer during the center's Thanksgiving dinner held last week (photo by John Slade).

Teen girl assaulted; racial slurs scrawled on body

By The Associated Press

WAPPINGERS FALLS, N.Y. -- A 15-year-old girl was found lying in a road with racial slurs scrawled over her body, and her family says a man posing as a policeman kidnapped her for a four-day ordeal of sexual assault.

But police say there is conflicting evidence about whether the girl was sexually assaulted and claimed the family is thwarting their investigation.

The girl, a high school junior, was found last Saturday afternoon lying in a road behind an apartment building, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department said.

She was wrapped in a plastic garbage bag and covered with feces, said Sheriff Frederick W. Scoralick. The black teen-ager had racial slurs, including "KKK," scrawled on her torso in what looked like black charcoal, he said.

The girl had a low body temperature when she arrived at St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie, but she recovered, sheriff's Detective Lt. J.J. Thompson said. She suffered no wounds from the epithets scrawled on her, he said.

When asked who was responsible, police Officer Tommy Young said, the girl grabbed his badge, then scribbled "white cop" on a piece of paper.

The girl refused to talk to police or reporters Sunday, but her family said a man who identified himself as a policeman and displayed a badge abducted her Tuesday. She was brought to a wooded area and molested by at least six white men, they said.

Thompson said the family has refused to let detectives talk to the girl. The FBI also has been called into the case, he said.

"We've explored every avenue possible in this thing, and still we get absolutely zero cooperation from these people who are making a grandstand play on this thing but seek no resolution in the matter," Thompson

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Chicago leaders angered by Jackson's intervention

By WILLIAM C. HIDLAY
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO -- Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson's involvement in a power struggle over the selection of a successor to Harold Washington has angered some Chicago political leaders, who accused him of try-

ing to be a kingmaker. (The Chicago aldermen named Eugene Sawyer the new mayor early Wednesday morning).

Jackson, who cut short a long-planned trip to the Persian Gulf after Washington's death last Wednesday of a heart attack, was closeted since Friday in closed-door meetings aimed at selecting

a successor to the city's first black mayor from the 50-member City Council.

But Jackson's perceived support for one candidate -- Alderman Tim Evans, Washington's legislative floor leader -- may have prompted some wavering council members to pledge their votes to

Alderman Eugene Sawyer, political consultant Don Rose said Monday. Evans and Sawyer both are black.

"He should pray for us and he should give us advice and counsel, but he shouldn't tell us who should be the mayor," said Alderman William ...

supporter of Sawyer.

"Jesse Jackson coming in and determining for Chicago is something people in my ward don't appreciate and it is something people in other wards don't appreciate either," said Alderman Kathy Osterman, an independent white City Council

Jackson's intervention in stormy Chicago politics could backfire, as it did in 1983 to Walter F. Mondale. Mondale supported Richard M. Daley, son of the late mayor, in a three-way mayoral primary that included Washington. In the Illinois presidential

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