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Winston-Salem mourns the death of Louise Wilson



Mourners pay their respects to Louise Wilson at graveside services held Tuesday morning (photo by Santana).

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

"I grew from a colored child in Tennessee to a Negro student in the civil rights movement and I've emerged a black woman." That was how Louise G. Wilson summarized the evolution of her life in a 1986 interview with the *Chronicle*. She died last Saturday following a long illness and hospitalization.

But the memory of Louise Wilson, well-known and admired throughout the city of Winston-Salem, will endure for some time. Those who knew her use adjectives such as "great," "loving" and "caring" to describe her and remember well the contributions she made to the city.

"When you start talking about Louise Wilson, you're talking about a woman who was just great," said former County Commissioner Mazie Woodruff. "She was not out fighting for Louise Wilson, she was out fighting for the citizens of this county. I'll always

think about her and I wish I could be more like Louise Wilson."

Wilson left the teaching profession in the early 1960s and joined Experiment in Self-Reliance in 1965. She was named the anti-poverty agency's executive director in 1968, but said she was somewhat surprised by being selected for the position.

"I remember thinking 'they won't want me because I've been out in the street worrying people. Would you believe they hired me anyway?'" Wilson said just before her retirement from ESR in December 1985.

But others in the community felt Wilson was just the right person for the job. Motivated by her concern for equality and good living, Wilson led ESR workers into the housing projects to determine the needs and wants of the poor. She faced some criticism and, by her own admission, made mistakes. She persisted.

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Cumberland voting system challenged

FAYETTEVILLE (AP) -- The Fayetteville/Cumberland County Black Democratic Caucus has asked the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners to change the way commissioners are elected.

In a Dec. 3 letter, the black caucus asked the commissioners to change the county board from an at-large system to district representation. It also asked that the board be expanded from five to seven members.

"A substantial number of white voters in Cumberland County refuse to vote for qualified black candidates which results in black candidates being defeated and the black community being under-represented on the Board," the letter said. "The black vote is simply not strong enough to overcome the persistence of white voters to vote for white candidates."

The letter, signed by Glorious U. Fowler, a secretary of the black caucus, said the change would result in two or three of the seven commissioners elected by district being black.

Jim Wicker, assistant director of the Institute of Government, said in North Carolina 51 counties elect their county representatives at large, 42 have adopted some form of district nomination or election, and seven offer some combination of at-large and district elections.

Voting districts can be changed either through legislative action of the General Assembly or a referendum by county residents, Wicker said. A referendum would first have to be approved by the county commissioners.

Commissioners said Tuesday that they had mixed reactions to the request.

Commissioner Virginia Oliver said she believed Cumberland County is small enough to function well under the current, at-large system. She said black candidates in the recent past have not had difficulty getting elected.

Jackson not on N.C. ballot; Signature drive underway

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Campaign officials for the Rev. Jesse Jackson are launching a drive for 20,000 signatures in the state, to guarantee that he is placed on the state ballot for the "Super Tuesday" primary.

If Jackson's name is not added to the state ballot by Jan. 5, his name will not be included on the North Carolina Democratic ticket and voters in the state will not be allowed to cast their vote for him.

But Bruce E. Lightner, state coordinator for the Jackson campaign, said the petition drive is being conducted as a "purely precautionary" measure.

"This is not a panic situation. We anticipated that he would have been put on the ballot by the Federal Election Commission," Lightner said. "We still expect that he will be added to the ballot within the next couple of weeks. We're collecting signatures just in case we need

them."

All candidates affiliated with either the Democratic or Republican parties are nominated at a state board of elections meeting Jan. 5, according to Johnnie McClean of the State Board of Elections. She said that candidates nominated at the meeting must have qualified for the Presidential Primary Matching Payment Account through the Federal Election Commission. McClean said that candidates may also be placed on the ballot through petition and that the state requires 10,000 signatures from registered voters of the same political affiliation as the candidate.

Karen Finucan, a public affairs specialist with the Federal Election Commission, said that a candidate can qualify for the matching funds program if he has raised a total of \$100,000. She said also that the candidate must raise at least \$5,000 in 20 different states. Finucan confirmed that six of the Democratic candidates had already qualified for



Big Fun!

Lakeisha Carter, left, and Tamara Grisard take a few minutes out from the action at Monday's Sara Lee Foundation Leadership Award celebration. The foundation honored Big Brothers/Big Sisters as a recipient of the \$25,000 award. The program featured the award presentation and other activities (photo by Mike Cunningham).



Womble

matching funds. Jackson's information is in the process of being reviewed, Finucan said.

Lightner did say that if, for some reason, the commission does not affirm Jackson on the state ticket, that it becomes crucial for the 20,000 signatures to be collected from registered state Democratic voters.

Eddie Wong, the national field director at Jackson's headquarters

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Franklin demoted; Community upset

By ANGELA WRIGHT
Chronicle Managing Editor

Plans are underway to replace Denise Franklin as anchor of the 11 p.m. news at WXII and many people are unhappy about it, including Franklin. For about three months rumors of an impending change have been afloat in the community, but neither Franklin nor station managers would comment.

On Monday, however, WXII news director David Emery said in a telephone interview that the station had that day announced that Lynn Lazare, formerly of WLUK in Green Bay, Wisconsin, would join WXII on Jan. 25 as co-anchor of the 11 p.m. news. But Franklin said the "announcement" was an internal memo tacked to the bulletin board in the newsroom.

"To the best of my knowledge there was no public announcement," said Franklin. She said she was first told of the station's decision on Sept. 18 but chose to keep quiet because the station had taken a "no comment" status. "I didn't want to do or say anything that would seem petty," said Franklin.

The station plans to allow Franklin to continue co-anchoring the 6 p.m. news, but she will now do more investigative reporting, according to Emery. Emery said the decision was made to remove Franklin, instead of co-anchor Rick Amme,

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Franklin

Study: More whites can't read

By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON -- The majority of adults who need help learning to read are white, not minorities, according to a survey released last Friday by a state education group.

Plant closings, new technology and other changes in the workplace are forcing workers to achieve higher levels of literacy and creating new demands for adult literacy services, the Education Commission of the States said.

The survey report, released at the National Forum for Youth at Risk, challenged what it called the "popular wisdom" about adult illiteracy in America.

"The majority of adults in need are not minorities, on or off the welfare rolls. The majority are white Americans," it said.

Most educators working in the adult literacy field "are not untrained, casual volunteers. They are, more often than not, professionals from a variety of fields," it

added.

Some researchers have concluded that tens of millions of American adults are illiterate or barely able to read.

Frank Newman, president of the commission, said many adult illiterates can read Stop signs, but not job manuals.

The report said only half the states have defined illiteracy. The

picking up the slack."

The two largest volunteer tutoring programs reach only 127,000 clients per year, it said.

"Efforts to address the literacy needs of young and mature adults too often have bogged down in fruitless spats over numbers, the drive for budgetary compliance, simplistic assumptions and deep-

"The majority of adults in need are not minorities, on or off the welfare rolls. The majority are white Americans."

-- Education Commission of the States.

most common definition is someone who reads at a level below that of the average fourth grader.

The report said the literacy picture is complicated by "the public perception that all that is needed to solve the literacy crisis is a 'degree of caring,' a situation exacerbated by the mistaken belief that volunteer coalitions, the commercial

seated, though often subtle, biases," the study suggested.

Barbara Holmes, director of the study project, said three-fourths of the states kick in their own funds to supplement the money that comes from the federal government for adult education.

But overall, literacy services "are fragmentary, provided by a

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