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Baptist Hospital appoints first Afro-American vice president

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

North Carolina Baptist Hospital has appointed its first Afro-American woman to a vice president's position at the facility.

Gwendolyn Andrews, who has served as director of nursing for 15 years, Monday was named the vice president of nursing services at the hospital. In addition to becoming the first woman and the first Afro-American to hold a vice president's position at Baptist Hospital,

Andrews is also the first nurse to receive a vice president appointment.

Len Presslar, chief executive officer of Baptist Hospital, said Andrews' appointment is significant because her input to the executive board will be on behalf of the hospital's largest staff unit.

"We have nearly 1,200 nurses at this institution," Presslar said. "That's more than any other single department. In order to maintain effective patient care, it's important that the employees have a direct

voice in hospital policy-making."

Andrews will work with the hospital's other vice presidents in developing and implementing hospital operations and policies. She said she was pleased about the appointment both on a personal and a professional level.

"I am extremely honored personally as well as professionally and as a black woman, to have received this recognition," said Andrews, who came to Baptist Hospital in 1970 as associate director of nursing for staff develop-

ment. "This appointment gives nurses an opportunity to have a more direct responsibility in carrying out the policy of the hospital. This opportunity positions me, and nurses in particular, in a position to effect change in the hospital. One of my personal goals is to make Baptist Hospital truly one of the most excellent hospitals in North Carolina and in the Southeast for nursing."

Kathy McIlwain of the hospital's information office, said that Andrews has actively supported

participative management and also has been a strong advocate for the establishment of a career ladder for nurses, which would allow nurses to advance in terms of salary and prestige.

Andrews said her appointment represents the hospital's commitment to developing staffs in all of its departments.

"It indicates our hospital's stance that promotion is based on the ability of individuals without regard to gender or profession or race."



Gwendolyn Andrews



THE NATION'S NEWS

Compiled From AP Wire

Jackson: Race is still tight

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. -- Democrat Jesse Jackson urged West Virginians on Monday to vote for him in Tuesday's presidential primary, acknowledging his uphill fight and saying "I've always fought against the odds. I'm coming to the last lap. I'm running longer and running stronger because my mind is made up. I've come too far. We've got to go on now. Press on! Press on! Press on!" Jackson, whose presidential hopes have dimmed with landslide losses in recent primaries, said he would not give up his candidacy.

Tutu refuses Tulane degree

NEW ORLEANS -- Archbishop Desmond Tutu on Monday turned down an honorary degree from Tulane University and said he could not "in conscience" accept the degree because the Louisiana university decided to keep its investments in 25 companies doing business in South Africa.

Black vote remains level

NEW YORK -- Jesse Jackson has not repeated a striking accomplishment of his 1984 presidential campaign: expanding the black share of the vote. While Jackson has had major successes in the 1988 campaign he has not galvanized more blacks to register and vote. Strategists say Jackson could boost the Democrats' chances if he could deliver an expanded black vote in the general election -- and hurt the party's odds if he should discourage black support of the ticket.

Skinheads concern police

RENO -- An organized gang of teens known as the skinheads has surfaced in Nevada, and police are becoming increasingly concerned about their activities. Among other things, Skinheads have been linked to last month's attack of a man at a shopping mall here and to this month's murder of a Las Vegas convenience-store clerk. Police said Skinheads threatened to bash in cars and people as they approached a gay bar here, and painted swastikas on a car in another part of Reno.



Clockwise from top, tears and cheers of joy are shared by recent graduates at Winston-Salem State University. At left, B.A. degree recipient Lillie Ruth Gould receives her diploma from WSSU Chancellor Cleon F. Thompson Jr. Commencement ceremonies were held last Saturday at the Winston-Salem Coliseum (photos by Mike Cunningham).

Witness says Brawley was not abducted

Family remains silent on case

NEW YORK -- A jail inmate who claims to have seen Tawana Brawley during the time she says she was abducted has direct knowledge of her whereabouts during part of her four-day disappearance, according to a report broadcast last week.

WCBS-TV reported that Jason "Chico" Colon, incarcerated on drug and weapon charges at the Orange County Jail, was visited by investigators in the case of the Wappingers Falls girl who says she was abducted and assaulted by a group of whites.

Colon allegedly told the investigators enough to convince them he might be a credible witness whose story could be corroborated and place Miss Brawley in Newburgh during her disappearance, WCBS-TV reported.

Warren Greher, Colon's attorney, told WCBS-TV he believes his client's knowledge about Miss Brawley's whereabouts during the period was based on "direct knowledge rather than hearsay."

The attorney told WCBS that his client could account for parts of more than one day during her disappearance, but declined to go into detail.

The 16-year-old was found Nov. 28 inside a trash bag with racial slurs scrawled on her torso and feces smeared on her body. Miss Brawley, who is black, claimed her attackers included one man with a police-style badge.

Greher said Colon can name people with whom Miss Brawley spent time during the four days and can describe the places and locations, including at least one party she attended, WCBS-TV reported.

"It seems to me that some if not all the information he has or claims to have is the type that can be corroborated," Greher said.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Robert Abrams, who is special prosecutor for the Brawley case, asked again Friday for Miss Brawley to testify before a grand jury looking into her case.

"What obviously will help is for the victim to come forward and cooperate. She is the one who knows what happened. I call publicly on the victim to come forward and tell her story to the grand jury," he said.

Bowman Gray sets commencement

Two local Afro-American medical students among graduates

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Six minority students will be among the 106-member graduating class at Bowman Gray School of Medicine commencement ceremonies on Monday. Two of those six students are natives of Winston-Salem who chose to stay at home to pursue their medical degrees.

Harvey H. Allen Jr. and Jeffrey J. Douthit both said they chose to attend Bowman Gray because it offered an opportunity to be near home while attending a well-known and respected medical school.

"I wanted to come back home and it's a very good school," said Allen, who attended undergraduate

school at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. "They have very strong people at Bowman Gray, especially Dr. (Velma) Watts (director of minority affairs at Bowman Gray School of Medicine). She's a real force at the school."

Douthit said he was happy about the opportunity to "come home" to study and to be able to remain close to his family during his four years in medical school.

Allen, the son of Harvey and Simona Allen, has been accepted as a house officer in internal medicine at Drew Medical Center/Martin Luther King Hospital in Los Angeles. Douthit will be a family medicine house officer at North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

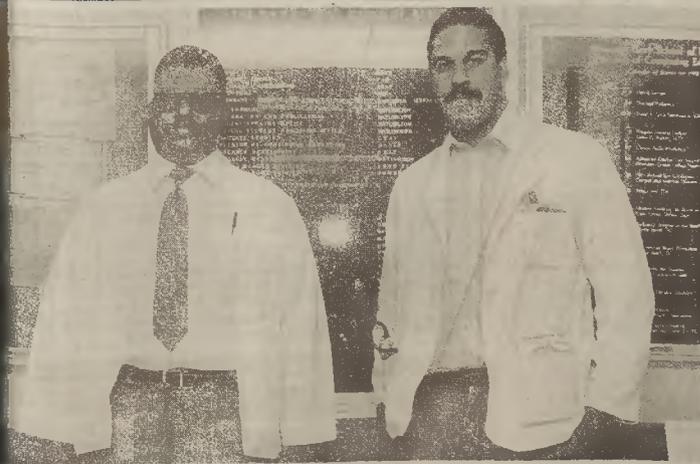
"House officer" is a relatively new term that has replaced the

more familiar terms, "intern" and "resident." Appointments to the house officer programs are awarded to senior medical students as part of the National Intern and Resident Matching Program. The training will involve intensive study and clinical training.

Allen, whose father is a local general surgeon, said he chose the Los Angeles hospital over hospitals in Washington and in North Carolina because he felt that it was at Drew Medical Center that he could be of the most service.

"They have a very good program at Drew Medical Center," he said. "They're also located in an area that has a very needy population. This way, I can sort of do the most good there. It also would have an

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Local residents Jeffrey Douthit, left, and Harvey Allen Jr. are among the 106-member graduating class at Bowman Gray School of Medicine. Commencement ceremonies will be held Monday (photo by Mike Cunningham).