

SPORTS



Title Showdown

WSSU Rams headed to CIAA finals

RELIGION



Little Drummer Boy

13-year-old is a 'happy' church musician

30 Pages This Week

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Wood makes history as city's first woman mayor

Republicans increase numbers on the Board of Aldermen; one incumbent loses to challenger

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

City government in the Twin City may never be the same as the city's first woman mayor, two Republicans and a disabled Afro-American assume their seats on the Board of Aldermen.

Martha S. Wood won 51.5 percent of the vote Tuesday, defeating GOP challenger Lenville M. Sale, and putting an end to a mayoral campaign marred by racial confrontation and most recently, accusations of physical abuse. But the city's new mayor isn't thinking about the negativity of the last four months of campaigning. She is reflecting, instead, on the countless hours of hard work executed on her behalf.

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-- Martha Wood

outstanding job as mayor," she said.

As she prepares to expand her role as public servant and rap the gavel Wayne A. Corpening has held for 12 years, the aldermanic seat she has held for eight years will go to political newcomer Nancy T. Pleasants. She ousted Democrat David C. Pillsbury, winning by 422 votes. Mrs. Pleasants

won in four out of eight precincts in the Northwest Ward.

"I guess all those folks I met by knocking on those doors came out and voted for me," she said, celebrating her victory with a small gathering of Republicans at the Hyatt Hotel. "I'm looking forward to working with this board and to doing everything I can to make Winston-Salem a great city."

In somewhat of an upset, Republican J. Hugh Wright pulled a surprise victory over South Ward incumbent Frank Frye. The race was close all night Tuesday, but Mr. Wright came up with the win, 2,116 to 1,940 votes. Mr. Frye said early on that he got a late start in his campaigning because several of his key people were out of town.

Nelson L. Malloy Jr. devastated GOP candidate James L. Knox in the North Ward contest, gleaning 73 percent of the vote. Mr. Malloy, who became a quadriplegic after a shooting incident in the 1970s, took all but

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ANALYSIS

Black voters usher Wood into city hall

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Let the history books show that the Afro-American vote was the deciding factor in the election of Winston-Salem's first female mayor, Martha Swain Wood, and that it set up the win for the country's first black governor and other minority firsts across America.

In Tuesday's general election, Mrs. Wood defeated Republican challenger Lenville M. Sale by 900 votes, 15,623 to 14,723. The results are unofficial and the figures will be canvassed by the county Board of Elections today.

The third time was a charm for Mrs. Wood who once again emerged the victor in the city's three predominantly Afro-American wards. She also narrowly won the Southeast Ward, which most closely represents the city's racial makeup. Mrs. Wood lost the four remaining wards, each predominantly white, as she did in the Sept. 26 Democratic primary which she lost to G. Dee Smith.

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Virginia Democratic gubernatorial candidate L. Douglas Wilder greets children of the fifth grade class at Churchland Academy in Portsmouth, Va., on a recent campaign visit.

Associated Press Laser Photo

Doug Wilder takes Virginia

Black candidates log historic victories in several mayoral races across nation

By The Associated Press

L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia, celebrating an off-year Democratic sweep, hailed a razor-thin breakthrough Wednesday as the nation's first elected black governor and exclaimed, "I'm just tickled pink." David Dinkins was elected New York City's first black mayor and said voters had responded "with the voice of hope, here and in Virginia."

The volatile politics of abortion "helped me considerably," Wilder said Wednesday morning in claiming a narrow victory still questioned by his Republican opponent.

The turnout of pro-choice voters powered an election-day nightmare for Republicans that extended to New Jersey, where Democratic Rep. James Florio reclaimed the governorship for his party and the Democrats also regained control of the Assembly.

"It's a very tough day for Republicans," said Rep. Newt Gingrich, the Republican House whip.

As significant as the shift in abortion-voting sentiment was the extension of black political success in America's large city halls. Led by Dinkins, blacks

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As Wood supporters celebrate victory, Sale predicts tough times ahead

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Reactions to Tuesday evening's mayoral and aldermanic election ranged from unabashed delight to concern about the effect of the Board of Aldermen's sudden swing to a majority of female members.

As the election results rolled in and some races were decided, a group of Afro-American males, which included an out-going alderman and the head of the local

branch of the NAACP, at the Board of Elections wondered aloud about the future of the city "now that we've got five women on the board."

But over at the Sawtooth Building, where the Democratic Party was holding its victory celebration, campaign workers, party members and interested citizens eagerly awaited the history-making announcement that Martha S. Wood would become the city's next mayor. That announcement came

just before 9:30 p.m. when the final precinct, St. Andrews United Methodist Church, reported in.

"This is just wonderful. To think that we're going to get a woman as mayor is just great," said Dinah McNeill, precinct chair of the 14th Street Recreation Center, which was a pivotal precinct in the October run-off for mayor. "We have worked together so good. This is just great. She (Mrs. Wood) came in our ward and talked to us, and she was in a caravan that rode

through our area. We are just so happy. I'm glad our precinct was for her."

As she had done following her victory in the Oct. 17 run-off, Mrs. Wood danced down the staircase to "Shakedown, Breakdown, You're Busted," and greeted her supporters. Her speech included expressions of appreciation to her family, campaign workers and supporters and a promise to be a mayor that represents the total community and not just one segment of the community.

"What you have to know is that you have earned this victory because everyone here tonight has worked very, very hard for us to get to this point. It's been a tough climb but we've made it, and we've made it in every section of our city," said Mrs. Wood. "This campaign showed what a community we can have in Winston-Salem. It showed that it's a community for all of our citizens, black and white, rich and poor, young and old. I will work very, very hard for you. We have a

lot of work to do. Party well tonight, we're going to get busy tomorrow."

But her opponent, Lenville Sale, said that Mrs. Wood's work will be in vain unless she changes her "combative attitude."

"I'm pleased with the votes we got. I think we surprised everyone with the number of votes we got," Mr. Sale said during a telephone interview Wednesday morning. "I

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The legacy of the civil rights movement

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

This is the first in a series of articles examining civil rights movements, their purpose and effectiveness, how they have fared with the passing of time and how their future will determine the future of Afro-Americans.

Shackled in chains, carted and packed away like animals, Africans were shipped nearly 400 years ago from their native land to the New World and forced into a cruel system of slavery which flourished for 250 years.

Because they were considered less than human and unfit for civilization, it was acceptable for them to be marketed and sold on public auction blocks to the highest bidders.

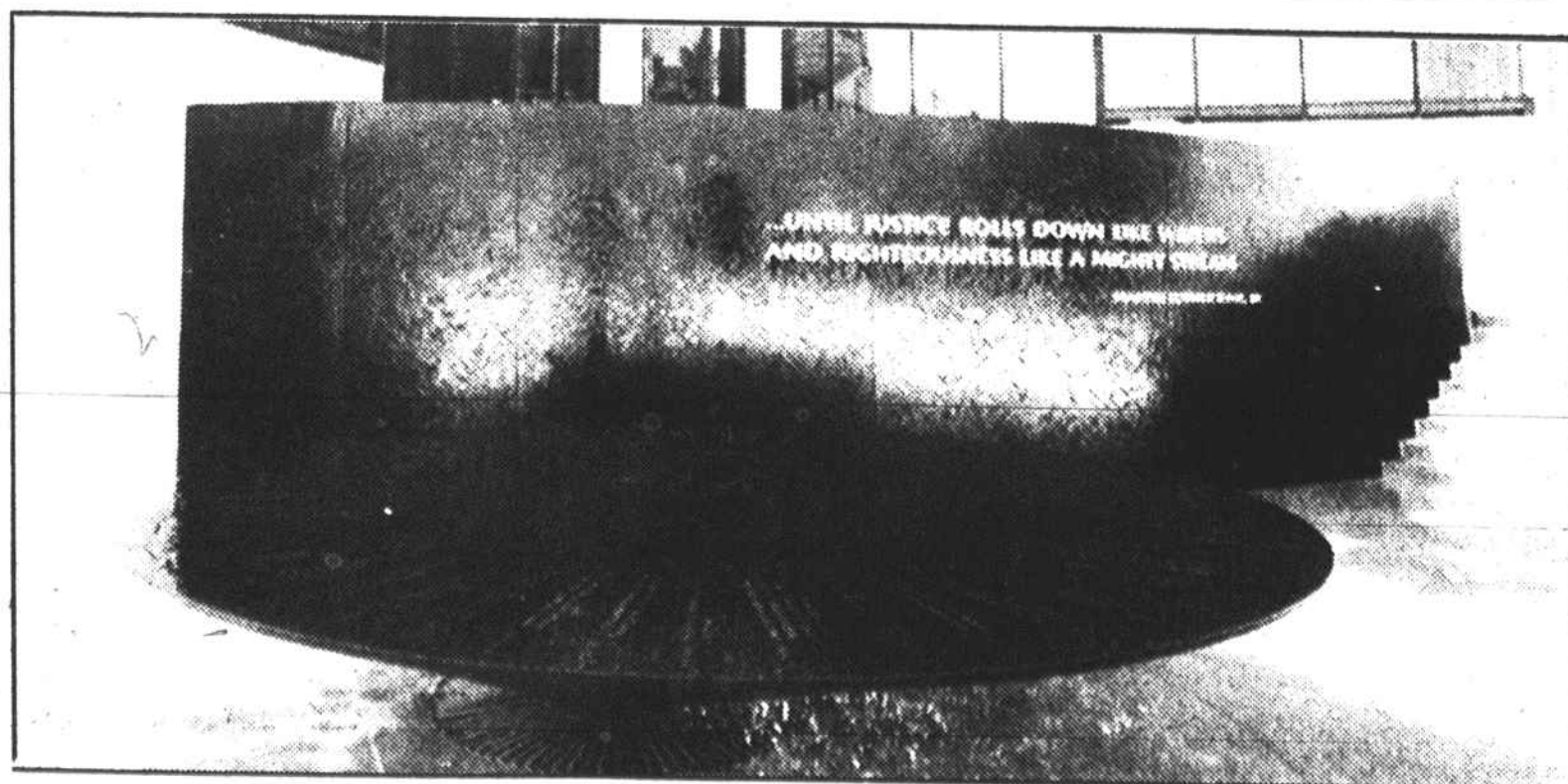
In 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, Afro-Americans thought they were free. However, historians have said the nation's 16th president was pressured

politically and militarily to issue the proclamation so blacks would be able to fight along side whites in the war between the states.

The 13th Constitutional Amendment outlawed slavery, the 14th protected the rights of newly freed slaves and the 15th amendment gave Afro-Americans, who were for the first time after the Civil War made citizens, the right to vote. Afro-Americans were being elevated in the political realm. Between 1870 and 1876, 14 blacks served in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Determined to keep blacks poor, uneducated and powerless, southern whites set out to reestablish their power. The Ku Klux Klan formed and between 1882 and 1901 lynched 2,000 blacks. The reforms of the Reconstruction Era were swept under the rug when in 1896 the U.S. Supreme Court basically put its stamp of approval on "Jim Crow" legislation in Plessy vs. Ferguson. The high court ruled that separate facilities were legal as long as they were equal.

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This photo shows the civil rights memorial which was dedicated Nov. 5 at the Southern Poverty Law Center. The black granite memorial was designed by Maya Lin. The memorial includes a black granite table engraved with the names of 40 people killed during the civil rights era.

Associated Press Laser Photo