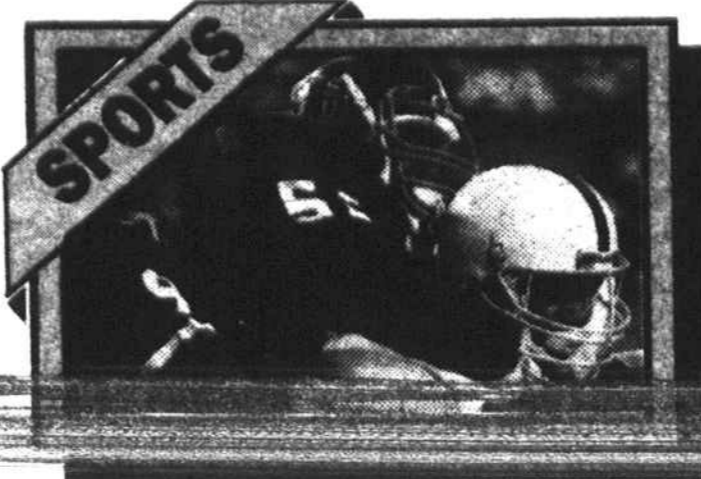


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Mrs. Walker reprimanded; to be reinstated Friday

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Rosa Walker, a Northwest Middle School teacher suspended for five days last Thursday after admitting to supplying students with a study guide that included the same words as those which appear on the California Achievement Test, has been reinstated by superintendent Larry D. Coble.

Dr. Coble announced Wednesday morning that Mrs. Walker will be reinstated Friday, April 13, and that a letter of reprimand will be placed in her personnel file.

"Mrs. Walker has recognized that she made a serious error. There is some question as to whether she was aware the words were on the test before the test was given," said Dr. Coble. "When the test was given, she did not report that her students had had the identical list to the test coordinator, principal or other administrator. While process and is considered to be in violation of State Board policy."

"Mrs. Walker has recognized that she made a serious error. There is some question as to whether she was aware the words were on the test before the test was given."

-- Larry D. Coble

This was not a violation of law, it did violate the ethics of the testing process and is considered to be in violation of State Board policy. The matter was brought to the attention of local school officials



last week when a parent of a child in Mrs. Walker's class contacted Dr. Coble.

After talking with the parent, Mr. Coble said he dispatched two of his staff members to the school to investigate the situation. He said that he had attempted to contact the school's principal, J. Michael Shradler, but was informed that Mr. Shradler was out of town. But when the

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CHRONICLE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Mrs. Walker: 'I'm OK'

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

Rosa Walker appeared the picture of calm, as she sat in her nicely furnished home Tuesday. But that picture only camouflaged the hidden anxiety she had about the decisions that would be made on her future with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system.

She had been in the eye of a week long hurricane. And many wondered if she could weather the storm. But the thirty-two year teaching veteran said with a smile, "I'm O.K."

She only allowed her picture to be taken. She would make no comment at all about the situation that caused her five day suspension without pay from her job at Northwest Middle School. She spoke only a brief moment about how she was coping and of her concern for "her children."

"I just want my children to remain one big happy family. We forgive," she said, "we don't hold grudges. We go on from here."

"I'm anxious to get back so I can see how my children

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Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.

Rosa Walker talks about getting along in the midst of controversy.

Black community outraged at news anchor's exposé

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

A number of people in the Twin City's Afro-American community are outraged, concerned and seeking answers as to why a black teacher, who has logged more than 30 years in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, was suspended without pay for an alleged transgression.

Still others are questioning the actions of Denise Franklin, news anchor with WXII Television station, who has a 14-year-old daughter in Rosa Walker's class at Northwest Middle School.

"My daughter came home from school and said, 'Mommy, Mrs. Walker did something really funny in class today,'" Ms. Franklin said in an interview Monday. "I said, 'What was that?' And she said, 'She gave us the answers that turned out to be the same words on the CAT (California Achievement Test)'. I said, 'What do you mean?' And she said that all the spelling words Mrs. Walker gave her, except for four or five words, were on the test. That disturbed me. First, as a parent because one of my child's weaknesses is in spelling and I depend on inde-

"Does anyone feel Mrs. Walker exploited the futures of the children by supplying them the answers to questions on the test? That's my answer to that question."

-- Denise Franklin



pendent tests like the CAT to be true signs of her status or progression."

Deciding not to take her daughter Kristy's account as gospel, Ms. Franklin called the superintendent's office to further investigate the incident.

"Denise Franklin called the system and wanted to know how she could verify whether

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County officials search for answers to drug problem

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

Setting up metal detectors to find weapons in the schools was just one of the suggestions to come out the quarterly informal discussion session between members of the city-county school board and the county commissioners Tuesday.

Both groups expressed concern about the growing problem throughout the county and in the schools.

Commissioner Forrest Conrad wanted to know where children were getting the money from to buy drugs. He quickly learned that many of the children either steal or become drug traffickers themselves. Commissioner Wayne Willard asked school officials if there was a system anywhere in the country that is making any headway in dealing with the drug problem that could serve as model for what might be done here.

"If we are going to do it (deal with the drug problem) we need to have a plan. Please see page A9

Project leaders plead for more protection

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

A curfew should be established in the city's four public housing areas to keep teen-agers off the streets at night, a police precinct should be established in each of the communities and parents should be legally forced to take responsibility for the actions of their drug-dealing children. That is what members of a delegation

representing Cleveland Avenue Homes, Happy Hill Gardens and Piedmont Park told aldermen Monday.

The residents made their plea to members of the Finance Committee after they had completed their regular agenda.

"I'll not talk about people sleeping on the floor at night because they're afraid of gun fire or

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Tutorial program is underway in schools

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system has started a new after school tutorial program designed to help underachieving students improve their academic performance. Special emphasis is focused on improvement of minority students.

The program grew out of input from several community based groups who met for months with school system officials trying to come up with ideas to help improve student performance and get more parental involvement.

So far ninety-five students in three high schools are being tutored in math, english, and biology. The schools involved are North and West Forsyth, and Glenn.

"We were surprised at how many children volunteered for the program," said Geneva Brown, director of the Office of Student Achievement. "But we are hoping to have more community workshops to get more parents involved so they can encourage their children to get involved in the program."

Mrs. Brown said she really wants to get more students who live in the city's housing projects to get into the program, especially Afro-American males. "We really have a problem here," she said. "This is the most at-risk group in our school system."

The first school that initiated it's program was North Forsyth High. Fifteen students have signed up. One student who volunteered is

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Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.

Learning To Learn

Josh Pledger gets help from teacher Becky Hines in after school program.

Winston-Salem Chronicle NewsUpdate



Young 'tones down blackness' in Ga.

ATLANTA -- Another prominent black politician is finding it necessary to "tone down his blackness" in a bid to win a major statewide office. The so-called "Doug Wilder strategy" is now being employed by former Congressman and Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young as he campaigns to become the first black governor of Georgia. In a state where blacks represent 25 percent of the total population, Mr. Young has been clear about the fundamental problem faced by blacks running for statewide or national political office. He recently said: "I cannot get elected with just black votes."

More state and national news ...

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"Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits."

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