

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

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## Family Upset After Slap-on-Wrist Sentence

▲ Woman left critically injured after struck by drunken driver, who will be out of jail in about 60 days



Loree D. Jackson

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Executive Editor

A Winston-Salem woman is upset that she didn't have her day in court.

Lorenda Jackson's grandmother, Loree D. Jackson, was critically injured when she was struck by a drunken driver last September. From November to March, the court case was postponed five times, including once when the defendant, John Thomas Spease, did not show up in court and another time because of inclement weather.

But when Jackson called the Forsyth

County District Court last Thursday to find out which courtroom the case was to be tried the next morning, she was told that the case had been tried April 5. She also learned that the defendant had received a one-year sentence for driving while impaired, but is likely to serve about two months.

Not only is Jackson angry at not being there to testify on her grandmother's behalf. She also feels that the defendant, who has never had a driver's license and has a long list of arrests and convictions, got a slap on the wrist for a sentence.

"That burns me alive, and it has my

grandmother upset, too," Jackson said. "I would think that something can be done as far as his incarceration is concerned — a man with a record as lengthy as his."

The saga began the evening of Sept. 2, 1993, when Loree Jackson, of 1223 N. Highland Ave., was getting into the passenger side of her late-model Lincoln Town Car in front of her hair salon on Longview Drive. A pickup, driven by Spease, careered out of control and pinned her against the car.

Since then, her life has not been the same.

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Loree Jackson was pinned between two cars.

## Mixed Marriages: Is it Blind Love or Simply Mystique?

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Lee Cox is very proud of his heritage and culture and said he didn't lose his identity when he married Martha.

"It was just the opposite," he said. "Growing up as a black person you establish who you are and then begin to expose yourself to other worlds. I have been exposed to different people, groups, cultures, worlds — and life is fuller because of that."

Lee is black; and Martha is white. Cox said he married his wife 25 years ago not because she was white, but because she met the criteria he was looking for in a wife.

"What attracts us is the same thing that attracts anyone else to their wife — compatibility, someone who gives you a challenge, who will support you and you can support," he said. "When you look for those qualities, you're not necessarily looking at race."

Dr. Ed Dewindt-Robson, a white psychologist married to a black psychologist, said that interracial dating is normal, but too many times a person is rejected by their family or friends and they feel they are no longer accepted by their own race.

"There could be a situation where someone chooses to date strictly for negative reasons, such as they feel rejected and have a low self-esteem," he said. "They may feel another race is inferior, and that's all they deserve. But I think people are beginning to see that interracial marriages are as stable and successful as intraracial."

Interracial marriage and interracial dating hit the spotlight last month when a white high-school principal in Wedowee, Ala., was suspended and later reinstated for trying to bar interracial couples from the Randolph County High School prom. Many in the town protested after he also

referred to racially mixed student as a "mistake."

According to 1992 figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, out of 53.5 million married couples, 1.5 million, or 2 percent, are interracial. Of that figure, 246,000 or .05 percent, are black and white couples.

Dr. Leonor Boulton-Johnson, a professor of family studies at Arizona State University, said interracial marriages don't appear to be a threat to the black-family structure because the percentages of interracial couples are so small.

"I don't know how it can destroy (the black family) because it's a very small percentage," she said. "I feel it's more of an image threat than a reality, but it is a clear threat to the black female because of the difficulty in finding a (black) mate."

Dewindt-Robson said he and his wife met because they shared the same interest and over the years they developed a good friendship. He said that's how many successful marriages form, regardless of race.

Frankie Vaughn, who is white, said she met her husband Alexander while both worked at AT&T. She said they haven't had many problems as a couple with three children because they remain visible.

"One of the reasons we don't have many problems is because we don't hide," she said. "We didn't go to church for a long time because we wanted our family to be accepted. In the beginning, there were stares, but we haven't had many problems."

Dewindt-Robson said some teenagers who date outside of their race appear to be experimenting, but he says most interracial relationships are successful because they are sincere.

"In high school, it seems that a certain amount of interracial relationships are a way of expressing rebellion versus being interested," he said. "If you



Alexander and Frankie Vaughn

encounter a person who dates exclusively out of their race, I think that's prejudice with a different twist. Overall, interracial relationships on a whole are successful and the support they have for each other keeps them strong."

Vaughn, who was previously married to a white man, said that people can find true love if they focus on the indi-

vidual's character, instead of skin color.

"When you're in love, it doesn't take anything else," she said. "I think blind people are the happiest people (in relationships) because they know the true person. Blind people miss on seeing the world, but they really get to see what's in the heart, not what the skin looks like."

### Psychologist Headlines Urban League Family Confab

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

The black family must rely on family traditions and education to remain strong, according to black-family expert Dr. Leonor Boulton-Johnson, a noted psychologist.

Boulton-Johnson, a professor of family studies at Arizona State University, will be the keynote speaker of the Urban League's African-American Family Summit Conference on April 21 at the Anderson Conference Center.

Boulton-Johnson started researching the black family over 18 years ago because she was disturbed after seeing only negative images of the black family in textbooks.

"There were no positive images of black families in the empirical studies," she said. "It angered me and I started my investigations to put the black family in proper context."

see PSYCHOLOGIST A3



## East Winston Could Get \$3 Million Boost With HUD Grant

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Residents of East Winston could get a \$3 million federal grant to lower unemployment rates and promote economic self-sufficiency.

The city recently nominated a 15-square-mile area to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a federal enterprise community. The purpose of the enterprise community program is to empower people and communities and to revitalize economically distressed areas.

Ellen Monahan, with Forsyth Common Vision Council, said the designated area includes almost the entire Eastern part of the city, however, other neighborhoods such as

Holly Avenue, Washington Park and Old Salem are also included.

**"There is a big effort here to talk directly to the problem. The area has problems, but it has incredible resources and that's what we want to build on."**

"A lot of people think it's just over (Highway) 52, but it covers other areas," Monahan said. "It would create jobs for the urban parts

of the city."

Monahan said more than 30,000 people would be affected if the city gets the grant. Nearly 80 percent of the residents in the poverty-stricken area are black. The unemployment rate in Forsyth County, as of February was 3.8 percent. East Winston alone, however, has an unemployment rate of 13 percent.

Joseph Sauser, of the city's housing and neighborhood development office, said that the major benefit is creating jobs, developing job-training programs and becoming privy to other federal grants.

"The basic focus is on job creation and economic opportunity," he said. "Job creation could mean training people for good jobs,

inducing business to come in the area, and enticing them to hire people from the area."

Sauser said there is no guarantee that businesses will build inside the designated area, but tax breaks will be offered to employers as encouragement to do so.

He said six focus groups have been scheduled across the city to bring all segments together and develop an economic strategy.

"They are the ones getting killed — they are the ones unemployed and living in horrible situations," he said. "There is a big effort here to talk directly to the problem. The area has problems, but it has incredible resources and that's what we want to build on."

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**This Week In Black History**  
April 11, 1956  
Singer Nat King Cole attacked on stage of Birmingham theater by white supremacists.

WRITE TO FIND IT