

# Clayton: Women Can Do the Job

## ◆Congresswoman Keynotes CIAA Tipoff Banquet

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Today's young women have the attitudes and skills to meet the challenges of a Republican-controlled Congress that is curtailing programs benefiting women athletics, U.S. Rep. Eva Clayton said recently.

"You are the role models to so many young people struggling to find their way in life," Clayton told the women's players at the 1996 CIAA Women's Tip Off Banquet at the Benton Convention Center. "Be part of the solution. You have the talent, ladies."

The women represented 13 schools competing in the 51st CIAA Tournament. More than 400 players, coaches, administrators, and tournament sponsors attended the event.

"You must lead the charge for a better tomorrow," Clayton said. "We have met the challenges. You are as strong as you believe you are."

Americans face a difficult economic and social climate.

"If some Republicans in Congress have their way,

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CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry presented Congresswoman Eva Clayton with a plaque at the Women's Tipoff Banquet where she was the keynote speaker.

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## NAACP Chief Stresses Importance of Education

By MAURICE CROCKER  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Increased education and continued support from the churches will ensure a brighter future for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), said the organization's newest leader, Kweisi Mfume.

He was in Winston-Salem this week speaking to students, residents, the business and religious community during several Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) tournament events.

During a morning address at Winston-Salem State University, Mfume stressed the importance of historically black colleges and universities along with education.

"One hundred years ago, no one expected this college to be here today,"

Mfume said.

"No one thought the students would leave here and contribute to the building of this nation."

He told the audience that there are some people that do not feel predominately black colleges and universities are needed in a culturally diverse society.

"In the past, black colleges were fighting for more staff and buildings. But now they are fighting for their existence," Mfume said.

Education is important because it allows a person to learn about themselves and their heritage, which builds self-esteem, he said.

"The only way a person can eat off your back is if it is bent over," Mfume said. "Once you get educated, your

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## Teacher Has 18 Checks with Race, Gender Noted

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

A Winston-Salem woman has 18 checks where local grocery cashiers wrote "BF," "WF," or "HF" attempting to identify her race and gender.

LaRue P. Cunningham, an African American and history teacher at Wiley Middle School, sent the Chronicle copies of cancelled checks that she paid for items at The Kroger Co., Food Mart, and Stein Mart. Cunningham wrote the checks from January 1995 to August 1995.

"I am very offended by this," Cunningham said. "I think it is a terrible policy."

Cunningham's revelations come two weeks after Evon L. Crooks of Winston-Salem complained that a cashier at Lowe's hardware store on

North Liberty Street wrote

"BM" on his check, indicating that he was a black male.

Mike Collins, co-manager of Kroger store on Jonestown Road, said the store was following the policy set down by the Forsyth County Magistrate's Office to identify check writers by race and gender.

"Our office never required any business to put race and gender on checks," said Stephen Honaker, a county magistrate. Local businesses are required by law to identify people suspected of writing bad checks before arrest warrants are issued, he said.

Cunningham says that she has never written a bad check. Two other African Americans have joined her to

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"I am very offended by this."

-LaRue P. Cunningham

## WSSU Underwrites Some CIAA Tickets for Students

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

The CIAA Basketball Tournament should make it possible for more students to attend the 16 games in the men's and women's competition, Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider, chancellor of Winston-Salem State University, said this week.

"I am concerned that the tournament doesn't provide enough student access to the games," Schexnider said. "It's an adult event, and it is very important. However, more students need to be part of the event."

Student fees support the athletic departments at the 13 schools in the CIAA, Schexnider said. WSSU is underwriting 100 tickets so its students can buy a tournament

package half price, for \$42.50.

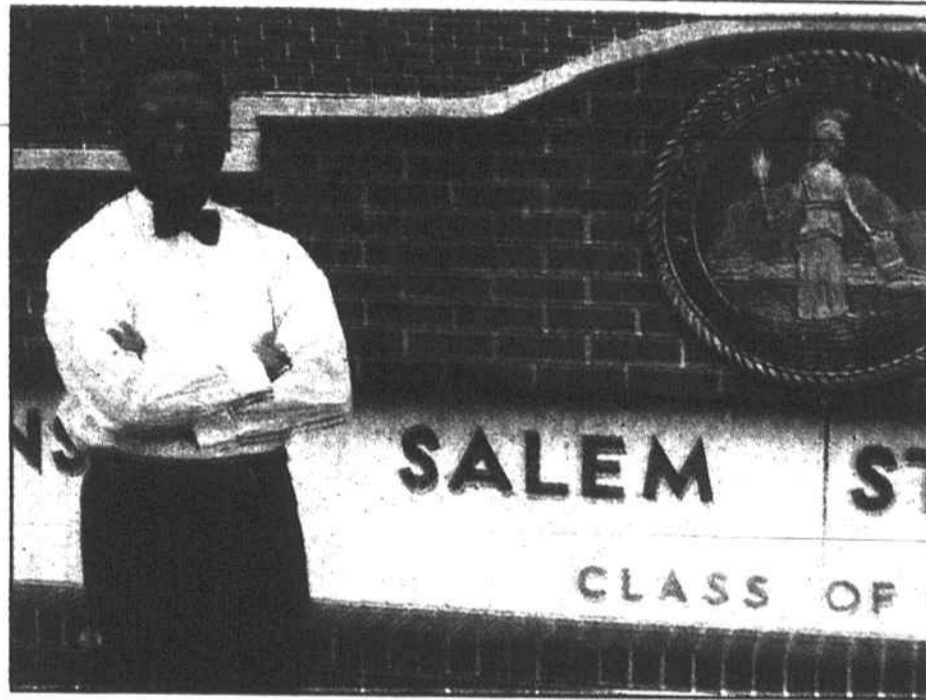
"I agree that we need to get more kids involved," said Leon Kerry, CIAA commissioner. "It is difficult to do because this is a public event and we are always sold out."

More than 20,000 people are expected to attend the tournament, which runs through Saturday.

The tournament package of tickets that costs \$85 is not overpriced, Kerry said. The average admission is about \$5.30 per game.

The CIAA provides tickets for each game to students for \$8 to \$10.

"They don't buy them," Kerry said. "What the students want are free tickets. If we do that, we would go broke and be out of business."



Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider, chancellor of WSSU, has a vision for the school that focuses on student academic development.

Schexnider, who is serving his ninth week as chancellor, says WSSU will reach out more to its alumni during the CIAA tourney. He also spoke about the future of WSSU, student athletes, the value of historically black colleges and universities in an interview this

week. Schexnider, the former provost for undergraduate studies and associate vice president for academic affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University, has a vision for WSSU for the year

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## NAACP Calls For Principal's Firing

From Chronicle Staff Reports

The Greensboro NAACP has joined a concerned mother in calling for the dismissal of Kent Byrd, principal of Jamestown Middle School.

Brenda McCollum, mother of sixth-grader Markey Whitsett, was advised by Byrd on Jan. 19 that her son was being disciplined for "issuing his girlfriend in the hallway. McCollum alleges that the principal also asked whether she knew the girlfriend was white.

McCollum did not view the situation as a racial incident. "I don't mind if he dates a white girl. I can't understand why the principal would bring it up," she told a Greensboro newspaper.

Her son, Whitsett, says the girl, a sixth-grader he was dating, kissed him on the cheek and hugged him. A teacher who witnessed their affection sent him to the office, where a vice principal warned him that kissing violated the school's code of conduct.

Upon returning to class, he was called back to the office by the principal, Kent Byrd, who allegedly told him of tragic consequences of interracial dating, from heartache to hate violence. Whitsett said the principal inquired whether he had heard of the Ku Klux Klan and shared a story about a black college athlete who committed suicide after being jilted by his white girl-

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## Lee Democratic Candidate for Secretary of State

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Valeria L. Lee of Winston-Salem, a Democrat, is running for Secretary of State, seeking to become the second African American to win a statewide race and the first woman to serve on the Council of State in North Carolina.

"I believe I can win," Lee said. "I am suited to carry out this work."

Lee says she will use her administrative experience to make it as easy as possible for businesses to comply with laws that require them to deal with the office of Secretary of State.

"Many of these laws are intended to protect the public interest and individual consumers, and I pledge to enforce them vigorously," said Lee, a native of Hollister, N.C.

Lee admits that she doesn't have statewide name recognition. However, she is well-known across North Carolina through her work with community organizations



Valeria L. Lee

and her service on boards, including the University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

"The voters in the state want a person of integrity in this office," Lee said. "I am really committed to this state."

Lee is one of six Democratic candidates running for Secretary of State. The winner of the May Democratic primary

will face Republican Richard Petty, an ex-NASCAR driver, in the November elections.

She notes the Secretary of State's responsibilities for administering the state's security laws that are designed to protect the investing public. Lee said that senior citizens have become the targets of scam artists who ignore securities regulations.

"The Secretary of State helps make the process of both entering and doing business in North Carolina run smoothly."

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**This Week in Black History**  
**March 1, 1841**  
 Blanche Kelso Bruce, first black to serve a full term in the United States Senate was born a slave in Prince Edward County, Virginia.