

Woman battles debilitating disease, red tape

By BRIDGET EVARTS
The CHRONICLE Staff Writer

Twelve years ago, the world was Janette Elles' oyster, and she was more than ready to pry it open.

The Davie County native had just graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles with honors. She planned to work as a researcher in psychobiology and eventually become a clinical physician in the field of neuroscience.

Prior to her successes at UCLA,

Elles had already compiled a list of accomplishments to last a lifetime. While at Davie High School, she won a number of local, regional and state oratory competitions, actively participated in a host of clubs and organizations and mastered eight musical instruments.

Elles had transferred to UCLA from Western Carolina University for her junior year. "I was a big fish in a little pond," she said. "I wanted more." At UCLA, Elles continued to volunteer in school, community and

church activities.

The first tragedy struck in 1985. Elles and five other young black UCLA students were traveling on the 405 Freeway when their Toyota Corolla was struck by a semi. The driver of the 18-wheeler was drunk.

The three passengers sitting in the back of the Corolla were killed; Elles, the driver and the other student in the front seat survived. However, Elles' injuries left her with an epileptic condition. The condition causes violent seizures of such magnitude that Elles

has broken 42 bones in the twelve years since the accident.

In 1988, about one year after Elles moved back to North Carolina, mysterious symptoms began to plague her. She sought out doctor after doctor, and in 1993, was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus, a chronic disease that affects the immune system. Almost all of her major organs — heart, kidneys, lungs — have been affected by the disease, and she must

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In order to manage her chronic disease, Janette Elles must use up to 40 different medications a day.

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Supporters blame media for Dudley High's bad image

By BRIDGET EVARTS
The CHRONICLE Staff Writer

GREENSBORO—Most people don't know that Dudley High School has produced some of the most outstanding scholars in North Carolina, say the historically black school's students.

Instead, say the students, people think that the school is crime-ridden. The students chalk up this perception to one-sided media

coverage of "bad" incidents. But the camera is never trained on Dudley when its students and alumni receive awards and honors.

Dudley High School parents, alumni and students, joined by ministerial alliance the Pulpit Forum, vented these frustrations at an Aug. 28 press conference held at New Light Missionary Baptist Church. However, it was the recent suspension of principal Larry F. Lewis that served as the impetus for

the press conference.

Fire marshal E.G. Apple filed two misdemeanor charges against Lewis Aug. 25, for failure to maintain a proper alarm system and for not heeding warnings to cease disabling the school fire alarm system. Lewis has been suspended with pay pending an investigation.

The students and parents claimed that the criminal charges against Lewis are unprecedented

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Dudley PTSA president Gladys Robinson (left) and Dudley students held a press conference to address what they perceive as the media's poor portrayal of the school.

Mayor's race heats up

By BRIDGET EVARTS
The CHRONICLE Staff Writer

Candidates in the fall municipal primary election are already hitting the streets and pressing the flesh.

Primary elections, held to pare down candidates by party for the November election, can sometimes decide an election, if there are only challengers from the incumbent's party.

While this is true in two aldermen races, the mayoral race is another story. There are six candidates running for mayor of Winston-Salem, two Republicans and four Democrats.

The four Democratic contenders for mayor are Mark A. Thomas, Richard Lambert Newton, Joseph A. Alexander and incumbent Martha S. Wood. Thomas, Alexander and Wood were available for interviews.

Each offered his or her vision for the future of Winston-Salem, and specifically, for the African-American community of the city.

The candidates spoke on the most pressing concerns faced by African Americans in Winston-Salem, and about how they would assuage these problems.

"When I was first elected (in 1989), the primary concern of the black community was the increasing crime rate," said Mayor Martha S. Wood. During her first term, crime in Winston-Salem reached an all-time peak.

The solution, said Wood, was in creating opportunities for residents in high-crime areas to find their own solutions. People, not programs, reduced criminal activity, said Wood.

Wood relied on those she felt best knew how to deal with crime on a daily basis, and modeled the city-wide Violence Reduction Task Force after the efforts of public housing residents.

"[Crime] is a problem that is always with us," said Wood. "I don't want to let up on that."

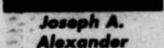
Challenger Joseph A. Alexander thinks that the mayor's approach to problem-solving takes too long, though. "Ms. Wood gets together committees, and studies the problems and then acts," said Alexander. "The reaction time is a little slow, and I think the city has stagnated in growth."

Alexander, the only black mayoral candidate, is a 35-year-old native of

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Mark A. Thomas



Joseph A. Alexander



Martha S. Wood



Williams Advances

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

Venus Williams returns to South Africa's Joannette Kruger at the U.S. Open Sunday Aug. 31, 1997. The 17-year-old made it to the semifinals of her first U.S. Open with a 7-5, 7-5 victory over Sandrine Testud Tuesday night. The 6-foot-1 Williams grabbed a railing and hoisted herself up to kiss her mother after the match. Williams next meets Irina Spirlea, who has made no secret of her dislike for the attention teens like Williams are getting before they win even one tournament.



SPLASH coordinator Valeria Slaughter led the students on the rockin' dance train.

Easton SPLASHs into Labor Day with sock hop

By PILECIA P. McMILLAN
Special to THE CHRONICLE

Although Labor Day marks the end of summer, for students at Easton Elementary School, it definitely does not mark the end of fun. Students, teachers, parents and even administrators removed their shoes and got on the good foot on Friday, Aug. 29 in the school gym.

The walls were decorated with balloons, poodle skirts, posters of positive student graffiti, and album covers from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. As students and teachers danced to the sounds of B.T. Express, the Isley Brothers, the Spinners, Erykah Badu, Space Jam and others, shouts of "Go Betty! Go Betty!" or "Go Shawntel! Go Shawntel!" filled the gym, and students formed dance circles, cheering one another on. They held hands, they screamed,



Latara (left), Britney (center) and Barbara (right) hug each other while they learn to do the Electric Slide.

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