



Schexnider

# Legislator: WSSU financial situation 'disheartening,'

By JERI YOUNG  
THE CHRONICLE

Last week's move to strip the vice chancellor for finance and administration at Winston-Salem State University of her financial responsibilities has baffled the school's alumni and supporters.

In a letter to members of the board of trustees last week, WSSU Chancellor Alvin J. Schexnider announced several changes in the way the Division of Finance and Administration is run. Philip

Gilley, audit supervisor of the Office of State Audit, a 30-year veteran, was named the university's acting chief financial officer.

Clementine Cone will continue to oversee the university's physical facilities management, public safety and community development corporation.

The announcement came a week after a meeting between Schexnider and University of North Carolina President Molly Broad during which Schexnider asked for help in solving the uni-

versity's ongoing accounting problems.

In a May 13 memo to Schexnider, Broad outlined Gilley's duties and stressed the need for financial controls for what Broad called "a general lack of commitment to sound financial practices."

"As chancellor, you are accountable for the fiscal integrity of your institution, and I will look for the achievement of immediate progress in establishing and maintaining sound financial operations," Broad said in the memo.

Schexnider was out of town and unavailable for comment.

Under the new plan, Gilley, who performed a similar function at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in the early '80s, will be available to the university for up to 12 months and report directly to Broad. UNC Associate Vice President George Burnette will provide "periodic assistance and consultation" to Gilley.

WSSU officials call Gilley's presence a preemptive measure.

"I don't think the chancellor is interested in continuing the status quo," said Lee Hampton, the university's vice chancellor for university advancement. "I don't think we can afford to continue to conduct business as usual and say we're preparing for the 21st century."

According to Hampton, the problems are longstanding and tied to low employee morale, high employee turnover and lack of technology in the accounting and finance departments.

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Chairman of LIFT Academy board of directors resigns

By PAUL COLLINS  
THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Frank Wood, chairman of the board of directors of LIFT Academy for the last several years, resigned May 12 because of differences with the public charter school's administration over how to deal with the school's financial problems and other issues.

In other news, an official with the reporting and auditing division of the State Department of Public Instruction said it is looking into allegations by Ansylene Mitchell, a former teacher at LIFT Academy, who said, among other things, that her 403-B retirement account with the school was short until the matter was essentially corrected last week.

Also, Mitchell reported that several teachers told her that there were insufficient funds to cash their LIFT Academy paychecks Friday, but they were able to cash them on Monday. Mitchell said there have been several instances before when she was unable to cash her LIFT Academy paychecks because the school had insufficient funds, but she was able to cash the paychecks later. There were also times when she received her paycheck late and once she was paid in cash, she said.

Mitchell also has alleged that her dental insurance lapsed at one point because the school had not paid the premium, even though she was paying for the insurance through payroll deduction each pay period.

Wood said in a telephone interview Tuesday, "I did resign (from the board) because of disagreements between me and others about the procedures we should go through to deal with certain administrative and financial issues, some of which you mentioned in your article in The Chronicle last

See LIFT on A8

## Arinze: Religion holds key to world peace

By T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

As jet travel, the Internet and mass media bring the hemispheres closer together than ever before, the centuries-old power of religion is still one of the best instruments to bring about worldwide social, political and economic change, the black man who many believe will be the next pope told Wake Forest University graduates Monday.

"Religion teaches people that, despite differences of race and culture, the human family is one...Therefore, respect for the rights of others, questions of justice and peace, the necessity to eliminate unjust discrimination based on language, race, place of origin, social status, sex or religion, all come under what religion is about," said Cardinal Francis Arinze, president of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue, a branch of the Vatican that promotes collaboration between Catholics and followers of other religions.

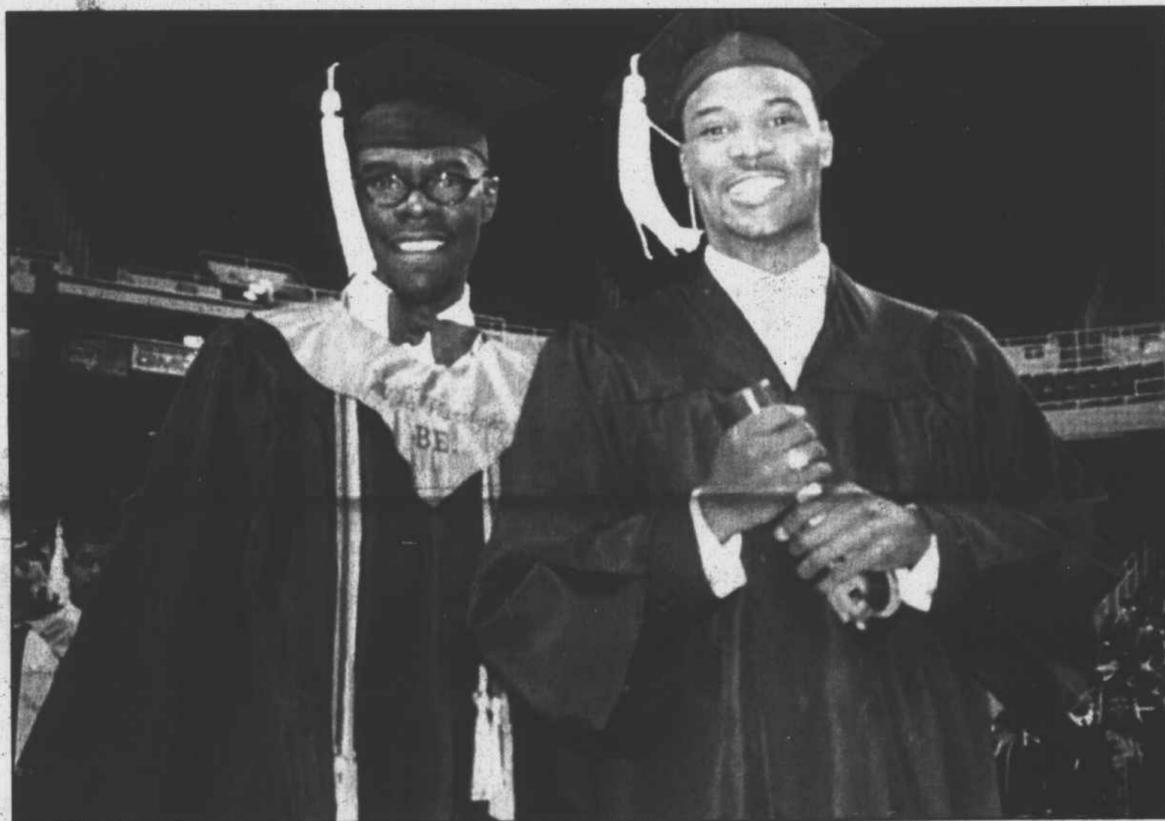
As he spoke during the outdoor ceremony on the school's campus, Arinze looked out at an ocean of nearly 1,400 undergraduate and graduate students who were slated to receive diplomas. The graduates were flanked by rows of well-trimmed trees and thousands upon thousands of family members and friends, many of whom jockeyed for positions to photograph and videotape the rising Catholic star.

Arinze told the crowd that many of the difficulties that plague humanity extend beyond individual religious beliefs. They are the problems of the

See Wake on A11



Arinze



Robert Parker and Erick Wicker relax after receiving their diplomas during North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's commencement last Saturday. For full story see page A3.

## Free at last!

## Angelou to headline desegregation rally

By T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Norma McLemore grew up in a small town near Jasper, Texas.

Though it was years before the dragging death of a black man at the hands of skinheads would make Jasper infamous, McLemore says she was a witness to prejudice and racism on a daily basis.

"I grew up in a racist little town where the Klan was a presence," she said.

But McLemore, who is white, escaped. Now, a "middle-aged" woman, she has called Winston-Salem home for nearly 15 years. And although the problem of racism never completely dissipated,

McLemore said she thought the nation had made some significant steps forward, especially in terms of education.

So when the city-county school board passed a redistricting plan for elementary and middle schools five years ago, McLemore's red flag shot up; it has been up ever since.

"I don't have children but I care very much about race relations...I think that we are resegregating

(schools), and I hate to see that," she said.

The redistricting plan has done away with cross-town busing in the system and replaced it with a "school choice" plan, in which parents have the option of sending their children to a school in their neighborhood or a handful of others.

McLemore has joined forces with several other people to organize one of the first grassroots rallies aimed at challenging the school system's redistricting plan.

The rally, scheduled for Monday night in Reynolds High School Auditorium, will also serve as an anti-violence and racial dialogue event, McLemore said.

"It will be a mishmash of things," she said.

A "mishmash" is also an appropriate word to describe the line-up of performers and speakers scheduled to take center stage at the event.

Emily Wilson, an organizer who thought up the idea for the awareness rally, asked Maya Angelou to speak at the rally, and she's agreed. Wilson's husband, Edwin Wilson, is a senior vice president at Wake Forest University, the school where Angelou serves as Reynolds Professor of American Studies.

"Dr. Angelou is always inspirational. The message that she brings

See Rally on A10



McLemore

## Black leaders take up the cause for Liberians

By T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Likening the U.S. government's policy for granting citizenship to a complex racial and geographical hierarchy system, four prominent black leaders are taking up the cause of thousands of Liberians who face deportation from this country later this summer.

"In (regard) to Africa, there has always been a double standard," said the Rev. John Mendez of Emmanuel Baptist Church. "It did not start yesterday or today; it has been ongoing."

Mendez was joined at the news conference Friday morning at Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church by State Rep. Larry Womble; the Rev. Carlton Eversley of Dellabrook Baptist Church;

James Hunder, the president of the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont; and the Rev. Seth Lartey, pastor of Goler.

The men spoke about the urgent need for federal legislation to grant the Liberians status as permanent residents. The men urged Americans, especially African Americans, to aggressively lobby Congress on behalf of the Liberians.

"As a state legislator, I can tell you that if there is not an outcry - telephone calls, petitions, rallies - then you don't get our attention," Womble said. "It's unfortunate, but that's the way legislatures work."

Thousands of Liberians have been granted temporary residency in the United States since a bloody civil war broke out in the tiny West

African nation more than a decade ago. Last year, their residency status was not renewed by the U.S. Justice Department after it deemed Liberia safe and stable. There has been a cease-fire in the nation since 1996 and recent democratic elections.

But Liberia is a nation barely hanging on, many Liberians say. They say their homeland lacks the basics - like health care and running water - and that the Liberian government has not yet proven itself a true democracy to the world community.

Liberians from across the nation attended a rally last year in Washington to fight the Justice Department's decision and to persuade members of Congress to

See Liberia on A10

## 'La luz de diversidad'



More than 50 people gathered downtown for the unveiling of a Hispanic mural. The mural celebrates diversity in the city. For full story, see page A2.

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### This Week In Black History...

May 20, 1868 - P.B.S. Pinchback and James J. Harris are the first African American delegates to a Republican convention.  
May 26, 1968 - Ruth A. Lucas becomes the Air Force's first black female colonel.