

Sisters took different paths after 1954 education ruling

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at Lincoln. Tilghman had better everything. I hated to see them go."

Massie, 60, said her intent in going to Tilghman was to improve her education, which she did.

But she said she often felt isolated at the all-white school.

"One thing that I missed was some nurturing-somebody being there for you," she said. "We had each other and our parents. That's all."

Wilson said she understands how her sister's school experience was lacking in some ways. Lincoln had a rich history of athletic and social events, teachers she admired and a sense of community and unity, Wilson said.

"Some of my friends were staying at Lincoln, and I just decided it would be best for me and the place for me," said Wilson. "I was in the drill corps, and Lincoln had a real good band and music program." Wilson also said she was able to study African-American history at Lincoln.

Massie was among the first five students to leave Lincoln, but she said if given the decision over again, she would have stayed.

Massie said she was so disengaged from activities at her new school that she doesn't know the school fight song but remembers Lincoln's some 44 years later.

"But I have no regrets," said Massie. "It made me a better person."

Integration at Tilghman proceeded slowly after the Brown ruling.

Tilghman did not have an African-American cheerleader until black football players began a boycott in 1967. And blacks were discouraged from going to the school's prom in 1956 to lessen any potential for conflict, according to published accounts.

All-black Lincoln stayed open for 11 years before it was converted into an elementary school.

Massie recalled that in one of her last years at Lincoln, supplies were so short that five students had to share the work of dissecting a worm in biology class.

"Now how can five students dissect a worm?" asked Massie, who went on to earn a master's degree and taught junior high school and special education and reading classes for 30 years.

Wilson said she married in 1960, the year she graduated.

After graduation her husband entered the military and she moved with him. She said she has never pondered how her life might have changed had she gone to the white high school.

"I was glad I went to Lincoln," she said. "It was very sad to see Lincoln close."

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Brothers celebrate their special talents

Both Taylor, age 12 and his brother Tyquante, age 10 live an active life. They like swimming, skating, playing video games and watching cartoons. On this special day they take time out to just hang together.

Today, we honor and celebrate the lives of these handsome brothers and recognize their special talents, which include drawing and singing. Both Taylor and Tyquante are also avid readers.

Taylor's favorite series of books is Harry Potter and Tyquante's favorite book is Curious George.



Taylor and Tyquante are two of many children waiting to be adopted in Mecklenburg County.

not only in his eye but also in his heart. He is very sweet and lovable."

One thing both boys share in common is their desire for an adoptive family. Taylor and Tyquante live in foster care. They have never lived apart and want to be adopted into the same family. If you are interested in finding out more about these boys or other children awaiting adoption, call Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services at 704-336-KIDS (5437).

"Taylor's most endearing qualities are his smile and his witty behavior," says long-time friend

Christine O'Brien. "Tyquante has a sparkle



Communities for Families & Kids
MECKLENBURG COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

USC study: State has long way to go to reach equality

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call to action for people of color," Randolph said. "It should be a call to action for people who support democracy, for people of faith, for people who support treating other human beings fairly."

The report, entitled "... And Miles to Go Before I Sleep" after a line from a Robert Frost poem, was split into five studies.

In the education portion, professor Thomas Thompson said not much has changed 50 years after a South Carolina court case was rolled into the suit that overturned segregation. "Except the fight is not about a bus. It's about equal educational opportunities," he said.

Thompson wants the state to stop fighting a lawsuit from poor school districts that say they don't get enough money and instead work toward more equitable funding.

In the justice section, professor W. Lewis Burke calls for a reexamination of drug laws because blacks go to prison for drug crimes at a much higher rate than whites even though studies show little differences between the races on drug use.

In the public life article, Paul Beazley, former deputy commission of the state Human Affairs Commission, said the state needs to get rid of majority black districts and draw lines for the General Assembly that reflect the diversity of the state's communities.

In the family and health section, sociology professor Andrew Billingsley recommends the governor and lawmakers do everything they can to lessen unemployment, including public works programs as a last resort.

"It's hard for families to be strong if men can't get good jobs," Billingsley said.

In the economy section, Benedict University President and Harvard-educated economist David Swinton wants to see the state mandate affirmative action strategies to give minorities equal access in the private sector.

Sheheen plans to make copies of the report available to lawmakers and other government leaders. He acknowledges some of the ideas probably won't get a warm reception, but said the problems still need to be exposed.

"Some states have been willing to take much more vigorous steps than South Carolina," Sheheen said.

States plans to sue tobacco company

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names. The letter was sent by Spitzer on behalf of his state as well as Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming.

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