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54 Pages This Week

## Plan calling for creation of black districts proposed

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Forsyth County could be assured of one and possibly two black delegates in the North Carolina House of Representatives provided the public and the current House delegation support a redistricting plan devised by Alderman Larry Little.

Little and other black leaders have drawn a plan that calls for two predominantly black single-member districts in the county.

The districts will be changed, using that plan or some other, because the courts have determined that the present system violates the Voting Rights Act. A three-judge panel has ruled that the 39th House District, composed of most of Forsyth County, as well as six other districts in North Carolina, have until March 16 to draw single-member districts. The decision was the result of a suit, filed by Ralph Gingles on behalf of all the black registered voters in North Carolina, charging that the present redistricting plan enacted by the General Assembly in

1982 violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Little's first single-member district includes the East and Southeast wards (except the Covenant Presbyterian Church precinct), the Fairview Intermediate School precinct from the Northeast Ward, and the Middlefork 3 (Prince Abraham Intermediate School), Middlefork 2 (East Forsyth Senior High School) and Kernersville 3 (Tally's Crossing Fire Station) voting precincts. According to census figures, 57.2 percent of the people living in that proposed district are black and 56.3 percent of those black people are registered voters. The district's racial composition almost assures that a black candidate will win a House seat.

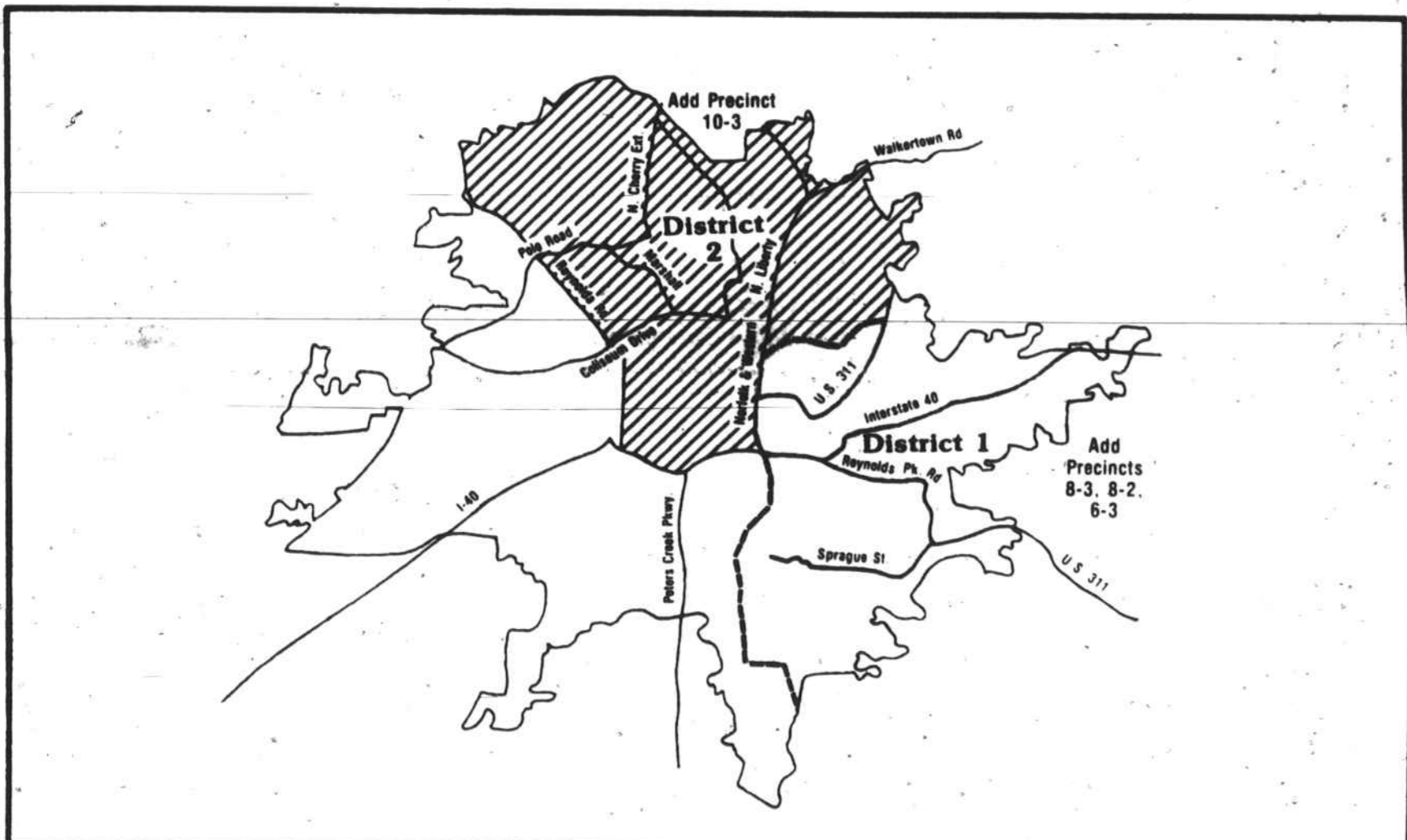
The second proposed single-member district in Little's plan contains a 56.1 percent black population and 53.8 percent black registered voters. The second district encompasses the North ward, the remainder of the Northeast Ward, and the Bethabara Moravian Church, Hanes Community Center and Brunson Elementary School precincts from the Northwest Ward. That district also includes the Old Town School precinct.

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Go South, Young Lady

From New England to the nation's capitol and then to the Twin City, Sharon Leyhow finds the South better than she thought. The Hartford, Conn., native left her job as a tax lawyer with the Internal Revenue Service to become an associate counsel for Reynolds Ind. And how's she doing? As fine as fine can be, she says, and reports that her new surroundings are growing on her. See story on the Page B1 (photo by James Parker).



Two predominantly black single-member state House districts as drawn up by Alderman Larry Little would encompass most of the eastern and northern sections of the city.

## Board adopts new housing policy

By AUDREY WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Though they adopted a policy intended to combat slum housing in Winston-Salem, some members of the Board of Aldermen said Monday night that they still weren't satisfied.

After a 15-minute discussion, the board unanimously voted to adopt the "In Rem Repair Remedy" procedure, which allows the city to repair housing that violates housing code requirements. The cost of the repairs will be billed to the owner of the property.

But Alderman Virginia Newell suggested that steps be taken to prosecute landlords who continue to receive payments from tenants after substandard homes have been condemned.

"I'm sorry we don't have the power to prosecute persons who allow people to live in places they wouldn't allow their cats to live in," she said.

Gary R. Brown, director of the city's Community Development Department, said landlords and tenants in the past could only be cited and fined for violations and that even the new procedure can only be enforced a maximum of 10 times. Brown added that the city will turn to

the new procedure as a last resort after having warned a landlord of his violation.

The new regulation allows the city to make repairs only when the cost is less than 65 percent of the house's value, and only to houses that have no mortgages or liens.

In an emotional appeal, Alderman Vivian Burke asked for solutions to decrease the city's housing problems.

"Some of these houses have had condemned signs on them since 1977," she said. "I want someone to tell me why these people are still living in houses with no plumbing, no electricity and landlords are still taking money from them. We, the Board of Aldermen, have a moral obligation to these people."

If homeowners refuse to comply with the new procedure or fail to demolish the houses voluntarily, said Brown, the houses will be demolished by order of the city.

But before the city could take any action, it would have to receive consent from the tenants to vacate the premises, and each case would have to be approved in advance by the aldermen.

Alderman Larry Womble warned that the city and the board would no longer tolerate "this kind of mess."

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## A very well-known press secretary

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Raleigh Correspondent

RALEIGH -- The black press secretary for North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms often has to defend his boss' conservative positions on the issues.

Claude A. Allen, 23, of Raleigh, also has to field his share of questions from the black community on why he works for Helms, who is perceived by many as a racist.

And his job as Helms' spokesman has spawned lively talk in both political parties.

"I had a conversation with a Raleigh pastor recently," Allen said in a January interview in his Raleigh office. "He told me that it uncommon and unheard of for a black person to work for Helms."

"I was hired because I was qualified to do the job. My being black did not hinder me in getting this job. Why can't people look at me as a Helms aide who happens to be black?"

Allen, who graduated from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1982, said he was also hired him because he agrees with Helms' conservative views.

He is the first black on the senator's staff, which had been all-white for 11 years. Allen told the Raleigh News

and Observer that few blacks have applied for jobs on Helms' staff because of Helms' racist image among blacks.

About 18 months ago, Allen served as press secretary for William W. Cobey Jr., a former UNC athletic director, in his unsuccessful bid for the 4th District Congressional seat. That district includes Wake County, which in turn includes Raleigh.

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Claude Allen: "... Why can't people look at me as a Helms aide who happens to be black?" (photo by the Raleigh News And Observer).

## Notes from the Klan-Nazi trial: Dredging up feelings from deep inside

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

The closest I have ever been to a Klansman, and knew it, was last Thursday when I sat in federal court in Winston-Salem.

Deep inside, I had this insatiable desire to attend the trial of the nine Klansmen and Nazis charged with violating the civil rights of five Communist Workers Party members in Greensboro on Nov. 3, 1979. I felt

history was being made and I wanted to be able to tell my grandchildren that I had been there as it happened, although I'm not sure yet what that history will be. Despite my journalistic cravings -- or nosiness as it has been called -- to be there, I was also scared.

As far as I know, none of my family have been the recipients of Klan violence, but being in the presence of admitted Klansmen and Nazis dredges up from deep-inside feelings I'm not sure how to handle or cope with.

I had tried three times before to get into the trial. The first time, on the opening day when the public and press were allowed to enter (Judge Thomas Flannery had barred the public from the jury selection proceedings), an overflow crowd kept me from getting in. I couldn't get in the second time because I arrived after court started.

The third time, I completed two pocketbook searches and a metal detector test, and was finally allowed inside the courtroom, only to find that a juror was

sick. The day's proceedings were cancelled.

On the fourth try, I made it.

I walked into the near empty courtroom (only one other black person was there) and took a seat behind the nine defendants. Virgil Griffin, grand dragon of the North Carolina Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan; Edward Dawson, a longtime Klan organizer and an informant for the FBI and the Greensboro Police Department; and Roland Wayne Wood, a

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