

# Sumler in the hot tub

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and defense attorneys will begin their presentations when court resumes on April 27. The government charges that the three were involved in a conspiracy to pressure business executives to donate money to certain charities in exchange for a favorable vote on issues that came before the board of aldermen. The government is also attempting to show that in many cases the charities never received money solicited on their behalf. Sumler's customary method of dealing in cash only, and loose record-keeping by some of the charities has made the government's work more difficult.

### The little blue folder

On August 1, 1989, when FBI and IRS agents conducted a five-hour search of Sumler's home on 2515 Patterson Avenue and his office on 2523 Patterson Avenue, they noticed he was holding a blue folder. The agents were looking for financial books and records for PATH, Inc., AC Cultural and Educational Commission, Inc. and Atramento Casa.

"I asked to look at the folder," said Guerrini, "and he requested that we not take it because it applied to expenditures for his wife's house in Eden." When the agent insisted on seeing the folder, he saw that it contained "numerous expenditures dated 1988, and invoices in the name of PATH and AC Cultural." Much of the evidence used against Sumler in the trial came from that folder.

### PATH donations cashed

Guerrini testified that five checks totaling \$14,000 made out to PATH, Inc., were cashed by Sumler either on the same day received or within three days. None of the dona-

tions, which came from business executives Lester Burnette, Edwin Shelton, Gerry Long, and from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, was deposited.

### Expenditures linked

The jury will have to decide how much weight to give the correlation of donations to PATH, Inc. (People Are Treated Human) and Sumler's cash expenditures. PATH was often described by Sumler as Hairston's favorite charity; a group that helped people who were down-and-out.

The prosecution says that a receipt dated September 15, 1988 and made out to PATH, Inc. actually paid for bathroom renovations to Sumler's home, including a whirlpool tub, gold trim, a lavatory, closet, and black faucet with gold stripes.

A receipt dated December 6, 1988, for \$1472 cash is made out to PATH, Inc. for marble tiles installed in Sumler's house. A cash receipt dated December 7, 1988, for \$2420 worth of carpet is made out to AC Cultural and Educational Commission. A \$700 cash receipt made out the same week to PATH, Inc. is for oak cabinets. Both of these organizations shared office space at Sumler's business address.

The investigation showed that Sumler and, to a lesser extent, Hairston, suggested to Sumler's business clients that they should make donations to PATH, Inc. to help renovate a house on Cunningham Street. Naegele Outdoor Advertising donated the house to PATH. Sumler and Hairston told business clients that the house would be used for unwed mothers and women in distress.

Under cross examination Sumler's attorney, John Dusenbury,

attempted to show that Sumler's usual method of conducting financial affairs for his business and home was in cash, and that he frequently received large amounts of money from clients including a February, 1987 \$10,000 bonus from Naegele, \$20,000 from Naegele for lobbying work, and \$25,000 from 3-M Outdoor Advertising for services rendered.

### Womble's two mistakes

Throughout the four-week trial, testimony about two checks has haunted Larry Womble. On March 16, 1988, he deposited into his own account a \$1250 check from Larco Construction made payable to him. The check was supposed to go to N.C. BEMO (Black Elected Municipal Officials). Guerrini testified that BEMO bank records do not indicate any correlating deposits.

On June 22, 1988, Womble deposited into his own account a \$1000 check from Abyss Diversified after he had discussed the [bogus] company's zoning needs.

### Minutes typed in a hurry

Sumler's former secretary, Cassandra Scales, testified that after the August 1, 1989 FBI search of Sumler's home and office, he gave her handwritten notes to type. The notes were minutes of board meetings of PATH, Inc. for 1985-1988, A.C. Cultural and Educational Commission, Inc. for 1983-1988, and Atramento Casa (formerly the Dungeon Club) for 1983-1988. He gave them to her off-and-on throughout the day and requested that she stay late that night to finish typing them. Some of the handwritten notes were on white paper, some on yellow paper, and some were wrinkled, she testified.

## The Charges

Generic working definitions of the key charges filed against three local leaders accused of political corruption.

### RICO

**Penalty: 20 years, \$250,000.** Racketeer, Influence and Corrupt Organization: Any illegal act or threat, including murder, extortion, arson, kidnapping, bribery, and obstruction of justice. A pattern of racketeering activity is evidenced by two or more racketeer acts. All four defendants were indicted as part of a conspiracy, but RICO charges against Rev. Lee Faye Mack were dropped last week.

### Extortion

**Penalty: 20 years, \$250,000.** Also called the Hobbs Act: Acts that obstruct or affect commerce by extortion. Extortion: obtaining the property of another without his consent, or through means including color of official right (using the power of official position). In the case of the Winston-Salem Four, the government says economic fear was brought upon business executives, who were allegedly afraid that their ventures wouldn't prosper without the help of political consultant Rodney Sumler, then-Alderman Patrick Hairston, and Alderman Larry Womble.

### Mail fraud

**Penalty: 5 years, \$250,000.** Using the U.S. Mail for illegal purposes. In April, 1988, Rodney Sumler mailed 501C-3 (tax exempt) forms for black non-profit groups to FBI agent George Murray, along with a letter suggesting his company make donations to the groups. Patrick Hairston is also implicated in a similar mailing. The prosecution charges that, in doing so, the two used the mail as part of the conspiracy.

### Money laundering

**Penalty: 20 years, \$500,000.** Handling illegally-derived money in a way that disguises its path. In order to prove a person laundered money, the prosecution must show that the person knew the money was derived illegally. The prosecution is charging that Sumler obtained money illegally (soliciting donations for non-profit groups and not giving the money to them), and then laundered the money by cashing the checks instead of depositing them into the account of the non-profit group. Hairston is also charged with money laundering because the prosecution alleges he helped Sumler solicit money for charities, and accepted some of the money for himself.

### Klein Conspiracy

**Penalty: 5 years, \$250,000.** Avoiding payment of income tax; impeding or defeating the Internal Revenue Service. Sumler did not file income taxes for 1986 and 1987 until April, 1988. The government charges that Hairston did not report income he allegedly received through business dealings with Sumler.

# East Ward holds forum for local candidates

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va Brown, Henry Jones, Walter Marshall, Annette Wilson, and David Thompkins; District Court Judge candidates Nancy Wooten and Ron Spivey; State House Rep-

resentatives Annie Kennedy (66th District) and Warren Oldham (67th district) who was represented by George Green; State Senate candidates for the 20th District, Ann Esch and Anders Nilsson; U.S. Congress candidate for the 12th district Larry Little, who was represented by the Rev. Carlton A.G. Eversley; and candidates for North Carolina Governor, Lacy Thornburg, who was represented by Bernard Allen Jr. III.



Ron Spivey and Nancy Wooten, candidates for District Court Judge, were also on hand for the forum.

Probably the most anticipated facet of the forum was that in which the six school board candidates presented themselves and their platforms to the community. The agree-

said the forum was still very informative. "I agreed with some and I disagreed with some," she said.

"And being a retired teacher, I know for a fact, that some of the

And I have known that if we got four or five, we were doing well. But we had between 45 and 50 people there, and I think for a forum of this kind, it was highly successful,"

continued Newell.

During the evening, a suggestion that more meetings for residents be held to discuss issues of concern in the African-American

community, was well received by all. The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on April 30 at the Les Arbres Club on New Walkertown Road.

statements that they made are true, and that there's a lot of work that really needs to be done and a lot of discussion that we need to have to make black people aware of the problems, and some solutions that they can participate in to make it a better system," she continued.

Overall, however, the forum was considered a success. "I thought the meeting was very, very successful," said Carter. "We did hear some issues that I felt needed to be answered."

Virginia Newell, alderman of the East Ward, agreed. "I thought it was highly successful for the purpose for which it was put together. We mainly wanted to hear from our education candidates and they came in force," she said.

"I was extremely pleased with the residents and the reason being, we are dealing with the East Ward.

ing sentiment among many of the audience members and panelists, was that the forum was the most successful and educational of the many others that have been held recently.

"I have been in politics since 1972, and in the black community, this is the first time I've seen this cohesiveness and togetherness for one accord," said school board candidate, Beaufort Bailey.

Walter Marshall, also a candidate for the school board, also thought the forum was a success. However, he thought more time should have been reserved for the school board panelists. "I just think that we didn't have time to answer questions from participants in the audience," he said.

Despite the lack of time for an audience question and answer session for the school board candidates, audience member Anne Motz

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BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER: EDUCATION

"The more you care the more it shows."

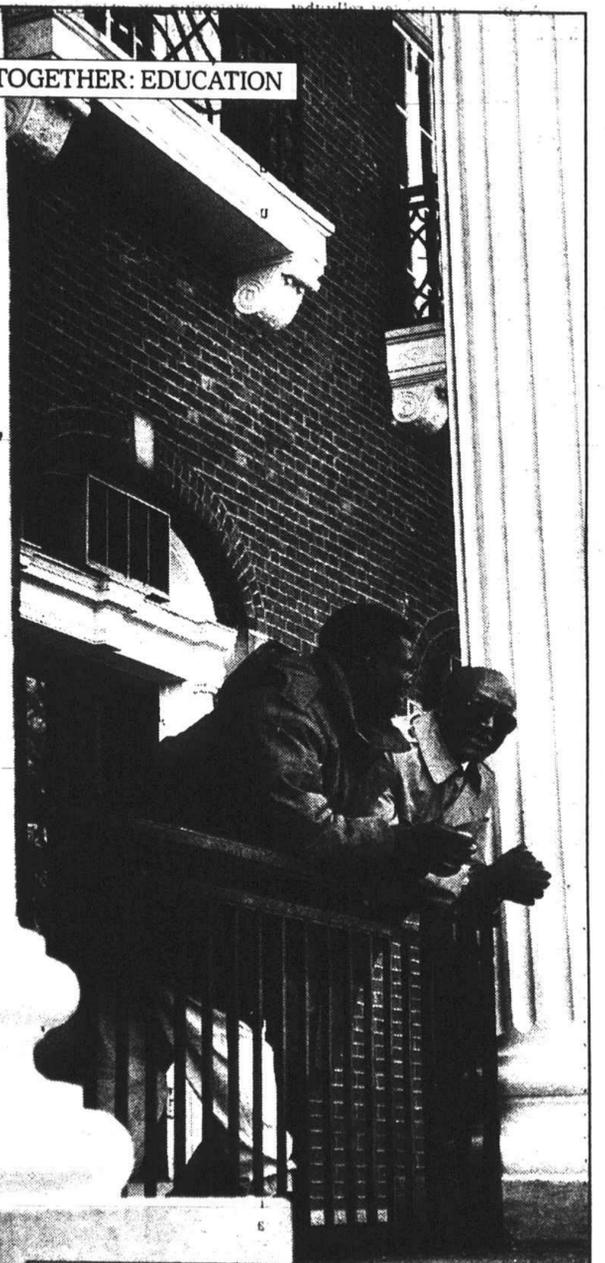
PAUL E. PARKER, Asst. Dean of Engineering University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

"As an educator, I believe we must convince today's students that we care and we must demonstrate that care by getting involved beyond the classroom."

Paul Parker is involved. One example is his Illinois Minority Pre-College Internship (IMPRINT) program where employers like General Motors agree to employ minority engineering pre-freshman each summer.

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