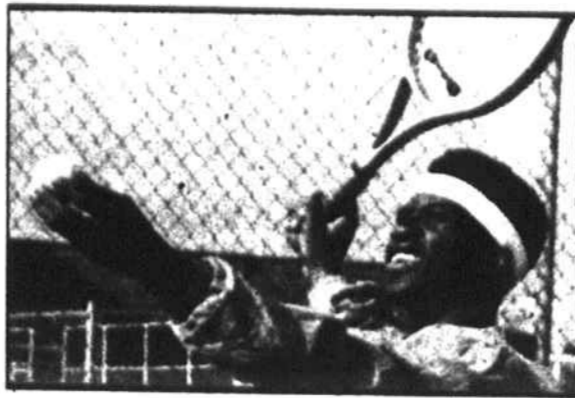


School Liaison Officer

William P. Capers talks about job at Independence High School.

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Sunny Skies

Warmer weather brings people outside for tennis, golf and basketball.

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Winston-Salem Chronicle

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1993

"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

VOL. XIX, No. 33

IN OUR SCHOOLS

OUR CHILDREN: Armed and Dangerous?

Guns, Violence Increasing In Forsyth County Schools

Second of a two-part series

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Managing Editor

A middle-school student displays a fully loaded .357 semiautomatic magnum on school grounds. A .25-caliber handgun falls from the pocket of a high-school student while clowning around with classmates. A principal is kicked and spat upon by two students as he crawls through the window of a school bus to thwart the efforts of two middle-school pupils from taking a joyride.

South Central Los Angeles? South Bronx? Spanish Harlem? No, these horrific scenes unfolded right here in Forsyth County, where, for students at some schools, weapons and violence have replaced the red apple and shy smile.

"It's getting to epidemic proportions," said Sam Puryear, principal of South Park High School. "How to

solve that, I don't know. If I did, I would win the \$64,000 prize."

Puryear was quick to point out that no guns have been found on students at his school, "although we've had a few knives." School records underscore his concern.

In the first half of this year, 19 students in Forsyth

SPECIAL REPORT

high schools were cited for having weapons, compared with 12 in the first half of 1991-92 and seven over the same period in the 1990-91 school year. So far this year, Forsyth County sheriff deputies have seized four pistols, eight knives, three BB guns, a meat cleaver, a stun gun, along with a starter gun and a water pistol — both of which closely resemble real guns.

In middle schools, nine students were cited for having weapons on campus in the first half of this year.

There were five instances in the 1991-92 school year and two during 1990-91, school records show. At those schools, deputies so far this year have seized three cap pistols (replicas of real guns), one BB gun, three knives, two razors, a socket wrench and the fully loaded .357.

"We are concerned about weapons in the schools at any level," said Elsa Woods, director of Forsyth middle schools. With the availability of weapons in society and the lack of involvement by many parents, the situation will not likely get better, she said.

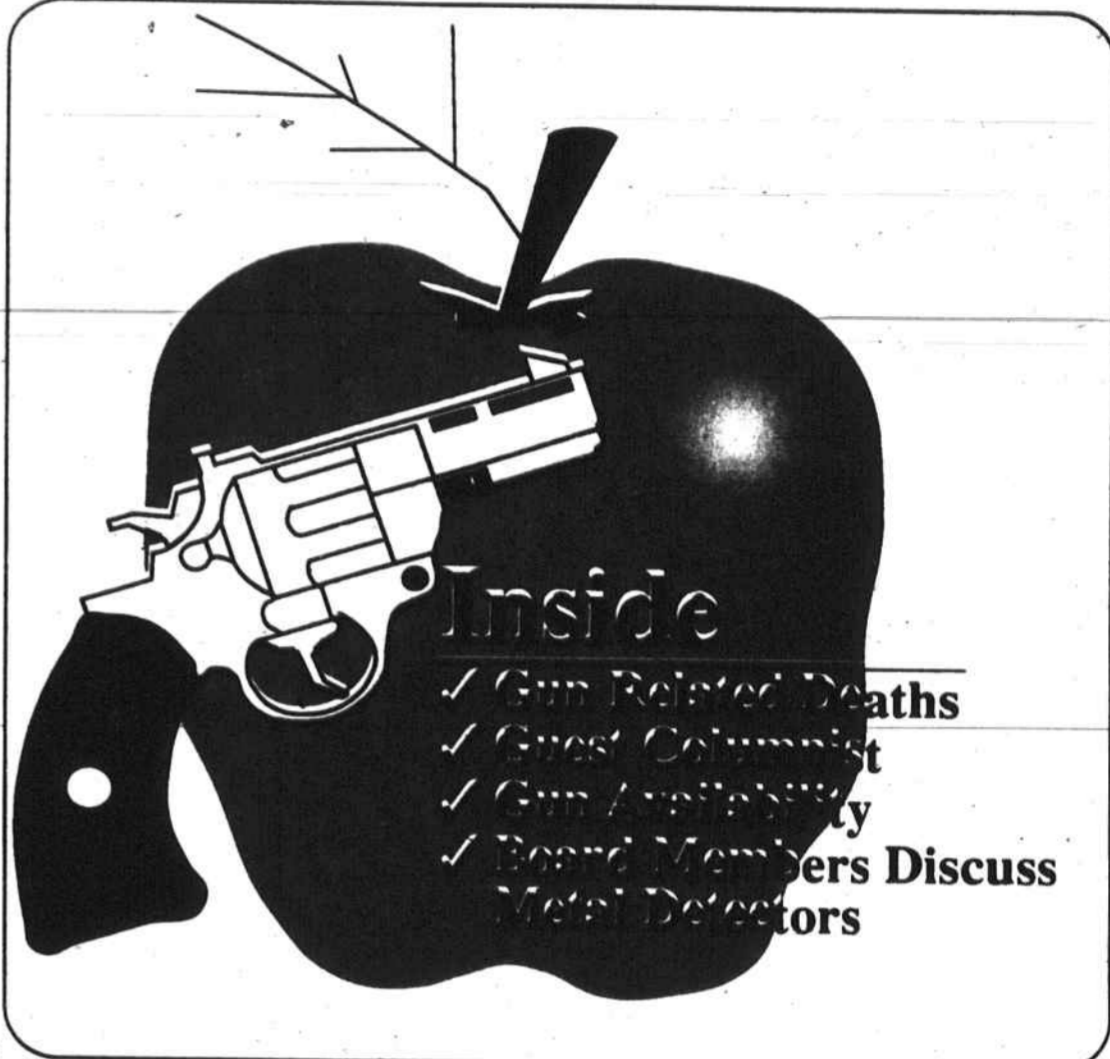
"I want to be an optimist," Woods said. "But obviously society is changing and the students reflect the

■ Southpark band director suspended Page A9

society at large. Unfortunately, there are guns in society and there are going to be guns in the school."

School administrators said students bring weapons to school to protect themselves following arguments with other students. For example, Forsyth sheriff deputies recently found a pistol on a teen-ager following a fight at Reynolds High School. The gun was not used in the fight, but two students from Independence High School were arrested on gun-related charges.

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- ✓ Gun-Related Deaths
- ✓ Guest Columnist
- ✓ Gun Availability
- ✓ Board Members Discuss
- ✓ Most Deletors

National NEWS

Battle Over King Papers

BOSTON (AP) — The question of who owns the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s personal papers is finally going before a judge, 25 years after the civil rights leader's assassination. Coretta Scott King contends her late husband's papers — correspondence, notes and manuscripts — were only loaned to Boston University. She maintains the materials rightfully belong to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change that she runs in Atlanta. But officials at BU, where King received a doctorate in theology in 1955, say he intended to leave the documents to the school. King, however, didn't leave a will and the family feels his papers belong to his estate.

The case is scheduled for trial in Superior Court on April 20.

Few Blacks Among Finalists

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (AP) — Less than one-tenth of the 150 Arkansas students who will be invited to attend the new state Math and Science School are black, according to figures released by the school.

Another 10 percent are listed as "other," or non-black, while white finalists make up about 82 percent.

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THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY
On April 9, 1939, 75,000 blacks and whites attended a Marian Anderson concert on Easter Sunday at the Lincoln Monument in Washington.

Review Board Nominee Probed By Feds

▲ Bolton Repaid Feds Thousands of Dollars

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

One of the mayor's nominees for the Citizens Review Board was forced to reimburse the government thousands of dollars after falsely receiving worker's compensation and retirement benefits, the Chronicle has learned.

Charles C. Bolton Sr., a retired letter carrier, was also suspended from the National Letter Carriers Union, Local No. 461, where he had served 11 years as president. His suspension also involved a money-related matter. He said he refused

to pay a \$175 assessment fee to the union.

Bolton, of 2321 Old Salisbury Road, admitted this week that he had received both injury compensation and civil-service retirement benefits from the federal government at the same time. He said he did not recall how long he had received the monthly checks, but at one point, he said, he wrote a letter explaining the government's error.

No criminal charges were filed against Bolton.

Bolton, 64, is one of 11 candidates nominated by Mayor Martha S. Wood to serve on the Citizens Review Board. Wood said in an interview yesterday that an investigation into Bolton's background revealed nothing more serious

than traffic violations. Wood said she contacted Bolton yesterday morning after learning about the issue and was to discuss it with him later Wednesday before making a decision about his nomination.

Bolton said that when the federal government realized that he was receiving two monthly checks — in the mid 1980s — he owed them "thousands" of dollars. Bolton refused to say how many thousands, but said he was only forced to reimburse the government half the amount.

He admitted that during the time of the federal investigation, he borrowed \$20,000 from a local businesswoman. He denied, however, that the money was

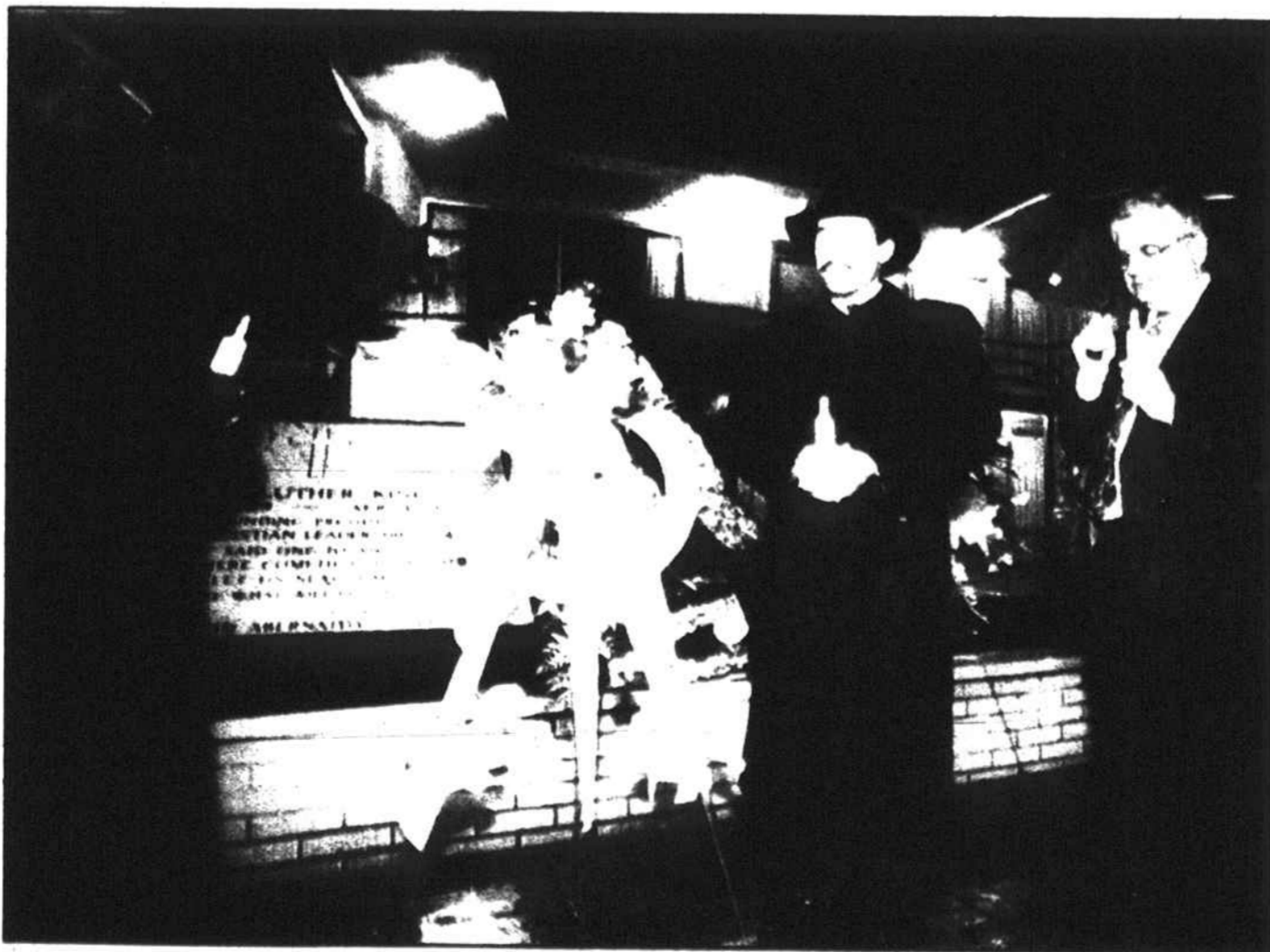
used to satisfy his government debt. He said he used the money to open a pizza shop.

After Bolton stopped making loan payments to the woman, her attorney, Bobby Newton, contacted Bolton and the payments resumed. Newton could not be reached for comment.



Mayor Martha Wood

■ Related editorial Page A12 Please see page A9



Rev. John Robinson, far left, Rev. Kenneth Wahlen Jr. and Rabbi Harry Danzinger, right, pray outside the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., Sunday night. The wreath on the balcony marks the spot where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed 25 years ago on April 4, 1968.

Violent Pupils Held In Padded Room

▲ "Timeout room" said to calm disruptive students

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Managing Editor

When a student becomes violent toward a teacher or administrator at some Forsyth County schools, they are forcibly placed in a small, padded room until they have calmed down, school officials said.

"Timeout rooms," as they are called, exists in at least three schools — Hall-Woodward and Kernersville elementary schools and Petree Middle School, according to Emilie Simeon, program manager for exceptional children for Forsyth schools.

The walls and floors of the room are completely padded with carpet and because students may present a danger to themselves, their belts and shoestrings might be removed before being put in the room.

The rooms do not have a mechanical lock on them, but the door is held closed with an attachment by a teacher or liaison officer until the student has shown that he can again be placed with the general student population, officials said. Simeon said the rooms were once a staple in

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