

# The Great Food Flip Flop Flap

from A1

both City State Universities remain Shaw clients, as does Saint Augustine's College. Said company CEO, Evelyn O. Shaw — wife of State Representative and State Senate candidate, Larry Shaw — "Our HBCU accounts are the backbone and heart of our business, although we do enjoy the benefits and prestige of operating the dining services at R.J. Reynolds in Winston-Salem."

The A&T and Shaw saga contains some very contentious elements and provides the most testy aspects of botched bidding protocols, accusations of impropriety, and claims and counter claims about the ethics and even the legality of how the \$9 million A&T contract went from Shaw Foods to Marcorp, a white-owned Memphis-based company.

At the center of the imbroglio is A&T student body president, Rasheed-Ali Cromwell, who "blew the whistle" in mid-August when the state purchasing office announced the three-year award to Shaw Foods. A&T students protested on the basis that while they rated Shaw "highest" after visiting their RJR operation, they had actually recommended that either one of two other vendors — Jakamont-ARAmark (partly owned by former Atlanta mayor, Maynard Jackson) or Marcorp get the contract.

In late August, the state's director of purchasing changed his mind about the earlier award to Shaw, saying that he "had newer and more complete information." It appears that the initial award to Shaw was grounded on summary bidding documents submitted by A&T officials, which were neither complete nor presented in a timely fashion.

However, the key issues lie far beneath and behind a series of systems-wide studies conducted by the University of North Carolina administration on students' satisfaction with campus-based services. In one study, discussed in late 1994, of the 16 public UNC campuses, three HBCUs — where Shaw Foods held the contracts — ranked 11th, 15th and 16th in "the percentage of students dissatisfied with food services." Even though less than 200 students from the five HBCUs

responded to the survey, the "satisfaction" rankings were based on responses from all campuses.

Did a message go out to HBCUs (and Shaw Foods) from the General Administration, forewarning the end-game now, where Shaw has lost the A&T and Central contracts? Are students more likely to be satisfied with food services at the "big" campuses, where variety and name-brand concepts, such as Taco Bell and Pizza Hut, are commonplace? More specifically, is it fair to ask students at HBCUs the same questions about the quality of food as asked of students at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Wilmington, Asheville, Greensboro, and Chapel Hill? In fact, of course, students at different campuses pay different rates.

The Shaw Food Service contract at HBCUs, when benchmarked against nationally based competitors — such as Marcorp and Marriot — is rife with considerations about contestants headed for the same goals on an "uneven playing field." Fact is, there are clear differences in the ambience of the physical facilities between white and black state supported colleges; thus, students at black colleges may have the "perception" that the food on their campus is worse.

In off-the-record discussions and in review of public documents acquired by the Chronicle, it appears that some schools opt for minimal menus, thereby not using the entire amount of money collected for meals on meals. The difference between what a campus collects and what it spends for food may be "eaten up" by other auxiliary services, such as campus security. In those cases, what the food service vendor serves and uses to pay for equipment and repairs is determined by whether or not the university spends the full amount of the food service contract on food services. In effect, students' "dissatisfaction" may be Shaw's Catch-22.

Is the case of Shaw Food Service's loss of business at NC A&T and NCCU a call for alarm? You bet it is! Right along with the recommendation that state campuses "out-source" housekeeping.

Shaw Foods' integrity, if not impugned by the innuendo and undercurrents of this outcome, is at least temporarily set back, not to mention the real pocketbook impact the loss of contract means to Shaw's black workers at these campuses. Is this just the tip of the iceberg? In analytical terms, one is inclined to ask, rhetorically of course, if it is indeed true that "white folks' ice is colder."

# Higher Ground celebrates 'Heaven on Earth'

The Higher Ground Deliverance Tabernacle Inc., will celebrate their 2nd Heaven on Earth Convention and Holy Convocation '96 from Monday, Sept. 23 through Sunday, Sept. 29. The theme is "Adversity Turned Into Destiny."

The Honorable Bishop-Elect John H. Heath is founder, pastor and overseer. He is married to Janice O. Heath, who is also the co-pastor of Higher Ground Ministries. They have one daughter, Bethany. Heath founded Higher Ground Deliverance Tabernacle the third Sunday of January in 1994. Services began in Gilmore's Funeral Home in Lexington, N.C. With the pastor and his wife, Deacon and Mrs. Michael Funderburke; Trustees and their wives, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Tuttle, Mr. and Mrs. Lois Diggs, Mr. and Mrs. Boyce Wooten and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Leak came together to "do the will and work of the Lord."

Since then, the church has "moved to higher ground." On Sunday, May 28, 1995, the



Bishop-Elect John H. Heath

church moved to their new location, 111 Backforty Drive (off South Main Street) in Winston-Salem. A spokesperson for the church said, "The Ministry and church are designed to reach out to the total man through powerful Pentecostal worship and praise and to increase the knowledge and wisdom through the power of the Almighty God." Heath is also overseer of Refreshing Springs Praise and Worship Center, where Anthony and Alicia Patterson are the pastors.

The following are ministers and their congregations who will be featured guests at the convention: Bishop Cartrell Woods Jr. and United Progressive Family; Bishop F.D. Thomas and Pneuma Pentecostal Church; Bishop F. B. Marshall and Christ Cathedral Church of Deliverance; Bishop A.R. Linder and Mt. Sinai Glorious Church of God; and Pastor K. Shouse and Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church of America.

Everyone is invited to "come out, celebrate and be blessed of the Lord." For more information, contact Bishop-Elect John H. Heath at 784-5683.

**Parking Lot Sale**  
at  
**Goler Metropolitan**  
5th and Dunleith  
**Saturday, Sept. 21**  
8:30 AM  
•••  
Clothes, Household Items,  
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Ruth Brock

## Saints Home to hold breakfast

The United Methodist Women (UMW) of Saints Home United Methodist Church will sponsor their Annual Prayer Breakfast/Service Saturday, Sept. 21 at 8 a.m.

The Church is at 1390 Thurmond St. Ruth Brock will be the Prayer Breakfast/Service speaker and the UMW 1996 theme will be "Heal Us When We Pray."

Brock is a retiree of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System.

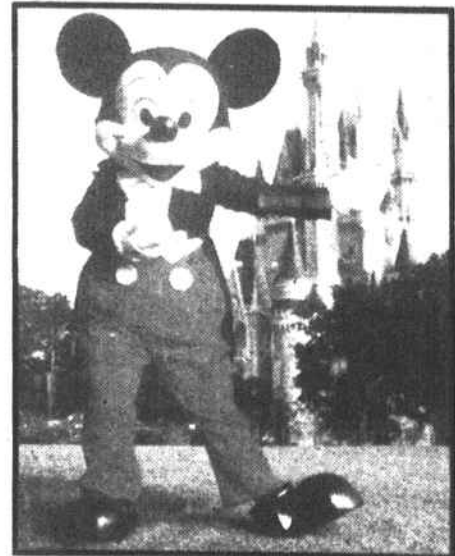
She is a certified lay speaker of the Western North Carolina Conference.

She is a member of Saints Home United Methodist Church, where she is a member of the Senior and Gospel Choirs and chairperson of the Council on Ministries.

She is also a member of several other choirs around the city. Brock is a member of the Western North Carolina UMW, having held offices on the local, district and conference levels, which enabled her to travel to many parts of the country. Queen McKnight is the United Methodist Women's president. Joyce Irby is the vice president and program coordinator. Each UMW member will serve in some capacity. The Rev. John A. Moore is pastor.

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