

Legal Defense Fund Chief Deplores "Rights" Setbacks

By M. A. Gault
Special To The Post

Imagine, if you can, waking up one day and seeing that most of the desegregated schools in America are once again segregated.

That, according to NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) Director-Counsel Julius L. Chambers, is the worst nightmare a civil rights activist can have.

Chambers, in Detroit recently, said that civil rights gains "have recently come under attack from the U.S. Department of Justice which is waging an aggressive, unprecedented campaign to undo the progress of the last 40 years."

The Justice Department assault, directed by Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds, is focused on affirmative action, Chambers said, but also threatens voting rights gains.

At-large elections, majority vote run-offs and racial gerrymandering "inhibit the full exercise of voting rights by blacks and other minorities," Chambers said.

One significant case, U.S. vs. Turner, emanates from Alabama, where significant gains in voter registration and the number of black officials were made. Federal voting fraud charges were brought against local civil rights leaders who were active in registering black voters and instrumental in the rise of



Julius L. Chambers
...LDF director-counsel

blacks to major county and state positions.

"A lot of us may not know the way one Alabama governor prosecuted a lot of black people there," Chambers said.

"Our government subpoenaed and rounded up hundreds of elderly citizens, put them on buses and drove them 70 miles to testify (against the defendants)."

According to Chambers, black citizens, who were mostly in their

90s and 90s, were confronted by several FBI agents, four state troopers, several police officers and a game warden. Many of them were armed.

The witnesses were lined up and taken into the Mobile, Ala., courthouse under close scrutiny by the various law enforcement officials.

"You might never know that I am talking about 1965," Chambers said. "We now have to go back and convince those elderly folks that it is still all right to vote. Many of them have said they would not vote again for fear of being subjected to similar treatment."

The LDF is involved in voting rights cases in South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, Louisiana, and "the list is still growing."

"We have to defend what we have gained," Chambers said. "We can try to isolate ourselves from those less fortunate, but there will always be something holding us back until all our people are given their full rights."

The LDF is no longer affiliated with the NAACP although it was founded by the civil rights organization 45 years ago.

In January of this year the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia dismissed a lawsuit brought against the LDF by the NAACP to keep the group from

using the initials "NAACP." The Supreme Court later refused to review the decision.

Chambers' appointment in 1984 as the director-counsel for the LDF was the first leadership change in 23 years and adds him to the ranks of Thurgood Marshall and Jack Greenberg, the only two former LDF directors.

Chambers is considered a leading civil rights lawyer by his peers in the legal community, as evidenced by the people who turned out for a reception in his honor, hosted by New Detroit, Inc. and Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan.

In 1963, Chambers was the first LDF legal intern following his graduation from the University of North Carolina Law School. Graduating first in his class, Chambers also served as editor of his school's law review.

He later established North Carolina's first interracial law firm. For 20 years following that, Chambers ran his own private law firm, specializing in civil rights cases.

Chambers served as LDF's president for 10 years before his selection as director-counsel.

He is best known for his work in the 1971 Supreme Court school desegregation case in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.



NATIONAL
4-H CONGRESS
CHICAGO

Michelle Saito, 3731 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd., Matthews, was a delegate to the 64th National 4-H Congress November 30 - December 5 in Chicago, Ill. She is shown with Dr. Mike Davis, associate state 4-H leader with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service at North Carolina State University. Saito, 18, daughter of Ray and Karen Saito, received the expense-paid trip from the North Carolina 4-H Department Fund as state winner in the 4-H personal appearance program.

Beware Of Dangers With Wood-Burning Stoves

Special To The Post

Northbrook, Ill. - In recent years, the wood-burning stove has proved to be an efficient, inexpensive and appealing alternative to costly electric, oil or natural gas heat. And the use of kerosene-fueled portable heaters has expanded significantly; an estimated 12 million are now in use.

But as the number of kerosene heater and wood-burning stove purchases increases, so do the number of home fires related to their use, according to an Allstate Insurance Company spokesman.

Approximately 9,300 people were injured in this country in wood-burning stove-related accidents alone in 1984, according to the U.S.

Consumer Product Safety Commission.

"Most stove-related fires are started when combustibles are too close to a hot stove, by hot gases or flames that escape through a crack in a chimney, or by sparks or coals that escape from a stove," the Allstate spokesperson said. "These risk factors can usually be eliminated if the installation is done by a licensed contractor and the stove is properly maintained."

An important factor to consider when purchasing a wood-burning stove is the area that will be heated. Using a stove that is too large for the room can cause overheating and result in a fire.

Stoves should be made of strong and sturdy material, such as cast iron or steel. Look especially for stoves that are approved by a recognized testing agency such as Underwriter's Laboratories. If the stove is second hand, make careful inspections for cracks or other defects. Cracks usually can be repaired with stove cement or by welding.

When installing a wood-burning stove, be sure to check with fire officials and building inspectors for installation, operation and maintenance recommendations. Meeting proper clearances between ceilings, floors and walls is another important factor in using the stove safely.

Standards set by the National Fire Protection Association recommend a 36-inch clearance between the stove and all surfaces.

Additionally, make sure all surrounding sides of the wood burner are protected with a non-combustible material. Brick or stone provides little or no protection for a combustible wall since they are also good conductors of heat.

Burning inexpensive green wood is hazardous because it causes creosote to form in the chimney flue. Creosote is the highly flammable byproduct of burning that causes most chimney fires.

Also, make sure there is adequate clearance from the top of the chimney to the highest point of the roof. The chimney must be properly constructed, maintained in good repair and kept clean. It would be wise to have it checked and cleaned at least once a year by a chimney "sweep" or repairman.

Jointventing of smoke-pipe or solid fuel-burning devices with oil or gas burning units to the same chimney can cause noxious fumes to back up in the home. At all costs, avoid such hookups.

Consumers using kerosene heaters should also heed some important basic safety suggestions.

Never use gasoline; even a small amount in the heater tank can cause a fire. Only use 1-K kerosene and buy it from a dealer who can certify that what is being sold is 1-K grade kerosene.

Wingate Students Selected For Who's Who Among Students

Maryn Smith Jr., Wingate College, is one of the 100 students selected for inclusion in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

Jolly, daughter of Mrs. Annie M. Jolly, Bradford Dr., Charlotte, NC 28206, is the national scholarship recipient of the American Business Women's Association. Her junior year, she served as secretary of Phi Beta Kappa, a national club for business majors, and now serves as president. She is a member of the activities program board, President's Forum, and Alpha Chi, a national academic honor society for juniors and seniors.

Price, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Price Jr., Henry Lane, Huntersville, NC 28078, is a member of the Christian Student Union and

the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She has served on "The Fate" (college annual) staff and as vice president of the Student Government Association. Price was chosen as 1984 May Queen and the 1985 Homecoming Queen.

Smith, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Harold T. Smith Sr., Davidson, NC 28036, is a biology major and a four-year member of the biology club and the Christian Student Union. He served as junior class president and is a member of the executive board of the Student Government Association, along with being a cabinet officer for the outing club. Smith is a member of the pep club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the intramural association, and the student development committee.

Price Of A Cup Of Coffee

What's the price of a cup of coffee? Five cents at the Street People's Lodge but for 150 people times two cups (breakfast and supper) a day, seven days a week, for 10 weeks it adds up to a total of \$1,050.

Last year Street People were given cool-aid to drink because there was no money for coffee. Cool-aid

does not take the chill out of one's bones when the temperature is at freezing.

This year the Salvation Army, who manages the lodge, needs help in providing hot coffee. The cost is \$15 per day or \$105 per week. Churches, service clubs or individuals are needed to contribute to the coffee fund.

Two hot meals a day will be provided but hot coffee is a must. Coffee is only one of the food items needed. Will you help?

If you can help, mail your gift to The Salvation Army, "Winter Shelter," P. O. Box 31443, Charlotte, N.C. 28231.

The Shelter will open December 1. Contact Major or Mrs. Diane Greer, Winter Shelter Directors. Volunteers and food are needed. Call 334-4731 for further information.

FIND GOOD BARGAINS IN THE CHARLOTTE POST

LOST OUR LEASE! FUR SALE

WE HAVE LOST OUR LEASE AND ARE LIQUIDATING OUR INVENTORY OF FINE FURS. SAVE 20% TO 60% OFF OUR ALREADY LOW PRICES.

We've been known in CHARLOTTE for years for our high selection, latest styles, and unbelievable low prices on fabulous new furs. Now for a limited time only you can save even more. Hurry!

These prices will never be repeated

Blue Fox Jackets from \$295.00
Full Length Blue Fox Coats \$1,295.00

Vintage Girl Furs

128 E. 8th Street (Across from Bank) 353-7827

STEWART OFFICE SUPPLIES

Your Dependable Office Supply Dealer
Selling & Leasing All Office Equipment & Furniture
1813 I-85 South, Charlotte, N.C. 28203
Phone: 394-9198

We Welcome All Corporate Accounts • Free Delivery
Ask About Our Discount Program

African Chic . . . Right Here In Charlotte!

at **LE SAFARI**

For Your Holiday Entertaining
—HOSTESS DRESSES Brilliant Colors, Unique Designs

For Your Holiday Gift Giving
—HANDBAGS AND BELTS Genuine Leather and Skin Goods

For Your Personal Collection
—HANDMADE LIBERIAN DOLLS Dressed in Native Attire

For Your Home
—VIVID AFRICAN ART PRINTS Suitable for Framing

So Take An African Safari Today At **LE SAFARI**

Open Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. 1200-A South Blvd. 523-6453
Sun. 1-5 p.m. —Triangle Shopping Center