

# Pupil reassignment debate will be loud and heated

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"People from the north end are upset that they will have to go to West Charlotte," Dunlap said. "People from Matthews don't want to go to East. Nobody wants to go to Garinger."

"We can populate the new high schools and affect the fewest number of people or we can look at the entire range of schools, including the Education Village, and say what do we want our system to look like and make one change and be over and done with it."

Dunlap said he thinks Smith will pass the upcoming test. "His reputation is that he will stand up and say what's right and what he feels is the right thing to do," he said. "We are going to find out for sure. Either he is going to live up to his reputation or he ain't."

So far, Smith and the school board have held three public meetings to hear from parents and students about their concerns. On Nov. 17, Smith will present three possible plans to the school board. A round of public hearing will follow before the board adopts a final plan in December.

"We have not developed final proposals at this point," Smith said. "We are going to try to incorporate some of the issues into our plan."

Overriding all the personal issues are some hard realities, including opposition to reassignment of students from North Mecklenburg to West Charlotte and sending students from the northeast area who now attend West Charlotte to the new Education Village school or to East Mecklenburg. And what's to become of Garinger, now mostly a magnet pro-

gram?

Smith said there are no new magnet schools being opened in the new plan. "We are keeping ourselves open to those possibilities, but there are no plans for an expansion of magnet schools," said Smith, which reverses or at least stalls a plan used by former



Dunlap

Schools Supt. John Murphy to attract whites to inner city schools.

Smith noted this week that even with the two new high schools, the facilities will be more crowded next year - 109 percent, compared to 104 percent this year.

Enrollment, already approaching 93,000, is increasing about 3,500 students per year. After the two new high schools open next year, another one is not expected to open until at least the year 2000.

The district last year adopted 10 guiding principles for pupil reassignment: emphasis on educational excellence and equity in programs; desegregation of racially diverse student populations using naturally integrated areas, mid-point schools and magnet programs; continuity from elementary through high school assignments.

But the principles also call, where possible, for "School attendance zones (that) will conform to natural boundaries, recognize neighborhood identities, especially naturally integrated neighborhoods, and maintain continuity of peer relationships through grades

K-12."

And, busing shared equally by all racial groups and schools will be built, renovated and reopened throughout

the county, including the center city.

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# Wallace trial stirs memories, emotions for victims' families

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Sumpter, who also has three sons. "So many hearts have been healed because of her."

She is ready for the trial to begin.

"I want him to be fried, in plain vernacular terms," she said in a recent interview. "Nothing less than death for him would be the appropriate sentence."

Alphonso Slaughter is no less forgiving.

"There can be no plea bargains," he said, seated on a park bench outside the senior citizen apartment complex where he and his wife now live in downtown Charlotte. "I feel strongly that the jury must give this man the death penalty."

In the days and weeks following Wallace's arrest, Sumpter was critical of police for not solving her daughter's murder earlier. She has softened her criticism somewhat.

"To say I'm grateful with police is inaccurate," she said. "I was displeased, but I'm grateful that they've created an open-door atmosphere."

"It's easier for me not to be angry," she said. "If I'm angry with anyone, it's Henry Wallace for all the evil he has wrought."

Alphonso Slaughter also is angry that it took so long for police to make an arrest. And he blames himself because his daughter was living in his apartment after he and her mother moved out.

"I feel if we had not moved she would not have allowed this guy into the apartment," he said. "She respected us. But this guy was a smooth operator."

The working-class neighborhood where most of the young victims lived and died hasn't changed much in two years. At the Bojangles, there was a small crowd for lunch one day last week.

"For a long time it really bothered a lot of our customers," said manager Jason Knight, whose wife, Sadie, worked briefly with Wallace and two murder victims, Caroline Love and Betty Baucom. "I couldn't hire anyone to work at this store."

"The trial is going to bring back a lot of bad memories."

# Class-action suit over crack?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS - A Nation of Islam lawyer said he plans to file a class action lawsuit against the government following accusations that the CIA deliberately introduced crack into black communities.

"You can go to jail for conspiracy. But this is not just a conspiracy theory - this is reality," lawyer Arif Muhammad told delegates to the National African-American Leadership Summit on Sunday.

The San Jose Mercury News last month reported allegations that the CIA sold tons of cocaine to street gangs in south-central Los Angeles and

funneled millions in profits to a CIA-run guerrilla army in Nicaragua.

The Justice Department and members of Congress are investigating the claims.

Muhammad urged blacks to make lists of people who had been adversely affected by crack cocaine. He said he and several attorneys were preparing the class action conspiracy lawsuit.

The convention, headed by former NAACP leader the Rev. Benjamin Chavis, was billed as a push to get politicians to pay more attention to the concerns of black Americans. Attendance fell far short of expectations, but about 3,000 people attended Saturday night's session.

Even without wheels, this seat will take a community further than any car could ever go.

It's a given. Most of us know that with education and hard work, you can do just about anything. But it takes a little more than just providing a classroom for our kids to do well. It takes nurturing and an understanding of how to succeed in our society. We believe that's why Historically Black Colleges and Universities graduate more black children into a productive work force than any other major university. HBCUs fill our communities with brilliant black professionals, graduating over 40% of the nation's black doctors and dentists, 50% of black lawyers, and 75% of black Ph.Ds. That's why Nissan supports HBCUs by sponsoring the Nissan-HBCU Summer Institute to help enrich and develop HBCU faculty. With this support, black institutions have better aids and tools to empower and inspire our children for our community and our future. Nissan is dedicated to taking people places.

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