

Simms takes promotion to Los Angeles

Continued from page 1A

to Charlotte for a planned race summit this fall and will work hard on making sure the event takes place.

"That's still one I want to make sure we get done," Simms said. "I'm going to work real hard on this between now and the time I leave in June. It should represent all the people in Charlotte and we have good honest conversations. I will be back in the fall."

Simms said he is pleased with his accomplishments since he came to Charlotte five years

ago, including construction of a new track and field stadium at UNC Charlotte, the Community Pride Awards program and support for the arts. Simms chaired the Arts & Science Council of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

"Another thing I'm really pleased with is the quality and importance of the Urban League dinner, particularly the one we had last Thursday," he said. "We honored a wonderful person (NationsBank executive Joe Martin). It is one we took to a nice level."

Simms, an Indianapolis, Ind., native, has worked at

TransAmerica Life for 25 years. He joined the firm after earning a MBA at the University of Southern California.

Simms was in line to become head of the Charlotte Chamber in 1998 and is a partner in the Carolinas Panthers NFL franchise.

Former Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP chapter president Alfred Alexander said Simms will be missed. Simms was a major contributor to the group, which helped put on the NAACP's national convention here last summer.

"He made an outstanding con-

tribution, not only to the NAACP, but to this community," Alexander said. "His contributions will be missed greatly. We are sorry to see him go. I'm glad to know he will be involved in this community somewhat...with the Panthers and by keeping a home here."

Simms will supervise TransAmerica's institutional and bank marketing division, but it will remain in Charlotte, as will the reinsurance division, which is relocating uptown. Simms led the relocation of that division from Los Angeles five years ago.

Howard students protest mergers

By Marcia Davis and Valerie Strauss
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Dozens of Howard University students occupied the administration building Tuesday to protest a planned merger of two colleges and possible disciplinary action against students who disrupted a class on relations between Jews and African Americans.

More than 100 other students huddled under blankets outside on the building's steps, pledging to remain all night to block university President H. Patrick Swygert from entering the building today until he heard their demands.

University officials said last night that there were no plans to remove the protesters.

Students had blocked the doors early Tuesday evening in hopes of keeping Swygert from leaving, but he was escorted out a side door by a phalanx of campus police officers.

The protests erupted after weeks of tension about a plan to merge the College of Fine Arts with the College of Arts and Sciences. Some fine arts students said they fear the merger. The college has produced numerous African American entertainers and artists.

"Students are concerned that the college is losing its autonomy with this merger, and basi-

cally that legacy of excellence is going to be snuffed," said Russell Rickford, a Howard senior and one of the leaders of the protest.

Some arts and sciences students said they feared the merger would cause more crowding in classes and reduce the quality of their education.

The merger is part of Swygert's plan to reorganize Howard's colleges and schools to eliminate course duplication and save money. About 60 fine arts students disrupted Howard's 130th Charter Day ceremony last week in Cramton Auditorium by walking on the stage during Swygert's opening address and singing "We Shall Not Be Moved."

Westside group opposes third airport runway

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A proposed third runway at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport is the last thing a westside watchdog group wants to see.

Neighborhoods for Airport Change II plans to gather at Tuesday's public hearing on the airport's master plan. The group is distributing a newspaper to explain its opposition to the runway and generate

grassroots opposition, co-chair Sue Friday said.

NAC charges that the expansion places an unfair burden on westside residents and is environmentally dangerous. Charlotte-Douglas' growth has erased several westside communities and remaining neighbors complain the potential destruction to the area isn't worth expansion.

"We feel a strong residential westside is more important than another runway," Friday

said.

Opponents claims a third runway will be of no benefit to the region compared to the investment required to build it. They fear a new runway would bring more planes over residential areas, disrupting, if not endangering, more lives. Supporters say expansion would spur future growth, although Charlotte-Douglas is predicted to have no substantial increase in operations over the next eight years.

Good deeds routine

Continued from page 1A

just took the money. It would be on my conscience too much."

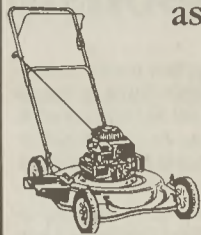
"I don't carry that amount of money around often," MacCallum said. "I had the deposit slip ready. I was going to use the money to pay off the usual monthly bills."

Choking with emotion, MacCallum thanked Myers. "She was a very warm lady," he said. "In this day and age no one is that honest. This was a very profound experience." He rewarded Myers with \$300, feeling a sense of relief the money didn't get into the wrong hands.

Myers, 50, has been employed at the Arena Inn for almost two years. She's seen people lose all types of possessions, only to return them.

"I've found jewelry, radios, cameras and clocks and returned them all to the front desk for the owner's to claim it," she said.

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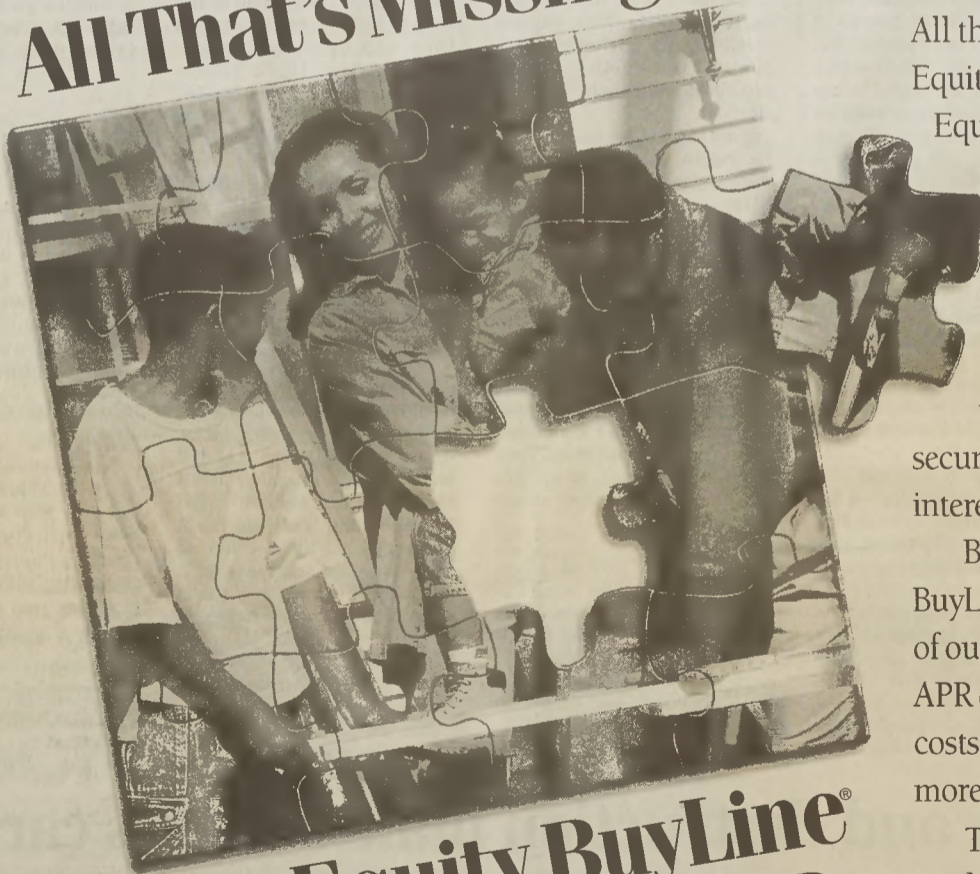
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