tion when he walked to the podium Sunday. Throughout the event, he was greeted by supporters who wondered aloud how Martin could have sided with the Republicans.

Martin said last week that he opposed Helms because he supported a homosexual candidate, but that was just part of the Republicans' strategy to snatch control of the board from the Democrats.

Bush sent a letter to fellow commissioners and the media saying the commissioners should now focus on other issues.

Martin, who was named vice chairman of the board, could not be reached for comment about Bush's letter. In previous interviews he has remained adamant in his opposition to gay rights on personal and religious grounds. But the vote left blacks and Democrats wondering about Martin's loyalty on other issues, such as education and welfare

Some are plotting his removal

from the board. Norman Mitchell has already said he plans to run against Martin in District 2 and, some observers say, former commissioner and state senator Jim Richardson would run at-large if Martin entered that race as a Democrat or Republican.

Filing for county and state elections opens Jan. 1.

Bob Davis, chairman of the Black Political Caucus, said Martin is teetering on becoming a Republican.

'Hoyle is a maverick," said Davis, who called an emergency meeting at Democratic Party headquarters Saturday.

"He is a man of conscience," Davis said. "Sometimes it leads him to some extremes. In my opinion, he has violated the needs of his district for an issue people in his district care little about.

Davis said Republicans used the homosexuality issue to get Martin's vote. 'I think Hoyle is leaning toward becoming a Republican and that's really where he ought to go right now," he said. "He and that party deserve each other.'

Martin said he does not intend to change parties and has not made a deal with Bush and the Republicans.

"I'm not supporting Parks Helms," Martin said, alleging Helms was involved in getting a black candidate to run against

"I don't think Bush will hurt the black community," Martin said. "He does not have that much power. I can still be the swing

Democrats say they have to work with Martin for at least another year and see no value in further alienating him. Helms said the Democratic

Party and the majority of people in the African American community are confronted with a dilemma: "What will Hoyle Martin do?"

"The uncertainty of his stand on issues affecting the human condition in this community makes us all uneasy," Helms said.

He noted that a new budget process begins in January and that issues involving education, health and welfare reform loom.

# Griffin ascends to chairmanship

Continued from page 1A

that he had enough votes to become chair, they expected that Burgess would remain on the board become chair. Burgess' resignation indicates "it's about



Dunlap

power rather than about children," Dunlap said.

Dunlap's attempt to elect Louise Woods vice chair failed. But, he said Wednesday, Lassiter is the second senior board member and has shown good leadership skills.

Griffin denied he'd struck a deal to wrest the chairmanship from Burgess and had not sought the position.

"My colleagues came to me and asked me to serve," Griffin said. He said he regretted that Burgess chose to resign from the board. "I was floored," Griffin

Mandela

pleads her

own case

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JOHANNESBURG, South

Africa - More than 40 witness-

es have lined up to testify

before South Africa's Truth and

Reconciliation Commission

against a vocal, self-proclaimed

Never before in the two-year

history of the TRC, a statutory

body formed to investigate

apartheid atrocities, has public

attention been this high

Meticulous planning and effort

have been put towards this

hearing, described by the com-

mission as the biggest media

But for 63-year-old Winnie

Madikizela-Mandela and her

supporters, all this work has

been done in order to victimize

: Madikizela-Mandela and her

group of bodyguards, known as

the Mandela United Football

Club, are facing 18 charges of

assault, kidnapping and other

human rights abuses, including

According to the TRC's

deputy chairman, Alex Boraine,

at least 42 people have been

lined up to testify in the hear-

ing, which began Nov. 24. The

commission was scheduled to

hear from Madikizela-Mandela

"Public figures like Winnie

should expect rather more

attention than the small,

insignificant apartheid mur-

derers," says political scientist Tom Lodge. "Winnie is a politi-

cian of renown and if the TRC

does not give her such attention

it will be accused of trying to

See WINNIE on page 5A

By Gumisai Mutume

champion of the poor.

event it has hosted.

eight murders.

on the last day.

said. "It's regrettable that she decided to resign and not serve. I was saddened by it. She had demonstrated strong leadership."

Selection of a chair other than the top vote-getter has some precedent. Griffin was denied the chair in 1992 after leading the atlarge field in the previous election following George Battle's resignation. William Rikard and Jane McIntyre were chairs in subsequent years, before Burgess led the 1995 field.

The school board will select a new member to fill Burgess' seat. That person will serve until the 1999 election.

Griffin, a midpoint schools advocate, said he has not bargained with neighborhood schools advocates to win the chairmanship, trading support for neighborhood schools for more spending on inner city schools.

"I have never conditioned doing the right thing for children on any basis," Griffin said. "I have never said 'if you help these kids get rid of their brown water, we can go back to neighborhood schools."

But neighborhood schools advocates, who have three supporters on the board, were elated with Tuesday's developments. Burgess had been a strong supporter of continued

desegregation. "Looking at school board off the top its going to have a strong neighborhood school group and they are going to force that issue on us in lieu of school



**Davis** 

integration," Davis said. "We are going to have some all-white and all-black schools."

The second board shakeup in a week can have a negative impact on future black candidates, Davis

"This gives the impression black politicians are looking out for themselves, not the broad community. Blacks may not be able to get the strong white support needed to win at-large races

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(1 credit)

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