

# Former president brokers African AIDS drug deal

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AIDS treatment in places where before now very few people have been able to receive life-saving care," Clinton said during a press conference held at his Harlem office. "By pushing down the price of HIV/AIDS medicine and laboratory tests, we are ramping up the ability of developing coun-

tries to treat millions of people, and to do so with the kind of quality of care that people with AIDS in the developed world usually receive."

This is the second major price-reduction agreement negotiated by the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative. In October, Clinton announced a major

reduction in the price of antiretroviral drugs for use in the developing world. According to Clinton, the two agreements will reduce the cost of testing and treatment in countries such as South Africa from \$800 per patient per year to approximately \$250 per patient per year, a reduction of nearly 70 percent.

"Such big savings means we can treat many more people with the same amount of money," Clinton said.

About 5 to 6 million people worldwide currently live with AIDS and are in need of treatment. More than 40 million people are infected with HIV, Clinton said, and the number will likely rise substantially in just a few

years. In sub-Saharan Africa, only about 500,000 people are on medication, with 4 million in need of the medicine today.

The Clinton Foundation, which is not receiving any compensation in connection with its HIV/AIDS Initiative, is also working in close cooperation with the World

Health Organization, the World Bank, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Clinton praised the companies involved in producing the medicine and tests at low cost, saying that they are committed to reducing the epidemic throughout the world.

## Wilmington wrestles with pupil assignment plan

By Johanna Thatch-Briggs  
THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

WILMINGTON — it was the shot heard 'round New Hanover County when School Board member Ed Higgins told the local daily newspaper, "The black community does not choose to live among the white community," as he explained the board's latest redistricting plans for elementary schools.

The comment was in response to accusations made at the most recent board meeting by African-American citizens who felt the board's four rezoning proposals were merely a subtle effort to resegregate the schools. Many African-Americans believe the redistricting options ultimately force some black children out of their comfort zones, while whites enjoy the security of being close to home.

Furthermore, the African-American community's final concern is that the plans would leave inner-city schools predominately black. Many speculate that if this were to happen, the inner-city schools would go underserved and neglected since the majority would no longer hold a vested interest in these schools.

The recent meeting would not be the last time they would bump heads with

members from the African-American community. Last week, Wilmington residents—primarily African-Americans—packed Town Hall until more than 100 seats were filled, and the only available space was on the walls.

While chairman Steve Bilzi and redistricting committee members Michael Wayne and Veronica McLaurin-Brown explained technicalities affecting the decision, attendants sat attentively at the edge of their seats raising their hands, firing fierce remarks.

Brown, who is also the special assistant to Superintendent John Morris, attempted to ease the feelings of distrust when she told the crowd that the 2005-2006 assignment plan was created according to specified goals and guiding principles.

The goal is "to maximize learning opportunities and provide a high quality education for all students by establishing a safe and orderly school environment, using resources effectively and efficiently, and respecting and valuing diversity and equity."

One plan would leave students closer to their neighborhoods requiring minimal busing; a second would transport students out of

their residential area (satellites); a third plan would create four two-school attendance zones, affording parents the opportunity to choose within attendance zone, and students would be assigned by lottery (Choice Plus). The final proposal would create five paired attendance zones that contain a K-2 and 3-5 grade center. This plan is considered the primary/upper schools proposal.

According to Brown the committee encountered "plusses and minuses" when

it looked into all of these plans. However, the plan, which involves no busing only supports 57 percent of the guidelines; the plan with satellites met 86 percent of the guidelines; the Choice Plus plan supported 76 percent of the guiding principles, and the primary/upper plan fell short at 57 percent.

Although the proposal utilizing satellites appeared to be the strongest, many in the audience still said, "no way; no how," and demanded that the committee "go back to the drawing boards."

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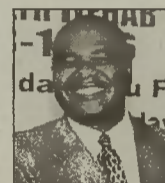
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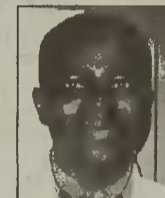
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