

Holmes moves from business to education

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

After spending 18 years in the business world, Harold Holmes decided that it was time for a change.

For Holmes, that change was a move to the world of education.

On Aug. 3 he started his new job as director of career planning and placement at Wake Forest University. Holmes, a New York native, says he's ready for the challenges that lie ahead.

"So many people asked why I made a move like that," said Holmes, an assistant vice president and former regional personnel officer with Wachovia Bank and Trust Co.

The decision to leave his job was not easy and required a lot of soul-searching, he said. He had been with Wachovia since 1975, when he and his family moved here from New York.

"Wachovia is a great place to work," he said. "It's a growing financial institution with a number of career paths a person could pursue, and I felt comfortable there was growth potential for me. But I know that with the financial industry growing, there is relocation potential."

Holmes said that in making his decision he had to consider his wife's career and the fact that he liked Winston-Salem and does



Harold Holmes, director of career planning and placement, advises a Wake Forest University student on career opportunities (photo by James Parker).

not particularly want to uproot his family in the future.

His family consists of his wife, Elizabeth Ann, and two daughters, Deidre, 25, and Monica, 11.

Mrs. Holmes, a Winston-Salem native, is a supervisor in the life and health claims area at Integon.

The job at WFU also offered him more responsibility, Holmes said.

"Wake Forest offered me the opportunity to have my own staff and be responsible from both a budget and technical standpoint," he said. "That opportunity had not come to me at the bank."

Holmes said that as director he heads a permanent staff of three: an assistant director, a senior placement assistant and a placement assistant.

The career planning and placement office works with students and alumni of the university, he said. The office offers students information on interviewing, workshops, special programs, internship information and help with writing resumes. The office also has a resource center complete with career reference books, brochures and handouts, graduate and professional school and financial-aid information.

Holmes received his undergraduate degree in business management from Hampton University in Virginia and his master of business administration degree from Fordham University in New York.

Moving from the financial to

the educational world has required some adjustment for Holmes. One adjustment is to the university's informal atmosphere, he said.

"I am basically an informal person, but I had worked in banking my whole career and had adapted to the formal atmosphere," he said. "So now I have to get back ... to the less formal atmosphere."

The biggest challenge facing him, he says, is getting completely familiarized with his new job.

But in the meantime, he said, all his colleagues, both faculty and administrators, have been supportive and helpful while he adjusts. "These folk over here know how to treat you when you're new," he said. "I think we've had a good month, considering I had not worked in the educational world before. I've been spending a lot of time developing relationships."

Holmes said that he brings to his new job years of business experience and years of experience as a recruiter.

"I've been a recruiter and I know what I look for when I talk to students," he said. "I can really help students understand what businesses are looking for in potential employees."

Being a people person will also greatly aid him in his new position, Holmes said. "I enjoy interacting with students," he said. "The challenge is to find time to service all of them. That's why the staff has to team up to service them."

Senator: His 'mongrelization' comment about blacks can't be considered as racist

By DAVID TIRRELL
Associated Press Writer

CONCORD, N.H. — Despite telling a racial joke about Jesse Jackson at several public events, veteran state Sen. John Chandler says he is not a racist, just someone who believes blacks make better athletes than whites and who is alarmed that racial intermixing would cause the "mongrelization" of whites.

The joke, Chandler's subsequent defense of it and explanation of his racial theories have thrown the conservative Republican into the center of a controversy — denounced by some and shrugged off by others who said simply, "That's Jack."

Chandler, 76, just says the media is trying to crucify him.

For a few days this week, Chandler, president pro tem of the 24-member Senate and vice chairman of its Judiciary Committee, told public gatherings that it seems Jackson has abandoned his race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"He dropped out because they found out that his grandmother had posed for the centerfold of National Geographic magazine," he quipped. He was referring to the magazine's photos of primitive cultures, in which men and women have been unclothed.

He said he had heard the joke during the weekend and repeated it at various functions, including a couple that were attended by reporters.

The controversy erupted when the Concord Monitor reported on the incident after one of its reporters heard the joke Tuesday night at a meeting of the Merrimack County Republican Association.

As he told the joke, Chandler told the audience that he suspected the media would try to make something of it.

Since then, he has defended himself against charges that he is racist, pointing to black groups to which he has contributed.

He told the Boston Globe on Friday that it is important to keep the races separate to preserve the white race.

"If we have too much race mixing, it's going to wipe out the white race," he said. "We're far outnumbered by the blacks, browns and yellows."

He said certain races have

certain characteristics and some have higher IQs than others.

"The Oriental races seem to be smarter than the white race and the black race seems to be better athletes than the white races," he said. "And the brown races? I don't know exactly what they do excel at." "I think it would be better to (keep the status quo) than to mix everything up and not have children going to school like half-breeds, like Indian half-breeds."

Then he added, "I'm against the homos too. You can put that down."

That was no surprise. During the legislative session, Chandler, told a committee that he favored allowing homosexuals to donate blood as long as they gave every last drop in their bodies.

He was quoted in the Monitor story about his joke as saying he was repulsed when he saw Jackson kiss the daughter of a white supporter in 1984.

"I almost threw up," he said. "I don't like race mixing. I was shocked."

Jackson's campaign said the unannounced presidential aspirant would not comment on the joke, or Chandler's elaboration.

Chandler is honorary Merrimack County chairman for the presidential primary campaign of New York Rep. Jack Kemp.

Kemp's state chairman, Paul Young, said Kemp does not agree with the remarks. "When someone endorses Jack Kemp, that means they're agreeing with his views, not vice versa."

State Democratic Party Chairman Joseph Grandmaison said he disagreed with Chandler's description of himself. "If he is not a racist, then I have no idea how in the hell we are going to recognize a racist."

"Whether he is a racist or not, there should be no question that he's a jerk."

Residents in the central New Hampshire towns who repeatedly have returned Chandler to the Senate, generally were less harsh, saying that because he has been a political fixture for so long, he is considered a bit of a character.

Peg Feldblum of Hillsboro said she wasn't outraged, because she wasn't surprised.

"I think, that's him. If someone else said that, you'd be a lot more concerned."

Democrat Patti Albano from Warner, Chandler's hometown, said people think that in New

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