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Beaux-Tillion to present young men.  
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## DOWNTOWN SCHOOL: Students, teachers picked, expectations running high



Cliff and Carolyn Little are proud of their twins, Lisa (l) and Tameka (r) who will start first grade at The Downtown School.

By RUDY ANDERSON  
Chronicle Managing Editor

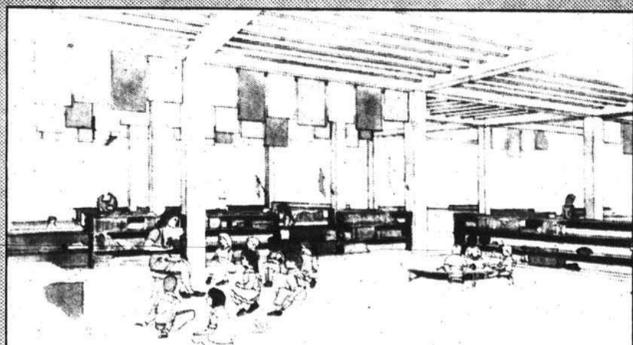
Carolyn and Cliff Little are as excited about the coming school year as their five-year-old twin daughters, who will be entering the first grade. That is because the twins will be among the first students to be a part of the new Downtown School.

City/county school officials picked 118 children for the experimental Downtown School from 244 applications last week for the first year of operation. Two slots are being held open. Sixty percent of the children selected are the children of Reynolds employees and 40 percent are from the community at large. Forty percent of the children are African-American and the remaining 60 percent are made up of white, Asian, or other ethnic groups.

The students will be in kindergarten through the third grade. In the following two years of the three-year pilot program, 240 additional children will be admitted including three- and four-year-olds.

Five white females, two

Photo by Mike Cunningham



This is how an artist envisions what The Downtown School will look like to the new students.

African-American females, and one African-American male have been assigned to teach at the new school. The school's principal and teacher leader are both white females. The school's community relations coordinator is an African-American female. The administrative staff is identified as Connie Brown, principal; Phyllis Evans (from Kimberley Park), Teacher Leader; and Donna Oldham, community relations coordinator.

The teachers are June Williams (from Moore); Mickey Johnson (from South Fork); Nancy Bratton

(from Forest Park); Vickie Smitherman Brown (from Speas); Gerald Clinkscales (from Hall-Woodward); Donna Byrd (from Jefferson); Debbie Hill (Douglas County, Colorado); and Leigh Ann Pernel (from Sedge Garden).

But regardless of how the numbers play, the Little's are just happy that their children will be a part of the grand, new experiment in education. "It is going to be an excellent program based on the information I have read and gathered," said

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Louis V. Gestner Jr., Chairman and CEO of RJR Nabisco, Inc., presents recognition as a Next Century School to The Downtown School during a two-day seminar on education reform.

## Black leaders plead not guilty to charges

By RUDY ANDERSON  
Chronicle Managing Editor

The four people facing charges resulting from a four-year federal investigation by the FBI and the IRS into alleged political corruption have all pleaded not guilty.

Political consultant, Rodney Sumler; former Alderman and president of the Winston-Salem NAACP, Patrick Hairston; and community organizer, Rev. Lee Faye Mack entered their pleas during an arraignment before U.S. District Court Judge Frank Bullock, Jr. Monday, July 1.

Alderman Larry Womble was the first to plead not guilty two weeks ago, just prior to leaving on a vacation trip to Kenya, Africa.

No trial date has been set for any of those facing charges.

If convicted, Sumler and the others charged could spend what would amount to the rest of their lives in prison.

Sumler is charged in each

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## Poll of community leaders suggests conspiracy not real

By Yvette A. Freeman  
Chronicle Staff Writer

A recent poll conducted by the Winston-Salem Chronicle of more than 100 recognized community leaders in this city, revealed that less than one percent of the respondents believe that the four African-American community leaders indicted by the federal government two weeks ago were the objects of a government conspiracy. Fifty percent of those polled believed that there was no conspiracy directed at black leaders. But a very large percentage of those polled were undecided about that issue and wanted to wait for more information from the

forthcoming trial before making any decisions.

The unscientific straw poll was conducted a week after a 28-count indictment was handed down by a federal grand jury in Greensboro against Alderman Larry Womble, former Alderman Patrick Hairston, political consultant Rodney Sumler and the Rev. Lee Faye Mack.

The indictment stems from a four-year investigation, called Operation Mushroom Cloud, conducted by the FBI and the IRS into alleged political corruption. Charges from the indictment range from racketeering and money-laundering to fil-

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## Thomas picked to replace Marshall on Supreme Court Confirmation may be rough going

Chronicle Wire Report

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — President Bush said Monday he would nominate Clarence Thomas, an African-American federal appeals court judge, to the Supreme Court as a replacement for civil rights champion Justice Thurgood Marshall, who plans to retire from the high court after serving nearly a quarter of a century.

"He is the best person for this position," the president said at a news conference at his summer home. Thomas is a conservative former chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and his nomination is likely to trigger a fierce confirmation battle in the Democratic controlled Senate.

Thomas, 43, was overcome with emotion as he thanked Bush for his appointment, and thanked "my grandparents, my mother and the nuns, all of whom were



Marshall

adamant that I grow up and make something of myself."

"Only in America could this have been possible," said the man who was confirmed in 1990 as a federal appeals judge in Washington, D.C.

Bush bristled when it was suggested that he had appointed Thomas because of his race.

"The fact that he is black — a minority — has nothing to do with



Thomas

this. He is the best qualified."

Thomas, if confirmed by the Senate, will join a court that has become increasingly conservative, especially in ruling against criminal defendants and suspects.

Conservatives had a 6-3 working majority on most issues in the just-concluded term, although the docket did not include cases on

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## Legislators present election plan

By RUDY ANDERSON  
Chronicle Managing Editor

The African-American contingent to the Forsyth County legislative delegation has filed a bill in the state legislature which would require a combination of district and at-large elections for school board members in this county and virtually guarantee African-American representation on that board.

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Board, feeling the heat from those African-American legislators, offered its own district election plan last week for the first time since being sued by the local NAACP in March over changing the current at-large system of electing school board members. But both the NAACP and African-American representatives of the Forsyth County legislative delegation rejected the school board's proposal for a non-partisan plan with no primaries

where two members of the board would be elected from one mostly African-American district. The other seven members of the board would be elected from one mostly white district.

The board's plan was adopted last week on a 6-2 vote during a closed session. One board member, Thomas Voss, was not present when the vote was taken. Nancy Wooten, Mary Wood, Nancy Griffith (the minority affairs committee of the board) and Grace Efird, all democrats, voted with moderate republicans, board chair Garlene Grogan, and board vice chair Dr. Gerald Hewitt in favor of the plan. Jane Goins, and Gloria Whisenhunt, both republicans, cast the dissenting votes.

Wooten, who said she didn't like the plan she voted in favor of, questioned the wisdom of going public with

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