

Downtown School Continued from page A3

chosen by a random lottery, with 60% of the spaces being allocated to the children of fulltime, active, regular employees of RJR Tobacco International and Planters Life-Savers companies. The remaining 40% of spaces will consist of students whose parents work or reside in the Central Urban Area. Also, the Forsyth County ratio of 40% African-American and 60% all other races is adhered to in the make-up of the student body.

In addition to the flexible

schedule of the school day, another new concept of the Downtown School will be the requirement that parents of the students participate at least one hour per week in the school in some capacity. To help achieve this, RJR Tobacco, RJR Tobacco International and Planters Life-Savers will allow parents with children attending the school, one hour from work per week to fulfill the time requirement.

Also RJR plans to recruit eight coaches from its personnel, to

work a minimum of one to two hours per week with one class. Those coaches will serve as advocates for that class and assist the teacher in a variety of ways. Volunteers from the community will also be recruited. According to Coble, "When friends and partners such as RJR-Nabisco, and many other friends — business partners and volunteers in Forsyth County — place education first, our schools, spearheaded by the Downtown School will be first."

Victims Continued from page A1

form of witch hunts - the strategy whereby selected targets are accused, tried and convicted in the press and the court of public opinion - was developed and refined by Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi minister of propaganda."

Because there is no smoking gun, says Pitts, people don't want to see the problem. "But when George Bush says there will be no civil rights bill and Jesse Helms says whites don't have jobs because of black people, that sets the tone. That empowers the FBI to target black

elected officials." Fromenschen is the code name for the unofficial policy in the FBI's Atlanta region to target, without probable cause, black elected officials. Fromenschen was brought to light when a former undercover FBI agent filed an affidavit regarding harassment of black elected officials during his tenure, 1979-1982. He maintained that the policy was never withdrawn. "There is a terrible chilling effect," says Lewis Pitts. "Young people who might have been interested in politics are shut down and scared, corporations who might have contributed to black charities and campaigns of black officials decide not to get involved. It shuts down the economic distribution of money and power."

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Was D. Smith fired? Continued from page A1

leave." Although the new board allegedly voted unanimously two weeks ago to reinstate Smith, sources say that the national organization is exercising its right in the matter. Usually the national organization does not enforce policies of board rotation with affiliates, and has no voice in hiring and firing of personnel. The National Urban League certifies all applicants to ensure minimum education and experience requirements. "Once a person is certified, the local affiliate doesn't have to account to national on firing or anything else," said the official.

And yet, former board members state that National threatened sanctions against them for inconsistencies in rules and procedures, including board rotation policies.

The local board has apparently never declared D. Smith's posi-

tion vacant. Until that is done, and the job is opened up for applicants, national can not certify her or anyone else for the position.

Another issue standing between D. Smith and her old job is that of severance pay. Smith says the first issue the new board dealt with was how to compensate her for back pay. "Since I had been without a salary for eight months."

One of the conditions of the agreement reached was that it would remain strictly confidential, says Smith. "But I understand that agreement was sent to national, and national is saying that by me signing the agreement, that I signed away my right to be reinstated."

The intent of that agreement, says Smith, was as compensation for back pay and not as a severance package. "I feel that I've been tricked."

"I believe so strongly in the mission of the Urban League," said Smith. "I can not understand what would make those gentlemen want my job."

Regarding rotation of board members, one Urban League official said, "We look for ways to keep good people on the board. The rotation policy is part of local by-laws. It's just an in-house policy, not a law."

One source close to the issue said that when the old board was forced to resign, some very important people were publicly embarrassed, and it is they who are using the national organization to keep D. Smith hanging in the wind.

Marie Roseboro, a former board member and an executive

with Golden State Mutual Insurance, said that to her knowledge, Smith was not informed of being fired. "I think that in voting to reinstate D. to her job, that this board has tried to right a wrong, and national has stymied that effort." Because the board is new, says Roseboro, "there is no one to lead them through this mess."

Roseboro also noted that in April, several members of the old board turned in 900 signatures in a petition which stated that to go through the interview process was timely and costly, and that "we wanted D. Smith back. We could have tripled that number," said Roseboro, "because people were anxious to sign. No one can say that there is not community support out there for Delores Smith."

Shelter vote

Continued from page A1

office. Traditionally, aldermen rubber stamp that slate.

Virginia Newell spoke in favor of the Patterson Avenue site just before Wright entered the alternate motion. Afterwards she called the surprise vote an example of insensitivity to the poor and raised the question: "What stake did they have in it, the ones driving the BMWs and Mercedes, how could they represent the needs of the poor?"

Like Virginia Newell, Mayor Wood questioned the motives of those who voted in favor of the original site.

"Why was this particular decision so important to these individ-

uals? Were there business interests involved? Other liaisons? Why was this site so important to Mr. Shannon?"

The proposal for the third site included an agreement that developer W. David Shannon would build the \$1.2 million shelter in exchange for \$645,000 and two buildings that the Salvation Army owns on South Marshall and Wilbur streets.

Although the Salvation Army board had approved the Patterson Avenue site, King Triplett said, "The Salvation Army is not taking stands in this issue. We are trying to find a place to serve our clients."

Chronicle correction

In the August 15 issue of the *Chronicle*, a system glitch resulted in the omission of key lines in a front-page story headlined "Stemming the tide of doubt." The paragraphs affected are repeated below in their entirety. We regret the error and apologize for any inconvenience for our readers and Rodney Sumier.

He is a political consultant who also publishes *The Phoenix*, a local monthly tabloid. Sumier is one of the main proponents of the theory that the recent FBI charges of political corruption against him and three other black leaders are contrived and part of a seditious conspiracy. Sumier is charged with collecting donations for bogus charities and diverting the money to himself and former Alderman Patrick Hairston and Alderman Larry Womble.

It's a good idea. Like many people, he seems to have lived his life by the seat of his pants, working hard when there was work, and working twice as hard when there wasn't.

Sumier notes that he has registered thousands of people to vote. He has served as a local voter registrar for 23 years in total, including precincts at Carver High, Mineral Springs Fire Station, and currently at Lowrance Middle School.

Thank God for freedom

Continued from page A1

Just three years ago, politicians in Texas were running on a simple platform based on the supposition that Daniel Ortega and the Sandinistas would be coming across the border through Harlingen, Texas, a mere 200 miles from Nicaragua, they warned!

But then in 1989, the Berlin Wall began to crumble — in fact the darn thing fell to tell you the truth, so did a lot of the myths associated with our irrational fear of the communist. Now they are on the run. Like vermin they have finally been exposed for the "Ciasesciou Rats" they really are.

As I grew up, matured, met a

few people, read a few books, I guess in my deepest of heart, I realized that I never really thought anything, any ideology designed to marginalize the differences among human beings was destined to thrive anyway. It just didn't make any sense. How could an idea designed to remove God from one's life, survive? How could a system work that was based on taking from those who worked and giving to those who wouldn't? I know it's more complicated than that.

But, the really interesting development in the fall of communism is its parallel to the fear of

other bugaboos in this country.

In many ways, communism was like integration was for the southern politician. George Wallace, Ross Barnett, Herman Talmage, Ben Pitch Fork Tillman — there are too many to mention — were all elected on the fear of one thing: integration. No one ever knew what any Southern, especially South Carolinian politician — stood for other than pensions for the old widows of the Civil War and the virtue of white womanhood.

The challenge for us now as we come to grips with the fact that our greatest fear, our greatest

enemy is an emperor without any clothes — is what will we, the people of the United States be for now?

We knew what we were against. We were against that godless religion that thankfully now is gasping for its last ugly breath. It will be up to us to decide whether we as a nation will be like the southern politician who used the same speech on every audience hoping to appeal to their worst fears or will we instead seek to build a newer and better nation together based on our collective coalition-vision? Thank God for freedom in this Country.

The new racism Continued from page A5

Arabs, Asians, Africans, and other non-Europeans.

Inside the United States, the renaissance of racism assumed several distinctly new forms. In the wake of the Civil Rights Movement, it was no longer possible or viable for white elected officials, administrators, and corporate executives to attack "niggers" openly.

The Ku Klux Klan and other racist vigilante groups still existed, but did not represent a mass movement among whites. Instead, a neo-racist strategy was devised which attributed the source of all racial tensions to the actions of people of color. David Duke, former Nazi and Klan leader, received the majority of whites' votes in his Senatorial race in Louisiana, by arguing that "affirmative action" programs discriminated unfairly against innocent whites. Black college students were attacked as "racists" for advocating the adoption of Black Studies academic programs, or the creation of African-American cultural centers. Black workers

were accused of racism for supporting special efforts to train people of color in supervisory and administrative positions. In this context, "racism" had begun to be defined as any behavior by individuals or groups which empowered Latinos, African-Americans or other people of color, or an agenda which took away long-held privileges of white elites.

Of course, the idea of "reverse discrimination" could only exist if African-Americans, Native Americans, Latinos and other people of color actually controlled institutional resources which could affect whites' life chances and opportunities.

If they owned the banks and financial institutions, the systems of transportation, communication, housing and health services, even commensurate with their percentages of the population, then one might theoretically perceive a pattern of institutional prejudice aimed at whites. But of course, this is absurd. White, upper class males still retain a thousand different advantages over virtually any

person of color, from private schools and special tutorials to prepare for standardized tests for admission to colleges and professional programs, to membership in private clubs and access to capital from financial institutions. Even at their best, affirmative action plans and programs barely dented this entrenched pattern of power, privilege, and elitism which the upper class terms "meritocracy."

Ronald Reagan was unquestionably the fountainhead of much of the new racism. His administration was openly contemptuous of African-American rights; he nominated virtually no people of color to the federal courts, and openly supported the apartheid regime abroad through his policy of "constructive engagement."

George Bush pursued the presidency in 1988 by employing Reagan's racial strategy. His campaign cited the infamous example of black convict Willie Horton as an example of the Democrats' "softness on crime." Without open appeals to white supremacy, he nevertheless bene-

fited from a racist backlash against the gains achieved by racial minorities since the 1960s. As president, Bush continued to pursue this racist agenda while employing a public style and discourse of racial harmony. He openly courted black middle class leaders, inviting them into the White House, and spoke at historically black colleges. He publicly endorsed the passage of a civil rights bill, so long as it repudiated affirmative action and other effective measures to reduce discrimination.

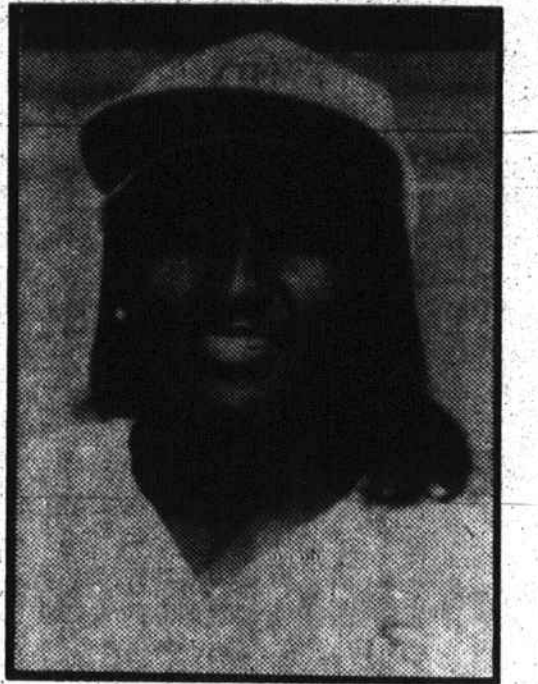
The "Jim Crow" segregation in the U.S. of the 1950s, and the system of racial oppression termed "apartheid" in South Africa, will no longer characterize the type of oppression which black people must confront in the twenty first century.

Abroad and at home, the new forms of racial and ethnic domination are far more sophisticated than in previous generations. The struggle for racial justice and democracy will require greater determination in the future.

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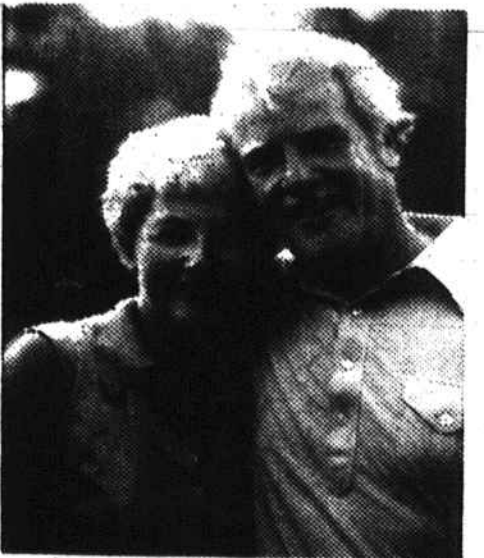
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