

Bowman Gray addresses RHC concerns

▲ *At issue: quality of care, fate of employees, control*



Earline Parmon is one of the Forsyth County Commissioners who are concerned about the new proposal.

By MAURICE CROCKER
Community News Reporter

Last week top-ranking officials from Bowman Gray/Baptist Hospital Medical Center held a press conference to introduce an idea for a proposal to the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, asking that the Medical Center be allowed to take over medical care for all patients currently

using Reynolds Health Center.

Medical Center officials said the new approach responds to a recent consultant's report that suggests the county look at alternatives to operating the Health Center.

"We presented the framework of a partnership that we would like to have with the county," said Gerald Finley, vice president of operations at Bowman Gray Hospital.

Within the framework were some detailed ideas on health care, cutting costs, and employment of staff, Finley said.

"The proposal that was presented does articulate some of the concerns the board has had," said Commissioner Earline Parmon.

Parmon said her main concern is that the indigent of Forsyth County receive first-class medical attention, not just right

now, but long after she is off the board.

According to Parmon, the county is held responsible for the medical care of people who do not have health coverage. Parmon said it is critical that this issue be addressed, and that some kind of agreement be made.

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▲ *HAWS Board of Directors Vice Chairman Robert Egelston*



Robert Egelston

By WILLIAM H. TURNER Ph.D.
Special to the Chronicle

Robert Egelston wears at least two hats on his smooth crown, to which no other person in Winston-Salem can lay claim. One covers his work as vice chairman of the Board of Directors of Winston Salem Housing Authority. There he stands with and for some of the poorest of the poor in the city. At other times, this man for all seasons can be found in the stands at Wake Forest University basketball games, whooping it up, the president of the Wake Forest Demon Deacon Wackos.

A couple of hours spent talking to Egelston reveals that his life is anchored in his family, his work as an industrial engineer at

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, and his commitments to community-based volunteerism. Clearly, he takes them all seriously

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and passionately, exuding personal warmth and intensity.

He leaves an easy-to-believe impression that he is a dedicated daddy to son Larken, 14, and 10-year-old Anna and that he is a devoted husband to Amy, his wife, who works in public relations with the local Chamber of Commerce. And, this refined

and urbane professional does a couple of things, off the family and job courts, so to speak, that are somewhere between being amusingly eccentric and admirably absurd.

Egelston, who was trained as an industrial engineer at Virginia Tech, also holds an MBA from Appalachian State. He quickly and almost proudly points out that he took his courses for the ASU degree "every night, in Coltrane Hall, at WSSU." To him, that was very significant. At RJR he is the bridge between the technical and the business sides of the company. He links those who devise blueprints and mechanical drawings to those in the company who have no reason to know anything about ground elevation and who use phrases like "What's that doohickey?"

No doubt, it is very complicated to know the design and relationships between all the facilities components of a large manufacturing enterprise like RJR. His daily responsibilities include everything from writing requests for capital funding to dealings with the company's surplus buildings and assets, including real estate.

Since 1992, Egelston has been on the Board of the Housing Authority of Winston Salem. HAWS, according Executive Director Art Milligan, "benefits immeasurably from Egelston's no-nonsense, yet humane approach to the technical and compassionate sides of the business of public housing."

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Owner feels forced out of business, after 55 years of service to community

By MAURICE CROCKER
Community News Reporter

For more than 55 years, Walter Washington Jr. has helped residents walk through life a little more comfortably. Washington owns and operates the Community Shoe Store, which he opened in 1941.

Although Washington has spent the majority of his life serving the community, he said he may soon have to close his doors.

"I feel as if I'm being pushed out of business before I'm ready to retire," he said.

According to Washington, the building's owner's decision to install two new gas pumps is running him

out of business.

Washington's shop is at 2312 N. Patterson Ave., and is housed in the same building with a convenience store.

The owner of the building, Paul Lowman, recently decided to put two gas pumps in front of the convenience store.

"We all discussed this and felt it would bring in more business for everyone," Lowman said.

Washington said the pumps took longer to install than planned and have caused him to lose money and customers.

"I had several people call me and tell me "it looks like they are trying to put you out of business," Washington said.

During the installation of the pumps, dump trucks and other construction machinery were placed in front of the stores.

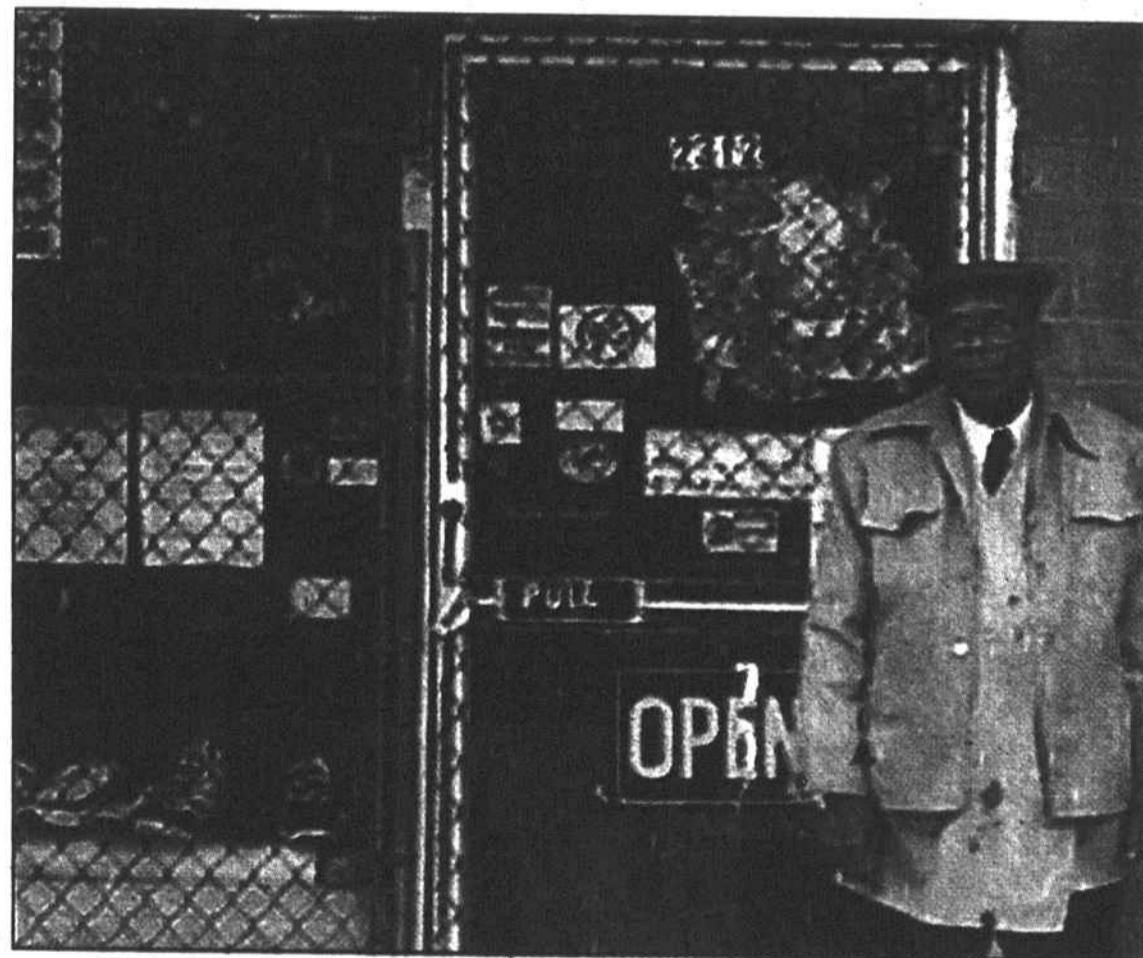
"They blocked parking spaces and my signs," Washington said. "I had to park across the street just to give my customers somewhere to park."

Washington said the installation of the pumps, which took a little over a month, cost him about \$4,000.

"You cannot just come in and knock a person out of livelihood," Washington said.

He also said before the construction, his store was doing about \$1,000 a week in revenue. But that amount

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Walter Washington has owned the Community Shoe Store for 55 years.

Wake Forest students tour Charlotte exhibit of slave ship

By FELECIA P. MCMILLAN
Special to the Chronicle

When Dr. Alton Pollard stood on the shore outside of St. George's Castle in Ghana, he wept. He wept for the many Africans who were held in the castle for 9 to 12 months before being put on slave ships for the transatlantic voyage to the Americas. When he saw "The Door of No Return," he was overcome with emotion, for this was their last view of Africa.

Pollard made his trip to Ghana in 1993 with his wife, Jessica, and his son, Brooks. However, his memories of the slave castle and the slave ships were jarred when he took 15 students in his "Struggles for Freedom" religion/history course to see "A Slave Ship Speaks: The Wreck

of the Henrietta Marie." The exhibit was held at Spirit Square Center for Arts and Education in Charlotte, N.C., and will continue through Jan. 25, 1997. In conjunction with the exhibition, Spirit Square will present a variety of programs exploring the contributions of Africans and African-Americans during the last 300 years. Pollard teaches the course as a joint professor with Dr. Tony Parent, who also attended.

Pollard uplifted the Africans of the Middle Passage of phenomenal wonders, who are shining examples of Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Kuumba (creativity), Nia (purpose), and Imani (faith).

"If our celebration of Kwanzaa does not include these Africans who exhibited all of the



The "Door of No Return" at St. George's Castle in Ghana was the last view of Africa for many slaves before they were put on slave ships for the transatlantic voyage to the Americas. It was featured in the movie "Sankofa."

principles of the Nguzo Saba, then we do not know what Kwanzaa is," said Pollard.

One of the rituals of the Kwanzaa observance is the Libation, which is done in honor of the deceased family members and leaders who made possible the survival of African Americans. Kwanzaa is observed from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.

The history of the Henrietta Marie is a crucial part of African-American heritage. In 1700, the English merchant slave ship sank off the coast of Key West after unloading its human cargo. Discovered in 1972 by Mel Fisher, the ship was recovered by the National Association of Black Scuba Divers in 1993 and became part of a national traveling exhibit. Dr. Maya Angelou is the honorary celebrity chair, and General Motors is the national tour sponsor.

Pollard was impressed that the 3,000-square-

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