

Racial discrimination charged

# Plan infuriates Waco blacks

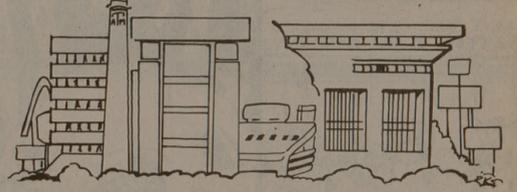
United Press International  
WACO — Black leaders bitter at what they call blatant racial discrimination in local government say they have suffered long enough and are preparing for action.  
"This town is racist, tied up and tied down," said the Rev. Leo LaRue, pastor of the Toliver Chapel Baptist Church. "The only justice black folks get in Waco is through the courts."  
A 10-year-old school desegregation case is already back in court.  
An Austin federal court handed down a desegregation plan in 1973, but because Waco's student population has dropped from 18,000 to 13,000 since then, the school board wants to close some schools to economize.  
That plan to consolidate schools has angered the black community.  
"My real feeling is that the consolidation plan is a way to get out from under the desegregation plan," said LaRue.  
After a year and a half of

negotiations over a consolidation plan, the school board withdrew its proposal in April, a month before a hearing scheduled before U.S. District Judge James Nowlin of Austin.  
Board President Mary Ruth Duncan said the plan was withdrawn because of the time pressures of the approaching 1983-84 school year.  
"We did not feel we could wait," she said.  
But LaRue explained the withdrawal differently.  
"They knew we had a legal leg to stand on," he said.  
One of the centerpieces of the dispute is the placement of elementary schools. The district's final plan called for the placement of two elementary schools in east Waco, the predominantly black section of town. But plaintiffs insist they are entitled to three elementary schools.  
"What they're trying to do is literally close down black schools, schools in the black community," LaRue said.

The Rev. John Mayshack, one of two black members on the Waco school board, officially supported the plan, but he admitted it was racially biased.  
"Certainly there's some discrimination," he said, but he also defended the plan, saying it was the best the board put forward.  
Duncan stands by the plan.  
"There was criteria set up for the closing of the schools due to costs and enrollments and various and sundry other criteria," she said.  
Relations between LaRue and his group, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and local government grew ugly after a black City Council member received what LaRue called a slap in the face.  
Customarily the City Council elects the council member who is mayor pro tem to the mayorship, a ceremonial position, but that was not the case last month.  
Dr. Marilyn Jones, mayor pro tem last year and the only black on the seven-member council, was not given the mayor's job.

The reason she gives?  
"Racism. Waco is basically untouched by civil rights," she said.  
Jones, a professor at Prairie View A&M, said some council members believe minorities are inferior.  
But the man who was elected mayor, insurance underwriter Jim Mathis, said it was because Jones had indicated she would not serve her full term.  
That's the same reason given by Malcolm Duncan, another council member who is the former president of the Waco school board and husband of the board's current president, Mary Ruth Duncan.  
"Marilyn told me twice before the meeting that she would not be here next year," Duncan said.  
But Jones disputes that.  
"I never told them exactly what I was going to do. My understanding was that it should not have had any bearing. I never gave a public or private commitment."  
The week after the council

passed over Jones, 200 protesters packed the City Council meeting room in protest.  
The Rev. Patrick Williams, a prime mover in LaRue's group, blasted the council's failure to elect Jones mayor.  
"We see an apparent double standard being applied to minority council persons," he said.  
Mayshack agreed the pass over was unjustified, and he said council members voted against Jones because of her race.  
"I think it was a factor," he said. "Marilyn certainly deserved to be mayor of Waco."  
LaRue and Williams said the black-white battle has become more than a social issue.  
"It's become an economic issue," Williams said.  
"The white business community wants us to shut up. They want us, a sunbelt community, to look like a place where industry would come," LaRue said.



## Around town

### Moody named visiting professor

Global geologist **John Moody**, former senior vice president for Mobil Oil and past president of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, has been named a **visiting professor of geology**.

An internationally known consultant in energy and economic geology, Moody has supervised petroleum exploration in more than 50 countries and the United States.

Dr. Mel Friedman, interim dean of Texas A&M's College of Geosciences, credited **Michel T. Halbouty** as being instrumental in attracting Moody to Texas A&M. Halbouty is a 1930 graduate of Texas A&M and recipient of the University's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Moody, whose Texas A&M appointment is effective Sept. 1, served as executive and then senior vice president for exploration and production at Mobil until 1974, and previously had 20 years experience with the Gulf Oil Co.

### SWAMP to hold summer meeting

Students Working Against Many Problems, **SWAMP**, will meet at 6:30 p.m. Friday at 1018 Milner St. Old and new members are invited to attend.

The agenda for Friday's meeting includes discussion of the upcoming projects for the fall semester, including the Student Government in Exile elections. All persons wishing to submit nominations should attend, especially if they wish to nominate themselves.

### Engineering dean elected fellow

Dr. Leroy S. "Skip" Fletcher, associate dean of engineering, has been elected "fellow" of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

A fellow, according to the association, is a member whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its application are scientifically or socially distinguished.

A Halliburton Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Fletcher came to Texas A&M in 1980 as a faculty member. He graduated with the Class of '58.

### Chaplain to be ordained Friday

The Right Reverend Maurice M. Benitez, D.D., Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, will elevate to the priesthood the **Rev. James Mark Wilburn**, Friday at 8 p.m.

The ordination of Wilburn, who is the Episcopal Chaplain to the students here, will take place at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Wilburn has been chaplain at Canterbury House, the Episcopal Student Center, since September and was ordained to the Diaconate last December. Prior to his duties at College Station, he served Presbyterian pastorates in Texas, Tennessee, and Georgia. A graduate of Belhaven College in Jackson, Miss., Wilburn received his Master's of Divinity degree from Columbia Theology Seminary in Decatur, Ga. He is currently a doctoral student there.

To submit an item for this column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald or call 845-2611.

## Arkansas officials make cocaine bust

United Press International  
**LITTLE ROCK** — The seizure of a kilogram of pure cocaine at a local hotel led to the arrest of three people, said city police chief Walter E. "Sonny" Simpson, who called the seizure the largest cocaine haul ever by his department.  
Valencia and Pettit were charged with possession of cocaine with intent to deliver. Simpson said the seized cocaine carried a street value of about \$1 million.

A third suspect, Arnulfo Guinchia, 25, who listed addresses in Longview and Batesville, Ark., was arrested later at Jacksonville as an illegal alien, according to Simpson.

Simpson said Guinchia, who also has used the name Guinchia Guillermo, was subject to deportation. The chief said an ounce and a gram of cocaine was found on Guinchia.

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