



Lowndes County Historical Society: Valdosta Project Change Collection, 1997-2003

MS/181

1999-2000

Valdosta Project Change

April 2000

For this and additional works see: <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/6499>

Recommended Citation:

Valdosta Project Change. "Valdosta Project Change Scrapbook, April 2000," Lowndes County Historical Society. Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections, MS-181: Valdosta Project Change Scrapbook Collection, 1997-2003.

This item is free and open source. It is part of the *Valdosta Project Change Collection* at the [Lowndes County Historical Society](#) and was digitized by the Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. If you have any questions or concerns contact archives@valdosta.edu

Included Articles:

4/3- Marchers urge removal of confederate flag- Associated Press

4/4- Ten reasons for having art in county schools- Joann McDaniel-Haldeman, Clyattville

4/7- Crowds seek confederate flag removal: Opponents, supporters rally at Statehouse- Associated Press

4/10- The Leadership Style of Fred Davis- no author

4/10- Report: Black women are subjected to more intrusive searches: Officials say new not reflected in report- Associated Press

4/11- Racial imbalance- no author

4/11- Great record- no author

4/11- Move on- no author

4/11- Bad water- no author

4/11- No comparison- no author

4/11- Board to hear public on Davis, Evans moves- Peter Failor

4/12- Waiting for answers: Citizen's group decries lack of BOE accountability- Peter Failor

4/19- We must support elementary P.E., art- Dr. Stan Andrews, Valdosta

April 2000- Youth march to protest hate crimes- Associated Press

Marchers urge removal of Confederate flag

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — More than 600 people set out Sunday on a five-day, 120-mile protest march to Columbia to urge state lawmakers to move the Confederate Flag from the Statehouse dome.

"Take it down!" chanted some marchers.

"The people of South Carolina — white and African-American — want the flag to come down," said Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr., who had the idea for the march.

"The purpose is to say the people of South Carolina are in step, and we want the Legislature to get in step with the people of South Carolina," said the mayor, who carried the blue state flag with its white palmetto tree and crescent as he led marchers into the street.

The marchers will walk only during daylight hours and plan to arrive in Columbia for a rally on Thursday, when pro-flag supporters have also scheduled a Statehouse rally.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has called for a tourism

"The people of South Carolina ... want the flag to come down."

Joseph P. Riley Jr.
mayor of Charleston

boycott of the state, saying the Confederate flag above the Statehouse in Columbia is a racist emblem.

Flag defenders say it is a symbol of Southern heritage and honors Confederate war dead.

Only state lawmakers can move the flag from the dome, and several plans are under consideration.

Organizers of the "Get In Step" walk say it should be moved from the dome to a place of honor.

Vans and shuttle buses will take people to the march so they can join as long as they can. It will start each day where it ended the previous day.

Novelist Pat Conroy, a South Carolinian, was on hand for the start of the march. But he said

he would pick up with the marchers again on Thursday in Columbia.

"They would find me dead on the highway if I tried to make the entire march," he said.

Conroy said South Carolina lawmakers do not like being told what to do, but predicted the march will help resolve the issue.

"It's going to be such hideous publicity, including this right here, that it will help," he said.

One of those who marched Sunday was former Gov. John West, a state lawmaker when the flag was raised by the all-white 1962 General Assembly.

West, who served as governor from 1971 to 1975, led an effort to get lawmakers who raised the flag to ask for its removal.

"As I have had to say publicly, somewhat to my embarrassment, in hindsight one of the mistakes I made as governor is not taking it down," he said. "It was not an issue then. Had it been an issue, I would like to think I would have taken it down."



Chris Sullivan, of Columbia, S.C., holds the South Carolina state flag during a prayer before the beginning of a march protesting the flying of the Confederate Flag over the Statehouse Sunday in Charleston, S.C. Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, second from left, organized the march that began in Charleston and ends at the Statehouse in Columbia.

Associated Press

► YOUR OPINIONS

Ten reasons for having art in county schools:

In 1998 the Lowndes County Board of Education became one of the leading school districts in South Georgia by voting to place a full-time art teacher in every school — elementary, middle and high school. They came to this decision based upon the knowledge that art is an integral part of a student's academic development.

Here are 10 reasons that support their position of having art teachers available daily for each student:

1) Students with strong arts backgrounds score significantly higher on the SAT than the national average, suggests a study cited by Laura Loyacono in writing for the National Conference of State Legislatures in 1992. In an era when scores on standardized tests dictate school policy, this is a compelling reason to have a solid background in arts education. Fortunately, Lowndes County Schools currently is a leader in this area, even rivaling the better-funded school districts near Atlanta.

2) More arts equals better reading. A pilot project of the Guggenheim Elementary School in Chicago, Ill., demonstrated that after only one year using an arts-based curriculum, students raised their reading scores from 37 percent of the national norm to 59 percent.

3) Study in the arts provides for intuitive learning and creative problem solving. Barbara Nielson, Superintendent of Education in South Carolina said, "Part of our strength as a nation has been our creativity and innovation, precisely what we're cultivating through arts education."

4) The arts span cultural, so-

cial, religious and political boundaries.

5) Art teachers have the specific training and knowledge needed to evoke the level of artistic creation that builds self-confidence in a child.

6) Children understand through art what it means to be human and how to function in our society and culture. The Georgia Coalition for Arts Education states on their Web site, "Our schools aren't as safe. The arts have been shown to improve a school's climate, meaning schools are safer places to be. Racial tensions are reduced. Students acquire an understanding of cultures of others through arts education and learn to be more tolerant and open."

7) Art provides insights into our cultural heritage, and the cultural heritage of other people.

8) Art provides a reference for the comparison of the major accomplishments of civilizations across time.

9) Students who study art gain a medium of self-expression unreachable by language alone.

10) Students in the Lowndes County School District have received a precious gift from the School Board. Our students are currently receiving all of the benefits listed above — and more — because of the foresight of our administration and community. If the administration of the Lowndes County School District maintains the course they set just two years ago, our children will continue to inherit the benefits of their wisdom.

Joann McDaniel-Haldeman

Clyattville Elementary art teacher and president of the Coastal Plains Area Georgia Art Education Association

Crowds seek Confederate flag removal

Opponents, supporters rally at Statehouse

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — With the Confederate flag fluttering from the dome, hundreds of demonstrators demanding its removal converged on the Statehouse on Thursday after a five-day, 120-mile march from Charleston.

"We must, as South Carolinians, move forward and get this issue resolved, and we must move the flag from the dome," Gov. Jim Hodges told a crowd of 2,000 people.

On the Capitol's opposite side, flag supporters, who see the banner as a symbol of Southern heritage that honors Confederate war dead, sang "Dixie" and demanded that it stay.

Led by Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. and under heavy security, flag opponents — who see the banner as a vestige of hatred and slavery — began their march Sunday with about 600 people. The group fell to just a few during the week, but swelled to more than 400 Thursday morning.

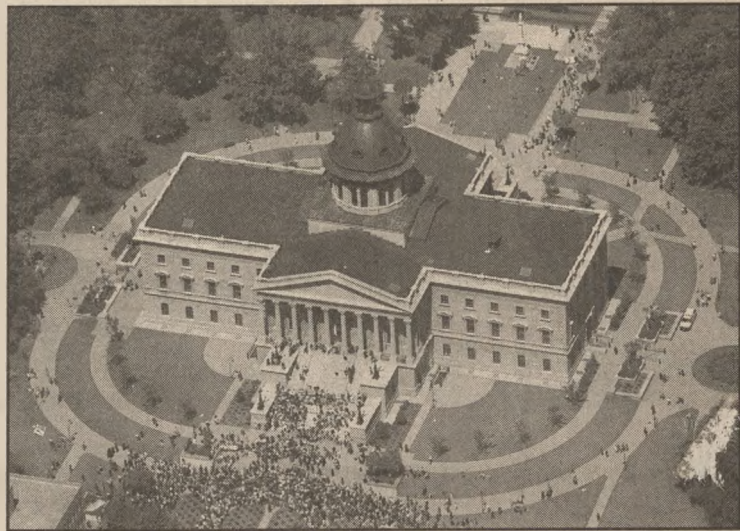
Hundreds more met the marchers at the Statehouse.

Riley told the crowd that an anonymous letter writer threatened that if he marched with blacks through Calhoun County south of Columbia, "I will put you in my gun sights."

That was not about heritage, Riley said: "That is his hate."

Hodges, a first-term Democrat who proposes moving the flag to a monument on Statehouse grounds, said he is tired of hearing legislators argue.

The Senate has now set debate on a bill for Wednesday — the first time this session the Legislature officially will take up the issue.



Associated Press

As Confederate flag supporters, top, converge Thursday on the northern steps of the South Carolina Statehouse, marchers, bottom, completing their 120-mile, five-day protest hike from Charleston, gather on the southern steps in an effort to convince lawmakers to remove the Civil War-era banner from atop the Statehouse dome in Columbia, S.C.

"They want a nice, multi-ethnic society and they know they can't have it."

Lake High

former chairman of the South Carolina League of the South

While he and Riley spoke on the south steps, roughly 300 flag supporters gathered on the north steps with signs that said "Let My People Go" and "God Save the South."

"They want a nice, multi-ethnic society and they know they can't have it," said Lake High, former chairman of the South Carolina League of the South.

Some chanted, "We want to vote" — a reference to the position by state Attorney General Charlie Condon that the matter should be put to a referendum.

Some people carrying Confederate flags tried to break into the anti-flag rally but were turned away by police. At the

pro-flag rally, Edward McClen-don, who is black, got into a shouting match with flag supporters.

"They were fighting to keep slavery!" he shouted. "I don't care if black people had slaves. Slavery is oppression."

Among those joining the march Thursday was former Republican Gov. David Beasley, whom Hodges defeated two years ago. Beasley's late 1996 proposal to lower the flag was rebuffed the following year by fellow Republicans who control the state House. In 1995, they had passed legislation giving the General Assembly sole power to take the flag down.

Monday, April 10, 2000 — 3A

Community

The Leadership Style of Fred Davis

Did you know that Fred Davis, Principal of Lowndes Middle School, an **extremely** competent and professional educational leader ...

- whose leadership inspired LMS to become a School of Excellence in 1993.

- gained him an appointment to serve on one state Senate Educational Committee and a Governor Educational Reform Commission Governor Zell Miller and Governor Roy Barnes; the **ONLY** educator from Lowndes County appointed by the current Superintendent in recognition of his sound leadership.

- developed many of the talented educators who work in the system in various high, profile capacities, such as Curriculum Coordinators, Assistant to the Superintendent, Counselor at LHS, Elementary School Principal, LHS Principal, the 1999 Georgia Teacher of the Year, and many many more.

- assisted in training and influencing majority of the LHS Viking Football

Team Championship players while they attended LMS, professional football player, country music celebrities, and thousands of other young lives impacted by his guidance and direction.

- maintains a **"children first and foremost"** philosophy, actively involving parents in school decisions via the Parent Advisory Board, and as a Community Partner in Education.

This record alone reflects vital, responsible LEADERSHIP that deserves to be CONTINUED.

Paid For By Lowndes County Citizens For Educational Excellence

P.O. Box 314

Valdosta, GA 31603

Report: Black women subjected to more intrusive searches

Officials say new policies not reflected in report

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Customs officials ordered black American women returning home from overseas to remove their clothes or undergo X-rays much more often than other passengers, even though their searches were less likely to reveal illegal hidden drugs, a report says.

Only a fraction of 1 percent of the 71.5 million passengers were singled out for searches as they entered the United States on international flights in fiscal year 1998. And the vast majority of those 52,455 passengers were subjected to simple pat-downs, according to the report by the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm, obtained by The Associated Press.

The report, requested by Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., is to be released today.

Of those, black women were selected for more intrusive searches — strip searches or X-rays — more than any other group. Whites also had a high likelihood of being strip-searched, and black men were chosen more often than most other passengers to be X-rayed.

Black women were much less likely than the others to be found with hidden illegal drugs, the report said.

"Although searched passengers with certain characteristics were subject to more intrusive searches, they were not always more likely to be found carrying contraband," the GAO said.

As allegations of abusive searches surfaced over the last two years, the Customs Service

has made repeated efforts to change how passengers are checked for drugs. The agency faces numerous lawsuits alleging people were singled out for body searches because of their race or sex, including an effort by almost 100 black women to file a class-action suit in Chicago.

Customs officials said the changes, most enacted after the period studied by the GAO, already are yielding results not reflected in the report. For instance, fewer intrusive searches are being conducted, but more are resulting in drug seizures.

"We don't necessarily disagree with the report," Customs Commissioner Raymond Kelly said in an interview. "The intimidation is a bit outdated. I think we've taken the problem head-on."

For instance, X-rays conducted in 1998 found drugs almost twice as often on whites and black men than on black women. And strip searches that year uncovered drugs on Hispanics and black men at much higher rates than on black women.

Also, black women who were U.S. citizens were nine times as likely as white American women to be X-rayed but less than half as likely to be concealing illegal drugs.

Such searches are intended to catch smugglers who swallow drug packets or hide cocaine or heroin inside clothing or in body cavities.

The searches usually begin with a pat-down and, with reasonable suspicion, can proceed to a strip search, an X-ray, monitored bowel movement or a body cavity search.

Customs officials generally can detain passengers for long periods of time without court approval.

The Valdosta Daily Times

4A — Tuesday, April 11, 2000

RANT & RAVE

Here's your chance to let South Georgia and North Florida know how you feel, with just a single phone call. RANT: to let loose with the steam that's been building up inside. RAVE: to give recognition for things well done. Call 244-3400, ext. 418, and take up to 30 seconds to express yourself.

Racial imbalance

“The Lowndes County School System has only one black male principal remaining. This is terrible.”

Great record

“Dr. Hagler, you have perceived wrong. Mr. Davis has done an excellent job for more than 20 years. Ron Irwin, past assistant, now assistant to you; Ann Rogers, past assistant principal, now principal at Lowndes High; John Bradley, P.E. teacher, now assistant principal at Lowndes High; Barbara Bankston, assistant principal, now principal at Clyattville Elementary; Sharon Flythe, team leader, now curriculum director and has an office; Richard Sutherland, team leader, now assistant at Moulton Branch; Sharon Galloway, team leader, now curriculum director at the county office; Kip Mcleod, P.E. teacher, now assistant principal at Hahira Middle. Do your homework, Dr. Hagler.”

Move on

“It is a sad day in history when The Valdosta Daily Times could only print on the front page in Thursday's edition Rev. Rose and Fred Davis. Both of them need to fade away and let everybody forget about them. They have done enough damage to Lowndes County. It is time they moved on.”

Bad water

“For all citizens in Lowndes County who have healthy, clean-smelling water, give thanks. For those of us in Twin Lakes, Lake Park who are customers of Lowndes County Utility Systems, we have water that smells foul, dirty. We have to bathe and wash dishes in this water. What is going to be done to correct this situation? Our rates have gone up and the water smells like feces.”

No comparison

“How can the People's Tribunal honor Martin Luther King Jr., who was a hero, along with Willie James Williams in their march? There is no comparison between these two men.”

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Board to hear public on Davis, Evans moves

By Peter Failor

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Twenty-one days after the Lowndes County Board of Education held a meeting in which Superintendent Thomas Hagler announced his intention to transfer two popular administrators, the board will hear from the public during tonight's 7 p.m. meeting.

Ron Irwin, assistant to the superintendent, said that as of Monday there were two people scheduled to speak to the board — one on the subject of art and music in the elementary schools, and the other on Fred Davis, the Lowndes Middle School principal who, along with Assistant Principal Marie Evans, was transferred from his post as a result of the March meeting.

"They made the request through the proper channels," said Irwin, not wanting to comment on whether or not the testimony could have any effect on the decision.

Irwin added the board would listen to anyone who followed the Lowndes board's policy on public comments and scheduled ahead in time to speak.

Still, it is something one does not see often.

Hagler's decision to transfer Davis and Evans proved controversial after supporters of the

two administrators were not told why the decision was made.

A petition drive that began on the eve of the March meeting accumulated more than 1,000 names of people backing Davis as principal of LMS.

There were also more than 500 in attendance at the meeting.

Hagler has maintained that he cannot discuss personnel matters, and would not comment on any support or opposition he faced from the board members, three of whom stated the decision was out of their hands.

The only dissenting vote during the board's 6-1 approval of administrative contracts was that of James Council Jr., who has not been available for comment.

Hagler announced his intention to transfer Davis and Evans shortly after that decision.

Days after the controversial transfer, around 60 citizens gathered at the River Street Church of Christ to discuss ways to help Davis and Evans, including telephone campaigns and voting drives to oust the board members.

Jerome Tucker, the group's appointed spokesman at the time, said the people were angered over the arbitrary nature of the decision and the lack of accountability of the board.

"They are elected to vote, not to pass the decision-making process to someone else," said Tucker. "As citizens, we have to make certain the board is accountable for their actions."



Fred Davis

To contact reporter Peter Failor,
please call 244-3400, ext. 247.

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

www.sgaonline.com

50 Cents

Waiting for answers

Citizens' group decries lack of BOE accountability

By Peter Failor
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Jerome Tucker stood in front of the Lowndes County Board of Education Tuesday representing a group of citizens concerned that their school board is not really accountable to them.

The group, formed in the wake of Superintendent Thomas Hagler's decision to transfer longtime Lowndes Middle School administrators Fred Davis and Marie Evans out of their jobs, filled the board room and spilled out into the halls during Tuesday's meeting.

"Can any of you sit there and look into the audience and say you truly represent them?" Tucker asked of the board, referring to statements made by certain board members that the decision to transfer the administrators was out of their hands.

Tucker then asked the board on behalf of the citizens to "intercede" on the grounds that the decision may not be financially sound.

The position of LMS' principal is partially funded by the state, Tucker explained, yet the Teacher Resource Center position where Davis is heading is funded completely at the local



Jerome Tucker, spokesperson for a group of concerned citizens supporting Fred Davis, reads a statement to the Lowndes County Board of Education during Tuesday night's meeting.

level. When Tucker's comments were completed, Hagler and the board moved on to other business without making any comment.

Tucker later said the apparent lack of accountability by the

board was disheartening, adding it was causing a lack of confidence in the community.

"The voters don't have a say, and the public doesn't have confidence," said Tucker, adding the board should develop public

trust and confidence, not diminish it.

The decision was originally made after a closed-door session during a March 21 school board

See SCHOOL on Page 4

The Valdosta Daily Times

Wednesday, April 12, 2000 — 3A

Community

Continued from Page 1A

School

meeting where Davis and his lawyer met with Hagler and the board away from public ears and eyes.

Hagler has continued to refuse comment as to his or the board's motives, citing the situation's status as a "personnel matter" in which the details are not allowed to be revealed to the public.

According to Georgia Sunshine laws, disciplinary actions are legally closed, but the presentation of evidence in these matters must be open, as well as the action taken on that evidence.

But Hagler said he would not characterize his decision as a

disciplinary action, and he could not recall any transfers that were disciplinary in nature during his career.

"It's a transfer," Hagler said, adding it is not unheard of to move a principal to the resource center. "There is a former principal in there now," he said, speaking of Bernard Perry, who will be retiring at the end of the year. Hagler said it is still undecided where Marie Evans is to be placed, only that the two will stay in their current positions until June or July.

To contact reporter Peter Failor, please call 244-3400, ext. 247.

▶ YOUR OPINIONS

We must support elementary P.E., art

I am writing this letter in support of the elementary physical education, art and music programs in the Lowndes County Schools.

It has been proposed by Dr. Tom Hagler, superintendent, that 14 of the 24 elementary physical education, music and art positions be dropped for the upcoming school year. The bulk of these positions are physical education. Also, middle schools in the Lowndes County may experience cuts of up to one-half of their physical education positions.

At the April 11 meeting of the Lowndes County Board of Education, Glenn Everett, the father of a Lake Park Elementary School student, addressed Dr. Hagler, the board and a standing room audience of concerned citizens, educators and parents. Everett cited several reasons why the board needs to maintain the programs. Upon completing his address, Everett received a thunderous ovation.

I felt it was necessary to point out this important fact since your front page story in the April 12 edition of The Valdosta Daily Times failed to mention that Everett had addressed the board, nor was there any mention of the issue that several elementary physical education, music and art positions may be cut.

Losing these positions could negatively affect at least 14 teaching professionals and hundreds of elementary school students. If you are going to cover and report on school issues, then report all the issues that affect the citizens and not select just the sensational and/or controversial! The thought of losing these positions is a highly sensational and controversial issue.

My concern is that elementary students will be deprived of three important subjects that provide for a well-rounded education. With only 10 positions left to cover seven elementary schools, there is a serious question raised about the quality and amount of instruction time and contact time with a certified teacher in those areas.

Why is this happening? Supposedly because of the infamous House Bill 1187. But I feel there are other issues involved. Valdosta City Schools has no plans to make cuts or adjustments to their physical education, music, and art programs. In checking with other school systems around our region and in South Georgia, the answer was the same: no changes, no cuts. Money should not be an issue since Lowndes County schools showed a significant

surplus as noted in the February financial report.

If the motto for Lowndes County Schools is "Children First," then I hope the superintendent and board will step up to the plate and do the right thing and truly make our children first by funding all of these positions at the current level, or even increase funding for additional positions in these important areas.

It is the responsibility of our schools to educate the whole child — mentally, physically, socially and emotionally. I hope parents, teachers, students and concerned citizens will contact their BOE representative and the superintendent to urge them to keep these positions.

Dr. Stan Andrews
Valdosta

Editor's Note: Dr. Andrews apparently missed our report on this subject in the April 13 edition of The Valdosta Daily Times. Gov. Barnes, through his education reform initiative, has proposed cutting funding for many such positions statewide. The latest report from Supt. Hagler and the Lowndes BOE is that they haven't decided what will be done locally about these positions.



Associated Press

Several hundred youth and local leaders march Sunday along Auburn Avenue to the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial in Atlanta, to draw awareness to youth violence. The march concluded a weekend national summit called Stop the Terror sponsored by the Center for Democratic Renewal. Martin Luther King III, son of former civil right leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., spoke to the group following the march.

Youth march to protest hate crimes

ATLANTA (AP) — Martin Luther King III, son of the slain civil rights leader, told about 750 youths gathered at his father's crypt Sunday that it's time to protect people who are being targeted because of their race, religion or sexual orientation.

"Every time that someone's life is lost through hate crimes and violence, we have got to stand up," King said.

King reminded the crowd that young people have been crucial to every civil rights campaign of the last 50 years — from the freedom rides and voting-rights marches of the 1960s to the fall of the Berlin Wall and demonstrations on China's Tiananmen Square in the 1990s.

Hundreds came from across the country and Canada to march the half-mile from downtown Atlanta to the King memorial. Many spent the day at

"Stop the Terror," an all-day summit dedicated to preventing hate crimes, which was sponsored by the Atlanta-based Center for Democratic Renewal.

The march also served as a memorial service for 15 young people in particular who organizers said had been victims of hate crimes.

Among those memorialized were Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old gay University of Wyoming student who died in October 1998 after being beaten into a coma and tied to a fence, and Amadou Diallo, a 22-year-old African immigrant who was shot to death by four New York City police officers in February 1999.

The summit and march were part of a four-day event sponsored by the National Crime Prevention Council and Youth Crime Watch of America.



Lowndes County Historical Society: Valdosta Project
Change Collection, 1997-2003
MS/181

1999-2000

Valdosta Project Change

April 2000

For this and additional works see: <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/6499>

UUID: 0D6A6B8E-2D80-4B8C-4D30-2DAEC38A993B

Recommended Citation:

Valdosta Project Change. "Valdosta Project Change Scrapbook, YEARS XXXX-XXXX,"
Month XXXX. Lowndes County Historical Society, repository. Digital Copy--Valdosta
State University Archives and Special Collections, *Valdosta Project Change Collection*,
199X-20XX. Retrieved from <INSERT VTEXT URL HERE>

This item is free and open source. It is part of the *Valdosta Project Change Collection* at the [Lowndes County Historical Society](#) and was digitized by the Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. If you have any questions or concerns contact archives@valdosta.edu

Included Articles:

4/3- Marchers urge removal of confederate flag- Associated Press

4/4- Ten reasons for having art in county schools- Joann McDaniel-Haldeman, Clyattville

4/7- Crowds seek confederate flag removal: Opponents, supporters rally at Statehouse- Associated Press

4/10- The Leadership Style of Fred Davis- no author

4/10- Report: Black women are subjected to more intrusive searches: Officials say new not reflected in report- Associated Press

4/11- Racial imbalance- no author

4/11- Great record- no author

4/11- Move on- no author

4/11- Bad water- no author

4/11- No comparison- no author

4/11- Board to hear public on Davis, Evans moves- Peter Failor

4/12- Waiting for answers: Citizen's group decries lack of BOE accountability- Peter Failor

4/19- We must support elementary P.E., art- Dr. Stan Andrews, Valdosta

April 2000- Youth march to protest hate crimes- Associated Press

Marchers urge removal of Confederate flag

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — More than 600 people set out Sunday on a five-day, 120-mile protest march to Columbia to urge state lawmakers to move the Confederate Flag from the Statehouse dome.

"Take it down!" chanted some marchers.

"The people of South Carolina — white and African-American — want the flag to come down," said Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr., who had the idea for the march.

"The purpose is to say the people of South Carolina are in step, and we want the Legislature to get in step with the people of South Carolina," said the mayor, who carried the blue state flag with its white palmetto tree and crescent as he led marchers into the street.

The marchers will walk only during daylight hours and plan to arrive in Columbia for a rally on Thursday, when pro-flag supporters have also scheduled a Statehouse rally.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has called for a tourism

"The people of South Carolina ... want the flag to come down."

Joseph P. Riley Jr.
mayor of Charleston

boycott of the state, saying the Confederate flag above the Statehouse in Columbia is a racist emblem.

Flag defenders say it is a symbol of Southern heritage and honors Confederate war dead.

Only state lawmakers can move the flag from the dome, and several plans are under consideration.

Organizers of the "Get In Step" walk say it should be moved from the dome to a place of honor.

Vans and shuttle buses will take people to the march so they can join as long as they can. It will start each day where it ended the previous day.

Novelist Pat Conroy, a South Carolinian, was on hand for the start of the march. But he said

he would pick up with the marchers again on Thursday in Columbia.

"They would find me dead on the highway if I tried to make the entire march," he said.

Conroy said South Carolina lawmakers do not like being told what to do, but predicted the march will help resolve the issue.

"It's going to be such hideous publicity, including this right here, that it will help," he said.

One of those who marched Sunday was former Gov. John West, a state lawmaker when the flag was raised by the all-white 1962 General Assembly.

West, who served as governor from 1971 to 1975, led an effort to get lawmakers who raised the flag to ask for its removal.

"As I have had to say publicly, somewhat to my embarrassment, in hindsight one of the mistakes I made as governor is not taking it down," he said. "It was not an issue then. Had it been an issue, I would like to think I would have taken it down."



Chris Sullivan, of Columbia, S.C., holds the South Carolina state flag during a prayer before the beginning of a march protesting the flying of the Confederate Flag over the Statehouse Sunday in Charleston, S.C. Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, second from left, organized the march that began in Charleston and ends at the Statehouse in Columbia.

Associated Press

► YOUR OPINIONS

Ten reasons for having art in county schools:

In 1998 the Lowndes County Board of Education became one of the leading school districts in South Georgia by voting to place a full-time art teacher in every school — elementary, middle and high school. They came to this decision based upon the knowledge that art is an integral part of a student's academic development.

Here are 10 reasons that support their position of having art teachers available daily for each student:

1) Students with strong arts backgrounds score significantly higher on the SAT than the national average, suggests a study cited by Laura Loyacono in writing for the National Conference of State Legislatures in 1992. In an era when scores on standardized tests dictate school policy, this is a compelling reason to have a solid background in arts education. Fortunately, Lowndes County Schools currently is a leader in this area, even rivaling the better-funded school districts near Atlanta.

2) More arts equals better reading. A pilot project of the Guggenheim Elementary School in Chicago, Ill., demonstrated that after only one year using an arts-based curriculum, students raised their reading scores from 37 percent of the national norm to 59 percent.

3) Study in the arts provides for intuitive learning and creative problem solving. Barbara Nielson, Superintendent of Education in South Carolina said, "Part of our strength as a nation has been our creativity and innovation, precisely what we're cultivating through arts education."

4) The arts span cultural, so-

cial, religious and political boundaries.

5) Art teachers have the specific training and knowledge needed to evoke the level of artistic creation that builds self-confidence in a child.

6) Children understand through art what it means to be human and how to function in our society and culture. The Georgia Coalition for Arts Education states on their Web site, "Our schools aren't as safe. The arts have been shown to improve a school's climate, meaning schools are safer places to be. Racial tensions are reduced. Students acquire an understanding of cultures of others through arts education and learn to be more tolerant and open."

7) Art provides insights into our cultural heritage, and the cultural heritage of other people.

8) Art provides a reference for the comparison of the major accomplishments of civilizations across time.

9) Students who study art gain a medium of self-expression unreachable by language alone.

10) Students in the Lowndes County School District have received a precious gift from the School Board. Our students are currently receiving all of the benefits listed above — and more — because of the foresight of our administration and community. If the administration of the Lowndes County School District maintains the course they set just two years ago, our children will continue to inherit the benefits of their wisdom.

Joann McDaniel-Haldeman

Clyattville Elementary art teacher and president of the Coastal Plains Area Georgia Art Education Association

Crowds seek Confederate flag removal

Opponents, supporters rally at Statehouse

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — With the Confederate flag fluttering from the dome, hundreds of demonstrators demanding its removal converged on the Statehouse on Thursday after a five-day, 120-mile march from Charleston.

"We must, as South Carolinians, move forward and get this issue resolved, and we must move the flag from the dome," Gov. Jim Hodges told a crowd of 2,000 people.

On the Capitol's opposite side, flag supporters, who see the banner as a symbol of Southern heritage that honors Confederate war dead, sang "Dixie" and demanded that it stay.

Led by Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. and under heavy security, flag opponents — who see the banner as a vestige of hatred and slavery — began their march Sunday with about 600 people. The group fell to just a few during the week, but swelled to more than 400 Thursday morning.

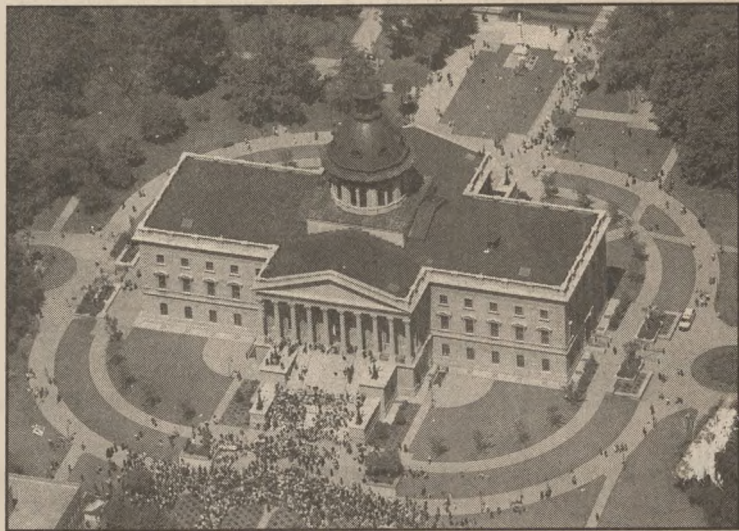
Hundreds more met the marchers at the Statehouse.

Riley told the crowd that an anonymous letter writer threatened that if he marched with blacks through Calhoun County south of Columbia, "I will put you in my gun sights."

That was not about heritage, Riley said: "That is his hate."

Hodges, a first-term Democrat who proposes moving the flag to a monument on Statehouse grounds, said he is tired of hearing legislators argue.

The Senate has now set debate on a bill for Wednesday — the first time this session the Legislature officially will take up the issue.



Associated Press

As Confederate flag supporters, top, converge Thursday on the northern steps of the South Carolina Statehouse, marchers, bottom, completing their 120-mile, five-day protest hike from Charleston, gather on the southern steps in an effort to convince lawmakers to remove the Civil War-era banner from atop the Statehouse dome in Columbia, S.C.

"They want a nice, multi-ethnic society and they know they can't have it."

Lake High

former chairman of the South Carolina League of the South

While he and Riley spoke on the south steps, roughly 300 flag supporters gathered on the north steps with signs that said "Let My People Go" and "God Save the South."

"They want a nice, multi-ethnic society and they know they can't have it," said Lake High, former chairman of the South Carolina League of the South.

Some chanted, "We want to vote" — a reference to the position by state Attorney General Charlie Condon that the matter should be put to a referendum.

Some people carrying Confederate flags tried to break into the anti-flag rally but were turned away by police. At the

pro-flag rally, Edward McClen-don, who is black, got into a shouting match with flag supporters.

"They were fighting to keep slavery!" he shouted. "I don't care if black people had slaves. Slavery is oppression."

Among those joining the march Thursday was former Republican Gov. David Beasley, whom Hodges defeated two years ago. Beasley's late 1996 proposal to lower the flag was rebuffed the following year by fellow Republicans who control the state House. In 1995, they had passed legislation giving the General Assembly sole power to take the flag down.

Community

The Leadership Style of Fred Davis

Did you know that Fred Davis, Principal of Lowndes Middle School, an **extremely** competent and professional educational leader ...

- whose leadership inspired LMS to become a School of Excellence in 1993.

- gained him an appointment to serve on one state Senate Educational Committee and a Governor Educational Reform Commission Governor Zell Miller and Governor Roy Barnes; the **ONLY** educator from Lowndes County appointed by the current Superintendent in recognition of his sound leadership.

- developed many of the talented educators who work in the system in various high, profile capacities, such as Curriculum Coordinators, Assistant to the Superintendent, Counselor at LHS, Elementary School Principal, LHS Principal, the 1999 Georgia Teacher of the Year, and many many more.

- assisted in training and influencing majority of the LHS Viking Football

Team Championship players while they attended LMS, professional football player, country music celebrities, and thousands of other young lives impacted by his guidance and direction.

- maintains a **"children first and foremost"** philosophy, actively involving parents in school decisions via the Parent Advisory Board, and as a Community Partner in Education.

This record alone reflects vital, responsible LEADERSHIP that deserves to be CONTINUED.

Paid For By Lowndes County Citizens For Educational Excellence

P.O. Box 314

Valdosta, GA 31603

Report: Black women subjected to more intrusive searches

Officials say new policies not reflected in report

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Customs officials ordered black American women returning home from overseas to remove their clothes or undergo X-rays much more often than other passengers, even though their searches were less likely to reveal illegal hidden drugs, a report says.

Only a fraction of 1 percent of the 71.5 million passengers were singled out for searches as they entered the United States on international flights in fiscal year 1998. And the vast majority of those 52,455 passengers were subjected to simple pat-downs, according to the report by the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm, obtained by The Associated Press.

The report, requested by Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., is to be released today.

Of those, black women were selected for more intrusive searches — strip searches or X-rays — more than any other group. Whites also had a high likelihood of being strip-searched, and black men were chosen more often than most other passengers to be X-rayed.

Black women were much less likely than the others to be found with hidden illegal drugs, the report said.

"Although searched passengers with certain characteristics were subject to more intrusive searches, they were not always more likely to be found carrying contraband," the GAO said.

As allegations of abusive searches surfaced over the last two years, the Customs Service

has made repeated efforts to change how passengers are checked for drugs. The agency faces numerous lawsuits alleging people were singled out for body searches because of their race or sex, including an effort by almost 100 black women to file a class-action suit in Chicago.

Customs officials said the changes, most enacted after the period studied by the GAO, already are yielding results not reflected in the report. For instance, fewer intrusive searches are being conducted, but more are resulting in drug seizures.

"We don't necessarily disagree with the report," Customs Commissioner Raymond Kelly said in an interview. "The intimidation is a bit outdated. I think we've taken the problem head-on."

For instance, X-rays conducted in 1998 found drugs almost twice as often on whites and black men than on black women. And strip searches that year uncovered drugs on Hispanics and black men at much higher rates than on black women.

Also, black women who were U.S. citizens were nine times as likely as white American women to be X-rayed but less than half as likely to be concealing illegal drugs.

Such searches are intended to catch smugglers who swallow drug packets or hide cocaine or heroin inside clothing or in body cavities.

The searches usually begin with a pat-down and, with reasonable suspicion, can proceed to a strip search, an X-ray, monitored bowel movement or a body cavity search.

Customs officials generally can detain passengers for long periods of time without court approval.

The Valdosta Daily Times

4A — Tuesday, April 11, 2000

RANT & RAVE

Here's your chance to let South Georgia and North Florida know how you feel, with just a single phone call. RANT: to let loose with the steam that's been building up inside. RAVE: to give recognition for things well done. Call 244-3400, ext. 418, and take up to 30 seconds to express yourself.

Racial imbalance

“The Lowndes County School System has only one black male principal remaining. This is terrible.”

Great record

“Dr. Hagler, you have perceived wrong. Mr. Davis has done an excellent job for more than 20 years. Ron Irwin, past assistant, now assistant to you; Ann Rogers, past assistant principal, now principal at Lowndes High; John Bradley, P.E. teacher, now assistant principal at Lowndes High; Barbara Bankston, assistant principal, now principal at Clyattville Elementary; Sharon Flythe, team leader, now curriculum director and has an office; Richard Sutherland, team leader, now assistant at Moulton Branch; Sharon Galloway, team leader, now curriculum director at the county office; Kip Mcleod, P.E. teacher, now assistant principal at Hahira Middle. Do your homework, Dr. Hagler.”

Move on

“It is a sad day in history when The Valdosta Daily Times could only print on the front page in Thursday's edition Rev. Rose and Fred Davis. Both of them need to fade away and let everybody forget about them. They have done enough damage to Lowndes County. It is time they moved on.”

Bad water

“For all citizens in Lowndes County who have healthy, clean-smelling water, give thanks. For those of us in Twin Lakes, Lake Park who are customers of Lowndes County Utility Systems, we have water that smells foul, dirty. We have to bathe and wash dishes in this water. What is going to be done to correct this situation? Our rates have gone up and the water smells like feces.”

No comparison

“How can the People's Tribunal honor Martin Luther King Jr., who was a hero, along with Willie James Williams in their march? There is no comparison between these two men.”

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Board to hear public on Davis, Evans moves

By Peter Failor

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Twenty-one days after the Lowndes County Board of Education held a meeting in which Superintendent Thomas Hagler announced his intention to transfer two popular administrators, the board will hear from the public during tonight's 7 p.m. meeting.

Ron Irwin, assistant to the superintendent, said that as of Monday there were two people scheduled to speak to the board — one on the subject of art and music in the elementary schools, and the other on Fred Davis, the Lowndes Middle School principal who, along with Assistant Principal Marie Evans, was transferred from his post as a result of the March meeting.

"They made the request through the proper channels," said Irwin, not wanting to comment on whether or not the testimony could have any effect on the decision.

Irwin added the board would listen to anyone who followed the Lowndes board's policy on public comments and scheduled ahead in time to speak.

Still, it is something one does not see often.

Hagler's decision to transfer Davis and Evans proved controversial after supporters of the

two administrators were not told why the decision was made.

A petition drive that began on the eve of the March meeting accumulated more than 1,000 names of people backing Davis as principal of LMS.

There were also more than 500 in attendance at the meeting.

Hagler has maintained that he cannot discuss personnel matters, and would not comment on any support or opposition he faced from the board members, three of whom stated the decision was out of their hands.

The only dissenting vote during the board's 6-1 approval of administrative contracts was that of James Council Jr., who has not been available for comment.

Hagler announced his intention to transfer Davis and Evans shortly after that decision.

Days after the controversial transfer, around 60 citizens gathered at the River Street Church of Christ to discuss ways to help Davis and Evans, including telephone campaigns and voting drives to oust the board members.

Jerome Tucker, the group's appointed spokesman at the time, said the people were angered over the arbitrary nature of the decision and the lack of accountability of the board.

"They are elected to vote, not to pass the decision-making process to someone else," said Tucker. "As citizens, we have to make certain the board is accountable for their actions."



Fred Davis

To contact reporter Peter Failor,
please call 244-3400, ext. 247.

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

www.sgaonline.com

50 Cents

Waiting for answers

Citizens' group decries lack of BOE accountability

By Peter Failor
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Jerome Tucker stood in front of the Lowndes County Board of Education Tuesday representing a group of citizens concerned that their school board is not really accountable to them.

The group, formed in the wake of Superintendent Thomas Hagler's decision to transfer longtime Lowndes Middle School administrators Fred Davis and Marie Evans out of their jobs, filled the board room and spilled out into the halls during Tuesday's meeting.

"Can any of you sit there and look into the audience and say you truly represent them?" Tucker asked of the board, referring to statements made by certain board members that the decision to transfer the administrators was out of their hands.

Tucker then asked the board on behalf of the citizens to "intercede" on the grounds that the decision may not be financially sound.

The position of LMS' principal is partially funded by the state, Tucker explained, yet the Teacher Resource Center position where Davis is heading is funded completely at the local



Jerome Tucker, spokesperson for a group of concerned citizens supporting Fred Davis, reads a statement to the Lowndes County Board of Education during Tuesday night's meeting.

level. When Tucker's comments were completed, Hagler and the board moved on to other business without making any comment.

Tucker later said the apparent lack of accountability by the

board was disheartening, adding it was causing a lack of confidence in the community.

"The voters don't have a say, and the public doesn't have confidence," said Tucker, adding the board should develop public

trust and confidence, not diminish it.

The decision was originally made after a closed-door session during a March 21 school board

See SCHOOL on Page 4

The Valdosta Daily Times

Wednesday, April 12, 2000 — 3A

Community

Continued from Page 1A

School

meeting where Davis and his lawyer met with Hagler and the board away from public ears and eyes.

Hagler has continued to refuse comment as to his or the board's motives, citing the situation's status as a "personnel matter" in which the details are not allowed to be revealed to the public.

According to Georgia Sunshine laws, disciplinary actions are legally closed, but the presentation of evidence in these matters must be open, as well as the action taken on that evidence.

But Hagler said he would not characterize his decision as a

disciplinary action, and he could not recall any transfers that were disciplinary in nature during his career.

"It's a transfer," Hagler said, adding it is not unheard of to move a principal to the resource center. "There is a former principal in there now," he said, speaking of Bernard Perry, who will be retiring at the end of the year. Hagler said it is still undecided where Marie Evans is to be placed, only that the two will stay in their current positions until June or July.

To contact reporter Peter Failor, please call 244-3400, ext. 247.

▶ YOUR OPINIONS

We must support elementary P.E., art

I am writing this letter in support of the elementary physical education, art and music programs in the Lowndes County Schools.

It has been proposed by Dr. Tom Hagler, superintendent, that 14 of the 24 elementary physical education, music and art positions be dropped for the upcoming school year. The bulk of these positions are physical education. Also, middle schools in the Lowndes County may experience cuts of up to one-half of their physical education positions.

At the April 11 meeting of the Lowndes County Board of Education, Glenn Everett, the father of a Lake Park Elementary School student, addressed Dr. Hagler, the board and a standing room audience of concerned citizens, educators and parents. Everett cited several reasons why the board needs to maintain the programs. Upon completing his address, Everett received a thunderous ovation.

I felt it was necessary to point out this important fact since your front page story in the April 12 edition of The Valdosta Daily Times failed to mention that Everett had addressed the board, nor was there any mention of the issue that several elementary physical education, music and art positions may be cut.

Losing these positions could negatively affect at least 14 teaching professionals and hundreds of elementary school students. If you are going to cover and report on school issues, then report all the issues that affect the citizens and not select just the sensational and/or controversial! The thought of losing these positions is a highly sensational and controversial issue.

My concern is that elementary students will be deprived of three important subjects that provide for a well-rounded education. With only 10 positions left to cover seven elementary schools, there is a serious question raised about the quality and amount of instruction time and contact time with a certified teacher in those areas.

Why is this happening? Supposedly because of the infamous House Bill 1187. But I feel there are other issues involved. Valdosta City Schools has no plans to make cuts or adjustments to their physical education, music, and art programs. In checking with other school systems around our region and in South Georgia, the answer was the same: no changes, no cuts. Money should not be an issue since Lowndes County schools showed a significant

surplus as noted in the February financial report.

If the motto for Lowndes County Schools is "Children First," then I hope the superintendent and board will step up to the plate and do the right thing and truly make our children first by funding all of these positions at the current level, or even increase funding for additional positions in these important areas.

It is the responsibility of our schools to educate the whole child — mentally, physically, socially and emotionally. I hope parents, teachers, students and concerned citizens will contact their BOE representative and the superintendent to urge them to keep these positions.

Dr. Stan Andrews
Valdosta

Editor's Note: Dr. Andrews apparently missed our report on this subject in the April 13 edition of The Valdosta Daily Times. Gov. Barnes, through his education reform initiative, has proposed cutting funding for many such positions statewide. The latest report from Supt. Hagler and the Lowndes BOE is that they haven't decided what will be done locally about these positions.



Associated Press

Several hundred youth and local leaders march Sunday along Auburn Avenue to the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial in Atlanta, to draw awareness to youth violence. The march concluded a weekend national summit called Stop the Terror sponsored by the Center for Democratic Renewal. Martin Luther King III, son of former civil right leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., spoke to the group following the march.

Youth march to protest hate crimes

ATLANTA (AP)— Martin Luther King III, son of the slain civil rights leader, told about 750 youths gathered at his father's crypt Sunday that it's time to protect people who are being targeted because of their race, religion or sexual orientation.

"Every time that someone's life is lost through hate crimes and violence, we have got to stand up," King said.

King reminded the crowd that young people have been crucial to every civil rights campaign of the last 50 years — from the freedom rides and voting-rights marches of the 1960s to the fall of the Berlin Wall and demonstrations on China's Tiananmen Square in the 1990s.

Hundreds came from across the country and Canada to march the half-mile from downtown Atlanta to the King memorial. Many spent the day at

"Stop the Terror," an all-day summit dedicated to preventing hate crimes, which was sponsored by the Atlanta-based Center for Democratic Renewal.

The march also served as a memorial service for 15 young people in particular who organizers said had been victims of hate crimes.

Among those memorialized were Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old gay University of Wyoming student who died in October 1998 after being beaten into a coma and tied to a fence, and Amadou Diallo, a 22-year-old African immigrant who was shot to death by four New York City police officers in February 1999.

The summit and march were part of a four-day event sponsored by the National Crime Prevention Council and Youth Crime Watch of America.