

Afghanistan

Massive Taliban deflections reported

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Taliban have largely abandoned Kandahar.

The U.S. official said the Taliban were in disarray in several areas in the south. Field

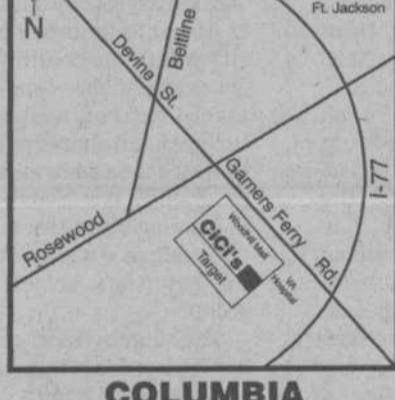
commanders were fleeing and some were switching sides, the official said. There were signs the Taliban were abandoning cities, possibly to fight a guerrilla war from the mountains.

After a series of lightning victories by the alliance across northern Afghanistan since Friday, the United States had urged the alliance not to enter Kabul until a multiethnic gov-

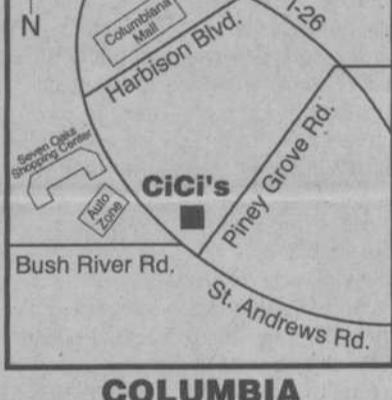
ernment could be formed. But Monday night, with alliance forces on the city's edge, Taliban columns began pulling out and retreating south. By sunrise, they were gone.

Abdullah said the alliance had no choice but to send in a force to maintain security because "irresponsible" elements in the city were disturbing the peace.

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Commission to tackle 'Black Belt' problems

High-minority counties face unemployment, undereducation

BY MIKE STUTZ

THE GAMECOCK

Representatives from social service groups and universities are proposing the formation of a regional commission to help empower minority citizens in the southern 'Black Belt' states.

The Black Belt is comprised of the 171 counties in the southeast with at least a 40 percent black population and is characterized by education, employment and disease problems. The counties run through Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas.

The group, brought together by University of Georgia Vice President Arthur Dunning, has had several meetings, including one in early October at Tuskegee University in Alabama and another in Atlanta two weeks ago.

The meeting in Atlanta consisted of about 30 representatives from around the southern region. Representing South Carolina were William Robinson of the Medical University of South Carolina and Randall Jackson of the S.C. Coalition of Black Church Leaders.

The idea for a regional commission to address poverty, poor health and educational conditions is not new. It can be seen in the Appalachian Regional Commission, which was created in the 1960s to address the very poor,

very rural and very mountainous area that stretches from southern New York to northern Mississippi.

Robinson, director of a diabetes program at the Medical University of South Carolina, said that he wants this new regional organization to be different than the Appalachian Commission.

Robinson said the group is trying to stress that two things are different in the Black Belt region — the leadership of the group is reflective of the population and it's a grassroots driven project.

"These organizations with proven track records are going to be the ones that are shaping it," Robinson said. "Also, the recipients of the services will be best to tell you about what needs to be done."

Robinson was chosen to represent the state because of his experience in the creation of grassroots organizations such as the S.C. African Americans HIV/AIDS council, S.C. African American Tobacco Control Network and Diabetes Today Advisory Committee.

Money has already started rolling in. First, Sen. Zell Miller, D-Ga., gave \$250,000 for the groups use and that was matched by an additional \$250,000 from an anonymous Georgia businessman.

Though grateful for the money, Robinson was worried about its being used effectively. His main concerns are that the use of the money will be too restrictive or limited on to financing studies of the region. "We study stuff to death," Robinson said. "We don't need to spend half a million dollars studying these problems. We already know it, that's what brought us all together."

"There's an old African saying, 'each one teach one.' Take what you learned and pass it to the next person so it empowers the whole community."

WILLIAM ROBINSON
REPRESENTATIVE FROM
MUSC

The initiative will not look like the civil rights movement, Robinson said. "This is a different kind of animal. There are a lot of economic development groups from some of the states, there are cooperatives, there are other universities at the table. It really is an empowerment effort versus a civil rights effort."

There will be a larger stakeholders meeting in late January where the group plans to include Clemson, some of the traditionally black colleges in South Carolina, the Department of Health and Environmental Control and local grassroots organizations. "What each of us has to do is come back and develop these teams within our states to develop a plan."

Robinson is hopeful of the personal level of this initiative. "There's an old African saying, 'each one teach one,'" Robinson said. "Take what you learned and pass it to the next person so it empowers the whole community."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockcitydesk@hotmail.com.

Treadwell
Higher education will be discussed

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Treadwell's main duties at the Kellogg Foundation include program design, oversight and administration of strategic initiatives to improve access to health coverage and services. She also manages Community Voices, an investment community access to health services.

The Bicentennial Committee asked Treadwell to speak not because of her historical involvement with the progress of education, but

because of her knowledge of issues related to higher education and her interest in the commemoration of USC's Bicentennial, said Sally McKay, USC Bicentennial executive director.

"Treadwell is a member of our commission, and she's been very involved since the beginning," McKay said.

After the opening ceremonies and convocation, two panels will discuss challenges of the future in higher education. The President's Panel and the Business and Public Affairs Panel will take place in Harper College's Euphradian Hall.

University Day was originally scheduled for Sept. 11, but was postponed because of the terrorist attacks. The Bicentennial Committee

had chosen Sept. 11 because of its historical significance. On that day in 1963, Henrie Monteith and two other African-American students enrolled at USC.

"Sept. 11, 1963, opened the future for the University of South Carolina," Compton said.

"On Nov. 15, during our bicentennial year, leaders from education, government, business and our communities will meet to reflect on this significant anniversary and to explore the future of higher education in South Carolina," Compton said.

University Day is open to students and the public.

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University Day events schedule

1 P.M. HORSESHOE CONVOCATION

Remarks

- ♦ John M. Palms, president, USC

- ♦ The Honorable Matthew J. Perry, U.S. District Court of South Carolina

Address

- ♦ Henrie Monteith Treadwell, program director, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

2 P.M. PRESIDENT'S PANEL, EUPHRADIAN HALL IN HARPER COLLEGE

Remarks

- ♦ Rayburn Barton, executive director, S.C. Commission on Higher Education

Panel

- ♦ Moderated by James Hudgins, executive director, S.C. State Board of Technical and Comprehensive Education

3 P.M. BUSINESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PANEL, EUPHRADIAN HALL IN HARPER COLLEGE

Remarks

- ♦ Joel A. Smith III, dean, Moore School of Business

Panel

- ♦ Moderated by Terry Peterson, senior fellow for Education Policies and Partnerships, USC and College of Charleston