

**Words Of Wisdom**  
We must take life as we find it and improve it as we can.  
—Lloyd Garrison  
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When you're through changing — you're through.  
—Charles R. Wiers

# The Carolina Times

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**Our Community**  
This week we conclude our in-depth look at the state of Durham's black community with an analysis of our findings. Problems are many, but the situation is by no means hopeless. If this treatise prompts actions to improve our condition, then our efforts to put the problems in perspective will bear positive fruit.

## Third Issue In A Series of Three The State Of The Black Community A Change In Attitude Needed For Success In Black Community

### Analysis

By Milton Jordan  
Executive Editor

There's nothing wrong with the Durham Black Community that a change in attitude and approach won't cure.

Most of the problems uncovered in *The Carolina Times'* exhaustive, in-depth look at the state of the black community 1982 fall in three basic categories. The categories are human nature, background and environment, and conditioned perspective.

More than two months of research and interviews with more than 100 local blacks revealed quite an array of problems, ranging from a gigantic communications gap between young and older blacks, and philosophical differences between various black organizations, to ever-frequent clashes between the larger black community and the underground segment. Other problems include those that crop up in personal relationships, the breakdown in the black family that mirrors a similar breakdown, society-wide; as well as crime and prison, twin evils that often rob the black community of some of its youngest and brightest.

The first question we all face is can these problems be overcome, and if they can, how?

The answer is actually a very shaky 'maybe', not because the problems have no solutions, but primarily because the solutions require an incredible amount of work, sacrifice and commitment.

But first, let's recite some of the major problems our research uncovered and put them in their proper category, and then let's take a step-by-step look at the price of solution.

### Human Nature

The first category is Human Nature. In this category, we find greed, irresponsibility, selfishness, ego-tripping, prejudice, violence and infidelity. These are problems that have nothing to do with race. They are endemic to human beings. Generally speaking, neither background, environment nor education have much, if any, significant effect on the problems of human nature.

In far too many instances, our research found blacks unable to separate human nature problems from the unique and often mind-boggling experiences of being black in America.

For example, almost all black leaders call for unity among black people, but they seek a type of unity that ignores the natural tendency in human beings to be irresponsible, selfish and greedy.

A good example of how ineffectively Durham's black community deals with these human nature issues is the argument between neighborhood level leaders and so-called black community leaders.

The neighborhood leaders, some of whom live in subsidized housing, say the so-called black community leadership remains insensitive to the day-to-day, nitty gritty problems that plague the black community at the neighborhood level.

On the other hand, the so-called black community leaders contend that the neighborhood groups do not operate with the proper amount of political sophistication.

But in a real way, both sides draw the wrong conclusions about each other, because they're discussing the wrong problems.

Self-interest motivates unity more than anything else. That's human nature. That's the factor often overlooked by local blacks in this discussion on how to prioritize interests and concerns in the black community.

We can't change human nature. In other words, a selfish person (and we all are) cannot stop other

people from being selfish. A greedy person (and we all are) cannot stop others from being greedy.

Thus, to create action in the black community, self-interest must be pampered and preened. Proposals, ideas and projects must be couched in terms and objectives that the individual can translate into self-consumable benefits.

For example, if residents of subsidized housing wish to make any significant impact on the problems they're facing, they must solicit allies from a perspective of the allies' self-interest, not the interest of the tenants only.

### Background and Environment

The second category is background and environment. To a great extent, the problems that fall naturally in this category also have little to do with race.

Some of the clearest examples of the ravaging effects of background and environment are found in Durham's underground black community, where many blacks, victimized by lousy backgrounds and counterproductive environments, languish with a completely negative outlook on life.

Many of the interpersonal problems in the black community also often grow from the individual's background and environment.

For example, it is extremely difficult for black men who did not grow up under the careful guidance of a strong, loving father to become strong, loving fathers. It is difficult for a black man who has seen very few examples of good husbands to be a good husband. And it is even more difficult for blacks whose environment taught them negative self-images to later change to positive views of themselves.

### Conditioned Perspective

And that brings us to the third category: Conditioned Perspective. Here race is the major issue.

Products of a racist society, with racism defined as the systematic denial of basic human rights and privileges, far too many blacks have internalized the belief that nothing good can happen for blacks in this community unless it comes through the benevolence of whites in this community.

While that is just so much poppycock, nevertheless, the perception — the conditioned perspective, if you will — short-circuits many of the black community's progressive dreams.

Consider, for example, success in business. Why can't we develop more mainstream, successful, black-owned businesses in this community? Primarily because we don't believe we can, a belief produced by more than two centuries of racism which told us we couldn't. And because we don't believe we can, we develop logical sounding justifications for why we don't set out with that intent. And when we don't develop successful businesses, we offer that as proof of the original premise that we couldn't.

But somehow, all of this has to change. Change, however, begins with individuals.

One of the basic mistakes made by blacks in Durham and elsewhere in this country is the belief that you can take a group of blacks saddled with problems of human nature, background and environment, as well as conditioned perspectives, and form an organization that will accomplish progressive goals.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Progressive action begins with the individual.

Contrary to popular opinion, success — which is really the bottom line goal in any discussion on the state of the black community — is determined by a set of irrevocable principles that work equally well for anyone who uses them correctly.

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## Four Left In Search For Chancellor

By Donald Alderman

Her chance of being the first woman to head North Carolina Central University was one in five, but a source close to the situation told *The Carolina Times* this week that Dr. Gloria Randle Scott withdrew her name, leaving four black males in the race to become Central's fifth chief administrator.

Dr. Scott, 44, was the first black woman to head Girl Scouts USA. She couldn't be reached for comment.

The source also identified the remaining four candidates under consideration to succeed Dr. Albert N. Whiting when he retires June 30, 1983 after 16 years as chief administrator of the historically black institution.

A search committee appointed by Central's Board of Trustees, had earlier narrowed the list to five out of about 150 who applied or were nominated for the position.

Hilliary Holloway, chairman of both the search committee and board of trustees, in an earlier interview said two games will be submitted to the UNC Board of Trustees in Chapel Hill where the final decision will be made.

He also said a candidate will be in Durham October 15 to meet the faculty, students and community citizens, and each candidate will come on successive weekends thereafter.

Brief descriptions indicate that all of the candidates are graduates of historically black schools, have extensive administrative and teaching experience at black and white universities, and range in age from 38 to 51.

Efforts to reach the candidates were unsuccessful, but brief information on the candidates was gathered from the source and *Who's Who Among Black Americans*.

Wright L. Lassiter, Jr., 48, currently president of Schenectady County Community College in Schenectady, N.Y. The community college is a part of the statewide university system and has about 3,000 full- and part-time students.

Lassiter worked as an accountant at Hampton Institute and Tuskegee Institute in the late 50's. In 1962, he was a research associate at Indiana University and in the late 70's was Morgan State's (Baltimore, Md.) vice president for business and finance.

He received his bachelor's degree from Alcorn State University in 1955, his master's in business administration from Indiana University in 1962, and his doctorate in education from Auburn University in 1975.

Lassiter is married to the former Mrs. Bessie Ryan. They have two children, Michele and Wright Lassiter, III.

Carl Harris Marbury, 47, dean of faculty and divisional vice president of the Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. A school spokesman said he is currently on a one-year sabbatical leave.

Marbury served as an



Married 64 Years

Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Watson of 411 West Cecil Street, Durham, have lived their marriage vows for 64 years. Married October 6, 1918, they say their life style has been that of trying to live by Christian principles. The Watsons are members of Fisher Memorial United Holy Church where he serves as a deacon and she serves as a member of the Senior Choir.

## Warren Massenburg Named Times Advertising Director

C. Warren Massenburg, a well-known young Durham resident and businessman, has been named to the post of Advertising Director of *The Carolina Times*. He officially assumed responsibility for advertising sales and promotions on Monday, October 4.

"The position had really been vacant since the untimely death of our veteran advertising manager, Mr. J. Elwood Carter on March 1 of this year, and most accounts had been serviced by Kenneth Edmonds, General Manager and sales representative of the newspaper, on an interim basis," explained Mrs. Vivian A. Edmonds, editor and publisher. "We are simply delighted to have Mr. Massenburg join our firm as we embark on what we believe to be a most exciting stage in the growth and direction of this newspaper. He brings to the position experience, expertise, en-



MASSENBURG

thusiasm and new ideas. We anticipate a long and fruitful association."

Massenburg was most recently Director of Operations for WSRC Radio in Durham, a post he had held since 1978. He has served as director of public relations at Shaw University, Knoxville College and Durham College. He has also worked for WHNC and WLE radio stations in news and public affairs.

His experiences also include free lance writing and photography with various newspapers including *The Carolinian*, *The Carolina Times*, *The News and Observer*, *Pittsburgh Courier*, *Knoxville News Sentinel* and *The New York Times*.

Massenburg has provided public relations on a consultant basis for many national persons including Alex Haley, Muhammad Ali, Mrs. Rosa Parks, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and others.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors, Massenburg is listed in *Who's Who Among Black Americans* and *Outstanding Young Men of America*. He has received awards from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, City of Durham, Duke University and others.

Massenburg and his wife, Mrs. Kathy M. Massenburg, are the parents of two daughters.

## Robbed...Blemished...Embarrassed ...Facing Jail Terms

# A Sad Situation — Everybody Lost

By Joseph E. Green

The young Winston boy had come into McLaughlin's Medical Arts Pharmacy many times with his mother to purchase medicine that he needed for his sickle cell disease.

One day, not so long ago, he and his mother walked into the drug store on Fayetteville Street and asked William McLaughlin, the owner, to fill his prescription.

McLaughlin told them that he could not fill it. Some burglars, under the cover of darkness, had broken into the store the week before, taking nearly \$4,000 in merchandise. Among the things they took was the sickle cell drug.

So, that day, young Winston and his mother had to go to another pharmacy to have the prescription filled.

The next time that McLaughlin saw young Winston was in Durham County District Court where the youngster and two other young men are being tried for committing the burglary.

Now young Winston, age 16, has turned state's witness and has agreed to testify against his two older co-culprits. According to him, he was just the lookout for the others who entered the store.

"Here is a boy who lived in the neighborhood," McLaughlin said, as he talked about the burglary in the living room of his home. "I filled out his prescription and he breaks into my place. I just don't understand it."

Young Winston may never have been caught. During the burglary, two of his friends rushed through the store, taking drugs, money, cigarettes and beer. One "unfortunate" burglar dropped a small

bag near the register and did not bother to pick it up or did not know that he had dropped it.

"When the police came to investigate the burglary, I showed them a bag that was laying on the floor near the cash register," McLaughlin said. "Written on it was the name 'Winston'."

Suspicious, the police went to the home of some young boys and told them that they had found their bag in a place that had been robbed. Young Winston, who was questioned by police, denied that he had anything to do with the incident. When told by the police that they had taken finger prints and that burglary was a serious crime, he cracked, telling the police everything that they wanted to know.

Once young Winston's mother learned of her son's involvement, she apologized to McLaughlin for her son's behavior. Shortly thereafter, she and her son moved out of the neighborhood where the pharmacy is located.

"He never asked me for a job," said McLaughlin, who employs numerous school age young people at his business. "If he had ever asked me for one, I might have hired him."

"Now look at the situation that we have. His life is blemished, his mother is embarrassed and his friends face possible jail terms. It makes you sick to think about it," McLaughlin said.

"It really is a shame," said Mrs. Mozella McLaughlin, William McLaughlin's mother. "I don't think that the police would ever have caught them if someone had not dropped that bag."

## Campus Hill Residents Say Their Fight Isn't Over

By Isaiah Singletary  
Residents of the Campus Hill community say they lost the battle to keep a store from being built on the fringes of their community, but the fight isn't over yet. They decided at the September meeting of the community council to launch a selective buying campaign against the Buy Quick Food Mart located at the intersection of Alston Avenue and N.C. 55.

"We decided in a unanimous vote," said Thomas Davis, president of the Campus Hill Community Council, "to launch a selective buying campaign against the store. We didn't want the area to become commercialized in the first place, but the city

council decided to rezone the area to make this possible. So now, we want Mr. Blackwood to feel the brunt of what the city council did."

The idea to construct the store first came up about two years ago, and was opposed from the beginning, according to residents of the area. At two subsequent hearings held at City Hall, residents of the Campus Hill and Cecil Street communities and members of the NCCU faculty packed the council chambers to ask the council to deny the rezoning request. The store, they said, would have a negative impact upon their community.

But when the vote was called, it was evident that the majority of the coun-

cil did not buy their arguments. And in a 7-6 vote, the entrepreneur, John Blackwood, was given the O.K. to build his store.

So the store was built and was opened for business at the end of August.

The community, however, continued its protests. Residents even hinted, about a month ago, that they might resort to a boycott.

The store owner who, along with other businessmen, operates several other convenience stores around the city, said he was not worried about the prospect of a community boycott of his business.

"They can do what they want to do," Blackwood said of the

suggested economic sanctions, "but as far as I'm concerned, there's just a few hotheads who want to boycott the store. The people in the area said they wanted a store. And this store has done more business in the first few days than any store we've ever opened."

But the residents say that, as an "absentee landlord", Blackwood's interest is to exploit the people of the area by bringing them higher priced merchandise. He, like other "profliteers" they say, care more about financial gain than about the welfare of the people in the community. And if they have anything to do with it, he will not be able to drain the

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