

# The Carolina Times

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## Business Leadership Confab to Convene Here April 4-5

A Business Leadership Conference is scheduled for Durham April 4-5. It is planned as the first of an annual event recognizing America's best and brightest professionals and entrepreneurs. Sponsored by TQ Business Complex and Between the Lines Communications, its goals are to strengthen the black community by strengthening black businesses, provide an environment for discussion, debate, and analyses of economic and academic prosperity, create networking opportunities in various industries, promote and celebrate the achievements of America's best business leaders.

featuring top African American professionals and executives. Corporations and industry leaders will showcase their products and services at the Trade Fair Exhibition. The vending area will allow registrants an opportunity to sample the products of small businesses from across the nation. Over twenty nationally known business leaders are expected at the conference, including Attorney Willie Gary, owner of a multi-million dollar law firm, Stuart, Florida; Byron Lewis, CEO of UniWorld Group, Inc., New York, an advertising agency with billings in excess of \$100 million in 1995; former Congressman Parren J. Mitchell of Washington, D.C., founder of the 8(a) set-aside; Benjamin Ruffin, RJR Nabisco,



BYRON LEWIS  
CEO, Uniworld Group, Inc.

Winston-Salem; Joshua Smith, the Maxima Corporation, Lanham, Md.; and F.V. "Pete" Allison, Mutual Community Savings Bank, Durham.

The speakers and presenters at the conference manage or have generated combined annual revenues of approximately \$1 billion. "We must do something to address the massive displacement of the black professional," said conference convener Ronnie Sturdivant, owner of the TQ Business Complex in downtown Durham. "Although the shifting sands of the economy have us off-balance, these times provide us with a great opportunity to support entrepreneurship. We must seize the time."

For more information, call (919) 956-2105.

### Demining Stepped Up In Mozambique

MAPUTO, Mozambique (PANA) — At least 40 people die and dozens lose limbs each month in Mozambique from mine explosions despite

the end of the civil war, the country's National Demining Commission says.

This figure could be higher. Commission Executive Director Osorio Mateus Severiano told the Mozambique News Agency AIM

that his bureau was unable to reach

the entire country to provide a more accurate estimate.

Already, he said, 10,000 mines had been removed and another 11,000 different explosive devices had been deactivated.

But this still leaves the two million land mines planted during

## KMart Boycott Spreads Through State; Pay Discrimination Charged

GREENSBORO — African American workers and ministers have joined forces in Greensboro to fight discrimination by Kmart Corporation, one of America's largest retailers. The campaign is rapidly garnering support from the national civil rights community and a consumer boycott begun in Greensboro's African American community is reported spreading throughout the state and around the country.

Announced last November, the boycott initiated by Kmart workers and local ministers has rapidly become a focal point of protest in the city's African American community. Since then, a 2,000 person demonstration has occurred at a Greensboro Super Kmart Center and over 130 workers, ministers and community leaders have been arrested during protest activities.

The boycott was started in the wake of charges by local employees that Kmart's pay practices at its Greensboro distribution center are racially discriminatory. The Greensboro facility has the greatest percentage of African American workers of any Kmart hardline distribution center and it is the only facility which has a majority non-white workforce. The pay in Greensboro is reported on average \$4.60 per hour lower than what employees are paid for doing the same work at other

Kmart hardline facilities throughout the United States.

"All we're asking for is to be treated the same as other Kmart employees who do the same jobs we do," said Kmart worker Deborah Compton Holt. "We can't let a company like Kmart, that makes millions of dollars from our community, turn back the clock on discrimination."

In February, Ms. Holt and four other employees filed suit against Kmart on race discrimination charges. The Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE!) has filed charges against Kmart on their behalf with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Detroit.

UNITE! has represented approximately 550 workers in Greensboro since they voted overwhelmingly in favor of unionization in September, 1993. UNITE! and Kmart have yet to reach a collective bargaining agreement. National Labor Relations Board has issued a bad faith bargaining complaint against the company. In May, 1994, the Kmart workers halted play by protesting on national television at the Greater Greensboro Open, a golf tournament sponsored by Kmart and 64 protesters were arrested.

## Register to Vote

decades of war -- against Portuguese colonialists and South African backed Mozambican rebels -- still active in Mozambique, according to the United Nations.

## School Board Agenda: Topic Of NAACP Monthly Meeting

The February meeting of the Durham Branch NAACP was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church to honor Dr. Howard M. Fitts, Jr. While a hospital patient, Dr. Fitts spent much of that time registering new NAACP members from his

hospital bed. Branch President Curtis Gatewood appealed for innovative and assertive people to get involved in innovative and assertive programs of the branch.

Attorney Irving Joyner, professor at the NCCU School of Law, spoke

about the recent Board of Education redistricting plans. A suit has been brought by three Democrats — Howard Cannon, Norman Phillips, and Dan Sizemore — to overturn the present plan which gives a 4 to 3 white majority. The claim by the plaintiffs is that black people

could elect too many blacks to the board. They want more than the present 4 to 3 white majority. They claim that whites have been more than fair to blacks.

The Durham County Commission, which consists of 3 to 2 Democrat majority, voted along racial lines 4 to 1 to scrap present plans and go to an at-large plan that could lead to an all-white County Board.

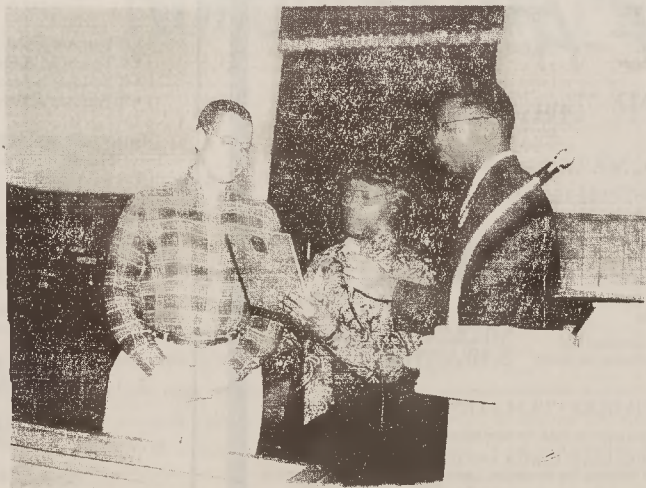
Attorney Joyner said that in cases like this, intervention by groups and private individuals joining the case makes the court look at the case from two sides. Joyner asked the NAACP, as an association, and individuals to join the case as interveners. He said that if we can't win the School Board vote, at least we can lodge vigorous protest.

The case went to court on March 1. It was such a mess, wrong court, and questions about what commissioners can do about state laws and other concerns. A lot of African Americans showed up. The court had to look at facts and put the case off.

A lifetime membership plaque and medal were presented to Durham City Councilman Paul Miller.

The Mother of the Year will be crowned on May 18. Ms. Alice Anderson is chairman of the Mother of the Year committee.

Dr. Fitts and Covenant Presbyterian Church presented over a thousand dollars in membership fees.



DURHAM CITY COUNCILMAN PAUL MILLER receives NAACP Life Membership Plaque from Mrs. Louise Simms and Rev. Gatewood. (Photo by Ray Trent)

### Opp Aide to Newark's Mayor is Indicted on Bribe Charges

A federal grand jury judge has charged Newark (N.J.) Mayor James' closest aide with accepting bribes in exchange for city contracts. He is the highest-ranking official to be indicted in the two-year investigation into corruption in Newark. Federal prosecutors said Mike R. Mattison, Mayor James' chief of staff, conspired with Blarun N.J. insurance broker to steer city contracts to two insurance companies. Prosecutors say the broker, who was also charged in an indictment, paid Mattison more than \$17,000 between 1990 and 1994. Last November, federal agents raided Mattison's residence and found \$150,000 in cash hidden under the floorboards. The house belonged to Mattison's girlfriend, who was cited in the indictment but not charged. Agents also searched Mattison's office at City Hall, which is steps away from the mayor's office.

### Love Between the Covers

A growing list of publishers are putting out books on how African-American men and women respond to each other. New "relationship books" such as: "How to Marry a Black Man," "How to Love a Black Man," and "Getting Good Loving: How Black Men and Women Can Make Love Work" are selling well. "I don't know when there's been such a crop of relationship books targeted to African Americans," says Ronn Elmore, a Los Angeles psychotherapist and author of "How to Love a Black Man." He believes blacks are trying to get beyond political and sociological self-examination. "We are allowing ourselves to look at ourselves on a personal level. I think we're going to see the whole gamut. We're going to see titles that touch every part of our interpersonal relationships." Sources in publishing trace this recent spate of interest to the Million Man March. Elmore says, "One million black men marched on Washington. But untold millions more black men and women are also heeding the call to heal the wounds within our communities and families and lay claim to that inner power that can enrich our personal lives."

### Two Louisiana Nightclubs Agree to Open Doors to Blacks

A Louisiana nightclub that was sued for refusing to admit an African-American prosecutor and a bar that denied service to an African-American teacher each have agreed to end their racial discriminatory practices. In two agreements reached with the Justice Department, the owners of La Poussiere in Beaux Brade and the C'est Ma Vie Lounge in Broussard admitted to unlawfully refusing to serve African Americans. U.S. Justice Department investigators had sent teams of whites and blacks to the clubs and witnessed the admittance of the white testers and the turning away of the African Americans. "White most bars and nightclubs in this area serve people regardless of their skin color, unfortunately some do not," said Michael D. Skinner, U.S. Attorney in Lafayette.

### 100,000 Signatures for Nigeria

The new Coalition For Fairness in African Policy has launched a campaign to secure 100,000 signatures on a petition to President Clinton opposing the use of economic sanctions against Nigeria. Rev. Maurice Dawkins, coalition chairman, announced the formation of a group of black publishers and clergy at the International Center of the

University Club in Washington, D.C. According to Dawkins, the drive is headed by Dorothy Leavell, president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Archbishop George Stallings, organizer of the National Clergy Task Force on Africa. The group seeks to complete the campaign by Black Press Week, which begins the week of March 11.

### Ethiopian Jews Stage Protests in Israel Over Blood Donations

Israel Prime Minister Shimon Peres has promised an investigation after more than 10,000 Ethiopian Jews gathered outside his office in Jerusalem to protest a health policy discarding their blood donations.