

# Business Briefs

## Disaster centers offer help to tornado victims

Four combined state and federal disaster application centers opened Monday, with the local office located at the C.E. Gaines Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

The centers will process government assistance to victims of the May 5 and May 6 tornadoes that damaged homes and businesses in 20 Piedmont counties. President George Bush has declared the effects in North Carolina a major disaster and opened the door for individuals, businesses and local governments to receive aid.

Among the types of help available to North Carolina tornado victims are Small Business Administration loans, temporary housing and direct grants.

Interest rates on SBA loans to individuals and businesses are either 8 percent if credit is available to the applicant, or 4 percent if it is not.

Direct grants also are available to individuals and families who cannot qualify for a loan, but not to business owners. The grants are given to help victims repair flood-damaged homes and personal property, not to replace it. In some cases, grants also may cover other personal needs that are

directly related to the tornado disaster such as medical and funeral expenses. Eligibility for a grant is determined by whether a person can repay a disaster loan. If unable to repay a loan, then application for a grant can be made.

Officials are cautioning that grant monies cannot be spent on arbitrary expenses. Expenses that would not qualify for grant money would include business losses, real or personal property used only for recreation, debts incurred before the disaster and any decorative or luxury purchases.

Paul Hall, federal coordinating officer for the disaster relief effort, said that eligible applicants include victims who are uninsured or who have inadequate coverage of their losses. The maximum grant amount, he said, is \$10,000.

When applicants go to the disaster application center, they should bring insurance policies, agents' names and documents establishing proof of ownership. Applicants for grants must first apply for disaster loans from the SBA.

A loan workshop will open Tuesday, May 30, at the SBA field office. *Please see page A7*

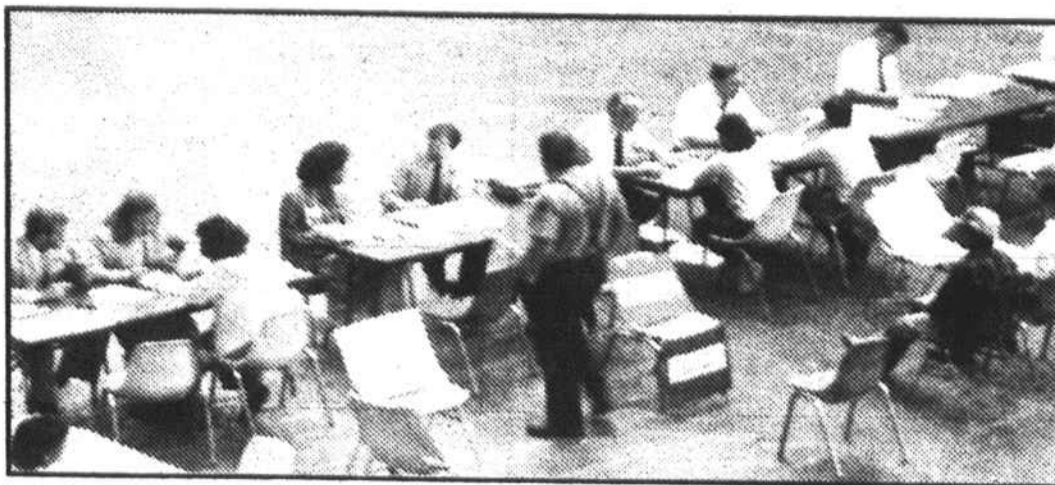


Photo by Sam Greenwood  
The Gaines Center on WSSU's campus, which usually echoes to the cheers of sports fans, is being used as a disaster application center.

### Additional Tornado Assistance, Information

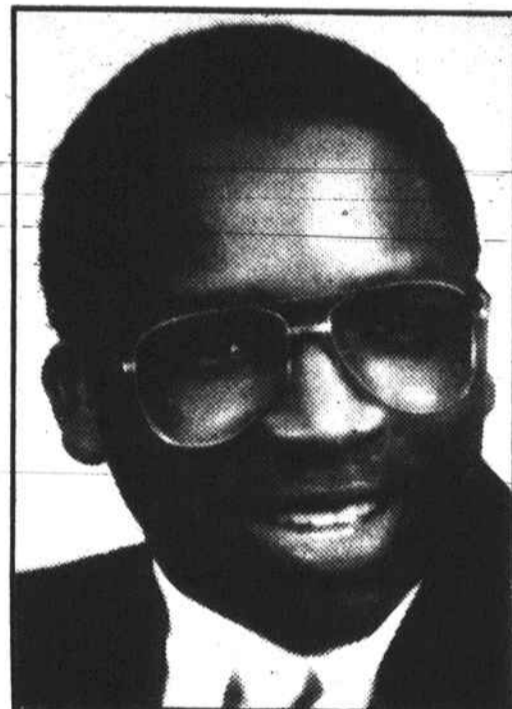
- Disaster unemployment assistance is available throughout Forsyth County. Any persons unemployed due to the tornadoes of May 5, should contact the nearest local office of the Employment Security Commission and request an application to file a Disaster Unemployment Assistance claim to determine eligibility in order to receive assistance. For more information call 761-1700.

- Representatives of the Internal Revenue Service will answer questions and help prepare tax forms for victims of the recent tornado. Taxpayers who suffered property damage as a result of the tornado may have a

*Please see page A7*

## CCB Promotes Christopher Leak

Christopher B. Leak, Central Carolina Bank's loan/operations officer at its Medical Park office in Winston-Salem, has been promoted to assistant treasurer. A native of Winston-Salem, Mr. Leak joined CCB in 1986 as a management associate. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University with a degree in business and accounting. He is active in the Lions Club and the East Winston Development Club.



## NMBC releases business directory

NEW YORK -- The National Minority Business Council has released the Tenth Anniversary edition of its business directory, consisting of nearly 300 minority and woman-owned member businesses nationwide.

Used as a purchasing source by hundreds of corporate and institutional buyers as well as other minority businesses, the NMBC Business Directory has become one of the most sought after listings of minority and woman-owned businesses in the country. "It's a book that will help any purchaser find a

qualified, reliable minority business source for any goods or services required," says John F. Robinson, president and chief executive officer of the council.

The 1989-1990 Business Directory incorporates many new features which make this listing easier than ever to use. The cost of ordering a directory is \$75 pre-payable to the National Minority Business Council.

The National Minority Business Council is an educational procurement and advocacy non-profit organization.

## Miller promotes Colbert

MILWAUKEE, Wis. -- Virgis W. Colbert has been elected vice president for materials manufacturing for Miller Brewing Co. He is responsible for the manufacturing of cans and bottles and for the processing of certain ingredients used in Miller products.

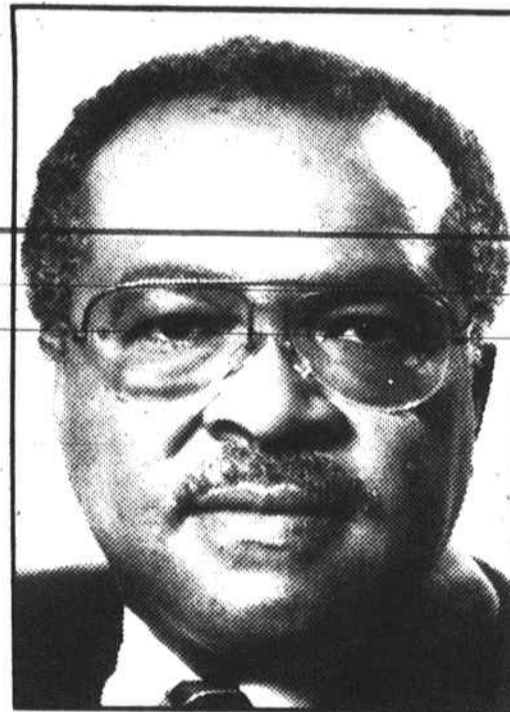
Mr. Colbert has served as director for container and support manufacturing since April 1988. He joined Miller in 1979 as assistant plant manager of the company's container plant in Reidsville.

He is a member of the Board of Accreditation for the National Association of Industrial Technology and is

a member of the Executive Advisory Council of the National Urban League's Black Executive Exchange Program.

Colbert received a bachelor of science degree in industrial management from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Mich. A native of Toledo, Ohio, he now lives in Fox Point, Wis.

Miller is a wholly owned subsidiary of Philip Morris Cos. Inc. Principal beer brands include Miller High Life, Miller Lite, Miller Genuine Draft, Lowenbrau, Meister Brau and Milwaukee's Best. Miller also produces Matilda Bay Cooler.



Virgis W. Colbert

## Climate is better for minority businesses, but more is needed

The climate for minority-owned businesses in North Carolina has improved in recent years, but Gov. Jim Martin says more must be done to enhance the economic success of businesses owned by Afro-Americans, women, Indians and the handicapped.

The Martin administration remains committed to increasing the number of minority-owned businesses receiving state contracts. The governor has established a 4-percent goal for his administration for awarding state contracts to minority-owned businesses.

"While I am not in favor of rigid quotas and set-asides, I am in favor of working to achieve better participation by minority firms in doing business with the state of North Carolina," Gov. Martin said. "We will keep working until we get more new people involved in the system."

In January 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a law in Richmond, Va., requiring that 30 percent of city public works funds go to minority-owned construction companies. The state will not be adversely affected by the recent decision on affirmative action, Gov. Martin said.

"That ruling affects set-asides and rigid quotas in minority hiring and awarding of state contracts," the governor said. "We have goals -- not quotas -- so our state should not be affected by this ruling."

Last year, minority-owned companies profited from the Martin administration's goals program. As a result, these businesses received greater support from North Carolina's industry and banking leaders.

From July 1987 to March 1988, the Department of Correction awarded 8.6 percent of its contracts to businesses owned by minorities -- the highest percentage of any agency within the Martin administration to date. The other departments in the administration awarded an aver-

age of 5.3 percent of their contracts to minority-owned businesses.

These contracts were less than \$5,000 and consisted mainly of orders that were filled on a weekly, monthly or yearly basis. Such purchases are not subject to the state bidding regulations. The state's purchasing agents are encouraged to work with minority firms, Gov. Martin said.

The governor instructed the Correction Department in February 1989 to increase minority participation in prison construction projects from 2.3 percent to at least 10 percent.

"This may seem a difficult goal to meet," Gov. Martin said. "But if we do not try to meet it, it will be an impossible goal. So we must try to meet it."

Gov. Martin proclaimed Sept. 25 through Oct. 1, 1988, as "Minority Enterprise Development Week" in North Carolina to recognize the contributions of minority businesses to promote the economy of the state.

"North Carolina is proud of its minority-owned businesses," the governor said in his proclamation. "We appreciate their contributions to our progressive economic climate."

There are 11,000 minority-owned firms in North Carolina, many of which receive contracts for state-government purchases. Minority firms must attract investments from private industry as well as providing services to the state, Gov. Martin said.

"Minority business people must be willing to help themselves through investments, risk sharing and joint ventures," Gov. Martin said. "State contracts are indeed helpful to these businesses, but minority-owned businesses must develop effective strategies to become more profitable in our state and nation's marketplace."



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