

Top-Paid State Execs are White, Male

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Women and minorities aren't making it on the list of top-paid executives in North Carolina and critics say that's because corporations may recruit them but neglect programs to keep them.

"There's a lot of action on the front end, but when you look at the bottom line, there are no results," said Troy Watson, executive director of the Charlotte Area Business League, an organization that promotes minority business interests.

Watson said corporations spend money to recruit women and minorities but often neglect programs to retain and promote them. The list, compiled and published by The Charlotte Observer, shows compensation for the 100 best paid executives in North Carolina and South Carolina. The top 10 all are from North Carolina:

1. Haynes Griffin, chairman and CEO of Vanguard Cellular, Greensboro, \$6,864,832.

2. Stephen Leelou, executive vice president of Vanguard Cellular, \$6,824,832.
3. Richardson Preyer Jr., executive vice president of Vanguard Cellular, \$6,824,832.
4. John Medlin, chairman and CEO of Wachovia Corp., Winston-Salem, \$4,072,573.
5. Hugh McColl Jr., chairman and CEO of NationsBank, Charlotte, \$3,642,077.
6. Ed Crutchfield, chairman and CEO of First Union Corp., Charlotte, \$3,313,921.
7. Richard Vetack, senior vice president of Cone Mills, Greensboro, \$2,590,192.
8. Richard Mackey, chairman and CEO of Worldtex, Hickory, \$2,221,996.
9. John Bakane, vice president of Cone Mills, Greensboro, \$2,176,977.
10. Frank Greenberg, chairman and CEO of Burlington Industries, Greensboro, \$2,089,975.

Minority-Owned Company Reportedly Run by Whites

BOSTON (AP) — A firm that has won millions of dollars in public contracts because its owner is a minority is apparently run solely by whites.

The Boston Herald said the president of Converse Construction Co. Inc., Jack E. Robinson, is a "no show" at the company.

Robinson, a founder of the minority advocacy group Contractors Association of Boston and twice the head of the Boston chapter of the NAACP, declined to comment. But former Converse employees, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Robinson came to

the firm only twice in two months — to sign checks and for a Christmas party.

"It was just a known fact he was a phantom," said a former high-ranking Converse official.

Of minority business enterprise subcontractors on state public works projects, Converse is one of the most frequently hired. One of its current subcontracts is worth more than \$10 million. Robinson's reported lack of involvement violates state regulations that owners of minority business enterprises receiving contracts set-aside for minorities must run the company on a day-to-

day basis. State construction contracts require winning bidders to subcontract a fixed percentage of the job to minority businesses; federal contracts require a minimum set aside for minority or women-owned firms. Last year, the State Office of Minority and Women Business Assistance told Converse it was investigating the company because of evidence the firm was run primarily by Joseph Tamulis and Richard Johnson, two whites from the Boston-based T Equipment Co.

Edward Mason, a former Robinson employee, said Converse is a legitimate minority enterprise.



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Dillard's: A Department Store for Whites Only? from page A1

"The name of Dillard's has come up in the last 30 days as a retailer that doesn't do business with the African-American community," Bogle said this week in an interview. "It is difficult for me to understand how they can say we do not effect their bottom line."

Bogle, owner of *The Philadelphia Tribune*, said he would investigate why the company does not seek to attract minority customers through advertising.

"If they don't want to do business with black folks, that's fine. But we will let our 4.5 million readers know not to do business with Dillard's," Bogle said.

Fred H. Rasheed, director of the NAACP's economic development program, said from his East Orange, N.J., office, "They have not honored the agreement and never have."

Kelly Alexander, president of the North Carolina branch of the NAACP, said African Americans should not shop at the chain.

"I would not encourage anybody in the African-American community to trade with them," he said.

Alexander said the state chapter has received "periodic complaints from customers." He said that he first heard of employee-related problems when Dillard's bought the Ivy department store chain in the early 1980s.

Blacks in Florida have had their share of problems with the company for some time, too. On July 30, eight plaintiffs filed a discrimination lawsuit in U.S. District Court against Dillard's stemming from three incidents.

In March, two African-American students from the University of South Florida and a friend were arrested and charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct last

November while shopping at a Tampa store. They were buying jeans and got into an argument with officers who were following them around the store.

Three Florida A&M students charged that store security officers followed them around a store at a distance of two to three feet in January. The officers then accused the students of stealing lipstick and forced them to empty their purses.

In May, Dillard's security officers accused a husband-and-wife couple of shoplifting at a Tampa store. After a search revealed nothing stolen, the officers took the couple's licenses and ran them through a computer, the lawsuit said.

Michael Cannon, who had been a shoe salesman at Dillard's in Winston-Salem for nearly two years, said he was fired after he was accused of giving his friend a pair of shoes.

"Why didn't you catch him when I gave him the merchandise," Cannon asked, when interrogated the day after the alleged incident by McCloskey and the security guard.

Not questioning a suspected shoplifter when under surveillance appears to be the norm. A school teacher, who asked that her name not be used, said she and her children were accused of shoplifting shortly before last Christmas.

She said she went to the cosmetic counter and purchased about \$40 worth of merchandise and thought no more about the transaction until about a week later. While she and her husband were out shopping, city police officers came to their home. They questioned the children — the oldest of whom was 14 — who were there alone.

"I got involved after police

came to my house and attempted to interrogate my children," the children's father said.

He said he contacted his lawyer and McCloskey. He said he learned from McCloskey that a salesman had witnessed the theft and had followed his wife and children to the parking lot. The salesman got the number from the car's license plate and reported the alleged theft to security.

He said he asked McCloskey why a Dillard's employee did not approach his family before they left the store, and was told that employees are warned not to get involved for their personal safety.

"I would have preferred that they search us right there on the spot so they could have seen that we didn't have anything," the woman said.

They vowed never again to shop at Dillard's.

Jackie Bates said she resigned from Dillard's in June after being

asked — for the fifth time — to train someone to take over a position she had applied for eight times.

Bates started with Dillard's in 1990 as department manager in the lingerie department. During the three years she was employed by Dillard's, she said she witnessed a number of incidents that point to egregious practices of inequitable treatment of customers and alleged shoplifters.

Bates explained that store policy allows customers to take merchandise to be purchased to any cash register as long as they don't leave the floor with the goods.

A pair of Bates' friends, who were regular shoppers at the store, brought items to be rung up to her cash register so that she could get credit for the transaction. On their way, someone called a security officer, who confronted one of the women. They got angry and left the

store. But what caused Bates to resign was her being asked to train a employee who was hired to fill the area sales manager slot. Bates had applied for the position eight times, each time being passed over and on four occasions asked to train the new hires. One one occasion, Bates called the Dillard's office from her home while out sick and expressed interest in the area sales manager's job that had come available. She was told they were interviewing people. No promises were made, she said.

When she returned to work from sick leave, she was told that someone else had gotten the job. She was asked to train the new person.

"If you think I'm qualified to train someone else," she wanted to know, "then why can't I have the job?"

"They're just prejudice," she added.

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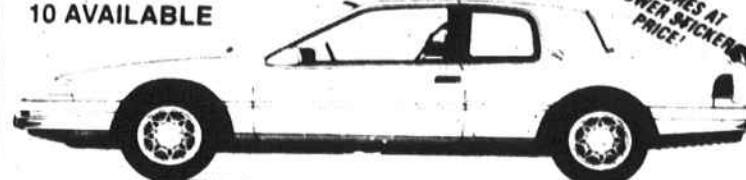
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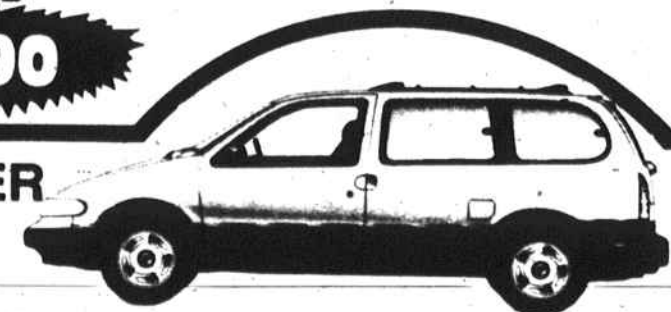
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