

Black Conservatives: Cashing In or Selling Out?

By BRIDGET EVARTS
Community News Reporter

"Conservative" is not an adjective one would ordinarily expect to precede "African American." Accordingly, one would probably not expect an African American who learned Swahili at Berkeley University during the "Black Power" movement to identify himself as a conservative.

Think again, said Clarence Mason Weaver, author of *It's O.K. To Leave The Plantation!*, to those gathered for the

May 15 Kernersville Chamber of Commerce meeting at Ideal Meeting & Banquet Center.

A registered Republican who resides in California, Weaver professed admiration for Jesse Helms ("I like any politician with an attitude") and denounces affirmative action, which he calls "liberal co-dependency." He elicited laughter from the luncheon crowd with his self-narrative of "being right and looking left."

Weaver is one of a number of promi-



nent African-American conservatives; Colin Powell and radio talk-show host Alan Keyes highlighted this presence during the 1996 Republican presidential primary.

Some well-known black conservatives reside close to home. Businessman Joe Dudley of Kernersville's Dudley Products built a mini-empire of nationally successful cosmetic schools. Last fall, charter school proponent and Winston-Salem resident Vernon Robinson lost the bid for State Superintendent to

Democrat Michael Ward. Republican Ted Napper, who was defeated by African-American incumbent Melvin "Skip" Alston for the Guilford County District 8 commissioner seat, recently announced his intention to run for mayor of Greensboro.

Weaver is also a member of Project 21, an initiative of the hard-right National Center for Public Policy Research that promotes the views of

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WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

Vol. XXIII No. 38

THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News and Information

THURSDAY MAY 22, 1997

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About 300 people came together in Greensboro to march for Dudley High School and the reinstatement of Warren Dorsett and Dr. Isaac Barnett on the Guilford County Social Services board.

March highlights city's racial tension

By BRIDGET EVARTS
Community News Reporter

Greensboro may be in for one long, hot summer.

Recent public scrutiny of the school system's redistricting process, the conditions at Dudley High School and the dismissal of two black men from the Social Services board have heated up tensions in the city.

Approximately 300 people came together May 17 to show support for children and express outrage at what they see as racist maneuvering on the part of the school board and county commissioners. People gathered at War Memorial Stadium on Lindsey St. to march downtown to the Phill G. McDonald government plaza.

Marchers trailed behind a banner printed with "The Whole Village Coming Together For Our Children And Justice," the gathering's theme. Most carried signs in support of Dudley High School and children.

Others carried placards protesting the recent actions of the Guilford County Commissioners. In March, the majority-Republican board of commissioners voted to remove fellow commissioner Warren Dorsett and Dr. Isaac Barnett

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Meeting fails to address development

By BRIDGET EVARTS
Community News Reporter

Most people have a hard time sitting through a four-hour meeting, even a meeting designated to address the needs of their community. Those fired with enthusiasm for the first couple of hours began to cool off — and sneak out of the Town Hall meeting convened May 17 by Winston-Salem's East and North Ward aldermen.

By the time aldermen Joycelyn Johnson and Nelson Malloy turned their attention to economic development, the audience consisted mainly of politicians and city staff.

Earlier, residents discussed housing and crime concerns with the aldermen and city staff, and listened to presentations on public transportation, recreation and the bond referendum set for June 24.

During a presentation by assistant city manager Tom Fredericks, a citizen asked about the use of money for the economic development section of the bond package.

Fredericks assured the man that the money "could be used for suburban areas and the inner city."

The meeting moved on.

Finally, the list dwindled to the last item on the agenda. James Grace of the East Winston Community Development Corporation (CDC) gave a presentation on the proposed Eastside Cafeteria, and a Joblinks representative talked briefly



Joycelyn V. Johnson

Aldermen Nelson Malloy and Joycelyn V. Johnson failed to sufficiently address economic development for East Winston at the Town Hall meeting.

about the summer youth employment program.

Last, state representative Larry Womble spoke to the handful of people

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High Point NAACP holds Freedom Fund Banquet Rivers calls for economic empowerment

By CAROLE WEATHERFORD
Contributing Editor

JAMESTOWN — The High Point Branch NAACP held its annual Freedom Fund Banquet on Sunday at Medlin Center on the Campus of Guilford Technical Community College. Appealing for support, keynoter Nelson Rivers, NAACP regional director, likened the nation's oldest civil rights organization to a

watchdog. "The dog opens the door for you and you don't even throw it a bone."

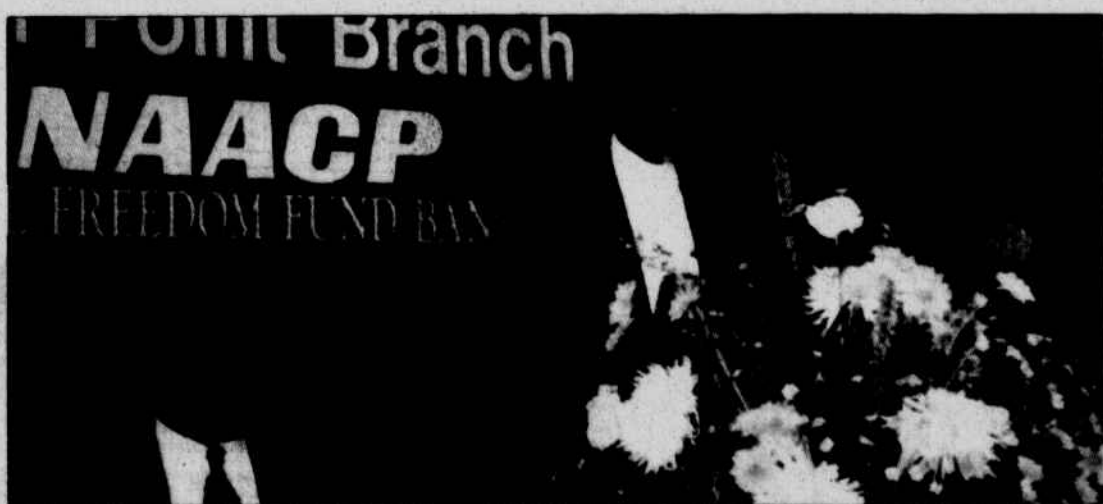
In a rousing address, Rivers assured the crowd of the NAACP's financial health and its continued viability. "As long as there's racism," he said, "there will always be a need for an NAACP."

He used Fuzzy Zoeller's remarks about Tiger Woods to drive home the point that to many whites, all black males are reduced to stereotypes.

Calling for educational excellence and economic empowerment, he railed against Ebonics and urged the old guard to bridge the generation gap and reach out to the next generation.

The fund raiser, which attracted 300 people, culminated with awards presentations. Rosetta Baldwin, 97, was named Woman of the Year. She has taught kindergarten since 1922 and in 1942 started a school for children in

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The Rev. E.B. Freeman, president of High Point Branch NAACP, addresses the Freedom Fund Dinner while regional director Nelson Rivers looks on.