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# THE CHARLOTTE POST

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BLACK CONSUMERS

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## Homecoming Celebration To Welcome Rev. Ben Chavis

### Crime Prevention Week Set

Governor Jim Hunt has proclaimed February 10-16 as Crime Prevention Week in North Carolina.

"I firmly believe that it is only through the support, cooperation and involvement of the citizens of North Carolina that we can effectively combat crime in North Carolina," Hunt said. "To do so, we must all participate in proven crime prevention programs such as Community Watch."

Hunt issued the proclamation in support of the National Exchange Club and the Exchange Clubs of North Carolina who sponsor a crime prevention week annually as part of their "Count Your Blessings, Counter Crime" campaign, and in support of the efforts of concerned citizens and law enforcement in crime prevention.

Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Burley Mitchell joined the Governor in calling for citizen involvement in crime prevention. "There are over 3000 active Community Watch programs in North Carolina," Mitchell said, "which shows that people can get personally involved in the fight against crime. Our new Crime Prevention Division is now actively seeking citizen and law enforcement suggestions about the kinds of things we can do in crime prevention, such as the crime prevention committees we have helped establish in over half of the 100 counties in North Carolina, and such as the current statewide media campaign to educate the public about individual and community crime prevention responsibilities."

Mitchell added, "We are proud to support the Exchange Clubs in this effort. We think they are a vital resource in both state and local crime prevention efforts."



Governor Hunt with award recipients at the N.C. Human Relations Council Annual Recognition Banquet and Workshops. From left to right: Jim Bowser of Fayetteville, receiving the Citizen Award for his father, the late William Bowser; Shirley McLamg-Edwards, director of the Goldsboro Community Affairs Commission, receiving the Commission

Award; Governor James B. Hunt, Jr.; Paul Sticht, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc., receiving the Business and Industry Award; and Durham County Commissioner William V. Bell, receiving the Community Leadership Award.

### To Bouser, Bell Governor Jim Hunt Presents Special Awards

Special To The Post

RALEIGH—Governor Jim Hunt today presented special awards for valuable contributions to human relations in the state during a luncheon in Raleigh.

Those honored were the late William Bowser of Fayetteville, William V. Bell of Durham, the Goldsboro Community Affairs Commission and R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc. of Winston-Salem.

The ceremony concluded a two-day session of workshops sponsored by the council and attended by approximately 400 persons from all across the state.

"The fine contributions made by these dedicated folks have set an example for all of us," said Governor Hunt. "The spirit of good human relations and fair treatment of all our citizens begins in the com-

munities and we are honoring that kind of voluntary community spirit here today," he added.

Governor Hunt went on to praise the accomplishments of the Human Relations Council over the last two decades and to talk about the challenges ahead. "I think one of the best ways to build on the foundation we have laid is to work vigorously in the area of economic development," he said.

"Providing jobs -- and providing the skill training people will need to work at those jobs -- goes to the very heart of what we are trying to accomplish in the area of human relations. We are investing in families, because there is nothing more important you can do for a man or woman than provide the kind of job that carries a decent income and a degree of dignity,"

Governor Hunt continued.

He stated that there is nothing more important we can do for a child than give his father or mother meaningful employment, and that we must continue to see that citizens are employed in an environment that is free of discrimination and oppressive working conditions as we move ahead in industrial growth.

Durham County Commissioner William V. Bell was honored with the Community Leadership Award for his involvement in local activities. Some of his efforts have been with Operation Breakthrough, Durham Chamber of Commerce, UDI Community Development Corporation, and the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People. He is an engineering manager at IBM Corporation in the Research Triangle Park.

### Service And Rally Set For Sunday Afternoon

by Eileen Hanson  
Special To The Post

There won't be any pom-poms or cheerleaders, no football heroes or brass bands. The Homecoming celebration for Rev. Ben Chavis on Sunday, February 17 will be more like an old-time freedom rally, celebrating the victory of one political struggle, and inspiring support for the next round of battle.

The service and rally will be held at University Park Baptist Church, 2156 Senior Drive, beginning at 3:30 p.m. The public is invited.

Rev. Chavis, member of the Wilmington 10 and director of the Washington, D.C. office of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, will be the keynote speaker. Other speakers will be Rev. Leon White, head of the Commission for Racial Justice in Raleigh; Ms. Ann Braden, co-chair with Chavis of the Southern Organizing Committee; and T. J. Reddy, local poet and member of the Charlotte 3.

Samuel Stevenson will lead the singing of the Negro National Anthem. Choirs from University Park Baptist, Gethsemane AME Zion and East Stone-wall AME Zion Churches will sing. Local clergy participating include Rev. James Palmer (University Park Baptist), Rev. Raymond Worsley (First United Presbyterian), Dr. Harold Diggs (Mayfield Memorial Baptist) and Dr. N. C. Calhoun (New Emanuel Congregational United Church of Christ).

It will be Chavis' first public appearance in Charlotte since his release on parole from Hillsborough prison Dec. 14, 1979. Chavis is currently working in Washington, D.C.

"We are calling this a 'homecoming rally' because Ben's roots are in Charlotte," said Carrie Graves, member of People United for Justice which is sponsoring the rally. "Ben is one of those instrumental in opening doors for blacks. He was involved in Charlotte's human rights struggles for years."

The 32-year old Chavis grew up in Oxford, N.C., but came to Charlotte in 1967 to attend UNCC, one of 8 black students and the first black in the chemistry department. Within a short time Chavis was involved in campus politics, the anti-war movement, and was counseling black youth about the draft.

Together with Dr. Jim Grant (member of the Charlotte 3) he organized the Black Cultural Association which opened up Black House near Oaklawn and Statesville Aves. The BCA organized rent strikes, boycotts of white merchants, pickets at the housing authority and black cultural activities.

In 1968 Chavis founded the Black Student Union at UNCC and became its first president. Grant, a VISTA volunteer, became the "faculty advisor" because there were no black faculty at that time. After much protest by the BSU, the University agreed to estab-



Rev. Ben Chavis, speaking at the Greensboro Anti-Klan rally. (photo by Eileen Hanson)

lish a Black Studies program and to recruit more black students and faculty.

Chavis saw the acute need for the black community to exercise its political muscle so he helped form the Black Political Organization which ran an all-black slate for City Council in 1968, with Rev. George Leak for mayor, Chavis, Graves and 5 other blacks for council. The slate called for stricter housing code enforcement, resident control of public housing, and district representation.

"We saw the need at that time to be independent of the Democratic and Republican parties, which never kept their promises to us," said Chavis in a recent Charlotte Post interview.

Chavis and Grant also worked with the Black Panther Organization and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. They saw that civil rights meant nothing without economic power, and began working with the American Federation of State, City and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), organizing Charlotte's sanitation workers. They led a militant strike in 1969 that eventually won a contract and dues check off for the largely black workforce.

When the Federal District Court ordered Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools desegregated, Chavis worked to keep the black schools from being shut down. He was arrested for trespassing while speaking to students at the all-black Second Ward School.

That was the first of several arrests which followed as Chavis went around the state organizing black communities. Following graduation in 1970 he went to work for the Commission on Racial Justice, which sent him to Wilmington in January, 1971 to help quell racial unrest in the high school. The rest is history.

For 9 long years the Chavis family and thousands of supporters all over the world have been working to free Ben and 9 others from convictions stemming from the Wilmington unrest. Many believe they were imprisoned more for their political beliefs and activism, than for the charges of unlawfully burn-

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Reginald Church  
...practices on universal machine

### McCrorey 'Y' Has

### Activities To Help

by Teresa Burns  
Post Staff Writer

Some of you may be tired of others pushing physical fitness as a means of making you look better, feel better, and making you less prone to illnesses plaguing many Americans.

But if you realize that these three reasons have validity, then why just sit there? Jog (or ride) to the neighborhood YMCA or YWCA. There, you will find programs benefiting the youth, the middle aged, and the elderly. In essence it doesn't matter who you are, the Y has an activity to help you achieve physical fitness and physical attractiveness.

For example the McCrorey Branch Y on Beatties Ford Road recently installed a Universal Machine. It has 15 stations including weight lifting and forms of sit-up benches.

According to George E. Shinhoster, executive director of McCrorey Y, the Universal Machine possesses the potential to better serve the adult population.

### Name Changes

### For Council On

### Aging Office

The name of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Council on Aging office, which is located at 316 E. Morehead St., has been changed to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Senior Access Service office.

The location and telephone number, 374-3200, will remain the same.

The office will continue to provide information, referral and related services as required under the conditions of the federal grant that funds the operation.

A new advisory and advocacy function has been established by the Board of County Commissioners, the Charlotte City Council and the United Community Services, and this will be called the Council on Aging.

TURTLE-TALK



Nothing brings the TRAFFIC regulations to mind quite like spotting a POLICE CAR in the REARVIEW MIRROR.

## Black Leaders Have Varying Opinions About President Carter, Ted Kennedy

by Teresa Burns  
Post Staff Writer

Recent polls show that the public generally approves with the way Carter handles foreign affairs and higher defense spending. On the other hand the public's disapproval of Carter's economic solutions is quite evident.

Between Carter and Kennedy who would be the best candidate? This question is facing America, and slowly polls reveal that Kennedy will lose the race for presidency. Or will he?

Three Charlottean leaders have varying opinions about Carter and Kennedy: the seemingly two front runners for the Democratic Primary.

Robert Davis, principal of Street Academy, feels that Kennedy doesn't stand a chance.

"Right now he does not



Robert Davis  
...St. Academy principal

Before the Afghanistan crisis, I would have told you he had a very good chance. But the crisis made a fierce difference. We have a sense of loyalty to our nation and the president. Any negativism towards Carter would be considered Anti-Americanism," Davis commented.



Charles Dannelly  
...City Councilman

Davis feels that no matter who the candidate is, Blacks should not commit themselves too early.

He said that in the past, "We have committed ourselves early and sold short to programs meant to benefit the poor and Black. We should get commitments - those who can't work for us

need to be turned out to pasture," Davis contended. As for who would make the better president, Davis admits he is not sure, but he added, "Not a great deal has happened in the Carter's administration. We are not naive enough to believe he can wave a wand and make something happen, but he has not pushed strongly enough for programs, for Blacks."

But, Davis said, whatever Carter asks for, Congress does not always comply. He also said that he is not sure if Kennedy could do a better job if he were the president.

Today, Kennedy stands against the draft, while the administration is seeking registration for the draft.

Davis is "in accord with registration in case a draft is needed." He believes that American wo-

men should not be introduced to combat. He agrees with Carter's defense increase (up 15.3 billion from 142.7 billion in Carter's budget).

Kennedy opposes the defense increase. He recently said, "Needless weapons drain the resources to pay for needed ones."

But Davis feels that, "In a time of crisis America must be strong. The increase is necessary to make sure America is defensible. You can have both guns and butter. America is wealthy enough to have both."

Davis is an advocate of increased defense spending, but he also feels that the monies allotted for Human Health Services should be applied more efficiently.

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