



Oba's Corner owner William Perry  
...with wife Dorine

## For His Success

## Perry Blames No

## One But Himself?

By Teresa Burns  
Post Staff Writer

William Perry has no one to blame for his successful business career but himself. Well, maybe an old gentleman inspired him years ago when he nudged Perry and announced, "You're still mopping floors, just like me."

This statement raised Perry's consciousness and his mind began to tick. "I sat there for about four hours and thought 'What can I do, what I am equipped to do?'" Perry reminisced. The answer was Oba's Corner, a retail and wholesale establishment of women's apparel founded by Perry in 1965. He had little money, no credit, and an immense amount of determination. The later factor prevailed and he opened his first store in New York.

The first few years were profitable, Perry uttered. But his business had to survive - the most important reason being...

## Memorial Services

## Will Be Held Sunday

Veterans buried at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens will be memorialized by the Mecklenburg County Veterans Council, Sunday, May 25, at 3 p.m. According to Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens president Luther Caldwell, "Each year the Mecklenburg County Veterans Council goes to a cemetery to honor the deceased veterans. I believe it started about five years ago. And this year they decided on Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens."

Harvey Gantt, former Charlotte City Council member, will be the guest speaker. There will be other special guests present as well.

## TURTLE-TALK



Getting your head together in your OLD AGE could simply mean ASSEMBLING TEETH, GLASSES AND A TOUPE.

# White Warns Democrats Not To Take Blacks For Granted

## Report Says

## Workers

## Favor Union

By Eileen Hanson  
Special To The Post

Almost half of all North Carolina workers who had the opportunity voted "yes" for union representation last year, according to reports of the National Labor Relations Board.

"This contradicts the myth that N.C. workers don't want unions," said a Charlotte Central Labor Union report. Only 6.5 percent of the state's workforce is unionized, the lowest in the country.

Last year unions won 48 of the 112 elections held in North Carolina and lost 64, with 10 challenged elections. South Carolina had 54 union victories, 102 losses and 16 challenged elections.

However, of the 21,449 workers in the two states who had an opportunity to vote, 45 percent voted "yes" for unions, while 55 percent voted "no."

As more northern industry moves into the area, union organizers are not far behind. But most will admit that organizing in the South is not easy. Faced with opposition from employers, the Chambers of Commerce, employers' associations and even the media, organizers find it difficult to get their message across.

The United Auto Workers (UAW) is currently trying to gain a foothold in Gastonia, an area of strong company and media opposition to unions. Less than one percent of the 67,000 workers are unionized. About 3 percent of Charlotte's workforce is organized.

Workers at 4 Wix plants, part of the Dana Corporation, have filed for an election with the NLRB. The 1,600 workers make filters for the auto industry. About half the workers are black, which could be a decisive factor since black workers tend to vote pro-union.

If successful, the UAW would become the largest local in the Charlotte-Gastonia area.



Students from Zaire, Ntumba Kayembe and Remy Kubangusu, discuss African Liberation Day. (Photo by Eileen Hanson)

## CPCC Students Say:

## Africa Is Wealthiest

## Continent In The World?

By Eileen Hanson  
Special To The Post

Africa is the wealthiest continent in the world, yet its people are among the world's poorest.

Every mineral needed by industrial society is found in Africa, but some Africans claim the developed countries won't sell them the technology they need to make use of their wealth.

Ntumba Kayembe and Remy Kubangusu of Zaire, a mineral-rich country in central Africa, are among several students at Central Piedmont Community College. This week they talked with the Charlotte Post about the problems of independent Africa, 20 years after independence.

May 25 is African Liberation Day, celebrated in Africa, the Caribbean and USA with marches, rallies and festivals. The day marks the founding of the Organization of African Unity in 1963.

Prior to 1957, only two African countries were "independent," Ethiopia and Liberia, but both were economic satellites of the USA. The rest of Africa was split

between the European powers - Britain, France, Belgium, Portugal and Spain.

World War II paved the way for an independence upsurge that led to Ghana's break with British colonialism in 1957, followed by 27 more independent countries in the next five years.

Thirty independent African states joined together in the OAU in 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, pledging to "liberate the continent from a century of colonialism and exploitation."

Today the OAU claims 50 members. In June Zimbabwe, which won independence only this year after 15 years of bloody war, will become the newest member. Only two countries remain under minority white rule: Namibia and South Africa.

According to Kubangusu, "There are two blocs in the OAU, the pro-capitalist and the pro-socialist, about equally balanced."

Most of the recently independent countries, such as Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and Zimbabwe, are in the pro-socialist camp.

"Zimbabwe's independence is of enormous importance for the liberation of South Africa," said Kayembe. "For the first time there is direct contact between independent black Africa, and white-controlled South Africa."

South Africa has 22 million Africans and 4 million whites.

Located at the strategic point of Africa, and laden with mineral wealth, South Africa is the greatest industrial and military power on the continent.

Many African countries ignore the official OAU boycott of South Africa because it is a cheap source of manufactured goods. The OAU has strongly condemned South Africa's apartheid policy or rigid racial segregation which deprives blacks of any voice in politics or economic affairs.

"The USA condemns South Africa's apartheid, but they are there with the investments," said Kayembe. The USA has \$1.7 billion in direct investments, and \$2.2 billion in loans in South Africa, which critics say helps support the white-dominated economy. Charlotte-based North Carolina National Bank (NCNB) has an office in Johannesburg to oversee its loans and investments.

"Any fight against South Africa is also a fight against the USA and Europe," said Kubangusu. In many ways the USA has taken over the role of the European colonialists in Africa and other developing countries.

"We have independence, but most third world presidents are kept in power by the USA. The presidents don't see how the people are suffering," said Kubangusu.

According to the Zairian students, Africa will someday develop as a world power in its own right. Already Zaire is first in world production of industrial diamonds, second in cobalt, sixth in copper.

"We have all the minerals in the world, but because the West won't sell us the technology to develop them, we are forced see AFRICA on Page 2

## White: Blacks To Ignore

## The Race For Governor?

Rev. Leon White, Director of the North Carolina Office of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, called for a new political strategy for Black people and warned the Hunt Administration and the Democratic Party "not to take our votes for granted in November. Black people may ignore the race for governor in November or we may vote Republican."

In a press conference held last Tuesday in Raleigh, Rev. White analyzed the results of the May 6 primary election and concluded that "Blacks are not in a strong position politically today." He advised that neither the Hunt Administration nor the current Black political leadership is responsive to key concerns of the Black people of North Carolina.

Referring to the Democratic primary for governor, White said, "Hunt won an overwhelming victory Tuesday. If every Black voter in this state had voted against him, Hunt would still have carried the election. We know this and we know that Hunt and his political machine know this."

This lack of Black political power, White said means, "we must unite Black people in a new political strategy - one that will show the Governor and the state the power that we have and force the Hunt Administration to negotiate our demands and concerns with us."

That this was not done before the primary can be blamed on the current political strategy designed by the Black caucuses and the current Black political leadership. He continued, "Our leaders have accepted a few crumbs from Jim Hunt's table - some high paying jobs and government grants - and given their support in return."

"Black people have demanded that the Governor pardon the Wilmington Ten; we have asked him to find a more just alternative to the competency test; we have worked for the repeal of Hunt's mandatory sentencing law; we have sought a just resolution to the controversy over the racial segregation of our public colleges and universities. We have received nothing."

Rev. White believes that Blacks in North Carolina can "challenge both the Hunt Administration and the Black Caucuses to become responsive to the key concerns of the Black community." Studying the results of the Democratic primary, Rev. White sees the beginning of this process. He said, "In Raleigh, Hunt lost approximately 50 percent of the votes in Black precincts to Scott. In many precincts in eastern North Carolina, Black voters decisively rejected Hunt. For the first time in many years, the masses of Black voter repudiated the endorsements of the Black political leaders."

Looking to the future, Rev. White called for a new four-step political program for Blacks designed to "obtain vindication of the Wilmington Ten, to secure redress of our grievances,

and to force the traditional political parties and the established Black leadership to be accountable to the Black community."

Rev. White outlined the new political strategy as follows:

"First, we must begin a new voter education program in the Black communities of North Carolina."

"Second, we must organize massive voter registration drives."

"Third, we must organize a new Black Political Leadership Conference in the fall which will include representatives of the total Black constituency."

"Finally, we must negotiate our demands and grievances with both the Democratic and Republican Parties before the November election."

In concluding, Rev. White warned, "Jim Hunt did not need us in May but indications are that he will need us in November. This time we will not trade our votes for crumbs."

## Cox Calls For

## District-Wide

## Speak-Up Meeting

By Susan Ellsworth  
Post Staff Writer

Charlotte City Councilman Tom Cox last week called for his first district-wide SPEAK UP meeting to provide citizens with more information about major policy decisions under consideration by City Council.

Citizens who attend the Thursday, May 29th meeting at 7:30 in the multipurpose room of Beverly Woods School may "speak up" about the tough revenue and service options anticipated to be in this year's budget recommendations from the City Manager.

A typical SPEAK-UP agenda features a format that begins with City Council news, continues with a presentation of facts and background on the night's main topic, and concludes with a question and answer period. Audience polls and votes are included.

The main topic for the May 29th SPEAK-UP is "Revenues, Service Level, and Productivity: What's the right combination to balance next year's Budget?"

According to Cox, "The formula for avoiding property tax increases is not refutable." He continued, "The City must either find other revenue sources, reduce or eliminate services, or demand greater productivity in delivering services."

## Clydesdales

## Not Coming

The Clydesdales are not coming. That's the official word from Bealer Wholesale, Inc., distributors of Budweiser beer in Charlotte.

Although the eight-horse hitch was scheduled to tour the Charlotte Metrolina area May 19-26, they will not be able to meet that obligation.

# Proposal To Abolish Free Bus

# Service Upsets Senior Citizens

By Eileen Hanson  
Special To The Post

"We depend on the bus. It's not fair to ask those who live on fixed incomes to bear the increased costs. We worked hard all our lives, and we still have to beg," according to Elizabeth Wigfall, president of Senior Citizens United.

The seniors are upset because the Charlotte Transit System is proposing to abolish free bus service for senior citizens and the handicapped, and asking them to pay the regular increased fare of 50 cents during peak hours.

Mrs. Wigfall, who lives in Addison Apartments, feels many elderly people would not be able to pay the 50 cents fare. Her organization will ask City Council to keep the present system.



Elizabeth Wigfall  
...SCU president

Now, any citizens 62 years or over, or who has a handicap certification from a doctor, can buy 20 blue tickets for \$2.00, and receive 10 red tickets free. Blue tickets can be used anytime. Red tickets can be used anytime except during peak hours (week-

days 6-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m.). According to Transit Manager David Hines, the increased fares will offset increased operating costs. Eliminating free senior-handicap fares would generate \$40,000 a year, about one percent of the total transit budget, but five percent of the \$800,000 revenue increase.

Fifty cents a ride pays only a third of the operating cost of bus service, according to Hines. The City and Federal governments split the difference.

More people are taking the bus to work now because of increased oil prices. Buses are full at peak hours, and some routes demand more service. Hines says senior citizens can arrange their appointments and travel at non-peak hours, and most

can afford 20 cents fare.

Mrs. Wigfall disagrees. "Many of us get only about \$200 a month in social security. After we pay rent, telephone, a little food and medicine, there isn't much left."

She said some seniors collect empty pop bottles and cans to earn a little extra spending money. Some churches provide bus service on Sunday and the Housing Authority takes residents on weekly excursions.

"But sometimes you just get so tired of looking at the 4 walls, you go for a bus ride," she said. "You aren't going anywhere. You just ride up and down from one end of the line to the other, just to keep from crawling the walls. For some of us the bus is the only outlet we have."