

Community Notes

King parade to take new route

The West Charlotte Merchants Association will hold its Martin Luther King Day Parade Jan. 15.

The parade is being held in conjunction with the city's King Day celebration, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at West Charlotte High School after 8:30 a.m. lineup.

The parade has a new route this year.

The procession will start at 10 a.m. at West Charlotte High School on Senior Drive. The parade route changes at the fork from Trade Street to Fourth Street at the Gateway Center; onto Fourth Street, right on Graham Street to Stonewall Street passing Carolinas Stadium. The parade will finish at the New Charlotte Convention Center.

Grand marshals are mayor Pat McCrory and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Vice Chair Arthur Griffin.

For more information or to participate in the parade, call Teresa Wright at 347-3412.

• **Patricia Russell-McCloud** will speak at a Martin Luther King event Jan. 15 at Winthrop University.

Russell-McCloud will speak on "Vision 2000: Celebrating the Ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." at 3:30 p.m. at Byrnes Auditorium. The event is free.

Russell-McCloud served as chief of the complaints branch of the Broadcast Bureau and senior managing attorney for the Federal Communications Commission.

• **The Magic School Bus**, featured in the award-winning, best-selling books by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen, will visit the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County from Jan. 18-21.

Scholastic, which publishes

the Magic School Bus books, and Scholastic Productions, Inc., which brings the Magic School Bus to life through a television series seen locally on WTVI and in home videos, are sponsoring a 1996 "Traveling Magic School Bus" interactive road-show throughout the United States. The bus will feature books, CD-ROMs, video games, videos of the TV shows, science demonstrations and other interactive experiences for young people.

During its stay in Charlotte, the Magic School Bus will visit four libraries with programs which will be free and open to the public. The bus will stop at Belmont Center Public Library, 700 Parkwood Avenue, on Jan. 19 from 2:30-5 p.m.; University City Regional Library, 301 E. Harris Blvd., 9:30-12 on Jan. 20; Scaleybark Library, 101 Scaleybark Road, 2-5 p.m. Jan. 20; and Main Library, 310 N. Tryon St., Jan. 21 from 2-5 p.m.

The library will also present the Magic School Bus at Cornelius, Oaklawn and Lake Wylie elementary schools on Jan. 18-19. School visits will be for students only.

For more information about the Magic School Bus visit to Charlotte, call the Youth Services department at 336-2070.

• **Stop The Killing** will sponsor a teen candlelight vigil Sunday at 5 p.m.

Teens from The Crusade and Fighting Back will unite at the Fighting Back office, 1120 Beatties Ford Road, to call for an end to violence. Candles will be lit for teens and young people who have been murdered since 1988.

"There are only a few that are doing bad, but that few makes all of us look bad," said Artis Johnson, 13. "It's time we started as youth working to make a better tomorrow."

"I'm sick of the senseless killings and people not speak-

ing out until it happens to their loved one," said 18-year-old Monicka McKee, who will join with other young people to call for an end to violence. Both will speak at the rally.

For more information, call James Barnett at The Crusade at 333-6471, Victoria Ross at 336-8630, Artis Johnson at 398-0236 or Monicka McKee at 364-7396.

• **The Grier Heights Economic Foundation** will hold a ribbon-cutting and open house to present its first new homes Jan. 18.

The "New Beginning Of Homes-Phase I" presentation will take place at 11 a.m. at 2809 Marney Ave. The GHEF is a community-based organization that provides housing for low- to moderate-income families and individuals.

A local organization is challenging fraternities to become Big Brothers.

• **Big Brothers/Big Sisters African American Recruitment Task Force**

issued the challenge to the graduate fraternities Alpha Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Phi Psi and Phi Beta Sigma to recruit black men as Big Brothers for 60 boys waiting to be matched. The challenge, which coincides with Black History Month, will end April 15. Prizes will be awarded to the fraternity that recruits the most men who complete the orientation process and individuals who recruit the most men.

Big Brothers must be at least 21 years old and live or work in Mecklenburg County. For more information, call 377-3963.

• **Leadership Charlotte** is looking for participants in Class XVIII.

Twenty-five individuals will be selected to the nine-month program, which will be held from September to May 1997. People interested in partici-

pating must complete an application and return it with a \$25 processing fee to Leadership Charlotte, WTVI Center, Suite A, 3242 Commonwealth Ave. Charlotte, by Feb. 15. All applications will be notified in May. Tuition is \$1,000 and partial scholarships are available.

To request an application, call 344-8448.

• Looking to land a new job? Free information is available at the Public Library.

Free information from employment experts will be available at job search seminars on Wednesdays this month. The first is "Preparing For The Job Search" with Jeff Sechrist of Central Piedmont Community College. Later seminars will include successful interviewing, creative self-marketing, and job resources on the Internet.

The programs are sponsored by the Public Library and are free. Registration is not required. For more information, call 336-6228.

• A best-selling author will be the featured speaker at events celebrating Martin Luther King Day in Hickory.

Mark Mathabane, a South Africa native, will keynote the community worship service at 3 p.m. Jan. 14 at Friendship Baptist Church and a convocation at 10 a.m. Jan. 15 at the Belk Centrum at Lenoir-Rhyne College.

Mathabane is author of "Kaffir Boy," "Kaffir Boy in America" and "African Women: Three Generations." Mathabane and his wife, Gail, will discuss "Healing the Racial Divide" at a 1 p.m. forum.

• **The American Heart Association** will hold Community CPR Day Feb. 3 at Central Piedmont Community College.

Registration will be held at Taylor Hall starting at 8 a.m. The course will run from 9 a.m. until noon. Anyone age 16 and older is eligible to participate. Registration fee is \$10 and should be paid in advance.

For more information, call Dave Brown at 342-6937 or Diane Hollenbach at 531-

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MALCOLM & MARTIN

Written By

Jeffery Stetson

Directed By

James W. Johnson

NAACP state election results unclear

Continued from page 1A

Alexander has refused to seat any new officers pending a decision on whether a new election will be held.

Alexander said this week that Mary Reid, who lost the youth advisor race to Pettis, filed the complaint, alleging ineligible youth delegates were allowed to vote. Only 22 votes were cast in the youth election.

"We conducted an internal investigation," Alexander said. "As a result of our investigation we found that a number of people were offered double ballots. Sometimes adults got youth ballots and sometimes adults got two ballots. More votes were cast than registrations."

"The president of the of the youth and college division at time of election was overaged. Gina Pettis was supposed to have graduated out. At the time of the election she was 27 years old. She had qualified some voters in her position as president. Voters she qualified may not be properly eligible to vote."

Linda Robinson Gaines, treasurer of the Charlotte/Mecklenburg branch, chaired the election supervisory committee and

said, in a letter to Penn, she too was concerned that the election had been unfair.

Woodard said the election was held properly. "I feel that the election will stand as is because as a result of the consistency of the outcome, it was clear that the State Conference was anxious to make a change," she said. "The election supervisory committee as a whole was competent and efficient. They were able to check and balance each vote while dictating the order of the election. This procedure was in a manner that would caution against frivolous tampering of the ballots."

Penn held a hearing at the state NAACP headquarters in Greensboro on Dec. 30. He told The Post that he is following organizational procedure and would make a recommendation on the validity of the complaints to a committee of the NAACP national board. That board will make a final determination as to whether a new election would be held.

Picket and Woodard said Wednesday they are sure the election results will be upheld.

"I feel certain his findings will be positive that the election will be validated," Pickett said. "There may have been some mistakes made, but we had been told this was one of the better elections, as far as security."

"People were very meticulous in making sure that only those who were supposed to vote, voted. From what I know about it, it was one of the better elections. They were using a computer system and it probably took more time that it normally would have."

Hoyle, who decided not to seek re-election as third vice president, said there are several changes she wants to make as treasurer.

"I would like for the branches to always review the budget before they have to vote on it," Hoyle said. "I'd like to mail it to the branches and allow them to share them with the local and have some input."

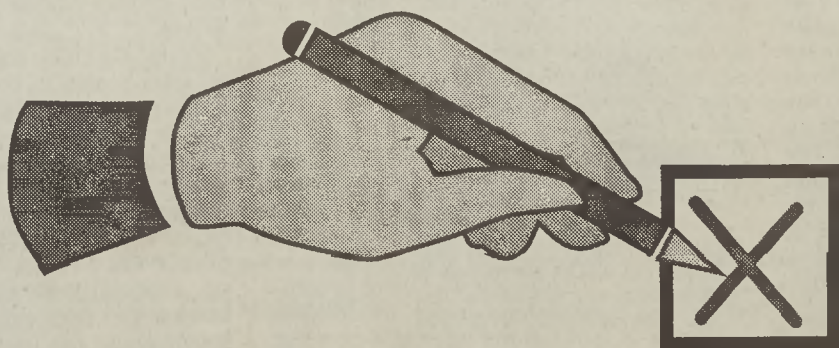
"All our funds come from locals. If the locals are going to earn the money, they should have some input in how it's spent. Being a former branch president, I know fund raising would be easier. I know what people are saying at all levels. They say 'We don't have time to review all this information.'"

Hoyle said the state organization will meet in February to review this year's \$514,000 budget, which was approved in December by the previous executive board, rather than the one elected in October.

She said he has told Penn she wants a ruling on whether the incoming board will be able to review that budget, if and when it is seated.

"I have confidence we will be seated," Hoyle said. "That's one of my questions. Do we move on with the budget as is, or will the new group have a chance to review it?"

Due to the snow, the national NAACP has been closed this week, which may delay any ruling on the state election.



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-Pickett




Woodard



Alexander

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