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Children's advocates announce Stand for Children in Washington

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A national Stand for Children, a la Million Man March, was to be announced today by the Children's Defense Fund and other sponsoring agencies, in the Girl Scouts, the YWCA and the NAACP.

No date had been released at presstime, but the event would be held at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Edelman

"Stand for Children is being launched to draw a line in the sand of

doing no harm to children that no political, corporate, or cultural leader dare cross," said Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund.

"It will be a day to affirm our nation's commitment as individuals, families, communities, and as a national community to improving children's quality of life," said Edelman, who will be in Charlotte next week for the Children's

Defense Fund's national conference.

Edelman also planned to release the organization's annual "The State of America's Children Yearbook 1996," a chronicle of the current condition of American children with state and national data.

Children's advocates from around the country will be in Charlotte next week for the Children's Defense Fund con-

ference.

Activities kick off Tuesday with pre-sessions focused on the Black Community Crusade for Children. The full conference runs Thursday through Saturday at the Charlotte Convention Center.

Pre-conference sessions will be Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Black Community Crusade for Children was formed by the Children's Defense Fund. The group's

motto is "Leave No Child Behind."

In 1994, it purchased Alex Haley's 127-acre Tennessee farm as a site for community and leadership development.

Marian Wright Edelman, executive director of the Children's Defense Fund, said this week that the Black Community Crusade has been five years in the making and

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ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Myrick: No more furloughs, still pushes for less government

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Eric Harrell has worked for the federal government for 25 years and for the past four months he has been air traffic manager at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport.

But since Harrell works for the Federal Aviation Administration, which comes under the Department of

Transportation, there's been little impact on his and other FAA operations.

And though another possible government shutdown looms March 15, Harrell's critical operation won't likely be affected.

The DOT budget was passed on Nov. 18, two days into the first of two furloughs of "non-essential" government employees caused by the polit-

ical conflict between President Clinton and the Congressional Republicans.

But even during the first furlough, Harrell and his crews came to work. "They said 'we need you to come to work, just like any other day,'" said Harrell.

Congresswoman Sue Myrick, a Republican freshman, said this week she doubts there will be another government

shutdown. The Republican freshman have been among the most determined advocates of shutdowns rather than "business as usual." Myrick has appeared on several national news programs to speak for the group.

"The bottomline is that after the president's State of the Union address, he said there were specific points we could

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N.C. NAACP leadership still in limbo state

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

With its winter meeting approaching this weekend, N.C. NAACP members still don't know who will form the next leadership team for the state organization.

Complaints about the November election has delayed the seating of a new board of directors.

Although sources say a national official has recommended that officers elected at the state convention be allowed to take office. Final approval had not come from a National Board committee at press time, but was expected by today or Friday.

If that is the case, the new board members would take office in time for the winter meeting of the state NAACP. That meeting begins Friday night with a dinner honoring outstanding African Americans, including U.S. Senate candidate Harvey Gantt and Julius Chambers, chancellor of N.C. Central University.

A major item on the agenda is review by the membership of the proposed state NAACP budget, which was approved in December by the 1994-95 board members.

This weekend's meeting would be the first opportunity for the board elected in November to formally review the \$514,000 budget.

National committee members were reportedly scrambling to complete action on NAACP branches director Melvin Penn's recommendation as soon as possible.

"I've talked to Mr. Penn, but no official action has been taken," said Valerie Woodard, who was elected state second vice president in the November balloting.

Kelly Alexander Jr., president of the N.C. NAACP, could not be reached for comment this week.

Woodard, long a critic of Alexander, defeated incumbent Kermit Waddell of Charlotte in November. Several other new officers were elected, including a third vice president, treasurer and youth director.

Alexander and first vice president Melvin Alston of Greensboro

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Mandela lectures Farrakhan on racial, sexual tolerance on visit

By Donna Bryson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - President Nelson Mandela told controversial U.S. black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan last week

that South Africa rejects racism and sexism and reveres all religions.

The leader of the Nation of Islam, known for making statements considered anti-white, anti-Jewish or demeaning to women, was conciliatory.

ry.

"All of the principles that President Mandela has outlined we agree with totally," he told reporters after his 30-minute meeting with Mandela. "Islam is a religion which, if practiced, disallows

racialism, racism, injustice, tyranny and oppression."



Mandela

South Africa" during the private meeting at his Johannesburg home.

The lecture came after the white-led National Party and white extremists here expressed concern that Farrakhan, who arrived Sunday for a three-day visit, could set back efforts at racial reconciliation in South Africa.

Even Mandela's African National Congress had said Farrakhan could learn about tolerance during his visit.

Mandela has called on blacks and whites to come together since white minority rule ended with his election two years ago. Farrakhan, asked if racial divisions also could be bridged in the United States, said the key in South Africa was Mandela's leadership.

Farrakhan was on a 27-day fact-finding tour of Africa that also has taken him to Nigeria, where he met with military

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Pupil assignment plan doesn't please all

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School board made some adjustments to its pupil assignment plan, but everyone's not happy with the board's final work.

Major changes include re-assigning students in the Newell Elementary School attendance zone to the new middle school on Plaza Road, west of Harris Boulevard. But that means students from

Clear Creek Elementary will remain assigned to Northeast Middle School, which is overcrowded.

Cochrane Middle and Devonshire Elementary both become increasingly African American, but it will be at least a year before efforts at racial balance are attempted by turning the two schools off The Plaza east of Harris Boulevard into magnets.

Bob Davis, a former Charlotte-Mecklenburg middle school principal, criticized

the board action. Davis chairs the education committee of the Black Political Caucus.

"I think the school board vacated its plans to be fair," Davis said. "This is simply a plan to placate the 'haves' at the expense of the 'have nots.'"

"I appreciate the difficulty of their jobs, but I thought they allowed the deadline of Jan. 31 to push them into some decisions that are not in the best interests of all children.

"Poor black children are still going to have to ride buses

further and further to accommodate the new changes," Davis said. "I wish I could organize to bus poor black children into University City."

The school board said it will allow anyone with their own transportation to enroll in its "workplace" magnets in the new high-tech Education Village schools. An elementary school opens in August and a middle school the following year. A high school and another elementary are

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Kid of the Month
Hampton Harrison is aspiring artist.

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