

Who'll carry civil rights legacy?

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leading whites and almost single-handedly built a black business infrastructure in the state's economic hub.

Patton was a mentor to Richard Arrington, elected mayor of Birmingham in 1979 and still the only black chief executive of a major city in Alabama.

"I considered him to be a great pioneer, not only for the

city of Birmingham but for the nation as a whole," Arrington said of Patton.

Truss, whose position as Birmingham-area NAACP president was once held by Patton, said commitment was the key to the success of the past leaders.

"Others would have quit, given up, walked away. These men kept coming," said Truss, 48.

Times have changed, and the kind of leadership needed now is different from that required in the 1960s. While King and his lieutenants led marches and confronted legalized segregation, a prime focus from Arrington is building business and making sure blacks are included in the profits.

Woods, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in

Birmingham, said none of the leaders who died in the past year can be replaced, making the whole community poorer.

"I'm not too sure we're producing those kind of men anymore. If we are, I haven't seen them," he said.

"You have a legacy that is dying," said Truss. "I always tell people I cannot apologize for not being born 30 years earlier."

Cruising focus of three county workshops

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is usually jammed with cruisers - and police to direct traffic - on

warm-weather Sundays. Police estimate they spend as much as \$20,000 a weekend in officers' salaries and overtime.

Drivers who can't get into the park spill onto the street, where some neighbors - mostly black - complain about the traffic and

noise. They contend that clogged streets will impede emergency vehicles should they be needed in the area.

Foundation announces grants

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A Charlotte-based charitable organization is opening its purse for grants.

The Foundation For The Carolinas' effort, called "Building A Better Future," includes eight new grant programs ranging from traditional grants to regional grants and strategic initiatives. The program's goal is to award grants to organizations that can help improve the quality of life in the region. Income for the program comes from a bequest by Lucille Giles, who provided more than \$2 million annually for grants.

"The foundation will be more proactive in its grantmaking and we'll be able to fund several large initiatives annually," said John Boatwright, chair of FFTC's Distribution Committee. Building A Better Future is

available to organization recognized as tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or units of government. Organizations must serve Mecklenburg County or part of the surrounding region.

The new programs include:

- Venture grants of up to \$25,000 to stimulate and launch new ideas from a broad range of charities;
- Capacity building grants of up to \$10,000 to increase the ability of nonprofit organizations and community concerns to carry out their work more effectively;
- Regional grants that encourage regional solutions to problems that cross geographic and political boundaries.

Strategic grants are grouped into five categories:

- Building families of up to \$100,000 to prepare preschool children to enter school develop-

mentally ready to learn;

- Building Bridges grants of up to \$50,000 to address diversity issues with the goal of developing increased understanding among people of different backgrounds;
- Building Potential grants of up to \$100,000 to empower individuals to be self-reliant, economically independent members of the community. Target populations are the economically disadvantaged, homeless, disabled and senior citizens;
- Building Civic Vision initiative that will fund Central Carolinas Choices, a joint effort among 14 counties;
- Building Youth grants of up to \$100,000 starting in 1998 to focus on school-age children and teens to help them make the transition to adulthood.

For more information of the grants program, call Marilyn Bradbury at (704) 376-9541.

Black Monday marches on

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zens review board and other measures, including an effort by some African Americans to raise money to put video cameras in police cars.

Black Monday would be the largest unified demonstration by African Americans in Charlotte, organizers say.

On Monday, African Americans are asked, in addition to wearing arm bands and buttons and burning headlights to:

- Join in a moment of prayer at noon, wherever they are.
- Shop at black businesses and avoiding shopping malls and other white-owned establishments.
- Take children to teach-ins planned at several churches. Parents who feel their children must attend school should accompany them and take an active part in their education. If possible, parents can then sign their children out of school in time to attend the midday rally at The Square.
- Call someone with whom they have a conflict and resolve those conflicts and disagreements and ask for forgiveness.
- The march and rally will begin at 10:30 a.m. at Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church on Trade Street.

During a speech Sunday, Chavis said Monday's demonstration was being done in the

spirit of Martin Luther King Jr., who "did more than dream."

"Dr. King changed his mind between 1963 and 1968 on what was needed in America," Chavis said. "He realized there was a need for fundamental structural change. High government officials felt the later King was a threat to the stability of American society because of his views against the Vietnam War and on economic injustice."

The lukewarm response to Black Monday was an incorrect interpretation of what protest is all about, Chavis said.

"White people need not fear black people coming together," Chavis said. "Since this is Charlotte, I'll say some Negroes don't need to fear black people coming together."

He said even King had a difficult time finding a church to preach in when he was invited to speak in Charlotte on behalf of Dr. Reginald Hawkins' gubernatorial bid in the late '60s.

"They felt he would stir up the natives," Chavis said. "We are on the threshold of follow-

ing through in the King tradition. Despite the stones thrown at us, Black Monday is on."

"No one has yet to mobilize the entire black community of Charlotte. We believe that time has come...a time long overdue."

"Charlotte has been blessed, but have those blessings been evenly distributed," Chavis asked.

In a prepared statement, local organizer the Rev. Kojo Nantambu said the purpose of Black Monday is a peaceful observance to promote unity among African Americans in Charlotte and to demand fairness, equal justice and end all acts of racial brutality and violence against African Americans by local police officers.

"It is the mission of Black Monday to take greater self-responsibility to end crime, violence, drugs and all forms of self-destruction that is in our community and lift up the positive culture and history of our race," Nantambu said.

"Finally it is the mission of Black Monday to focus on the need to improve our overall quality of life as a community through long-term economic development and empowerment which will require us to earn, spend, deposit and invest our money differently, i.e., 'Buy Black and Bring Our Dollars Back for Black Empowerment.'"



Chavis

Eldest King son to battle Prop. 209

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO - Martin Luther King Jr.'s oldest son is forming a group to fight for affirmative action in response to a Californian's efforts to do away with such programs around the country.

Martin Luther King III will head the new Atlanta-based Americans United for Affirmative Action.

"Our country is currently embroiled in a backlash against

hard-won gains made during the civil rights movement - namely, affirmative action," King said near a memorial to his father on Saturday, two days before the national observance of his father's birthday.

King said the coalition was prompted by the passage of California's Proposition 209, which would end race and gender as factors in government hiring, contracting, promotions and university admissions. Voters approved the measure in

November, but it is now tied up in court.

Key Proposition 209 supporter Ward Connerly last week launched the American Civil Rights Institute, a clearinghouse for groups interested in promoting similar measures in other states.

King said his effort is "a direct result of what Ward Connerly and others are trying to do."

Details of King's group, including whether King would be paid were not disclosed.

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