#### Thursday, January 23, 1997

**NEWS/ The Charlotte Post** 

# 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 Christian Southern 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 pro-

ducing 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.'



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## Cruising focus of three county workshops

#### **Continued from page 1A**

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

By Herbert L. White

THE CHARLOTTE POST

A Charlotte-based charitable

The Foundation For The

Carolinas' effort, called "Building A Better Future,"

includes eight new grant pro-grams ranging from traditional

grants to regional grants and

strategic initiatives. The pro-

gram's goal is to award grants to

organizations that can help

organization is opening its purse

for grants.

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

**Foundation announces grants** 

available to organization recog-

nized as tax exempt under

Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal

Revenue Code or units of gov-

ernment. Organizations must

serve Mecklenburg County or

The new programs include: • Venture grants of up to

\$25,000 to stimulate and launch

new ideas from a broad range of

• Capacity building grants of

up to \$10,000 to increase the

ability of nonprofit organizations

part of the surrounding region.

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.

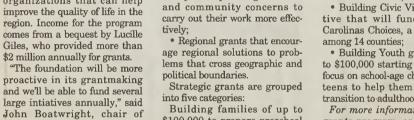
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\$100,000 to prepare preschool FFTC's Distribution Committee. children to enter school develop-**Building A Better Future is** 

• Building Bridges grants of up to \$50,000 to address diversity issues with the goal of developing increased understanding

mentally ready to learn;

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 initia-tive that will fund Central Carolinas Choices, a joint effort

• 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

charities;

#### Continued from page 1A

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 African Americans in Charlotte, organizers say. On Monday, African Americans are asked, in addi-

tion 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 estab-

lishments. • 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

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

Chavis

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

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 offi-

cers "It is the mission of Black Monday to take greater selfresponsibility 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.



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m i n d between 1963 and 1968 on what was needed in America,"



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

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-

"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.'"

### 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, includ-ing whether King would be paid were not disclosed.

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