

# On surface, something wasn't quite right

Continued from page 1A

groups made up of family and friends traveling together. But I don't think this march gave black women the same feel that black men came away with at the Million Man March. Many of us brought our regular selves with us, attitudes and all, even as we would express the inner spiritual desire to bond with our fellow sisters, show love and make community.

Don't get me wrong. If you showed love, you received love (deep structure). But there were tensions and sisters weren't generally showing unsolicited love (surface structure). Sister Souljah broke it down, telling them she didn't like phonies and intended to "get personal" in her address. Souljah began with a definition of what it means to be a "sista": "You cannot be my sista if you sleepin' wit' my man." The masses responded loudly. The rapper-activist told them that a sister is a person that "wants the same thing for you as she wants for herself."

On many levels, I felt like the call for a march was given, but what we needed is a call for a

shift in consciousness, understanding that it is what we do beyond the march that will determine the ultimate success of this march. Black women (and men) need healing in order to do the work that must now be done. We are a wounded, invisible people, yet unable to marshal our considerable resources to resurrect ourselves. As if to prove the point, there was shockingly minuscule media coverage given to the march. The faces of the women who called and organized the march, Phile Chionesu and Asia Coney, were nearly invisible. My television producer sister friend pointed out, that no real news was made. Yes, we were there, but we didn't do anything.

We didn't have a clear strategy. For example, why didn't Congresswoman Maxine Waters, who ran down the 411 on all the dire statistics from unemployment and health to incarceration and premature death, tell us to do something concrete? Write a letter, make a call, vote for this or that bill, withhold our economic dollars from a specific company, etc. Why didn't Winnie Mandela give us a brief lesson in global pol-

itics from a woman's point of view? Why didn't someone tell us to read something? Had Waters told the crowd to re-register as independents and let some of these politicians come to us, that would have made news.

Though beautiful, energetic and uplifting, there was too much entertainment. With some entertainment after nearly every speaker, some speakers were cut. As the advocate for rites of passage programs, Divine intervention cleared a path for me to bring my message, but I learned more than I gave.

We all need a rites of passage programs, children and adults, to help us reclaim and heal ourselves and each other as beloved partners in this protracted, historical drama subtitled, "Africans in America." We must be taught that we have the education, skills, business acumen, access to technology, capital and resources to recreate ourselves and our communities. A call to a shift in consciousness is about cultivating the will to raise ourselves up from the near-dead. To re-bond and act out of a caring spirit for our people, knowing that we need each other

if we are going to make it as a whole people in the next millennium.

We must study the one topic which binds us, crossing all the lines of gender, socioeconomic class, religion, etc. We must study our history and its lessons together, that we might recreate the bonds of faith that brought us thus far. Martin King wrote, "We have been oppressed as a group and we must overcome that oppression as a group." A call to a shift in consciousness requires that we nurture each other so that we might live the Seven Principles of Blackness (Kwanzaa) and give birth to a historical drama's victorious conclusion.

## Vote determines bonds' fate

Continued from page 1A

was located near SouthPark.

The school bonds will be used to build 10 new high, middle and elementary schools (\$223 million) and renovate and repair 46 existing schools (\$185 million).

The \$62 million in jail bonds will be used to build 900 pre-trial beds, while the \$23 million in CPCC bonds will be used to add classrooms, labs and other facilities for four CPCC campuses around the county - northeast, west, southwest and central.

The 1997 Mecklenburg Bond Campaign is co-chaired by former state legislator and Mecklenburg County commissioner Jim Richardson, Dilworth Elementary PTA co-president Kristen Henderson and Pat Riley, vice president of Allen Tate Realtors.

Mecklenburg commissioner Becky Carney is coordinating the bond drive.

"How we deal with these bonds will define what kind of community Charlotte-Mecklenburg becomes in the next five years," Carney said. "Failure to act means we will fail to deal with the education of our children, the ability to prepare a work force for tomorrow's business needs and

the crime problem. There is no choice. These bonds must be passed."

Culp is predicting an overall turnout of about 23 percent countywide and 27 percent inside Charlotte. A black turnout of more than 25 percent is needed for the Democrats to retain control of the city council by electing Democrats to two of the four at-

large seats and perhaps knocking Republican conservative Don Reid out.

Some observers think Democrats Al Rouso and perhaps Joe White or Steve Kearney could win at-large seats, along with Republicans Lynn Wheeler, a possible mayoral candidate in 1999, and former Mecklenburg commissioner Rod Autrey.

**A Heaven Scent Florist**

**\$1000 Wedding Package Booking Now For 97 & 98**

- Alter Vase
- (2) 7 Branch Candelabras
- Bridal Bouquet
- 8 Boutonnieres
- 100 Thank You Notes
- 2 Mother's Corsages
- 4 Attendants Bouquets
- 4 Pew Bows
- Ring Pillow
- 100 Invitations
- 100 Napkins
- Throw-Away Bouquet
- 2 Grandmother's Corsages
- 50 Bridal Shower Thank You Notes
- (1) Flower Girl's Basket w/Petals

(P) 704-375-8074 • Set Up & Pick-Up Included • 612 W. Morehead St. Charlotte, NC 28208  
(F) 704-375-8077

**A D E**

**Professional African Hair Braiding and Weaving**

ALL STYLES OF BRAIDS


Official Braider for Andrea Stinson

**Braiders Booths For Rent**

Free Synthetic • Free Maintenance

4801 N. Tryon St. • Suite M • Beside PEP BOYS

OPEN 6 Days A Week 9:30 - until (704)599-9200



### DENTAL PLAN

**\$9 MO.**

Per Individual  
Complete Details  
(704)596-1552

**KINGSPARK APARTMENTS**

Clean, safe, quiet community conveniently located on bus line. Affordable 2 bedroom garden and townhouses. Refrigerator, range, AC and water included in rent. Helpful resident manager and maintenance staff.

Call  
333-2966  
M-F 9:30-6:00

### PAPERTOWN

-Since 1980-  
"The Party Specialists"  
Birthdays • Weddings  
• Graduations •  
Anniversaries • Baby Showers • Reunions  
See Us For All Of Your Party Needs

4420 Monroe Rd.  
704-342-5815

**Wholesale Computers, Inc.**  
New & Pre-owned Computers

**2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU**

3633 E. Independence Blvd. Behind Pizza Hut 704-567-6555

8324-511 Pineville Matthews Road McMullen Creek Market 704-542-4655


featuring  
**N-Telipro Custom Computer System**  
Built exclusively by W.C.I. for your needs • 3 year warranty

- DESKTOP SYSTEMS
- MULTI-MEDIA SYSTEMS
- NOTEBOOKS
- FULL LINE OF ACCESSORIES

**FULL SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

A+ Authorized Service Center

Ind. Store MON. - SAT. 10AM - 6PM  
McMullen Store MON.-SAT. 10AM-7PM



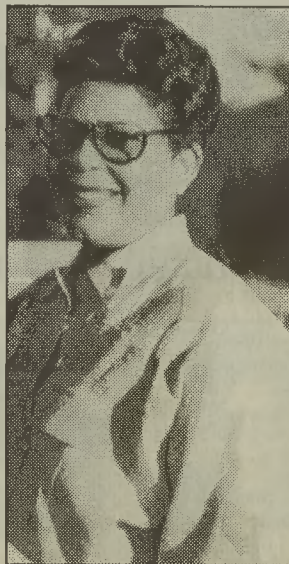
# Vote Leake

School Board District 2

## November 4th

*"It's All About The Children"*

Join Us As We Support Vilma Leake For School Board District 2



Rev. Conrad Pridgon  
Claude Alexander  
Restoy Gaston  
Cecil Bishop  
Hiwather Foster  
Jackie Cox  
Dee Williams  
Helen Kirk  
Elizabeth Randolph  
Clara Jones  
Leroy Miller  
Rudolph Worsley  
Jean Worsley  
Rev. Anthony Jinwright  
Betty Clark  
Catherine Wilson  
Mrs. C.D. Rippey  
Rev. Smoak  
Mrs. Anna Hood  
Mrs. Hattie Harris  
Mrs. Genecal Gregory  
Mr. Sam Dillard  
Mr. James Ross  
Ms. Jean Ross  
Mrs. Louise Sellars  
Dr. Baxter Davis  
Sonya McRoberts  
Margaret Carothers

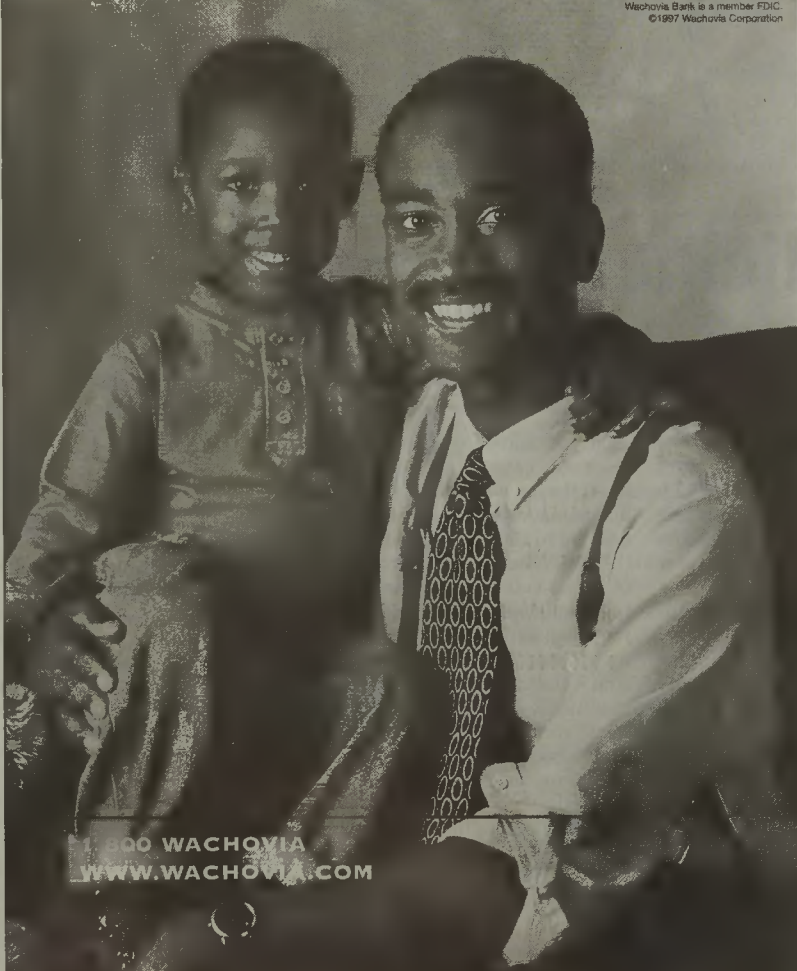
Estelle Friday  
Beverly Foster  
Mozella Neely  
Bridgette Clark  
Marcie Chisholm  
Shirley Hood  
Eleanor Mills  
Laura McCaskill  
Elsie Adams  
James McKee  
Margaret Fulwood  
Charles Cathy  
Yvonziner Luthberston  
Rev. Thomasena Wilson  
Annette L. Mason  
Jeanne Holtzclaw  
Lisa M. Curry  
Lynette Love  
Louise Hamilton Lewis  
Peggy Johnson  
Vandelia Dorest  
Idelrie Harper  
Jean Chisholm  
Cynthia W. Long  
ALice Tinsley  
Hattie Walker  
Jean Davis  
Giovanni Lockhart

Sandra Williams  
Cora C. Howard  
Geraldine McClelland  
Leslie Hughes  
Ann Hughes  
Cecelia Williams  
Janie Peters  
Patricia Mazyck  
Doris Lewis  
Hattie W. Clark  
Gloria Duncan  
Lucille Batts  
LaFreda Choate  
Jerry Robinson  
Shirley Witherspoon  
Maxine Hedgepeth  
Louise Hedgepeth  
Louise Land  
Mable Latimer  
Mary Barringer

# "Leake Will Speak"

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Vilma Leake

Wachovia Bank is a member FDIC.  
©1997 Wachovia Corporation



Where are you?

Are others depending on you to build the future?  
Are you confident that you've got the right tools?  
Have you realized the power of your money? We are here. To show you how to make the most of your money today and to help you plan for tomorrow. Because the future is closer than you think.

We are here.

**WACHOVIA**

Let's get started.™

100 WACHOVIA  
WWW.WACHOVIA.COM