

Race took on a new twist during a tumultuous year

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Cooper and Boetticher shootings — established a citizens review board to oversee police misconduct and agreed to pay a half million dollars to the children of Windy Gail Thompson, who was shot and killed by Charlotte officer Mark Farmer in 1993.

In November, voters approved the county's largest bond issue, including \$415 million for public schools, \$23 million for Central Piedmont Community College and \$62 million for jail expansion. About 40 percent of the school bond money is targeted for upgrades to aging inner city school buildings.

And, in early December, about 600 people attended a race summit, leaving in agreement that more needs to be done to improve relations among racial and ethnic groups.

There were side issues, of course. The sale of McDonald's Cafeteria and the adjacent hotel. The national NAACP board suspended the license of Kelly Alexander Jr., who allegedly mispent more than half a million dollars of state NAACP funds.

The year's top stories:

The shooting of James Willie Cooper on November 19, 1996 sparked an angry reaction in the black community. Cooper was unarmed and had his young daughter in the car when he was shot in the side by Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer Michael Marlow off The Plaza in east Charlotte.

Marlow said Cooper refused to obey commands and swung or threw something. One of eight shots fired by Marlow struck Cooper in the side. He died at the scene.

District Attorney Peter Gilchrist and a police internal review cleared Marlow of wrongdoing, but the incident led to a Black Monday rally by 600 blacks on Jan. 27 at The Square in downtown Charlotte. Benjamin Chavis, Wilmington 10 leader and now member of the Nation of Islam, led the rally.

While many blacks refused to support the demonstration, it became clear something must be done to ease tensions in the city. Government and business leaders, including TransAmerica Reinsurance president Bill Simms, called for a race summit and the city council eventually set up the citizens review board.

Chavis, now Ben Chavis Muhammad, called for Black Monday and a daylong boycott of white businesses during a speech before Citizens for Justice and other grassroots organizations angered by the Cooper shooting.

"Charlotte will not reach its true potential until there is justice for black people," Chavis Muhammad said. "You can't have a great city when you allow a white police officer to shoot down a black man with his baby beside him in the car."

Three months later, Carolyn Sue Boetticher was shot and killed in west Charlotte. Boetticher was a hotel housekeeper who grew up in Concord and lived much of her adult life in New Jersey.

Unlike the Thompson and Cooper shootings, disciplinary action was taken against the two officers involved, although District Attorney Peter Gilchrist declined to file criminal charges against them.

Boetticher, 48, was an unarmed passenger when officers Shannon Jordan and Donn Belz fired 22 bullets into a car which ran a license checkpoint. A bullet from Jordan's gun was identified

as the one which struck Boetticher in the back of her neck, killing her.

Most of the bullets entered the side and back of the car as it passed the officers, who said they thought the vehicle might run over them.

Police Chief Dennis Nowicki recommended in August that Jordan be fired and suspended Belz for 30 days without pay.

After a four-day hearing, the city's civil service board upheld Nowicki's decision. The board found that Jordan put himself in danger when he stepped in front of the car.

Jordan has appealed the ruling to District Court.

The car's driver, Robert G. Lundy Sr., a former West Columbia, S.C. businessman, has disappeared from the state mental hospital in Morganton where he was being held. He was uninjured in the shooting and faces charges for possession of a stolen auto, possession of cocaine and assault on a police officer.

Civil cases are pending in the Boetticher and Cooper shootings. The cases are being handled by the Ferguson, Stein law firm that won a \$500,000 settlement in the Thompson case.

Participants in the race conference Dec. 7 and 8 at the Convention Center spent much of the time talking about their feelings. Organizers promised a follow-up that would attempt to attack some of the concerns discussed at the conference.

"I think it was a decent start," said Terry Tiamd, outreach director at the Afro-American Cultural Center. "I just regret so many more grassroots level people where not there to have their input."

Tiamd said participants were told to focus on their feelings and opinions and not try to find solutions in two days.

"I just hope the ball is not dropped...that the follow up does happen" Tiamd said. "More people in the community need to get involved."

Organizers say a more action oriented conference may be held in April.

Hoyle Martin

Hoyle Martin believes gays want to recruit children and establish their lifestyle as the norm. He's determined to stop them.

"It is the agenda of the gay community to get people to not only accept their lifestyles, but to allow ourselves to be drawn into it, particularly our children," Martin, District 2's Mecklenburg County commissioner, said after voting to kill \$2.5 million in county arts funding.

"A certain element of homosexuality in this country are a powerful political force committed to requiring government and society to accept their lifestyle and their value system as equal to the lifestyle and value system of the average American."

The vote sparked controversy and placed Martin at the center of a firestorm generated by the arts and gay communities.

African Americans generally watched in wonder.

The other black commissioner, District 3's Darrell Williams, said he opposed Martin's proposal not only because of its censorship of the arts, but also it will only add to the workload of commissioners and county staff.

Williams said he also opposed Martin's measure because of its impact on the county's national image. He said the National Association of Counties had been considering featuring Charlotte

as a role model in future brochures.

"No one is going to want to put Charlotte in any publication," Williams said. "It is going to have a negative impact on our community. Those communities that continuously compete with Charlotte are glad to see this. It is going to make them look good and Charlotte look bad."

"I resent this even being put on our agenda," Williams said. "We have so many other priorities we need to be spending our time on."

The debate subsided, but when some Democrats began recruiting candidates to run against Martin,

who planned to run at-large in 1998, he retaliated by joining with the four Republicans on the nine-member county board to elect conservative Tom Bush as chair.

That sparked an even louder outcry and brought former commissioner and state senator Jim Richardson out of retirement to run at large.

Martin announced he will run as an independent, avoiding a Democratic primary battle with Richardson.

Norman Mitchell has announced plans to run for the District 2 commissioners seat.

Martin insists he's not neglecting other issues affecting the black community and his constituents. He said he is also not worried about any negative impact the controversy may cause.

School daze

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools attracted much attention in 1997, beginning with the controversial reassignment of high school students necessary with the opening of two new schools — Vance High in the University City area and Butler High in Matthews.

Named for an African American math teacher, Butler became the first high school named for a teacher. David Butler, who died earlier in the year in a house fire, taught at Piedmont Open Middle School and West Charlotte High School.

Pupil reassignment led to creation of another group determined to force a return to neighborhood schools — Citizens for a Neighborhood/Community-based School System. The political action committee supports candidates who favor community-based schools.

Some Matthews area legislators even sought to change the way the school board is elected to give neighborhood schools advo-

cates more say in the system, first, by getting the General Assembly to add two at-large members to the board and limiting terms to two years. The changes would be made without a referendum, like the one that

established the current school board election process with three at-large members and six districts. Blacks hold three seats on the nine-member board, two districts and one at large.

The enlarged board would be

more accountable to the politically dominant southeast and would be expected to support a neighborhood system, according to supporters of the plan.

As that controversy raged, See PUPIL on page 6A



Martin

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DAY/TIME COURSE/SECTION	COURSE DESCRIPTION	ROOM#
MON/WED, 6-7:25P:	COURSE DESCRIPTION	ROOM#
MKT-331 T	PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING	HUM-110
LS-233 T	STUDIES IN SOCIETY I	HUM-111
SPA-132 T	ELEMENTARY SPANISH II	HUM-112
MGT-433 T	MANAGEMENT RESEARCH & ANALYSIS	EDU-201
MTH-131 T	BASIC MATHEMATICS I	SHA-201
LS-242 T	SCIENCE, TECH, ETHICS II	SHA-106
(4 credits)	(meets to 8:25p, incl. lab)	
ENG-230 T	STUDIES IN WORLD LITERATURE	SHA-207
RHC-192 T	FRESHMAN RHETORIC II	EDU-303
MON/WED, 7:40-9:05P:		
MKT-334 T	PRINCIPLES OF RETAILING	HUM-110
LS-234 T	STUDIES IN SOCIETY II	HUM-111
MGT-435 T	BUSINESS POLICY	EDU-201
MGT-334 T	PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	EDU-303
MTH-137T	PRECALCULUS I	SHA-207
MGT-333 T	PRINCIPLES OF MANAGEMENT	HUM-112
TUE/THUR, 6-7:25P:		
MKT-335 T	FUNDAMENTALS OF SELLING	HUM-110
REL-131 T	SURVEY OF GREAT LIVING RELIGIONS	HUM-111
RHC-191 T	FRESHMAN RHETORIC I	HUM-112
ACC-235 T	PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTING I	EDU-201
EDU-395T*	THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM	EDU-204
(To 9p, Tue only)		
EDU-330 TW*	FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION	EDU-203
(To 9p, Thu only)		
SPE-130 T	FUNDAMENTALS OF SPEECH	EDU-303
LS-130 T	IDENTITY: CITIZEN AND SELF: A/A CULTURE	EDU-115
CSC-131T	COMPUTERS IN SOCIETY	SHA-201
PSY-131T	GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY	SHA-207
LS-331 T	STUDIES IN WORLD CULTURES I	MCH-204
EDU-312 T*	JR. PRACTICUM IN SECONDARY ED.	EDU-204
(1 credit)	(5-6p, Tue only)	
TUE/THUR, 7:40-9:05P:		
MKT-332 T	ADVERTISING	HUM-110
ART-231 T	ART APPRECIATION	HUM-111
MGT-436 T	ORG. BEHAVIOR AND DESIGN	EDU-201
ACC-236 T	PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTING II	EDU-303
CSC-132T	CONCEPTS IN COMPUTERS	SHA-201
MTH-132 T	BASIC MATHEMATICS II	SHA-207
SPA-131 T	ELEMENTARY SPANISH I	HUM-112
LS-332 T	STUDIES IN WORLD CULTURES II	MCH-204
SAT, 8-10:40A:		
PSY-237 TW*	PSYCHOLOGY OF ADOLESCENCE	HUM-110
ECO-232 T	PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS (MICRO)	HUM-111
MKT-435 T	INTERNATIONAL MARKETING	HUM-112
EDU-296 T*	PSYCHOLOGY OF THE EXCEPTIONAL	EDU-201
SAT, 10:50A-1:30P:		
ECO-231 T	PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS (MACRO)	HUM-110
BUS-233 T	BUSINESS STATISTICS	HUM-111
BUS-234 T	QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN BUSINESS	HUM-112
EDU-220 T*	EARLY EXPERIENCES IN TEACHER ED.	EDU-201
(2 credits)	(To 12:50P)	
SAT, 8A-12:50P:		
LS-241 T	SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ETHICS I	SHA-210
(4 credits)	(Incl. lab)	
SAT, 9-10:50A:		
HED-121 T	PERSONAL HEALTH	GYM
(2 credits)		
SAT, 11A-12:50P:		
PED-125 T	RHYTHM AND DANCE	GYM
(2 credits)		
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