

## Habitat For Humanity Makes Dreams Come True

By Evelyn Howell

Habitat for Humanity, a 12-year-old non-profit Christian ministry, is in the business of making dreams of home ownership and decent housing come true for families who otherwise could not afford it. Habitat will dedicate two newly-built houses in Durham Saturday to the volunteers who worked toward their completion. One is located on Ashe Street and the other, along with four other houses, at the Old Kingston Mill site.

The dedication is part of Habitat for Humanity's Houseraising '88 which began June 26 in Portland, Maine and is charting a trail along the east coast through Raleigh-Durham. Hundreds of people — local and nationwide — are expected to walk into Atlanta, Georgia on September 15.

"Our goal is to raise funds to build new houses," said Dr. Gerald Postema, professor of philosophy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and coordinator of Houseraising Walk '88 in Durham. "Our main purpose is to focus on the buildings and the energies put into housing," he said.

Habitat for Humanity's aim is to rid every community of poverty and fulfill the dream of its founder, Millard Fuller, a successful lawyer and former millionaire.

Being a millionaire at age 29 didn't make Fuller's life meaningful, he gave his riches away 12 years ago and started Habitat for Humanity.

His dream of eliminating poverty is slowly becoming reality. Habitat is flourishing. Over 3,000 homes have been built since 1976; 10 in 1987 across this nation and in 25 other countries, including Peru, Uganda and the Philippines.

Habitat tries to meet the needs of low-income families.

Prices of the houses in the U.S. range from \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Overseas costs usually range between \$1,000 and \$3,000, depending on location, labor, land and materials.

According to Dr. Postema, "some houses are renovated, but most are built from the ground up."

Families are selected according to their housing needs, ability to pay the loan, family size, character and willingness to volunteer.

"Each family is required to help with the construction of its home,"

Postema. "New homeowners are encouraged to contribute what they can, in addition to their monthly house payments (about \$65), so they, too, can help others have decent housing," he said.

No government funds are used. Funding comes from churches, corporations, foundations, and individuals who want to express an interest in helping needy families.

Habitat mortgages are no-interest, no-profit and are issued over a 15-year time period.

The goal of Houseraising Walk this year is to raise \$1.2 million, and increase awareness. "We want to mobilize volunteers and make people aware," said Dr. Postema. "The financial aspect of the walk is important, but so is public awareness," he said.

The '88 walk consists of two teams, the builders and the walkers. In Durham, the walkers will be housed in North Carolina Central University's L.T. Walker Physical Education Complex, and the builders at First Presbyterian Church.

The house dedications are one segment of a series of events starting Saturday and lasting through Monday morning. The Walk will step out from Durham County Stadium at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, followed by the Edgemont-Habitat Neighborhood Festival. On Sunday, Millard Fuller will preach at Duke Chapel.

For a complete activities schedule, contact Dr. Gerald Postema at 3151 or 489-7976.

## Top Black Officials Join In Playing Key Roles At Convention

By Larry A. Still  
Capitol News Service

ATLANTA-CNS — In addition to Jesse Jackson sharing the Democratic National Convention spotlight with his campaign speech, family highlights and "colorful" nomination for President, Representative William Gray (Pa.), Representative Mike Espy (Miss.), and Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm of New York, and Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young were selected to play key roles in the 1988 campaign spectacle.

Welcoming remarks to the convention in the city's newly completed Omni and the World Trade Center were presented by Mayor Andrew Young and County Commissioner Michael Lomax with remarks by convention co-host Yvonne Brathwaite Pryor.

Reports were presented by Vice Chair Roland Burris, Treasurer Sharon Pratt Dixon, Pennsylvania speaker K. Leroy Sells who presented the convention officials report. For the first time, no delegates were barred from the use of challenges, Irvis Byrd stated.

Congressman Espy was scheduled to introduce keynote speaker Ann Richards, Texas State Treasurer, and former Congresswoman Chisholm, who introduced DNC Secretary Dorothy Sisk to call the roll for the

presidential nomination election.

Little Rock, Arkansas, Mayor Lottie Shackelford served as convention co-chair with Speaker of the House of Representatives Jim Wright of Texas, and Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington appeared before the convention in a major role before the balloting on vice-presidential nominations began when Jackson was expected to appear in a major role.

The drama of the presidential and vice-presidential roll call followed the long awaited presentation of Reverend Jackson on behalf of his approximately 1,200 delegates and seven million voters, including a majority of black Americans. The possibility of delegates switching to or from support of Jackson in a major sympathy vote heightened the tension of the most historic presidential convention in history in the new South. "We're still looking for a Chicago miracle," Jackson told his opponent, Governor Michael Dukakis, in their dramatic meeting before the nomination.

The strategy for the convention highlights were discussed on the eve of the major sessions at a reception for the Jackson and Dukakis delegates sponsored by the DNC Black Caucus chaired by C. Delores Tucker and co-hosted by the Black Businessmen of Atlanta at the Atlanta Life Insurance Building.



ENJOYING A VISIT FROM THE TIGER—"Tony the Tiger" visited the local Winn-Dixie at Heritage Square and immediately found some knowing admirers. (Photo by Mayfield)

## Record Number Of Democratic Delegates Hail 'New South'

By Capitol New Service

ATLANTA — The increased level of black participation in this year's Democratic National Convention was "especially striking" according to the Joint Center for Political Studies which reported a record number of delegates, state officials and DNC executives among the 20,000 persons attending the four days of sessions.

There were 962 black delegates at the convention, making up 23 percent of the total 4,212 number casting ballots for the presidential and vice presidential nominations of the party. This figure compares with 697 blacks or about 18 percent of the total DNC delegates in 1984.

It is historic that three of the 55 state and territorial delegations, were chaired by blacks for the first time, including Edward L. Cole of the Mississippi Democratic Party; Joslyn Williams, District of Columbia and Dean Ferrier, chair of the Democrats Abroad.

Aaron Henry previously chaired the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party whose struggle to be seated at the 1964 convention

was highlighted by the dramatic, tearful appeal of Fanny Lou Hamer in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The contrast between the conventions 24 years later in Atlanta was noted by black Mayor Andrew Young as he welcomed the \$50 billion spectacle to the "New South." The growing new voter turnout was credited with swinging five U. S. Senate seats in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina and California over to the Democrats.

In 1988 black Americans are poised to play a crucial role in the presidential election as the 20 million voters represent 11% of the total electorate of over 200 million potential voters.

This year's presidential election "matters deeply to blacks," said Eddie N. Williams, president of the Joint Center for Political Studies. "They seemed determined to help chart the court of the nation and its policies in the post-Reagan era as demonstrated in the Jesse Jackson race for the Democratic party's nomination."

The campaign was also influential in the expansion of

blacks to one third of the 123 members of the Credentials, Rules and Platform committees, which Jackson is seeking to expand further as a result of his agreement with Governor Michael Dukakis.

Black elected officials were represented among the delegates this year. They included 23 members of the Congressional Black Caucus, five statewide elected officials, 135 state legislators, 23 county executives, 20 mayors and 58 other municipal officers.

The fifteen states with the largest number of black delegates were New York (80), California (78), Michigan (73), Texas (54), Illinois (50), Ohio (41), Georgia (38), Florida (33), Louisiana (33), Pennsylvania (33), Missouri (30), North Carolina (30), Virginia (29), Alabama (28) and South Carolina (24).

The states with the largest percentage of black delegates were Michigan (45%), Mississippi (45%) and District of Columbia (68%), as well as the Virgin Islands (89%).

The seven state vice-chairs were Dortha Bowers, South Carolina;

Virgie King, Alaska; Geraldine Moon, New Jersey; Mayor Jesse Rattley, Virginia; State Representative Earline Rogers, Indiana; Mayor Lottie Shackelford, Little Rock, Arkansas and Daria Winter, District of Columbia.

The following officers have ranking positions on the Democratic National Committee, DNC Black Caucus or state party organizations: Illinois Comptroller, Roland Burris, Vice Chair; C. Delores Tucker, DNC Black Caucus Chair; Assemblywoman Helen Marshall, DNC Black Caucus Secretary; Commissioner Terrance Pitts, DNC Black Caucus Treasurer; Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, president, National Conference of Democratic Mayors and the Honorable Willie Brown of New Jersey, Minority State Assembly Leader.

Expansion of these official positions to include Jackson supporters was also agreed upon as a result of the campaign strategy developed by candidate Dukakis and Jackson during the convention.

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## NAACP Radiothon Set For September 24 To Boost Membership

Hundreds of radio stations throughout the country will air a three hour national broadcast on September 24, emanating from the world famous Apollo Theatre featuring live and exciting entertainment by some of the nation's top performers, to help the NAACP boost its membership to one million or more members during its first National Radiothon, according to Special Projects director Jondelle Johnson.

Ms. Johnson, former executive director of the Atlanta NAACP who spearheaded several successful radiothons for that branch, serves as national director of special projects, coordinating the National Radiothon.

The Radiothon is being chaired

by Percy Sutton, one of the nation's leading businessmen and the 1987 recipient of the NAACP's highest award — The Spingarn Medal — and vice-chaired by Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand, a staunch leader in the religious community and member of the NAACP national board.

In addition, heads of national organizations of fraternities, sororities, churches, unions, etc. are serving as co-chairmen, Johnson said, to involve their local chapters in supporting the NAACP in this project.

The National Radiothon, the brainchild of NAACP Board chairman William F. Gibson, will be beamed live from New York City radio station WBSL via

satellite, Johnson said. Using the slogan "Don't Stand On The Sidelines, Come Home to the NAACP," the Radiothon hopes to attract millions of listeners. Over 2,000 NAACP branches will participate.

WBSL, serving as the host radio station, in addition to the live entertainment from the Apollo, will also air taped public service announcements by a number of celebrities, human interest stories, civil rights documentaries and a special NAACP jingle throughout the course of the Radiothon.

Special appeals will be made to listeners to invite them to become members of the 79-year-old civil rights organization.

Here is how the Radiothon will

work on September 24. On a local level, NAACP volunteers will work from their branch's Radiothon centers and record pledges as they come in to the centers. Local radio stations will then announce those pledges, and at various times, will be interrupted by WBSL for a national total.

To ensure that the association will have one million members by September, Johnson said the time to be in soliciting memberships is now.

"We cannot depend on the pledges called in on the day of the Radiothon to reach our goal. We must solicit those members before September 24. Therefore, it is essential that branches and youth

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