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**CHECKING THE CHICKEN - MOUNT CALVARY UCC on Athen St. in Durham held its annual "Pig Pickin'" Saturday for the benefit of its building fund. There was pig pickin' and fellowship from 1 to 7 p.m. and chicken, fish and barbeque complemented with "later" salad, greens, string beans, corn, cole slaw, cornbread, cakes and pies. Rev. J. Cecil Cheek, the pastor, was on hand to see that everyone had plenty to eat, while these ladies provided generous servings to all. (Photo by Ray Trent)**



**Willard Perry receives plaque from Major Glenda Beard of the Durham Police Department at the Teen Summit Luncheon. (Photo by Trent)**

## U.S. African American Chamber of Commerce Makes International Trade and Tourism Focal Point of Meetings

OAKLAND, CALIF. — Moving to take advantage of the Administration's stated commitment to building a stronger global economy, the U.S. African American Chamber of Commerce will concentrate heavily on opportunities for black entrepreneurs in international trade and tourism at its Seventh Annual Convention this summer.

"This is the beginning of a new decade of service for the Chamber and we are moving into the exploration of how the black entrepreneur can fit into the nation's priority business concerns," said Dr. Oscar Coffey, president and CEO of the Chamber. The organization recently changed its name from the National Black Chamber of Commerce to the U.S. African American Chamber of Commerce.

The name change is indicative of the Chamber's "new thrust" toward solving the problems of black entrepreneurs, Dr. Coffey said.

The inclusive dates for the convention are July 31 through August 7. The convention will be held in two locations, beginning at the Doral Beach Resort Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla., from July 31 through August 3, after which it will continue in Nassau, The Bahamas from August 4 through August 7.

This year marks the first time in its history that the convention will

meet outside the United States. The theme will be "Solutions: To Provide Workable Answers to Known African American Economic Problems."

Coffey said, "With the federal government so committed to International trade — what it calls the 'global economy' — the Chamber will bring government and private industry speakers who know international trade, tourism and the capacities of small, medium and big business to succeed in these areas."

Coffey said, "These experts will be able to answer the question of what roles minority entrepreneurs are currently playing in international trade, as well as what roles we might hope to play."

Coffey said the Chamber's constituents need to establish links with those federal organizations that can "aid us in our best self interest."

The Chamber's constituents must be made aware of both the possibilities and the pitfalls of international trade, said Coffey, noting that it must be clearly understood that "this could be a highly profitable area for some of us and place of tears and disappointment for others of us."

He said, "A few black entrepreneurs have been successful at international trade, and some will be on

hand to share their experiences and advise our constituents."

Coffey continued, "A good entrepreneur will study the global arena and will make up his or her own mind in terms of whether or not international trade would work for oneself. Our constituents must understand that doing business in Lagos, Rio de Janeiro, Moscow, Stockholm, Mexico City, Port of Spain, Tokyo or Peking is far more difficult than doing business in New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, Dallas, Atlanta or Memphis."

Coffey said one of the reasons for holding the second half of the convention in the Bahamas is to develop mutually beneficial economic relationships with the Caribbean Chambers of Commerce, as well as with travel and tourism industry leaders, including Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia.

The U.S. African American Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1983 to promote the growth and development of black-owned businesses nationwide and to support statewide black chambers of commerce. It is headquartered in Oakland, California.

For convention information and registration, call Dorothy R. Baker, President, Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce/Convention Chairperson, or Beverly James (Assistant to the Chairperson) at (305) 751-8649.

## Johnson Asks School Board For Specific Answers

At the Tuesday night public hearing at Githens Middle School, Harris C. Johnson restated his opposition to the administration proposed magnet schools, school attendance zones, and choice concerns, before the Durham Public Schools Board of Education.

Johnson opposes the three options offered by the administration with a focus on magnet schools and learning centers; controlled choice, which he called "only another version of the freedom of choice, outlawed by the Supreme Court"; ZIP, which he says is "re-segregation by communities"; and, sixth grade centers as proposed, saying they "will not improve performance as alleged by administration and, the needs of sixth graders would be served at the elementary school level..."

Johnson recommends that the "board consider the education park concept and develop the first educational park in the area of the new Hillside School, by building on land owned by the school system. Many of the schools are ideally located to facilitate educational parks," he said, "and would enhance re-drawing attendance zones." He also asked consideration of two other options he had presented last week.

Concerned about what appears to be a "done deal," Johnson requested (1) clarification as to whether the decision has already been made by the administration, with or without school board approval; (2) why the administration will consider only options presented by white county residents; (3) will the school board allocate comparable travel funds "to look at other possibilities offered as options" as was done for others to "travel to Cambridge to look at controlled choice and, to a Harlem school to look at a magnet school." He recommended that those on the trips stop off in Silver Spring, Md., "to review both sides of magnet schools in terms of how they affect other students."

There is a "down side of magnets," Johnson said and produced copies of an article entitled, "The Information Gap, Technology" which appeared in the March 21, 1994 issue of *Newsweek* magazine to support his position. That article points out that "Some kids get state of the art, but too many are lost in the Dark Ages of computers."

Johnson says "the school board and the administration have a moral responsibility to afford those who

propose other options the same [financial] consideration, at school board expense" to examine other options.

He also wanted answers to (1) how much money the administration has spent on the magnet school program; (2) "if the magnet school program is a done deal, why have the forums, community meetings, the public hearing, and waste time?" (3) will the board consider other options or are they still efforts in futility; (4) reason(s) the administration accepted and supported the choice and review the ZIP plans as offered by white citizens and rejected other options.

A full financial report on the cost, to date, on the design and development of the magnet program was requested by Johnson for the next board meeting. He also asked that the exact status of the administration's plans/program regarding magnet schools in Durham be submitted in writing.

Questioning the request for "two new positions under new and expanded services at a total cost of \$171,798 per year for a Planning Principal, and a Project Coordinator for the New Hillside High School," Johnson asked if the employment status of African American personnel would be jeopardized. He said, "In the outline for Middle Schools under options one, four, and five for Holton Middle School, there is a statement and I quote 'and, a new faculty' for the school without any definition regarding the current staff. Will they be reassigned, demoted, or terminated?" he asked.

"The statement that principals will have to apply for their positions, along with a national search for those positions," Johnson said "...is a concern in the community and by teachers and principals that the student re-assignment, and magnet school plans will lead to demotion, and/or termination of Afro-Americans in the respective positions." He asked that this issue be addressed in terms of short- and long-range personnel plans and policies in relation to the several proposals offered by the administration.

A status report on the efforts to insure equity, with a school by school assessment of need and progress; consideration of cancelling all transfers out of school district; and, a report on the racial breakdown by school, were also requested.

## Conference Addresses Substance Abuse Problems

By Ray Trent

On March 24, NCCU Chancellor Julius L. Chambers hosted a Triangle Area Substance Abuse Summit attended by administrators, law enforcement officers and substance abuse counselors from the area colleges and universities.

This was the first of three days of conferences to address crime related issues.

Simultaneously, the national board of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice met in Durham and officially opened its headquarters office at NCCU in room 106 of NCCU's A.N. Whiting Building.

The summit was organized to provide a public forum in which presidents and chancellors of the Research Triangle institutions of higher education and community leaders receive information and discuss common concerns in their effort to prevent substance abuse.

In his welcoming address Thursday morning at the Walker Building at NCCU, Chancellor Chambers said that discipline must be imposed, problems must be looked at, and, information must be exchanged. A committee was formed at NCCU to look at that university's problems and found that there is a lot they had better start doing.

Bob D' Catsby of Wake Technical Community College said that a unified effort is needed to pull things together. Educators should be the flagship in the war against drugs in our community. In over 50% of crimes committed, alcohol was involved. De Catsby had a display of common articles that are used to hide drugs: false deodorant containers, toothpaste tubes, hair brushes, soda cans. These products are being manufactured for this purpose, he said.

A panel of students from local universities gave a view of what the problem is from their perspective. Todd Gallinek of UNC-CH said that the problem starts seriously in high school. When youth reach college, they meet old friends and continue the abuse. There are available fake I.D.s for alcohol, he said. Chapel Hill has over forty bars. Not much is done about drinking and driving.

Matt Cossland of Duke University said that there is a need to abuse to be socially acceptable. Prevention is the most important thing.

Derrick Brown, NCCU's SGA president, said that most measures are reactive. Three places that must address problems are the university, the student body and student life. Freshman orientation comes on the tenth day of entrance. By that time, students have learned all the tricks from juniors and seniors, explained.

Ajuba Joy of NCCU said that some students come

into college with alcohol problems. The universities are overwhelmed with temptations. There are so many subliminal messages to new students.

At a luncheon following the panels, David Warren, executive director of the N.C. Governor's Institute on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, gave some statistics as to how bad the problem is. He said that alcohol is the overwhelming drug of choice in college. College students spend \$5.5 billion annually on alcohol — more than they spend on books, coffee, tea and soda combined. Most frightening is that today's students get intoxicated more often and are more motivated to drink to get drunk, particularly female students.

On Friday evening at the Miller-Morgan Health Sciences Building, the Annual Teen summit was held, sponsored by D.I.C.C.E.R., Neighborhood Empowerment and Teen Task Force, Durham Coalition on Chemical Dependency and the Institute for Minority Issues at NCCU.

Most of the discussion was about guns and drugs and the ease of obtaining both.

Cecil Brown, Sr., assistant city manager, gave the keynote address and throughout his speech he "called the role" of people who have been killed in Durham.

A proposal to reward people with \$100 for providing information leading to the confiscation of an illegal handgun was not a big point with the students. They said there were reservations on "dropping a dime" on someone — especially a person that is known to carry a gun.

A town meeting followed, hosted by John Clark of WTVD. The panelists scheduled were state legislators. They were unable to attend because they were in session. Frank Hyman, DA Jim Hardin, Commissioner Deborah Giles and student Cheri Crews, served as panelists. There was not much dialogue exchanged due to lack of attendees. Most of the group were adults, politicians and clergy.

Saturday morning sessions continued at NCCU followed by a luncheon at Pearson Cafeteria where the guest speaker was N.C. Secretary of State Thurman Hampton. Hampton said that neighborhoods and agencies must work together to address the problems. Crime and violence are not perception problems, he said, they are real. Many in the legislature believe this is something created by the media, he said. Preventing and reducing crime must be done by community oriented policing.

Ike Robinson, councilman representing the City, presented a proclamation officially declaring March 21 to April 21 as Drug Awareness Month.

Major Glenda Beard of the Durham Police Department presented a plaque to Willard and Calina Perry for their community work in the North East Central Durham project.