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30 Pages This Week

## Economics-Racism Main Concerns Of Blacks In The '80's

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** During the first two weeks in September ten [10] blacks who are active in North Carolina political life were asked ten questions relating to the status of Afro-Americans in North Carolina and the nation. The following article is an analysis of those responses. Responses to the questions will follow during the next three weeks. We encourage reader reaction to the series and the views expressed in these columns.

By Pat Bryant  
Special Correspondent

Economics and racism were the most important concerns of ten (10) blacks who were asked "what are the most pressing concerns of blacks in 1981?" The blacks questioned, in the informal survey, included a top official of a major black life insurance company, three grassroot community organizers, one minister, two politicians, two educators (one educator doubles as a politician), a social worker, and a black newspaper publisher.

Spiraling inflation, rising unemployment, and human service program budget transfers to the defense department have focused widespread public concern on economics. Six of the ten respondents in the survey said among pressing concerns is development of an economic base within the black community to provide unmet needs of black people cut from federal programs.

Asked what the role of the "national and state governments" should "play in eradicating poverty, disease, and illiteracy" seven said jobs, health care, housing, and other services should be administered from the federal government in opposition to the current trend to transfer responsibility for programs cut in the federal budget to local and state governments. Reaganomics, the popular reference to President Reagan's economic program, none agreed with, but four out of the ten interviewed said they thought the plan would unify blacks in opposition to it. The question asked was "Is Reaganomics a cure or curse on Black Americans?" Two of the people interviewed said it was a curse, two said it was neither a curse nor cure, and four said it was both.

Surprisingly, nine of the ten respondents said they are

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Patterson Ave. Y Drill Team

Drill Teams from the Patterson Avenue YMCA took the show as usual last week during the Carolina Streetscene. More pictures inside.

## Former Coliseum Director Indicted

By Yvonne Anderson  
Staff Writer

Bill McGee and Michael C. Smith were officially indicted yesterday by the Forsyth County Grand Jury on charges that they conspired to traffic and sell a quarter-pound of cocaine.

McGee, who has been suspended as manager of the Benton Convention Center and Memorial Coliseum, was released from jail on Sept. 2 after posting a \$100,000 property bond.

The bond was posted by Clarence W. Milner of 1590 Mae Trapp Drive, a cousin of McGee.

Smith, however, remains in custody in lieu of a \$500,000 bond that he has been unable to raise since the arrest. Described as a highly intelligent individual, Smith resided at 1860-D Franciscan Terrace Apartments at the time of his arrest. McGee listed a room at the Hilton Inn as his place of residence due

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Buy A Black Newspaper Day Sept. 17

## History Of The Black Press

By Yvonne Anderson  
Staff Writer

Today is the first observance of the importance of the existence of the black press in America. It is not that blacks in media have not been present in the past, indeed, since the publication of the first black newspaper in 1827, the importance of black media was established and has continued through the present.

In an effort to respond to an editorial printed in the New York Sun, John B. Russwurm wrote a rebuttal that the editors refused to print. He was told that he would either have to pay a \$10.00 fee to have the article printed or start his own newspaper. Russwurm did both. In 1827,

the Freedom's Journal became the first black newspaper to be published in the United States.

Fulfilling a need for an avenue to voice the opinions and concerns of black Americans, many more newspapers were established in the coming years.

Said Russwurm in the first issue of his paper on March 16, 1927, "Education being an object of highest importance to the welfare of society, we shall endeavor to present just, adequate views of it, and to urge upon our brethren the necessity and expediency of training their children while young to the habits of industry..."

Russwurm joined forces with Reverend Samuel Cor-

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## Mechanics And Farmers Bank

### Hunt To Speak At Opening

Ribbon cutting ceremonies for the Grand Opening of Mechanics & Farmers Bank will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19. This will mark the beginning of business for the bank located at 770 Claremont Avenue.

Governor James B. Hunt will be on hand for the ceremonies. Invitations have been extended to the general public and to a number of dignitaries.

The new building project, which was started in January by bank Corporation, Veteran Financial Building Consultants, was completed this week.

Many of the latest innovations, which mark today's contemporary bank styles have been incorporated into the design and



Gov. James Hunt

decor of Mechanics & Farmer's new office. The striking use of color and lighting as well as the use of the latest in security equipment are but a few features included in the project.

The grand opening periods will extend through Friday, Oct. 2, at which time a drawing will take place for several prizes to

be given away by Mechanics & Farmers. Prizes will include two color television sets and a microwave oven as well as 200 gallons of gas. There will also be a special drawing of gifts for children on that day.

Radio station WAAA will do a live remote broadcast at the bank during most of the day.

Mechanics & Farmers is the nation's third oldest minority owned commercial bank, and currently has offices in Durham, Raleigh and Charlotte.

**VOTE**  
Tuesday  
September 22

## McLean Remembers Roy Wilkins:

### 'Desegregation His Determination'

By Yvonne Anderson  
Staff Writer

"I guess he had a conviction of freedom for the black man. He thought he could bring it about and he did bring it about," said Charles McLean, of the late Roy Wilkins who died last week of kidney failure in a New York hospital.

Leaders from many sectors and of all beliefs gathered in New York last Friday to give homage to the man who led the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) through the turbulent sixties. McLean met Wilkins in

the early forties when Wilkins was the editor of Crisis, the official magazine of the NAACP. He remembered him as a very likable guy, who was very calm.

"He was the type of fellow that listened to anyone who wanted to confer with him," McLean said. "HE just had a way of making you feel comfortable."

The son of a minister, Wilkins began his career while studying at the University of Minnesota. There he served as the night editor of the university's newspaper and editor of a

black weekly newspaper, the St. Paul Appeal. Upon graduation, he went to work for the Kansas City Call, a leading black newspaper in Missouri.

From the editorship of the Crisis magazine, Wilkins became assistant secretary under Walter White in the civil rights organization in 1931 and in 1955 became executive secretary after White's death.

"He was very persuasive," reflected McLean. "He followed the adage 'speak softly and carry a big stick', and his stick was the NAACP." McLean said that Wilkins was a 'regular kind of

## AFL-CIO Issues Call For 'Solidarity Day'

The AFL-CIO has called for a Sept. 19 "Solidarity Day" demonstration in Washington to protest the Regan Administration's assault on vital social programs, to assert demands for jobs and justice, and to reaffirm the labor movements' historic commitment to social and economic justice.

In a telegram to J.P. Richardson, President of the Winston-Salem Central Labor Union, President Lane Kirkland said that "Solidarity Day" will be the most effective response to the Administration's claim that it speaks for the working people of America and will show that union members and their families insist on protecting the gains we've made over the last half-century".

Richardson has assured Kirkland of the Winston-Salem Central Labor Union's full cooperation.

"We'll be there!" Richardson pledged. "Union members, their families and allies from factories, offices, and job sites -- from the farms, the schools and the mills -- people from all parts of the state, I'm sure, will be a part of "Solidarity Day." He noted that a successful demonstration can "refocus the national attention on our goals of social and economic justice for all."

Organizations that have common concerns and share a common commitment have been invited to join the demonstration which will bring to the National Capitol a cross-section of rank and file

union members and other concerned Americans in a one-day event. The allied organizations invited to participate include leading civil rights organizations, senior citizens and women's groups, and dozens of public interest organizations concerned over the severity of the Administration's cut backs that threaten vital programs ranging from school lunches, Social Security pensions and on the job safety and health, to job development, wage and hour standards and clean air and water -- and all of those in between.

Labor unions which will be sponsoring buses to Washington will be the Central Labor Union, Communication Workers of America Local 3060, employees at

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Roy Wilkins

## Carver Band To Salute Black Press

The marching bands of East Forsyth Sr. High School and Carver High School will combine for performances at Carver, on Thursday, September 17 (Kennedy vs. Carver) and Friday night at East Forsyth's stadium (West For-

syth vs. East Forsyth). A salute to the "Black Press" will be sponsored by the Carver Band, during the half-time activities. Spectators will be encouraged to "Buy A Black Newspaper." The half-time

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