

Former Churchgoers Have Found Alternative From Page 1

tracted to the Muslim faith because it sets guidelines for every aspect of a man's life and makes a believer more aware of his religious responsibilities through his direct relationship with God. There is no minister to intercede for him.

When Abdul-Fattah became a Muslim, he was looking for a spiritual anchor to complement the politically active side of him. This, he says, he could not find in the Christian church, where there is too much emphasis on separation of church and state affairs.

"It is only Islam that provides a total way of life," he says. "There is no separation. All of it is wrapped into one. It is a way of life that has its origin more deeply rooted in our African origin."

Abdul-Fattah sees his change as a "return" to Islam as opposed to a "conversion" to the religion, because he says Islam has always been a part of the development of black people.

Abdur-Razzak also says he needed a spiritual stronghold to complement his political activism. "A religion should be, and is, a way of life," he says. "It (Islam) is something we have to live every day of our lives, 24 hours a day as long as we live. It's not something we practice once a week."

Irvin Shakir is the Imam (religious head) at the Muhammad Mosque on English Street. A member of the American Muslim Mission (AMM), he has been a Muslim since the age of 18.

Shakir, 44, says he decided to become a Muslim because of his religious concepts. "The religion is based on reason and intelligence," he says. The Muhammad Mosque is one of several nationwide. It has been a part of

Winston-Salem's black community for nearly 24 years and its purpose is to propagate Islam while, at the same time, emphasizing education and community involvement.

For James Moore, the Jewish faith was the answer. Moore, 36, and a member of Temple Emanuel, says he was exposed to the principles and beliefs of Judaism from family friends throughout his childhood. He was impressed with the Jewish approach to life and to religion because he says there is no one between man and God and all men are considered equal.

Moore says Judaism covers all aspects of a man's life, from home to business to dealing with his fellow man.

"I am created in God's image," he says. "I am as good as any man on earth."

The Baha'i Faith, which originated 121 years ago in Persia, now Iran, is one of the newer worldwide religions. In Winston-Salem, the Baha'i faith was established in 1967 and presently has 15 members, half of whom are black. They have no church, but gather for spiritual sessions at the homes of different members. One black member, Mamie Johnson, grew up in the Baptist church, but has been a Baha'i for 15 years.

"There were so many unanswered questions," Johnson says. "As a child, I was brought up in the church, but the Bible was so confusing that I searched for something else. There was something that I needed spiritually that I was not getting in the church."

Johnson says she chose the Baha'i faith because "it places emphasis on God and spirituality rather than on a minister." The religion also teaches racial unity and that all races should find equality with each other as they are

equal before God.

Another local religious group, the Unitarian-Universalists, accept differing religious opinions and therefore have no specific creed. The most fundamental principle is individual freedom of religious beliefs.

This, along with the social activism promoted in the church, attracted Sandra Jackson, the only black member in the city.

Jackson, 23, was a member of Reynolds Temple CME Church but, nearly two years ago, decided to join the U-U after reading its literature.

"I had ideas of what was important to me," she says. "I had read some things and some of them (other religions) had come close, but with the U-U, it was almost as if I had written it myself."

The Rastafarian religion was the alternative for one Greensboro native.

After studying African traditions and cultures, Psyche Wanzandae, a former Southern Baptist, says that he decided that the Rastafarian beliefs are a way of life for black people. "All black people," Wanzandae says, "are

Please see page 9



The first American college of pharmacy was established in Philadelphia in 1821.

Editorial Attacks Free Speech From Page 1

"hostility to the free expression by public officials and public employees."

Cooley also contended that Falls attempts to "bury any debate on the subject under an avalanche of derision," citing his use of such words as "harebrained scheme," "nitwits," "red herring" and "half-baked assignment plan" in reference to Johnson and Womble, as well as the concerns they and a group of black citizens had expressed to the school board.

"The First Amendment to the Constitution does not give the press a special dispensation to engage in political discourse apart from other segments of the community; instead, it prevents government from 'abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...'", Cooley wrote.

"That 'freedom of speech' is a freedom possessed by all citizens, including school board members and assistant principals, and it springs from the same article of government which gives Mr. Falls a right to go fishing for public 'enemies' under the banner of editorial opinion without fear of being either silenced or sued for libel... Rather than excoriating those who express views antithetical to his own opinion, Mr.

Falls ought to applaud their expression and then demonstrate, by the force of his argument, why they ought to be rejected."

Womble, assistant principal of Old Town Elementary School and a member of the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen, said earlier this week that he agrees with Cooley's statements. Womble also said he appreciates the fact that Zane Eargle gives school employees the right to free speech.

Johnson, an assistant principal at North Forsyth Senior High School, said Falls knows little of a proposal he submitted to Holleman on reorganizing the schools and that Falls should have contacted him to discuss the proposal before writing an opinion of it.

"Falls termed the proposal 'modest' and 'halfbaked.'"

"He couldn't justifiably say anything about what I said," Johnson said.

Johnson also said it is not realistic for Falls to imply that Eargle should silence school officials, because, "no one is afraid of that type of intimidation anymore."

Holleman said he decided to look into the

busing issue because it was a concern residents expressed to him during the election period last fall and not for his own personal political benefit, as Falls implies.

When he polled members of the black and white communities, Holleman said, the major concern most had was how to reduce busing without going back to a system of segregation.

"I was very disappointed with the tone of the editorial," Holleman said. "I do very much resent the fact that an editorial writer would get down to personalities."

Holleman said he was also bothered that someone would write an editorial saying there shouldn't be discussion of an issue.

Bailey said he was not personally bothered by the editorial but concerned that it attempted to put pressure on the assistant principals.

"Any tax-paying citizens should be able to voice their opinions without threats," Bailey said.

Neither Falls nor Eargle could not be reached by press time. Haislip said he had no comment on the situation and that the editorial "speaks for itself."

Make someone happy this Easter with a gift of flowers from Forest Hill Curb Market and Novelty Co.

We specialize in:

- Corsages
- Silk Arrangements
- Bedding Plants
- Hanging Baskets
- Center Pieces
- Easter Baskets

Trucks arriving daily!
We offer church discounts!

Happy Easter!

From:
Forest Hill Curb Market & Novelty Co.

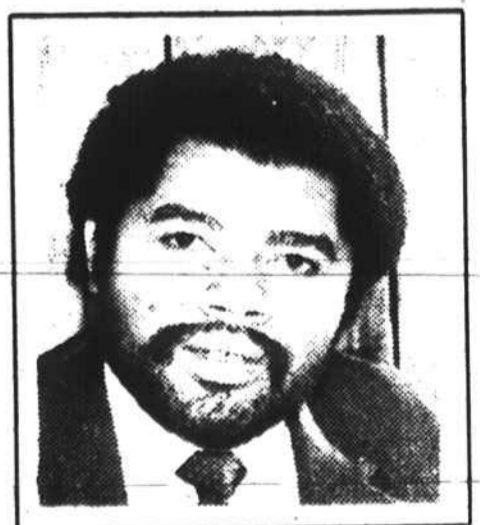
"Your Flower Headquarters"
4116 Indiana Avenue
Winston-Salem, N.C.
Telephone: 748-8157

Lee Roy Blalock, Jr. Dennis T. Blalock

11.9% ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE ON ALL NEW CHEVROLETS!

HURRY! 11.9% FINANCING ENDS MARCH 31st.

Pay \$500.00 down on a new 1983 Chevy Chevette and your monthly payments will be only \$154.00.



LINWOOD GERALD



- 4-speed
- Air conditioning
- AM/FM
- 2-door

"Swing Into Spring With A New Chevrolet"

The L'il Cheeper Dealer

Parks CHEVROLET, INC.

KERNERSVILLE — Off I-40 at Rt. 66 Exit
724-7014 or 993-2101
HOURS: Mon-Fri 8:30-9 p.m. Sat 8:30-5:30

BENNIE'S IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD.

Bennie McBride
Why drive all around the Piedmont checking out new car people and prices when Bennie McBride is as close as downtown?
Price? He's got it. Personality? Bennie's loaded with personality... and the willingness to serve... all as close as your own backyard.
— ONE of the CHEVY PRICE LEADERS —

MODERN
WEST FOURTH & BROAD 722-4191

A HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN FROM FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS... WHEN YOU WANT TO MOVE UP WITHOUT MOVING OUT.

If you feel you need a new house but don't find yourself in a position to buy right now, First Federal has the alternative—a Home Improvement Loan. For additions, renovations, repairs... for all the changes you always wanted to make but put off because you knew you'd be moving on. When the time comes to sell your house, it will be worth more if it's been updated in fact. Home improvement is one of the best investments going today. So if you want to move up without moving out, a Home Improvement Loan from First Federal Savings is probably the best move you could make. First Federal Savings, where putting First Things First is a way of business.

FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS

Main Office: 237 North Cherry Street
Branch Offices: 490 Hanes Mall • 344 Robin Hood Road • 3001 Woughton Street
130 South Stratford Road • 2814 Reynolds Road • 3001 Woughton Street
Mooresville Office: 211 Galilee Street
Clemmons Office: 2421 Lewisville-Clemmons Rd.