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32 Pages This Week

"We thought it was time to do something about it. We came up with a twofold plan to help with the academics of the child and help parents with what their role should be."
-- Bessie Allen

NAACP tutorials begin next month

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Education Committee of the local NAACP was so alarmed at black students' performance on standardized tests that it formed a steering committee in April to plan ways to help.

The fruits of those labors, a Community Tutorial Education Program, will begin in local churches on Sept. 16.

The program will provide tutoring services to students after school. Dr. Serenus T. Churn, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church, and Clester Hickerson, a retired teacher, co-chaired the steering committee.

"The NAACP got real concerned about the differences in achievement scores on standardized tests between blacks and whites," said Bessie Allen, chairman of the Education Committee. "We thought it was time to do something about it. We came up with a twofold plan to help with the academics of the child and help parents with what their role should be."

Black students' performance on the 1985-86 California Achievement Test shows why the NAACP is concerned, President Walter Marshall said.

Local blacks' scores generally fell with each grade level. In the CAT reading test, black first-graders scored in the 56th percentile, second-graders, 44th percentile; third-graders, 45th; sixth-graders, 36th, and eighth-graders, 31st.

The scores reflect how students performed on the test nationally in comparison to other students in the same grade. For instance, a 56th percentile score means that the student did better nationally than 56 percent of other students in the same grade who took the test.

Black student performance in math and language also declined in each grade level on which the test was given.

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HOT FUN



BASKETBALL IMPRESARIO Jordan came to town last weekend, to soar, score and dazzle crowds just as he did as a collegian at UNC. A story and new photos appear on B2 (file photo by Joe Daniels).

District attorney's race: Black votes will be crucial

Gatto's hoping black Democrats cross over

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Staff Writer

BLACK VOTERS may determine the district attorney's race between Democrat W. Warren Sparrow and Republican Joseph A. Gatto during Nov. 4's general election, both candidates said Friday.

"It (black vote) will have a hell of a lot to do with it," Sparrow, 50, said. "But I need all the support I can get."

Gatto, 32, said he has strong ties in the black community. "I think we have a mutual respect for each other," he said.

"The black community has treated me very well."

The black vote was the deciding factor in Sparrow's victory against incumbent District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale in the May 6 Democratic primary. Sparrow beat Tisdale overwhelmingly in the predominantly black precincts to win by fewer than 1,000 votes.

Black leaders had criticized Tisdale for his handling of the June 1985 trial of Darryl E. Hunt. Hunt, a 21-year-old black man, is serving a life sentence for the murder of newspaper copy editor Deborah B. Sykes, a white woman.

His attorneys have filed an appeal for Hunt with the N.C. Supreme Court in Raleigh.

Hunt and two other men also will stand trial soon in an unrelated murder case that also has raised controversy.

Gatto and Sparrow say the Hunt case will be an issue in the November election.

"The Darryl Hunt case will force

whoever is in the district attorney's office into the public eye," Gatto said. "He will be in the hot seat."

Gatto said it is likely that the court will reverse Hunt's conviction and grant him a new trial. "I don't have all the information about that case," Gatto said. "But there

were some problems with it.

"If I do get a chance to handle Hunt's case, I will do so in a very careful manner," Gatto said.

Sparrow discounted Gatto's statements. "It is impossible to say how the Supreme Court will rule on the matter," Sparrow said Monday. "That is a wild guess on his part."

If elected, Sparrow said, he would handle a possible new trial for Hunt on the Sykes murder charge in a "sensitive manner."

Despite Sparrow's overwhelming wins in predominantly black precincts during the primary, some blacks are not so sure they will support him in November.

Several black leaders were miffed when Sparrow attributed his victory over Tisdale to white voter support in the West Ward.

"I am not taking issue with those statements that came out in the *Winston-Salem Journal*," Sparrow said. "I am sorry this offended people. I didn't want to

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Election
Year '86

Joseph Gatto



Warren Sparrow

Second thoughts

Board of Aldermen revises public housing plans

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Staff Writer

Following complaints from aldermen two weeks ago, the city has upgraded its plans for low-income duplex apartments off University Parkway.

The Board of Aldermen decided at a workshop Monday afternoon to build fewer and fancier units after Southeast Ward Alderman Larry W. Womble and North Ward Alderman Patrick T. Hairston expressed fears that the original plan would create a slum.

The new plan calls for between 28 and 32 duplex apartments instead of 48 and will include central air conditioning instead of outlets for window air conditioners. The apartments also will be slightly larger and will feature washer-dryer hook-ups instead of only washer connections.

Assistant City Manager Alexander R. Beaty said the site could not accommodate more than 32 units with the added amenities.

Womble and Hairston said Tuesday that they are satisfied with the new plans.

"I am satisfied with these plans even though we will have fewer apartments," said Hairston.

"I was first for single-family homes," Womble said. "But that proposal didn't fly. I am glad that they will have air conditioning in these units."

Womble and Hairston roundly criticized the earlier plans, which called for flats and townhouses, saying they would be too close to one another and too plain.

The new plans also will make the duplexes cheaper. Assistant

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QUOTABLE: "This country's immoral foreign policy in South Africa is equaled only by its corrupt foreign policy in South America. Bolivia is a classic example of the latter." PAGE A4.

Mack denies charge that he harassed employee

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Staff Writer

Winston-Salem businessman James E. Mack denied Monday that he harassed a Rockingham County woman in 1980 who had filed a discrimination suit against The Hanes Group.

"That is a total falsehood," Mack said. "I would never do anything like that."

Mary Rose Bennett, a Hanes employee, said in *The New York Times* on July 20 that Mack came to her home while he was presi-

dent of B&C Associates of High Point and told her to drop the suit against Hanes.

"Jimmy Mack jumped all over me," Ms. Bennett said in the story. "He had those release papers. He said, 'You are going to sign them today.'"

"He (Mack) goes over to my doctor's house and tells him that I'm a Communist and all kinds of things," the newspaper quoted Ms. Bennett as saying.

"That is an outright lie," Mack said. "I have talked with

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Wanted: Lots of loving parents for homeless black children

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Three years ago, Katherine McEachern accepted the fact that she couldn't have children. But that didn't stop her and her husband, Vernon, from wanting a child to shower with love.

"There was a void in me," Mrs. McEachern, 38, said. "I had had three miscarriages, and I wanted a child."

It has taken a long time, but now the McEacherns finally have what they wanted -- a baby.

With the adoption of 18-month-old Antoine now legal, the McEacherns are one big happy family.

Antoine came into the McEacherns' home when he was 2 months old.

Family Services handled the adoption, but not before the McEacherns had spent years trying to adopt through other agencies.

Mrs. McEachern said she had unsuccessfully tried to adopt through the county's Department of Social Services in the mid-'70s and later at an agency in Greensboro.

Mrs. McEachern said that although she had recently accepted the fact that she couldn't have children, she had known it for many years.

"I wanted children, but I knew that the only way I was going to have them was through adoption," she said.

She said that she happened to be looking up some telephone numbers in the directory one day when she came upon the Family Services number. She gave them a call, and an appointment was arranged with Rebecca L. Lawhon, who handles

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Vernon and Katherine McEachern and son Antoine: A successful adoptive family (photo by James Parker).