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Local inventor designs painter's tool

By MAURICE CROCKER
Community News Reporter

Charles Harris of Winston-Salem has always wanted to be an inventor and said he has prayed every night that God bless him with an idea.

Harris is a painter by profession. His prayers were answered as he was painting a customer's kitchen cabinets.

"I was trying to get under the cabinets, so I broke the handle off the brush, then the idea came to me," he said.

The idea that came to Harris was to create a paint brush with a removable handle.

According to Harris, this would allow painters to get under those hard-to-reach places.

As Harris began to work on the brush, more ideas began to develop on how to improve his invention.

"When I first began, I did not know that I was going to put all of these things on one brush," he said.

Harris calls his invention the "Smart Brush", a nine-in-one tool.

What began as a paint brush with a removable handle, quickly developed into a paint opener, a paint scraper, a knife, knife sharpener, a screw driver, and a duster, just to name a few.

"Having all of these tools in one is going to save time, because you won't have to worry about stopping to find your tools," Harris said.

Harris, who has been a painter for 24 years, said the "Smart Brush" is a necessity for all painters.

"When the brush is put on the market, it's not going to be something painters may like to have — it's going to be something they must have," he said.

James Whitehead, manager of Sherwin Williams Co. in Winston-Salem, said he thinks the Smart Brush will be a plus for painters.

"I think it is something they will benefit from, because it will save them a lot of time," Whitehead said.

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Charles Harris demonstrates the utility of his invention, the Smart Brush.

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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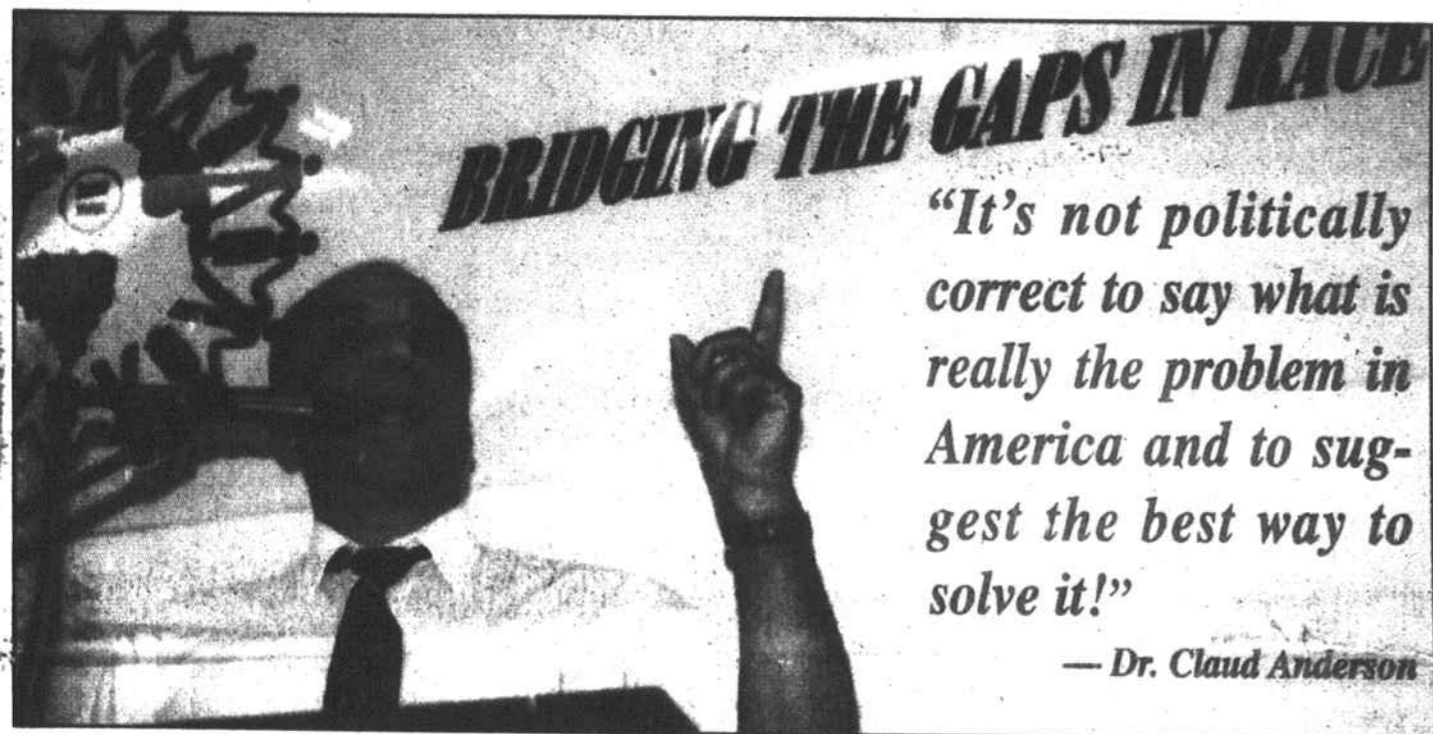
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Political correctness "stinks!"



"It's not politically correct to say what is really the problem in America and to suggest the best way to solve it!"

— Dr. Claud Anderson

By WILLIAM H. TURNER, Ph.D.
Special to the Chronicle

"Konnections," an annual forum of the Winston-Salem Urban League, is like a homecoming. It brings together those who have gone through the League's 20-hour series of give-and-take discussions on a broad range of subjects that lie at the base of racial problems in the U.S.A. The League designed "Bridging the Gaps" for those, especially whites, whose job it is to "solve" the social problems that stem from racial intolerance, insensitivity, and ignorance. When they finish the course, they come together — with a sense of community and unity — in "Konnections," a lecture and reception, that climaxes "Bridging."

The homecoming this year brought home Claud Anderson, who grew up in "The Pond" section of Winston. Dr. Anderson, a very good choice for the



Nancy Young of Sara Lee, left, listens intently during a discussion with Urban League Executive Director Delores Smith.

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FTCC speaker encourages grads to have a dream and work hard to achieve it.



Lloyd V. Hackley, President of North Carolina's Community College System

A Dream Come True: Graduating

By KIMBERLY L. MARION
Special to the Chronicle

Mildred "Tiny" Hall, a local mother of six children, dropped out of high school when her children came along and she needed to care for them. Many years later, her children are the very reason she returned to Forsyth Tech's Main Campus to earn her Adult High School diploma.

"Finishing school was one of the things I've always wanted to do, but when I was growing up, it was hard to do," Tiny Hall noted. "One of the main reasons I decided to return was to encourage my children and get them back in school, so they could make something of their lives."

Tiny is certainly setting the stage for her children. On Tuesday evening, Aug. 13, she received her Adult High School diploma during Forsyth Technical Community College's graduation exercises held in Wait Chapel at Wake Forest University.

"Graduation made me feel real good about myself. Tears welled up in my eyes, and I felt very proud," Tiny said. Her husband and several of her six children, ranging in age from 8 to 28, were in attendance.

Lloyd V. Hackley, the president of the state's community college system, intended for Tiny and the other 91 Adult High School graduates to feel proud. Hackley was the guest speaker at the gradu-



Mildred "Tiny" Hall receives congratulations and support from her family on graduating from Forsyth Tech's Adult High School.

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Black spending rebounds, outpaces whites on big items

CHICAGO (AP) — Black buying power increased sharply last year, helping black households outpace white households on spending for cars, children's clothing and perishable foods, a new study found.

The shift highlights black consumers' increasing importance to the U.S. economy as they garner more spending money, said Ken Smikle, editor of the study made by market research firm Target Market News Inc.

"Even though African Americans are only roughly 13 percent of the population, they're starting to have a significant influence on many (business) categories,"

Smikle said Monday. "When you're talking about billions of dollars to be made or lost, businesses have to sit up and take notice."

Personal income for blacks rose to \$324 billion from \$304.5 billion a year earlier, the Chicago-based research firm estimated.

Previous studies have found the amount of money blacks have to spend is growing faster than that of other U.S. groups. And increasing confidence in the economy has led blacks to loosen their purse strings following a sharp drop in spending on big-ticket items a year earlier, Smikle said.

"In the past two years, blacks have had a lack of confidence in the economy and their own financial situations, leading them to delay spending," he said. "Now that things seem to be more optimistic, they are making up with postponed purchases."

Black households spent \$10.8 billion last year on new cars and trucks, a 163 percent increase over \$4.1 billion a year earlier, the study found. That compares to just a 9 percent increase over a year ago for white households.

The survey analyzed in-person interviews and diaries taken from 3,000 black households for the U.S. Department of

Commerce's annual consumer spending survey.

Among other findings, the average black household:

•Spends \$1,592 a year on clothing, compared to \$1,650 for whites. But blacks outspent whites nearly 10 percent more on clothing for children under 15, \$292 vs. \$265.

•Spends an average 48 percent more than whites on food prepared at home, including fresh meat, fish, eggs and poultry.

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This Week in Black History
AUGUST 23-24, 1996
NATIONAL NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE organized at Boston by one Booker T. Washington and elected president

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