



▲ Conservative black author C. Mason Weaver visited Forsyth County to promote his book, *It's O.K. To Leave The Plantation*.

WEAVER

from page A1

under a thousand at last count.

A Southern Region Office of Project 21 was recently founded in Greensboro. Sharon Brooks Hodge, coordinator of Project 21's Southern Region Office, is an editorial writer at the Greensboro News & Record.

Hosted by the Forsyth Republican Women, Weaver made his second trip to the area in a year. He continued his book promotion tour last week.

The subtitle of Weaver's book, "A Journey From Liberalism to Conservatism," only partially explains how the self-described '60s militant became a conservative radio commentator and inspirational speaker. His conversion to conservatism is summed up in a brief paragraph in which Weaver describes his realization that "the Democrats were the party for the poor and the Republicans were the party for the rich." He decides that the Democratic Party must be bent on keeping their constituents poor.

One of Weaver's proposals to end poverty is eliminating the minimum wage. Government-mandated wages hurt black entrepreneurship, Weaver argues.

Essentially, Weaver asserts, government control puts all Americans "back on the plantation." He includes social programs, affirmative action and welfare as examples of the government plantation, and blames increasing poverty on an expanded government.

Ignoring that poverty among the working class increased exponentially during the Republican leadership and trickle-down economics of Reagan, Weaver declares that the 1980s were a

boon to all Americans.

Weaver declares that black leaders such as Jesse Jackson are "poverty pimps," acquiring prestige through his position of leader. In order to remain a leader, says Weaver, Jackson must have a following of impoverished, hopeless African Americans.

Weaver maintains that "the original home of freed blacks was with the Republican Party," and says that after Reconstruction, the Democratic Party forced blacks out of elected offices. Weaver ignores the major party conversion that occurred in the South in the earlier part of this century, when the traditionally liberal Republican Party and conservative Democrats switched platforms.

In fact, say African-American historians W. Augustus Low and Virgil A. Clift, after the Reconstruction "the first spoiler of the dream of equality for blacks was the Republican Party." Low and Clift state, "the Republican Party abandoned southern Afro-Americans to the local white populations who, once assured that they would be free from northern interference, began a systematic curtailment of black political power."

Weaver does not acknowledge that Helms' colleague, South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurmond, was a "Dixie-crat" who turned to the Republican Party when Democrats began actively seeking black constituents.

Although he is an avowed adversary of communism, Weaver also ignores Sen. Helms' statement following the desegregation of higher learning in North Carolina. Lumping together race and politics, Helms said the initials of UNC at Chapel Hill stood for the "University of [Negroes] and

Communists."

Though the majority of black Americans vote Democrat and are considered liberal, conservatism can be traced in African-American history. Booker T. Washington, founder of the Tuskegee Institute, endorsed an accommodative philosophy which advised blacks to "cast down your bucket where you are." Washington eschewed political power in favor of promoting trade skills among post-Reconstruction African Americans.

During his lecture, Weaver echoed Washington's anti-political aspirations: "We don't have leaders in this country, folks — we are the leaders."

When asked of his own political aspirations, Weaver answered, "I have too much fun throwing bricks at politicians to become one."

And bricks he will throw. Weaver criticized Rep. Maxine Waters and said that she helped incite the 1992 Los Angeles riots that followed the Rodney King verdict.

In his book, Weaver rails against the media's failure to represent his claims of the 70 percent of African Americans living above the poverty line; in the next breath, he chastises blacks for "sitting on the front stoop drinking wine and waiting for the next game of basketball."

Weaver's contradictions may not be indicative of all black conservatives; indeed, his contradictions may place him alongside some who would identify themselves as liberal. Part of what Weaver represents is another side of the diverse African-American community, breaking the monolithic myth.

parents and students. Dudley supporters set a goal of \$100,000 to replace seats in the auditorium and provide other improvements for the school.

The campaign and redistricting process have brought to light a number of problems with Dudley, both in structure and outside perceptions. During the meetings of the redistricting steering committee, some white members said they perceived Dudley as a violent school with poor academics.

Many in the African-American community view this perception as an excuse to lock Dudley into a zone of low income, inner city students; these fears were exacerbated by some of the preliminary feeder zones offered by the redistricting committee. One map effectively cut a large black middle class neighborhood from Dudley's attendance zone.

School board members have stayed clear of most meetings, leaving the redistricting committee to face questions they cannot answer.

One concern about redistricting that has surfaced again and again is the fate of magnet schools.

"If we get caught up in the redistricting the way they're trying to do it, we may lose that academy

at Dudley," said Gloria Tatum Wade, vice president of Dudley Academy, the high school's math and science magnet. "We have to be aware that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the children that come from this district."

Other concerns have been with the school system's commitment to equity funding and academic achievement. If some schools bear too many of the low-achieving students, overall achievement may drop at those schools. Under the new state ABC plan, this would make them vulnerable to state intervention.

Frustration with the redistricting process has boiled over to anger in some cases.

"You don't know what you're fooling with," said one woman, speaking at a redistricting forum held last month at Dudley High School. "This summer is going to make the L.A. riots look like nothing."

Some whites are also upset about the process.

"It's time for this country to stop building prisons and put our money where it needs to be (in education) ... The white people in Greensboro need to come out," said Mark George, a white participant in the march.

MEETING

from page A1

left. Womble touched on welfare reform, the proposed lottery referendum and the cross-state train service that will skip Winston-Salem.

After the meeting, Malloy said that the city had not yet earmarked where the bond referendum's economic development money would go.

However, the city's bond referendum information packet states that money may go to acquisition and development of the downtown area and "other industrial and business opportunity areas."

Malloy and Johnson agree that there are no sites in East Winston on which to develop industry.

"We just simply don't have the large tracts of land to purchase for businesses," said Malloy. "The Wachovia building, they couldn't build it [in East Winston]."

Johnson named the Eastway Plaza and the area containing the ABC liquor store and Aegis medical center as examples of site development in East Winston. Johnson also included Baptist Hospital's proposal to build a new medical facility on 14th Street in

potential economic development.

Many people were concerned about how Food Lion's purchase of the Eastway Plaza's Bi-Lo grocery store would impact East Winston. A Bi-Lo employee said that the area can definitely support more than one grocery store.

"In my opinion, Bi-Lo was a thriving store," she said.

Some residents asked that the city assist the introduction of a new grocery store in East Winston.

Johnson said that aldermen were communicating with the corporations, but "unfortunately, the issue is profit-margin."

The site where Food Lion's Martin Luther King store was housed could be used for the proposed Eastway Cafeteria, Johnson offered.

Vivian Burke, alderman for the Northeast Ward, said that efforts to create jobs in East Winston have not been as successful as hoped. A scheduling conflict prevented Burke from attending the meeting.

"The kind of jobs that are being generated in East Winston are not your high-paying jobs," she stated.

Since 1990, the city has invested \$9.3 million in economic development projects, which have produced almost 5,000 new jobs. However, Burke said, minorities receive the low end of the pay scale for these new jobs, which ranges from \$6.28 to over \$26 an hour. The city does not keep records on racial demographics in job participation.

The City's Workforce Development Department offers training sessions twice a month to teach job skills. Since it was established in November, about 600 people have visited the Joblinks Career Center each month.

Burke thinks these efforts have not effectively met the needs of the East Winston community.

"We're spending an awful lot of money going through the motions of training people, but the track record is not that good," Burke said.

Nevertheless, Malloy asked that citizens have faith in the bond package.

"Let's not take too negative a view of this bond referendum, because you'll cut your own throat if you don't look at this with an open mind and objectivity," said

NAACP

from page A1

Chapel Seventh Day Adventist Church School still operates today.

Charles Powell, who works with Haizlip Funeral Home and Washington Drive Enrichment Center, received Man of the Year Honors. Powell has been the driving force behind local NAACP membership drives.

Rochandra Lomax, a senior at Southwest Guilford High School, received the Outstanding Student Award. A volunteer with the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, Triad Health Project, Hurricane Andrew Relief Project, High Point Regional Hospital and the Homeless Shelter, Lomax plans to major in business administration

at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

The Religious Service Award went to the Rev. Wallace Powell, local NAACP vice president. Pastor and founder of Phillipian Baptist Church, Powell is a past president of the Minister's Conference. He has served as vice chair of the board of management at the Carl Chavis YMCA and sits on the board of the Urban

Ministry Drug Action Task Force.

A Distinguished Service Award was presented to Raymond McAllister Sr., a retired educator who served as branch president for six years.

The Rev. E.B. Freeman, pastor of St. Paul Presbyterian Church, is president of the High Point Branch NAACP. Carmen Davis was dinner chair.

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We hope you have noticed the many changes in *The Chronicle* over the last few weeks.

We have tried to produce a newspaper that you can be proud of. To that end, we are asking you to please send us only professionally done photos with your articles and announcements. Good studio color photos are the best. We scan all of our photos electronically and must start with a good photo in order to produce a clear crisp image on

newsprint. If you take the photo yourself, make sure you have enough light to expose everyone in the picture. We sincerely appreciate the support you have given us thus far. We look forward to giving you the kind of newspaper that will make you proud.

Here are some guidelines:

- Please take photos up close. The closer you are, the better the picture will look in the paper.
- Copyrighted photos, photocopies, newspaper clippings, overexposed pictures and dark photos cannot be used.
- Avoid taking photos in the shade or against dark backgrounds.
- Make sure faces are easily identifiable.

Thank you.

TENSION

from page A1

from the Guilford County Social Services board.

The controversy stems in part from the Social Services board's decision to offer interim director Joyce Lewis a permanent position as head of the Department of Social Services. Lewis was hired following the commissioners' request that the board hold off on a decision.

Bad blood between the chair of the board, the Rev. Michael King and the Republican commissioners has also strained relations. Several months ago, King threatened to sue the board of commissioners after they froze Social Services funds.

A court order returned Dorsett and Barnett to the board last month. Their permanent status will be determined within the month.

While the actions of the commissioners have concerned some, many more people are frustrated by the school redistricting process and the condition of Dudley, Greensboro's remaining historically black high school.

A capital improvements campaign was recently initiated by Dudley's administration, alumni,

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