

A 'Taste of the Triad'



Thousands showed up at the Lawrence Joel Coliseum Annex for the annual "Taste of the Triad." Attendees sampled food from some of the Triad's best eateries. The event also featured music, special activities for children and door prizes.

Photos by T. Kevin Walker

Churches are key to ending violence, some leaders say

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Two black leaders - County Commissioner Walter Marshall and state Rep. Larry Womble - were among the panelists who spoke at a community forum on youth violence at First Baptist Church downtown Sept. 12.

The event was attended by more than 60 people.

"It's still unclear what happens next. ... We very much want to keep the effort going, but we're not sure how to go about doing that," the Rev. David Hughes, the senior pastor at First Baptist Church, said in an interview Tuesday.

Hughes said that he and Don Martin - superintendent of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County schools and one of the panelists for the forum on youth violence - have discussed the possibility of churches partnering with schools - to be positive influences on students - but Hughes said he doesn't know what will come of that idea.

Coincidentally, churches being involved in schools was one of the items discussed at the Black Leadership Roundtable meeting last Thursday night. The Rev. J. Ray Butler, pastor of United Cornerstone Baptist Church, said that about two years ago the superintendent of schools asked the Ministers Conference for a list of ministers who could serve as volunteers in schools. Butler said that the Ministers Conference supplied that list to the school system and still, to Butler's knowledge, the school system has not called the minis-

ters as volunteers.

"None of us have been called upon for this service," Butler said.

He said ministers could be motivational speakers on such things as integrity, being good citizens, being good students (for example, not watching TV when they should be doing their homework), having good relationships with their families, etc.

"The church gets to no more than 10 percent of the population," Butler said.

Victor Johnson, a member of the School Board, told the roundtable it's "a disgrace" the school system is not using ministers as volunteers in schools.

Johnson said he thought the School Board would be supportive of the idea. "Most of the board members are religious," he said.

The Sept. 12 forum on youth violence was the brainchild of Ross Mecham, a member at First Baptist Church, said Hughes.

After the shootings at Columbine, Mecham told Hughes, "I have a real burden in my heart about violence in schools," Hughes recalled. Mecham said that churches need to be involved in efforts to reduce school violence and he asked Hughes if First Baptist could hold a community forum on youth violence.

In addition to Marshall and Womble, the panelists at the forum were Don Martin, schools superintendent; Jennifer Gurino, a recent graduate of West Forsyth High School; Dr. Rob DuRant, a professor of pediatrics at Wake Forest University School of Medicine; and George

Sweat, former Winston-Salem police chief who is now the director of the state council of juvenile justice.

Hughes said causes, patterns and possible remedies for youth violence were discussed.

"There was a great deal of discussion of the role of the media and the moral content of TV and movies" as they pertain to violence, Hughes said. For example, some people feel that round-the-clock cable news repeatedly reporting incidents of violence may add to the problem. Ditto for TV shows and movies that have lots of violence.

Hughes said, "There was a great deal of discussion about gun control and what it would take to get state legislatures or U.S. Congress to pass (gun control)."

And there was discussion about the role of parents who are uninvolved or under-involved in the lives of their children, as a contributing factor in youth violence, Hughes said.

Hughes said the United States is one of the most violent nations in the world.

A lot of the killings that take place in the United States get little attention because they happen in poor areas and ghettos, Hughes said.

Law enforcement and government, he said, are only going to be able to go so far in combating youth violence.

"Ultimately this is a matter of heart and spirit," he said.

"There is no real sanctuary against violence; it can happen anywhere," Walter Marshall said in an interview Friday.

Minorities to fuel America's growth

BY PAUL SHEPARD
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - A Census Bureau study showing that minorities will fuel almost all of America's population growth in the next 50 years presents great economic opportunities for minority businesses, Commerce Secretary William M. Daley said Tuesday.

"We have found that the 21st century will be a very different America," Daley said in a speech to the 17th annual conference on National Minority Enterprise Development.

"A growing economy, a larger minority population and closing income gap means a dramatic

increase in minority buying power," Daley said.

In 50 years, America's population growth will come almost entirely from minority groups, according to the study. America's population will grow by 50 percent, from 268.2 million people to 393.9 million, it estimates.

Almost 90 percent of the growth will come from minorities, a group that includes Asians, American Indians, blacks and people of Hispanic descent, the study says.

Non-Hispanic whites, who now comprise 74 percent of the population, will be 53 percent of the population in 2050, according to the study titled "The Emerging Minori-

ty Marketplace: Minority Population Growth 1995-2025."

"At Commerce, we want the business community to recognize the new environment that will be out there," Daley said. "Knowing what we look like means there will be far greater opportunities for minority entrepreneurs."

In the next half-century, Asian-Americans who now make up 4 percent of the population will increase to 9 percent overall. African Americans will increase from their current 13 percent to 15 percent.

Hispanics, who can be members of any race, will increase from 9 percent to 22 percent, and American Indians will remain at 1 percent of the population.

they are not involved in the movement to keep young people out of prison," Daniels charged. "We're going to take back our children, take back the streets and stand up for equality."

During the convention, the PNBC members adopted several "transformational initiatives," including support for the boycott of South Carolina, where two of the organization's 2000 conferences were scheduled to be held.

"We will join the NAACP and SCLC and others to boycott South Carolina, where our annual board meeting was scheduled to be held in Myrtle Beach, and a later conference in Columbia," Daniels

said. Since the NAACP's call for a boycott of South Carolina for its continued use of the Confederate flag - a racist symbol of slavery and inequality in America - many black organizations have canceled planned events to be held in the state.

In addition to the various workshops, worship services and meetings, convention officers were installed for another year. Thelma Chambers-Young was elected and installed as the youngest president of the Women's Department in the convention's history. She succeeds Mildred Wormly, who gave a stirring address during the main session of the convention.

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