

Blacks Map Strategy To Save White Community Worker

By Pete Johnson
Special To The Post

Black leaders in the Northwest Community Action Association (NWCAA) are meeting this week to discuss strategy they hope will help them keep the services of a white community development specialist faced with removal from their communities.

Dave Blevins, community specialist with the Community Action Fund (CAF) has been pulled from the powerful coalition of community groups

and given another community assignment.

"The NWCAA was gaining strength and becoming successful in representing the interest of people who had not been represented, Blevins said. He thinks he was removed from the area because 'some persons in power in the city thought the NWCAA should be stopped.' The popular community worker said those opposing the NWCAA's effort 'couldn't stop the residents so they worked to withdraw staff support by removing me,' Blevins said.

"He's been active and helpful in the northwest area, Tryon Hills Community Organization president Willie Lewis said, adding that the removal of Blevins from the NWCAA was so quick that his community groups and others want it investigated. 'As it now stands, it's wide open,' he said.

Samuel H. Kornegay, executive director of the Charlotte Area Fund, refused to discuss his reasons for the Blevins transfer other than to suggest that his earlier public statement indicating the move

was part of staff reorganization.

Kornegay also refused to say when the appeal hearing would be held for Blevins.

One third of the Charlotte Area Fund is composed of the downtown political power structure or their representatives.

The reorganization, referred to earlier by Kornegay has been an unpopular move throughout the CAF. According to Post sources, at least seven staffers have complained about the changes and some of them have formally

filed complaint charges.

CAF officials also have contended that Blevins change of assignment was necessary because he was needed in an area from which years earlier they transferred him. There are fewer persons to be served in the eastside area assignment given Blevins and ratio of need is less.

Potentially, about 8,000 needy residents are housed in the east side area to which Blevins has been reassigned whereas over 45,000 now are reaping the benefits of his community organizing.

The 12-group Northwest Community Action Association, has grown over the past two and half years with Blevins support from six to a dozen. It has been a vital and vocal part of the Charlotte community.

Members of the NWCAA are quick to point to Blevins, a white community organizer, for pulling the leadership together for the actions of the group.

Blevins, who is 33-years-old, is a graduate of Columbia University in New York, with a master's degree in social

work. He grew up in Richmond, Ind. but he has lived in Charlotte for the past nine years. He joined the area funds in February 1968.

The current controversy surrounding him is nothing new for Blevins. When he was first assigned to organized the east side community in 1971, he was instrumental in helping local parents of elementary school children win a school bus for children who had to cross five dangerous streets. It was not long after that he was sent to the west



L. C. Coleman
NWCAA President

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NEWSPAPER

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28216-Thursday, January 15, 1976

PRICE 20c

6,000 Delegates To Attend

Black Candidate To Toss Hat In Coming Presidential Race?



Eye-Catching Theresa Plummer
Attends Wilson Junior High

Theresa Plummer

Is Beauty Of Week

by Polly Manning
Post Staff Writer

Our Beauty for this week is Miss Theresa Plummer. Theresa lives with her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Guthrie of 128 Lakewood Avenue.

She attends Wilson Junior High School where she is a member of the Student Council, an Office Assistant and a member of the Track Team.

The Student Council is trying to sponsor many different functions this year. For Thanksgiving they made a gigantic turkey which was placed in the office foyer. Each class was asked to bring can goods to fill up the turkey. The contents were then given to a needy family. For Christmas the Student Council sponsored a dance which was called Santa's Workshop. The admission to the dance was a 50 cent, or

more toys to be donated to Toys for Tots. "Mr. McElrath served as Santa Claus," explained Theresa. "I think he was very effective. The students dressed up as little girls and boys and took turns sitting on Santa's knee."

As an office assistant Theresa's duties include passing out attendance sheets, helping out the office secretary, Mrs. Plyer, and basic office duties. The favorite subject of Miss

Plummer is Health. "I enjoy learning about keeping in shape and the different other things involving health classes," stated our beauty. Her favorite teacher is Mr. Mitchem who teaches occupational education. "He is a very nice man and teacher," smiled Theresa. "He understands problems and tries to give help to anyone, if he can."

Our Beauty's hobbies are baseball, basketball, football, tennis, and track. Theresa states that she enjoys all these sports because they are good ways to exercise and help keep the body in shape.

Born under the sign of Virgo our ninth grade Beauty feels that people of this sign are friendly, like to get along with other people and they love to look in the mirror.

The future ambition of Theresa is to become a secretary. When asked why she chose this profession she stated that it was because she enjoyed working in offices.

Richard Roundtree is Miss Plummer's favorite actor. "I like him because he's nice looking and he treats a woman like a man should," she beamed.

The person that Theresa most admires is Billy Dee Williams and she states that it's because he is nice looking.

Theresa feels that being chosen as Beauty is an important point in her life.

Deadline Set For Tax Listing

The Mecklenburg County Tax Supervisor's Office has begun its annual City/County personal property tax listing.

A listing of all motor vehicles, boats and household furnishings must be filed with the Mecklenburg County Tax Supervisor by January 31, or a penalty must be charged.

Unless you are a new resident of Mecklenburg, you should receive your tax listing form by January 10. Approximately 137,000 forms have been mailed. Newcomers and those who have not received their forms by January 10 should request them from the Tax Supervisor's Office at 720 East Fourth Street.

Tax Supervisor Robert P. Alexander says that tax list takers are in the town clerk offices in Matthews, Pineville, Cornelius, Huntersville and Davidson and are available to help those who need assistance with their listing.

Alexander reminded elderly persons that they must make an annual application for their partial exemption. Applications for this exemption have been mailed with the tax listing form. Property tax relief for the elderly includes real property and mobile homes.

Property owners who have farmland, horticultural land or forest land must also apply annually for preferential assessments.

All real and personal property assessments will be at 100 per cent of the appraised value of the property.

Tax Supervisor Alexander added this final word of advice: because of construction that is presently underway on a new parking facility at the County Office Building, taxpayers are urged to make their tax listings by mail rather than coming to the County Office Building.



POLITICAL FUGITIVE ROBERT WILLIAMS

..... Mass Meeting's key figure

Robert Williams, Ben Chavis To Head Fund-Raising Rally

By Sidney Moore Jr.
Post Staff Writer

"Focus On Human Dignity" is the theme of a Mass Meeting scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday at West Charlotte Senior High School Auditorium. The purpose of the meeting will be to raise funds for the defense of long time political fugitive Robert Williams, who will speak at the meeting.

The Rev. Ben Chavis, a co-defendant in a controversial civil rights court case in Wilmington, will also appear at the meeting.

Williams goes to court January 19 to face charges stemming from a 14-year-old alleged kidnapping. This meeting is an attempt to generate public support for the former civil rights leader from Monroe.

According to one account of the Williams story, the former president of the Monroe

branch of the NAACP was the object of police and Ku Klux Klan harassment for his leadership in campaigns to desegregate Monroe. When the Black community came under armed attack by racist night-riders, Williams advocated self-defense. In the late 1950's when these incidents occurred, the non-violent movement had just begun and any advocacy of self-defense was interpreted by authorities

as a call for violence.

Williams was charged with kidnapping when he sheltered a white couple trapped in the community during a racial incident. He reacted to the charge by fleeing the country. During an exile that took him to several communist countries, Williams wrote articles and made public speeches that indicated that he felt he would be killed had he not fled.

Congresswoman Chisholm An Outstanding Choice

U. S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm waged a disjointed fight for the Democratic nomination for president years ago in her effort to become the first black presidential nominee. When over 6,000 black delegates to the Black Political Convention met March 17-21, in Gary, Indiana, they plan to nominate an independent black candidate for the nation's highest political office.

In preparation for what could be a history making convention, state and local chapters of the National Black Political Assembly have scheduled conventions for delegates to the meeting. More than 6,000 are expected to attend.

However, as convention planners prepare for the national gathering they are expressing concern that their local chapters in the south are not as active as others nationwide and that a concentrated effort will be needed to improve that.

"The 1976 Black Political Convention and the 1976 strategy will serve as a major vehicle to popularize the new black politics among the masses of black people," convention chairperson Ron Daniels said.

Daniels said the assembly hopes to give blacks an alternative to the Democratic and Republican parties.

"The Republican and Democratic parties reflect and represent the interest of the rich and the super rich under the present vicious system of institutional racism and monopoly capitalism. A new society based on the principles and realization of economic Democracy must be borne," Daniels said. He said black people must take the leadership to build the new political movement.



Shirley Chisholm
Favored Candidate

U. S. Rep. Ronald V. Dellums of California, former Washington, D. C. school superintendent Barbara Sizemore and Ebony Magazine author-lecturer Lerone Bennett are among the scheduled speakers.

Policy Changed

For Reduced Bus

Ticket Program

Starting January 15 it will be easier to replace lost or stolen I.D. cards for persons registered in the City's reduced bus fare program. Under the T.A.P.E. plan (Transit Assistance Plan for the Elderly and Handicapped) qualified persons obtain identification cards which permit them to purchase City Coach bus tickets at half fare or 20 cents a ticket.

A new policy will eliminate the need for a person to come to the City's Transit Planning Office to replace a lost or stolen I.D. card. Duplicate I.D. card registration forms will now be issued at all locations where T.A.P.E. tickets are sold. Completed forms will be forwarded to the Transit Planning Office, which will mail a new I.D. card to the person.

To qualify for reduced bus tickets, elderly persons must provide proof of age (62 or older). Handicapped individuals must provide a statement of disability (mental or physical) signed by a medical doctor. Registration forms are available at City Hall, the Mobile City Hall, or at any Charlotte Housing Authority rental office.

Smear Campaign Will Not Destroy The King Legacy

The "smear campaign" a gainst Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will not destroy the legacy he left the world as a worker for social change through non-violence, the wife of the slain civil rights leader has said.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King said it may take 25 to 50 years before the nation can fully appreciate the magnitude of Dr. King's contributions. "It was 60 years after Christ's crucifixion that a disciple named Paul founded Christianity," Mrs. King said in an interview last week.

The widow of the slain Nobel

Peace Prize winner said she plans to see to it that her late husband's philosophy is preserved. Currently, the major effort in that regard is being promoted by the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change in Atlanta.

Today, (Thursday), is being celebrated throughout the country in honor of the slain civil rights leader who was cut down in Memphis, Tennessee by an assassin's bullet in 1968.

In Atlanta, where the major birthday celebration was planned, Mrs. King lead a host of national figures in a down-

town "full employment march and rally". U.S. Sen. Hubert Humphrey was the featured speaker.

Recent revelations of attempts by the FBI to discredit her husband and her discovery that she has been the target of FBI surveillance have not altered her belief that the work of Dr. King must continue, Mrs. King said.

Mrs. King said she believes that her husband's death resulted from a conspiracy and not just the work of convicted assassin James Earl Ray.

Mrs. King said she will not

abandon the work of her husband, and, at 48, said her future efforts will be conducted through the King Center in Atlanta.

During the eighth annual celebration of the birthday of Dr. King, a Martin Luther King Community Center will be dedicated just across the street from the Ebenezer Baptist Church on Auburn Avenue, where Dr. King once served as pastor. Land adjacent to the church will be the site of a crypt for King's body and a permanent home for the King center.

Other activities held during the celebration included:

A presentation of an original play on life of Dr. King.

A wreath laying ceremony at the King grave site and a benefit concert at the Atlanta Omni to raise money for the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change.

Among the many dignitaries expected to be in Atlanta are Playwright-Actor Ossie Davis, Actress Ruby Dee, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Carla Hills, Economist Leon Keyserling, Rep. Andrew Young of Atlan-

ta, Augustus Hawkins of California and Walter Fauntroy of Washington, D.C., Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson and State Senator Julian Bond.

Mrs. King concluded:

"There is a common thread between the hope for justice expressed at the founding of our nation 200 years ago, and the demand for justice emanated by my husband in our own life time. For the celebration of the 47th Birthday Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 14 and 15, 1976 we will address this linkage of hope.

TURTLE-TALK



An unintentional error is often stupid but not as stupid as the decision which sometimes greets it