

Blacks' Depravation Results From Disorganization?

By O. Imani Uhuru Aka (V.W.P.)
The outrageous conditions that exist in the black community, high crime rate, juvenile delinquency, structural deterioration, public disorganization, and moral incompetence, have been attributed to many causes, among them being the disorganization of the black religious community. In a recent issue of the

Post, Kelly Alexander Sr., head of the North Carolina branch of the NAACP, indicted the religious community for what he called its, "lack of togetherness, and ethnically destructive teachings." In short he contends that, "the black clergy are brainwashing blacks with the purity of whiteness, and the evil of blackness."
In an effort to sound out the

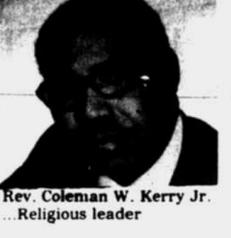
attitudes of the clergy on this subject, the Post talked with ministers who represent what many would say are widely differing points of view. Eman Ali Shah, Eman of Masjid Muhammad No. 36, and the Rev. Coleman W. Kerry of Friendship Baptist Church. Both men obliged us in a very informative manner, as to their opinions on the function of the religious arm of the

black community. Both men were in agreement as to the power of the church in the black community.
"The Masjid (mosque) is the center of moral strength for the community," commented Eman Ali Shah. "It is our responsibility to help the community, the poor, the elderly, and all the unfortunates of an immoral society, these

people need help in order to better their condition. Rev. Kerry offered that, "There is nothing to compare to the religious community as the most powerful force in the society. It is the most powerful and the most viable force in the community, and it always has been. In view of the fact that both men agreed on the importance of the position occupied by the clergy, we

asked both men if the black religious community should unite, and pool its resources in order to strengthen the thrust of the upward mobility of the black community.
"Why should they unite?" asked Rev. Kerry. "The whites haven't united in this fashion. I don't see any virtue in that. You can not measure the effectiveness of an organization by its size. Our job is to

serve the needs of the people as we understand them to be. We must meet these needs on an economic level not sociologically in the political sense. The dollar that leaves Friendship reaches all over the world. Here at home it pays for the facilities and the staff, supports missions and education. Recently we helped fund \$600,000 to Shaw University. See Blacks on Page 10



Rev. Coleman W. Kerry Jr.
Religious leader

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BLACK NEWSPAPERS EFFECTIVELY REACH BY FAR, MORE BLACK CONSUMERS

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Photo By Jim Black

ALLURING SHARI BLACKWELL
Talented, ambitious, farsighted

Shari Blackwell Is Beauty Of Week

By Melvetta Wright Post Staff Writer
Talent, ambition and a foresight that is rarely seen in young people of her age, Miss Shari Blackwell, the older daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Blackwell of 1834 Haines St., is the Beauty that is representing the Post this week.
A 12th grade student at West Charlotte's Open School component, Shari is involved in the main counsel, the NAACP, the Ski Club, and the COO - an occupational program at the school. She is employed at the Plaza Eye Clinic where she performs secretarial duties.
A participant in the Open School since her sophomore year, Shari said that it's not for everybody. "...You have to be disciplined and responsible. You can fail in open school just like in a regular school."
Shari explained why she prefers the open school concept by saying, "...It's more conducive to learning. It gives students the chance to be creative and to do things they wouldn't regularly DO IN A TRADITIONAL SCHOOL."
Shari has been accepted at

UNCC, where she plans to study business administration and fashion merchandising. Looking forward to her college career, Shari said that being in the open school has prepared her for college.
A sensitive Gemini (born June 28, 1959) who likes to work with her hands, Shari said that she enjoys sewing, swimming, music (she's studied piano under Mrs. Blanche Oliver for 11 year), and watching old movies, which makes Channel 36 her favorite television station.
Shari is enrolled at Trimm Modeling Agency's school where she is now in the professional modeling class. She and her classmates are traveling to New York City this month for a week's competition at the International Modeling Convention. The competition will cover four areas - television commercials, photographic modeling, runway modeling, and the Simplicity pattern contest. She made a dress for the competition but says that she doesn't put much hope in winning anything. "If it happens, that'll be nice," she said, but she'll be happy with the experience, just to be able to meet and talk to some of the people who are involved in professional modeling.
Despite her enjoyment of modeling, Shari said that her future plans don't include modeling as a career possibility. "I wouldn't want to go into modeling because it's a short-lived business."
Shari said that she's considering trying designing, maybe opening up some type of business that deals with art, or even teaching on the high school level as future career possibilities.
She is a member of Simpson Gillespie United Methodist Church.

TURTLE-TALK

Your troubles are probably BEHIND YOU - that is, if you're a SCHOOL BUS DRIVER.

Districting Outcome In Doubt? Charlotte Officials Expect Low Turnout For Tuesday's Election

Employment Figures Make Good News

By Deborah Gates Post Staff Writer
The latest report from the Employment Security Commission (ESC) concerning employment figures for the Tar Heel State was good news, showing that statewide employment had increased for February to 2,301,700, an increase of 10,500 over January's level.
According to Dwight Leonard, Manager of the Charlotte local ESC office, Construction trades added 1,200 new or laid-off workers in Feb. service industries added 2,100, and agriculture added 4,700 new employees in anticipation of the spring planting season. In short, the seasonal blow suffered by these very same industries in January was short lived, and there was enough resiliency in the state's economy for each to bounce back in February, said Leonard.
In a recent discussion concerning the Employment Security Commission's monthly jobless report for January, Leonard noted that the statewide unemployment had registered a 12 month high of seven percent. "Not since January of 1976, had so many-173,000 to be exact - of our citizens been without work." He also stated that while a seasonal jump in unemployment is fairly predictable in the early winter months, the unusual severity of January's cold tended to push our jobless levels a bit higher than otherwise expected. Outdoor occupations such as construction were especially hard hit in January, with individual jobless rates running anywhere between 10 and 20 percent.



Photo By Jim Black

DR. BERTHA MAXWELL, CENTER, CHATS
...With Tim Harkness and Mrs. Lessie Deavers

In JCSU Span Plan Housing, Academic Programs

Two Main Areas Of Concern

By Deborah Gates Post Staff Writer
Housing and academic programs are the two main areas of concern involved in the plan, management and evaluation of Johnson C. Smith University's five year span planning process.
According to a spokesman for Dr. Bertha Maxwell, Vice President of Administration Affairs at Smith, a workshop was held recently to introduce all planning components to the

planning process for the future of the institution.
Involved in the process are six task force teams consisting of community, staff, administration, students, faculty, and alumni members who took their ideas to a review board, which included Peter Scoggins of IBM; Sadie Jordan of Community Development; Vie Taylor of the City Budgeting Department; Corretta Cowan of RTP; Kelly Alexander, NAACP head; Jim

Polk of Management and Manpower; and Ben Romine, of UNCC.
The next step for the force will be to go to the planning commission soon, so that steps may get underway for the planning process. Planning Commission members consist of all vice presidents and a student at Smith and community members.
"The main concern of the students in this planning process is to see out of state freshmen housed on campus if they would like to be," Carolyn Mason, administrative assistant for planning, said. Also, she said the students showed a great concern in the academic program, including ways to improve it and ideas for new ones.

Wilson Counts Appointed To Areospace Command Post

By Deborah Gates Post Staff Writer
Wilson E. Counts, who holds the high rank of Major in the United States Air Force, has recently been appointed Commander of the Aerospace Defense Command's Non-Commissioned Officers Academy in Panama City, Florida.
The Academy, which provides leadership and management instruction and professional development training to students chosen from the 25,000 enlisted men and women assigned to the command, is commanded by General Daneil James, the first Black four star general in the history of this country's armed forces. Major Counts, who is currently

planning process for the future of the institution.
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In view that the process is still on the ground floor, she said that newsletters will be available to keep everyone abreast of what's happening, and what they are doing to fill the needs of the institution.
According to Ms. Mason, a past problem of the institution was that there was not enough input from the students and community on such matters, which added problems concerning past plans made for the institution. She said this time, "the community and students are involved, as they should have an input in what direction the college should go."

Black Apathy May Help Defeat Bond Referendum

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr. Post Executive Editor
An estimated 25 percent or 30,000 city residents will vote in Tuesday's bond-district representation election, according to William B.A. Culp, executive secretary of the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections. Furthermore, Culp said that weather conditions are not usually a factor in bond elections "as those who usually vote will go to the polls in spite of the weather."
Voters will be asked to vote "for" or "against" four items: three bond issues totaling more than \$16 million and a proposed plan for district representation. Ballots will be cast at the 78 city polling places used during the presidential election last year. The polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
The bond issues are (1) \$7,100,000 to purchase the block across the street from the main library on Tryon Street to construct and house a science and natural history

museum called Discovery Place; (2) \$2,500,000 to renovate Spirit Square; (3) \$6,305,000 in sanitary sewer services for 10 areas to be annexed to the city in December and \$675,000 for water in the same 10 areas; and (4) the proposed 7-4 plan for district representation.
The bond issue for the areas to be annexed will probably pass without difficulty since present law calls for residents in the annexed area to assume part of the cost. However, the bond issues for Spirit Square and Discovery Place and the districting plan face some difficulty due to voter concerns about higher taxes and an apparent high degree of apathy among the voters, who seemingly would benefit the most from district representation.
Voters will be asked to decide whether to sell \$9.6 million in bonds for Spirit Square and Discovery Place with pledges to pay back the bond money with property taxes, if deemed necessary. The possibility of a higher tax rate to meet this possible obligation does not fair well with many tax payers who are weary of the current high tax rate.
However, reports on the city's financial health appear to indicate that new taxes will not have to be levied to support the bond issues. Reportedly, the city bonded indebtedness was only 2.95 percent of our tax base as of June last year, a figure that gives Charlotte a good rating among the major rating services. Furthermore, money market experts claim that since Charlotte earned nearly \$5 million in interest last year there is practically no reason to assume the bonds to support Discovery Place and Spirit Square - a science and natural history museum and renovations for Spirit Square - will require a tax increase. The problem, according to city officials, is that voters are simply not aware of the city's financial good health in spite of the efforts of the bond supporters to inform the public.
Voter apathy is a concern for the supporters of district representation because of very poor attendance of two recent rallies and the historical fact that in bond elections voter turnout has been 50 percent in Southeast Charlotte, 30 percent in the Northeast and only 15 to 20 percent in the West and Northwest. For Tuesday's election the expected turnout for these areas is 35, 30 and 18 percent, respectively. Knowledgeable sources believe that if this voting pattern holds true the 7-4 districting plan will fail to get the needed votes to win.

April Is Fair Housing Law Title VII Month

April marks the ninth anniversary of the National Fair Housing Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. The Law guarantees equal opportunity in housing to every American. It provides that it shall be unlawful "to discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of the sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection therewith, because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin."
Just as Fair Housing is a guaranteed right, it is also an idea that is right for our nation. We face many problems and challenges to the quality of our life, and before we can surmount them we must first remove the barriers that prevent us from acting cooperatively as a people. Each of us should resolve to fight discrimination in our personal, daily lives, as well as in the conduct of government business.
April is an appropriate time for all home buyers, realtors, and renters to re-examine the meaning and intent of the Fair Housing Law as well as the ways in which each of us relate to the Law. We all share responsibility for assuring that the Fair Housing Law is implemented in personal as well as legal terms. Everyone is involved.