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## Gov. Hunt

### Urged To Release 10

Amnesty International last week appealed to United States Governor James B. Hunt of North Carolina to grant a free pardon to the group of prisoners known as the Wilmington 10, who were sentenced in 1972 to up to 34 years imprisonment on charges of "unlawful burning" and "conspiracy to assault emergency personnel."

The charges arose from racial disturbances in Wilmington, North Carolina, in February 1971, during which a fire broke out at Mike's Grocery, a white-owned store. The 10 people eventually convicted of this crime were Benjamin Chavis, Marvin Patrick, Connie Tindall, Jerry Jacobs, Willie Earl Vereen, James McKoy, Reginald Epps, Wayne Moore, Joe Wright and Ann Shephard Turner. All the prisoners are black, except Mrs. Turner who has been released on parole.

The prisoners were released on bail in 1972 and 1973, pending appeals against their convictions, but were re-imprisoned in February 1975 after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear their appeals.

Amnesty International believes that the imprisonment of the Wilmington 10 is due to their political activities and their ethnic origin. AI adopted all 10 prisoners as prisoners of conscience after learning that the main prosecution witness, Allen Hall, had retracted his testimony against them and had stated that he was induced to testify falsely by promises made to him by the prosecuting authorities.

## Harvey Gantt To

### Run For Second Term

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.  
Post Executive Editor

Harvey B. Gantt, an incumbent City Councilman, announced on Monday he will seek re-election as an at-large candidate. In commenting from a prepared statement he said, "I will run as an at-large member on the Democratic slate. I believe my past experience on the Council, in addition to my background as a city planner and architect, can best serve the city in an at-large capacity...particularly on city-wide issues such as planning, transportation and land-use policy."



Harvey Gantt  
...To run again

Gantt is the 4th candidate to announce for an at-large Council seat. The others are Louis Davis and Pat Locke, both Republicans, and Democrat Richard Grice, a political newcomer. Incumbent Betty Chafin is expected to announce for re-election on Tuesday.

Since Gantt is among the last of the current council members to announce his re-election plans, questions were asked about the delay. He said, "So many people came and asked me to think about (running for the office of Mayor) that I felt I owed it to them to consider it." Therefore, he added that for the past several weeks he had been "in an ego-tripping kind of way playing with the idea of running for mayor."

Gantt said further that his

decision to not seek the mayor's office "has nothing to do with the color of my skin. I just think that at this time, the thing for Harvey Gantt to do is serve on the council." Undoubtedly, Gantt's decision to seek re-election as a councilman has been influenced by his strong commitment to district representation. In his remarks he said, "I am excited about this city's...opportunity for a truly people-oriented government."

Gantt initially became a councilman via the appointment route to fill the unexpired term of Fred Alexander who resigned to seek a state senate seat in late 1974. In 1975 Gantt was elected to a two year term. He campaigned on a commitment to a district form of government, equity in the distribution of city services and resources, and long range planning policies. He noted Monday, "I believe we have made initiatives on all of the basic issues I expressed at that time." These initiatives were among the factors influencing Gantt's decision to seek continued public service.

A graduate of Clemson University and MIT, Gantt is a partner in the firm of Gantt-Huberman Associates. He is a member of Friendship Baptist Church and a board member of the Charlotte Local Business Development Organization and the Community Relations Committee. He was named "Man of the Year" for 1977 by the local Jaycees.



LOVELY KIMBERLY SMITH  
...Olympic High junior

## Miss Kim Smith Is Beauty Of Week

By Jeri Harvey  
Post Staff Writer

Kim Smith, the 17 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith, is the POST Beauty of the Week. A rising junior at Olympic High, Kim is on the volleyball and basketball teams and is a letter girl. After graduation she hopes to attend modeling school.

Much of Kim's spare time is spent in activities at the Bethlehem Center where she is a member of the dance group

called "Black Woman of Tomorrow."

The group specializes in creative, African and modern dance. According to Kim, the center is one of the best things to happen to her neighborhood. "If it weren't for the center we wouldn't have anything to do but hang out on the streets," she said, referring to the young people of the community. "There's always something to do there, and I'd really hate to see it go."

Kim's mother, who works in the daycare program at Bethlehem, is her "best friend" because she (Kim) can talk to her about anything and feel she understands. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have another daughter, Alicia, 14, and one son Bryan, age 13.

Kim has enjoyed a summer of sleeping late, swimming and "partying" but she's looking forward to the opening of school. "I'll be glad to see my friends and I can't wait for the football season to start since I'm a letter girl this year and I'll get to go to all the games, at home or away. Vacations are fun but they get boring after a while."

Asked what the atmosphere is like at Olympic, Kim said, "It's OK. You'll always find some trouble makers but most of the kids just want to learn and have a good time. I get along fine and don't have any problems. It's a good school."

We're sure the reason Olympic is a "good school" is because of bright, eager youngsters like Kim, who take advantage of the opportunities made available to them by their school and community.

## Stratford Says

# University Park Post Office Closing Is "Totally False"

## Closing Is "Totally False"

### Pardons For Wilmington

#### "10" Close?

Ms. Imani Kazana, National Coordinator for the Wilmington 10 Defense Committee commented Monday that she feels that "pardons for the Wilmington 10 are close at hand." "Pressure is mounting from all directions on Governor Hunt (N.C.). I believe that he is beginning to realize that time is running out for him to take action before the federal government takes action against the State."

Ms. Kazana's views come as a result of a series of positive developments in this five year old civil rights case. Within the past several days a U.S. Justice Department spokesman, John Russell, told reporters that Attorney General Griffin Bell's office had been "in contact with Governor Hunt asking him to 'give serious consideration to the pardon request.'" Bell's actions are a result of a letter signed by 60 members of Congress urging federal intervention in this case.

"Certainly Governor Hunt realizes that the Justice Department would not make such a request if it did not have the evidence to back it up," says Kazana. A meeting between the Governor's office and representatives of the Justice Department is to be scheduled soon.

With talks beginning to assess the human rights clauses of the Helsinki Accord, Governor Hunt has also been constantly reminded that failure to remedy the Wilmington 10 case is bringing embarrassment to the country as a whole.

Writing to Governor Hunt recently, Congressman Charles B. Rangel (N.Y.) pointed out, "it is important that the US, as it purports to champion human rights both here and in other countries begin to preserve the civil rights of our own citizens if we are to avoid challenges of hypocrisy by both the countries who support the new Administration's position and those who have voiced their criticism."



City Council candidate Ron Leeper chats with councilman Harvey Gantt Saturday afternoon during "Get-Out-To-Vote Disco" at Dalton Village.

## Leeper Discusses Strategy For Upcoming Council Race

By Jacquie Levister  
Post Staff Writer

What is the formula for running a successful political race?

Dedication, commitment to purpose, desire to serve, organized supporters, hard work and having the best candidate available are the ingredients the campaign organization of Ron Leeper (district 3 candidate) are blending in preparation for a savory victory.

At the first annual summer fellowship picnic sponsored by Colony Acres Homeowners Association, the candidate, surrounded by supporters, discussed strategies for the upcoming election.

Registering on the first day with the Board of Elections is an indication of the eagerness this cadre of organization is exercising. With a core group of novice political workers, calendars have begun to fill showing the activities scheduled to get the candidate out

to the people of the district. Planned activities include a Disco on the 13th at Nations Ford Elementary School that will double as a voter registration drive, a Tea August 14 at Par Busters Golf Club, W. Summit Avenue and the 20th at Saint Marks Church for another voter registration drive from 2 - 7 p.m.

Richard Williams - Campaign Manager for the Leeper Candidacy, expressed the sentiment of all those closely involved in this organization stating, "I've always been interested in politics but with

the elections as they have been in the past I never felt the need to be personally active. Now we all can participate and the passage of district representation has afforded the opportunity to work with someone I've known and believe can do the job that our area deserves."

Other participants of the Leeper organization are Irwin Springs - Advertising Director, Larry Jemison - Financial Coordinator, Herman Norman - Coordinator of Contributors and Leone Walker - Financial Chairperson.

## CAF To Assist Low-Income

### Families With Fuel Bills Program

According to Samuel H. Kornegay, executive director at the Charlotte Area Fund, CAF has received \$194,173 as part of the North Carolina Special Crisis Intervention

Program. Kornegay said these funds can be used to assist eligible low-income families with unpaid energy fuel bills incurred between October 1976 and April 1977. He said the funds can also provide advance payments of \$100 toward this winter's fuel-energy costs for households headed by persons 60 and over who can provide proof of dire financial need as a result of last winter's severe weather conditions.

\$100 credit on this coming winter's fuel bills is waiting on Mecklenburg County Senior Citizens who are over 60 years of age and are: Head of a household of one or more persons; are living on a low monthly fixed income such as Social Security (green check) or SSI (gold check) which creates financial hardships; and actually paid for heating their home last winter or still owe Duke Power, Piedmont Natural Gas or other fuel suppliers for the cost of staying warm last winter.

Persons sixty and over who are eligible will receive a \$100 credit for this coming winter's fuel bills (or payment of up to \$250 on outstanding heating bills from last winter) as part of the Charlotte Area Fund's Special Crisis Intervention Program.

Special arrangements have been made to certify eligible residents of public housing.

## Clergymen Discuss President Carter's Administration Lack Of Policy

The 87th Annual Conference of the Western North Carolina Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was held last week at Soldiers Memorial AME Zion Church and Livingstone College in Salisbury.

Rt. Rev. William Milton Smith, Presiding Bishop of Western N.C. Conference of the AME Zion Church, Dr. Lee Clinton Siler, Presiding Elder, and Rev. Joseph Johnson held a press conference at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday August 10.

During the press conference the clergymen discussed the Carter Administration's lack of policy in three areas: (a) relief for impoverished cities of America, (b) increased job opportunities for Black males and youths, and (c) commitment to majority rule in Rhodesia and South Africa. A letter addressed to the Presi-

dent was also released to the press at that time. In the letter affirmations of support were stated for Ambassador Andrew Young in his utterances in foreign and domestic policies, support for the Wilmington 10 and their fight for Justice, and an agreement with the critique of Vernon Jordan at the Urban League Convention held in Washington, D.C. regarding vital issues.

Other highlights of the conference included Christian Education Day, Missionary Convocation, Evening candlelight service, and Model Sunday School.

Approximately 2,000 persons filled Varick Auditorium on the Livingstone Campus in Salisbury last Sunday for the closing session.

Dr. Andrew Wesley Mapp, pastor of Metropolitan Church,



Rt. Rev. William Smith  
...Presiding Bishop

Jersey City, New Jersey was the speaker and music was by the Metropolitan Choir and Gethsemane AME Zion of Charlotte. Rev. George Battle presided over the service which

convened at 2:30 p.m.

Appointments announced during the annual conference included the following: Rev. William H. Minter transferred from Mt. Zion AME Zion Church to the Statesville District. Rev. James Phifer, who has been associate pastor at Clinton Chapel and who was ordained during the conference, was appointed to Mt. Zion. Rev. John Bennett was moved from Steele Creek to the Winston-Salem District and Rev. Joseph McNeely, a recent graduate of Hood Theological Seminary replaces him at Steele Creek.

The next Annual Western North Carolina Conference will be held July 25 through July 30, 1978. The host church

will be Gethsemane AME Zion Church where Rev. George E. Battle is pastor.

### Station To Provide Full Service

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.  
Post Executive Editor

Rumors that the University Park Branch of the Charlotte Post Office is scheduled to close were labeled as "totally false and erroneous" by Willie J. Stratford, manager of retail sales and services.

Stratford said that the apparent misunderstanding about the University Park P.O. located on Beatties Ford Road arose from a part of a postal service National Retail Analysis Program that includes moving postal carriers (mailmen) from three branches "to other facilities."

Specifically, Stratford pointed out, carriers at the University Park and Freedom Drive Post Office branches will be moved to the General Mail Facility on I-85 and the Dilworth branch carriers will be moved to the Charlotte Mall station. He emphasized however, that these changes mean only that the carriers will pick up their mail for delivery from a different location but that the services offered at the postal branches in question "will not change in any way."

"The changes," Stratford also emphasized, "have been dictated by our analysis which shows that our current local postal cost of \$739,436 annually will be reduced by over 26 percent or \$196,880. Over a 10 year period we will save the taxpayer about \$1,147,739."

The services offered by the University Park Post Office Branch and the other two branches that will continue as in the past are: full window service, box rentals, and the issuance of food stamps.

In spite of Stratford's claims that services "will not change in any way," unconfirmed reports indicate some dissatisfaction exists. These reports indicate that many of the re-located mail carriers are unhappy because of greater distances to travel between their homes and the new mail pick-up station and between the latter and their mail routes.

Some customers have complained that mail in their box is now arriving a day later.

## Carlton Issues Get Tough Policy

### With Speedsters

On August 15, the State Highway Patrol began strict enforcement of the 55 mph speed limit on the state's highways as recently announced by Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety J. Phil Carlton.

Why drive the speed limit? Mainly to save lives, says Carlton. Statistics show that the number of accident fatalities involving excessive speed dropped 13.3 percent in 1974 when the 55 mph speed limit came into effect.

Since that time speed data compiled by the N.C. Department of Transportation shows that the average speed of vehicles on the state's interstate highways has inched back up.

## TURTLE-TALK



School days are the happiest days of your life, especially if your children happen to be going.