

# In Commemoration Of Dr. Martin L. King's Birthday

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## THE CHARLOTTE POST

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### Arson Is Blamed Fire Destroys

### Durham Black Newspaper

by Susan Ellsworth  
Post Staff Writer  
Arson is blamed by fire officials for destroying the office of "The Carolina Times," a weekly black newspaper published in Durham, North Carolina.

Fire gutted the building located at 436 E. Pettigrew Street and three vacant buildings on January 7.

Extinguishing the blaze was an all-day struggle for firefighters that began shortly after the blaze was reported at 4:54 a.m. and lasted into the night.

No damage estimates are available yet, but damage is extensive, according to Mrs. Vivian Edmonds, the editor and publisher of "The Carolina Times."

Machines were demolished, the reception area was soaked with water; extensive heat and smoke damage was also reported.

The blaze was ignited in one of the vacant buildings, ascertain fire officials who say flames had been smoldering 6-8 hours before notice of the fire was given. Cause of the fire is still under investigation.

"The Carolina Times" was one of a few remaining businesses in an urban renewal project that was begun in 1968 and originally involved 106 buildings.

"The urban renewal project tore down most of those buildings but hasn't rebuilt anything," said Mrs. Edmonds, who emphasized that she feels the City is responsible for finding a suitable location for the newspaper to reopen its offices.

While temporarily headquartered in a photography studio "The Carolina Times" will continue publishing their weekly papers, according to Mrs. Edmonds.

Since the North Carolina Black Publishers Association and other groups have rallied to their aid, the paper has been able to lease and borrow equipment through donated funds.

"Tremendous moral support" and money have poured in from all over the country, Mrs. Edmonds affirmed.

### UNCC Sets Two Engineer Review

#### Courses

Two engineer review courses have been scheduled at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte during the second semester.

A Professional Engineer (PE) review course to prepare individuals to take the North Carolina Board of Registration Exam for licensing is scheduled Wednesday, Jan. 24 to April 4, from 7 to 10 p.m. in Smith 102. The cost is \$95.

For registration and further information, contact UNCC's Office of Continuing Education at 597-2441.

### TURTLE-TALK



A man who brags without SHAME will find great difficulty in living up to his bragging.



LOVELY DEBORAH HILL  
...Myers Park junior

## Deborah Hill Is Beauty Of Week

by SHERLEEN MCKOY  
Post Staff Writer  
Our beauty for this week is Deborah Hill, a junior at Myers Park High School.

Now that the football season is over Deborah is concentrating all of her attention on her school studies. She was a flag girl for her school's football team last fall.

A business course that covers many business-related topics is her favorite class and much so because she wants to strike it alone someday. She believes in setting goals high because "one should reach for the top."

"I want to own my own business," Deborah said. "I really like accounting so it may be an accounting business."

To further aid in this endeavor, Deborah plans to attend the University of North Carolina in Charlotte upon completion of her high school years.

An alternate career choice for her would be photography. "I like to take pictures," she said, "so if I decided not to go into business, I would become a photographer."

Describing herself, Deborah said that she is an outgoing fun person who gets along fairly well with everyone. "I start conversations very easily," she said, "most of the people who know me say I talk a lot."

Deborah also said that she

### Planned

### Paranthood Sets

### Luncheon

Planned Paranthood of Greater Charlotte will hold its eighth annual meeting and luncheon on Wednesday, January 17 at 12:30 p.m.

The Board of Directors and staff invite the public to this open meeting at the Quality Inn Downtown at 201 South McDowell Street. Tickets are \$3.00 apiece.

A keynote address will be delivered by Faye Wattleton, President of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Ms. Wattleton is the first black, the first woman, and at age 34, the youngest president in Planned Parenthood's history.

likes travelling a lot even though she doesn't get to go much. Other interests include dancing, listening to music, swimming and playing tennis.

She likes outdoor sports, especially football. But the bulk of her leisure time, Deborah said that she spends it with her boyfriend.

Deborah credits her mother as being the most influential person in her life. "My mother helps me get through everything," she said recalling the time most recently when she wanted to be a flag girl and her mother helped with the expenses.

A trip to the Bahamas is the one thing that Deborah would really like to take. When asked why particularly the Bahamas, she replied, "because it is like a warm exotic place - it seems like a fun place."

Deborah has one brother and one sister (she fits in the middle) and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Hill.

### Monday, January 15

## City-Wide Event Will Be Held On

## Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday

by EILEEN HANSON  
Special To The Post

A city-wide event on the theme "Live the Dream" will be held on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Mon., Jan. 15 at the Civic Center, sponsored by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a bring-your-own-picnic supper, followed by a varied program of speakers and music.

Kathleen Crosby, Myers Park Area Superintendent for the Board of Education, and Dr. J. Randolph Taylor, pastor of Myers Park Presbyterian Church, are leading the celebration planning committee.

According to the committee, "This is the first time a broad-based interracial group of citizens has undertaken such an event. The hope is that Dr. King's spirit of learning and

# \$50 Million Earmarked To Stimulate Minority Businesses

## Study: Race Influences Food Buying

WASHINGTON—Black families spend a larger share of their food budget on fish and eggs than white families, but less on cereal and bakery products, sugar, and dairy products, a U.S. Department of Agriculture study discloses. The study, by USDA economists Anthony E. Gallo, Larry E. Salathe and William T. Boehm, examined food purchasing patterns by race and income. The results suggest that race may have a significant influence on the food market.

Blacks comprise about 11 percent of the population but accounted for over 16½ percent of pork purchases and 15½ percent of all fish purchases. On the other hand, purchases by blacks of dairy products, cereal and bakery products, and processed foods were much lower relative to their share of the population, the study showed.

On the average, black families are larger and have lower incomes than white families. Black families averaged 3.1 persons compared with 2.8 persons for white families. Income before taxes averaged about \$6,000 for black families, against nearly \$9,000 for whites.

White families, on the average allocate about 72 percent of their food budget on food at home, 28 percent on food away from home. Black families spend, on the average, about 82 percent of their food money on food eaten at home, leaving 18 percent for food consumed away from home, according to the study.

Reflecting in part their low- See STUDY on page 4.



Striking bus drivers David Lucas, E.W. Anderson, W.L. Joyner and Thad H. Staton on strike. (Photo by Eileen Hanson)

## Black Community Leaders

## Want Bus Strike Settled

by EILEEN HANSON  
Special To The Post

Pressure is mounting to end Charlotte's 6-week old bus strike. Black community leaders raised sharp questions to the manager of Charlotte's transit system last Sunday evening and the following day laid their concerns before the City Council which hired the management company to negotiate with the bus drivers union.

Meanwhile, Rev. James Barnett, head of People United for Justice, began plans for a public rally or march to demonstrate support for the bus drivers.

At a meeting of the Black political caucus held Jan. 7 at Grier Chapel, 50 community

leaders questioned A.F. Warlick, negotiations leader for the bus drivers' United Transportation Union, and Jerry Olson, president of Transit Management Company.

What appeared to be the management's unwillingness to negotiate sparked the sharpest response from caucus members.

After Olson said that management's proposed contract of Nov. 22 was their "final offer," head of the Black Women's Caucus, Sarah Stevenson said, "Are you not willing to look at the union's offer? You say you're willing to negotiate, but you presented your final offer. You don't really care whether

black folks work or not."

On Nov. 23 the union rejected management's proposal by a vote of 162 to 1. Later the union reduced their wage demand by one-half. Negotiations have been stalled since Dec. 18.

NAACP President Alan Rousseau blamed the prolonged strike on city officials. "Black people are over a barrel," he said. "The city doesn't care since the majority of your riders and most of the drivers are black. For 46 days my taxes have been supporting your bus system, but my nephew still can't ride the bus."

Nearly 92 percent of the city bus riders, and 75 percent of the 185 bus drivers and 45 percent of the 30 mechanics are black.

Warlick, a driver of 25 years, explained that all bus drivers used to be white. "Now that the work force is majority black, they're trying to take away the rights the union fought for and won over the years."

On the picket line black and white drivers are united in their opinion that management is trying to break their union.

"They want to make an example out of us to other public employees," said Howard Graham who has 30 years' service. "They see that other city workers - police, firemen, sanitation workers, teachers - they all are trying to organize. The company wants to beat our union as an example to others."

Olson contended that management's final offer was a good one - 50 cents an hour wage increase over two years and two more holidays. When asked by the caucus what would make the buses roll again, Olson replied, "Only one thing. The union must re-evaluate our offer and recommend it to their members."

The union wants 95 cents an hour wage increase over two years. However, they say See BLACK on page 2.

## Initiatives To Help

## Minorities

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) has targeted at least \$50 million of its rural business-industrial loan guarantees to eligible minority business men and women in fiscal 1979.

In a joint announcement Monday, Alex P. Mercure, assistant secretary of agriculture for rural development, and Randolph T. Blackwell, director of the Commerce Department's Office of Minority Business Enterprise disclosed actions to stimulate minority businesses in rural areas and small cities.

Mercure said the new initiatives followed a commitment by Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland to make agriculture department resources available to the full spectrum of rural Americans, including minority groups and women "who have not always enjoyed adequate access to all of the department's programs."

He also announced with Blackwell that the Commerce Department will strengthen its nationwide facilities to help minority people develop sound businesses that qualify for private lender financing under FmHA guarantees.

The officials said the two agencies are drafting an agreement whereby personnel of the Commerce Department and the local business development organizations it supports will be trained in specifics of the FmHA loan guarantee program. As a result business development organizations will be able to help more minority people take advantage of business-industrial financing resources available through FmHA.

The FmHA guarantees commercial lenders' loans to businesses in rural areas including cities of not more than 50,000 population. It gives priority to enterprises located in open country and towns of not more than 25,000. Guarantees cover up to 90 percent of the loss of principal and interest that a lender might incur.

The Commerce Department provides management and technical assistance to minority entrepreneurs through about 225 non-profit business development organizations and construction assistance centers. They are based throughout the 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Mercure said OMBE will "fill a major need in the rural development program by providing expert assistance to rural minority people in planning, organizing and operating sound and enduring business firms."

FmHA-guaranteed loans are developed through commercial business lenders. Applicants must pay at least 10 percent down and put up collateral for the loans.

Blackwell and Mercure estimated that most enterprises resulting from FmHA-OMBE cooperation will involve black and Spanish-speaking applicants in small communities of the southeastern and southwestern states.