

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

Stories on 1, 1B, 2B, 3B, 10B, 11B

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"Charlotte's Fastest Growing Community Weekly"

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**Relatives  
To Train  
Unskilled  
Youth**

By Susan Ellsworth  
Post Staff Writer  
The Relatives, Inc., a Charlotte-based youth runaway center recently received a \$44,500 grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to initiate an experimental employment program for unskilled youth.

This new program, which got underway in Charlotte on Jan. 7, is offering employment, education and career development services to high risk youths - the homeless, former runaways, and teenagers with histories of low grades, juvenile delinquency, and social and family problems.

Two-hundred twenty-five youth agencies refer young people ages 14-18 who desire to participate in the program.

"Many kids are not in school, not working and not doing anything constructive," according to Michael McKee, director of the new program.

Guest speakers, self-awareness exercises to build self-esteem, involvement in community service projects, and learning skills for job hunting are part of the curriculum.

"The strongest part of the program," McKee emphasized, "is to get youths to feel good about themselves."

Conducted Monday through Friday at the Providence Baptist Church from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., the program will accommodate ten youths a day for up to ten days.

Each week day McKee accepts names of the first 25 youths referred by agencies.

A runaway center for young people, The Relatives, Inc. provides temporary housing and counseling which are available 24 hours a day.

The Administration for Children, Youth and Families, an agency of HEW's Office of Human Development Services will oversee the demonstration to be carried out by the 17 youth runaway centers in the country.

**CBRC Seminar**

If you own or operate a minority business or are starting a small business the Charlotte Business Resource Center is sponsoring a seminar for you.

Entitled "Capital Requirements and Cash Flow Projections for a Profitable Business," the seminar will be held Thursday, Jan. 10 from 7-9 p.m. at CPCC on the Square.

Participants will receive answers to questions like: How can I finance my business? What are the financing terms and interest rates?



Nothing is more depressing than reading the morning paper and having had any better night before.



ARTICULATE JULIA BREEDEN  
...Speech communication expert

### Julia Breeden Is Beauty Of Week

By Teresa Burns  
Post Staff Writer  
Articulation is the gift our beauty, Julia Breeden, possesses. It's not a gift stored away in the back of a closet. She has put hers to use.

"I had an internship at Butner Federal Correctional Institution. I helped the inmates better deal with the outside world and become positive communicators."

Ms. Breeden, a 1979 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received her degree in Speech Communication, but is now working as an account clerk at Southern Bell and part-time as a sales person at Belk's.

She feels that it is not easy to step right out of college and find the job you really want. "The economy is such that the jobs that are needed to be filled without specialization are filled by those overqualified."

You need a more advanced degree to get a job that you would have gotten with just the basics," she continued, "There is so much competition. To get your foot in the door you may need a more advanced degree and experience."

Despite the apparent gloom Ms. Breeden fears for college graduates her philosophy for living is the opposite.

"I try to be optimistic about life and expectations. It is important to be aware

of life and its challenges." This is probably why our 22 year-old beauty believes that 60 Minutes and the news are among the most beneficial television programs.

"I really make an effort to watch the news everyday to stay abreast of world and local events." "You need to know what's affecting you directly and indirectly. In light of the present world crises, I would want to know if I would need a helmet and gun!"

In lieu of Black people and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message, Ms. Breeden had this to say: "Martin Luther King's contributions and sacrifices have made it possible for Black people to have access and to enjoy certain liberties."

Our beauty feels that Martin Luther King contributed to the Black man's frame of mind, even today. "Because of him we have learned not to be complacent with our positions in life. If he had been content with the inequities, we would have yet to face the challenge he faced. And where would that have left us for the present?"

As a native of Hamlet, N.C., Ms. Breeden now resides in Charlotte. She enjoys tennis, piano and reading. Her parents are Ervin Breeden and Edith Breeden of Hamlet, N.C.

The favorite person in our beauty's life is her mother.

### Theme Of Special Program

## The Legacy Of King:

## New Call For Justice

CAF Offering

Fuel

Assistance

By Susan Ellsworth  
Post Staff Writer

The Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. recently began offering the Energy Crisis Assistance Program (ECAP) to help low-income Mecklenburg County residents afford their heating bills.

Households may receive up to \$200 in assistance, depending on their source of income.

Over \$200,000 is available for distribution to Mecklenburg County residents.

The ECAP program is one portion of a three-part federal program designed to relieve part of the high cost of fuel for the poor. Assistance is available through the Department of Social Services, the Social Services Administration and the State Economic Opportunity Office (SEOO). The Charlotte Area Fund administers SEOO funds.

The State Department of Social Services is giving a one-time payment to recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) by direct mail.

Payments of \$73, each are being sent to local recipients of Supplemental Security Income from the Social Security Administration.

Under the State ECAP program, the Charlotte Area Fund is required to deduct the AFDC and SSI payments from the maximum allowable assistance of \$200, available through ECAP.

To be eligible, households must have an income level at or below the Community Services Administration poverty guidelines or be headed by SSI recipients.

Assistance will only be see CAF on Page 2



Rev. Ben Chavis, Jr. celebrates his release from prison with his children and nieces: Ben III (9), Ajulo Othow (6),

Paula (11), Michaëlle (12) and Marva Davenport (13). (photo by Eileen Hanson)

### Chavis: "Our Leaders Are Not Connected To The People"

By Eileen Hanson  
Special To The Post

The Rev. Ben Chavis, Jr. was back in Charlotte recently, following his release from prison as a member of the Wilmington 10 case. Rev. Chavis is currently based in Washington, D.C., where he directs the office of the Commission on Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ. This is the second of a two-part interview with The Charlotte Post.

POST: Do you see a crisis of leadership in the black community today?

Chavis: Why do we need a leader in the first place? Because we're oppressed and we will never leave our state of oppression and reach a state of liberation without leadership. The problem is our leaders are not connected to the people. Which way are they lead-

Last of a two-part series

ing our people - into the infrastructure of the society, or to a state of liberation and self-determination? The federal government won't hand it to us. We have to do it ourselves. Even on a national level we have a serious problem, which won't be solved by sweeping it under the carpet.

The second problem is accountability of our leaders. I'm going to make it my personal responsibility to go and talk to national black leaders and ask them to unify and to be accountable for what they say. I'm going around the country speaking to black people to demand they hold their leaders accountable. I'm asking for honesty, sincerity and real love for our

people. We must practice what we teach, be role models for young blacks to identify with. We've almost lost the young generation of black youth because we haven't given them inspirational leadership models to follow.

The third problem is that the white media, since the assassination of King, has picked the black leaders for the black community. The media parades these guys into black homes and says, "This is your leader." It's time for the black community to pick their own leaders.

POST: What are the main issues black leadership must address?

Chavis: First, unemployment is going up, higher than a year ago, even though Carter won't talk about it. We must have jobs.

Second, we need adequate health care for blacks. Third, we need adequate housing. The majority of our people still live in substandard housing, especially in the inner city. A whole generation was pushed into substandard housing projects. Now we are reaping the problems of drugs and black-on-black crime. We have to reverse this. Blacks must be very careful now. Some whites have decided to reclaim the center cities and may move into take it over, moving blacks out. If we let them move us out of the center city, we'll lose what little power we have.

POST: What role does the black press play?

Chavis: The black press is very, very important. It is not dominated by the power structure. Too often the black press is just a carbon copy of the white see CHAVIS on Page 6

Program Will

Be Held

January 15

By Eileen Hanson  
Special To The Post

"The Legacy of King: a New Call for Justice in the 1980's" will be the theme of a special program to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on his birthday, Tuesday, January 15. The program will be held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 917 Clanton Road, beginning at 7 p.m., sponsored by People United for Justice and the Charlotte Equal Rights Council.

The program will begin with a film about King's life, "I Have a Dream." The film includes speeches, crusades and scenes from the civil rights movement King led in the 1960's. Rev. James Palmer, minister of University Park Baptist Church, will be the keynote speaker, focusing his message on the legacy of Dr. King.

Other speakers will include Ted Quant, field organizer for the Southern Equal Rights Congress, and Rev. James Barnett, head of People United for Justice. Rev. John Epps, pastor of St. Mark's, will lead in prayer.

Music will be provided by members of St. Paul's Baptist Church Adult Choir, and the University Park Baptist Church Choir. Solo music will be presented by Jessie McCombs of Memorial Presbyterian Church and Scotty Hendricks of St. Paul's Church.

Dr. King was born Jan. 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Ga. He was a Baptist minister in Montgomery, Ala. in 1955 when Rosa Parks refused to take her seat at the back of the bus, thus launching the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which sparked a new movement for civil rights across the South. King became president of the Montgomery Improvement Association.

In the late 1950's Dr. King emerged as the main leader of the non-violent civil rights struggle. He founded the Southern Leadership Conference on Transportation and Non-violent Integration in 1957, which later became the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

In 1963 he led the movement for integration in Birmingham, Ala., attacked by police hoses and dogs. From behind prison bars in Birmingham, we wrote, "In the movement for equality, there are no outside agitators."

King led the 1963 March for Jobs and Freedom, when 200,000 people marched on the nation's Capitol calling for passage for the Civil Rights Act. In 1965 he led the march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., which focused national attention on the Voting Rights Act.

## Blacks Appointed To Charlotte Chamber Of Commerce Board Of Directors

By Teresa Burns  
Post Staff Writer

Several Blacks will be installed as new officers or directors at the Greater Charlotte Chamber of Commerce 100th Anniversary Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Civic Center Friday, January 11 from 7 p.m. - 12 midnight.

Walter S. Tucker, Senior Vice President of Mechanics and Farmers Banks, has been elected to serve as the Chamber's Treasurer during 1980.

According to the Chamber's Communication Manager, Al Pruitt, "To our knowledge this is the first time Blacks have been named as officers, but both Black men and women



Walter S. Tucker  
...Bank president

have been named as directors.

William Cunningham, President of Hatcher and Cunningham Associated,

Inc., will serve three years beginning this month on the Chamber Board of Directors. He was an At-Large member in 1979. He along with eight other new appointees were certified by the Nominating Committee.

Harvey B. Gantt, AIA, Partner with Gantt-Huberman Associates was named to serve on the Board of Directors as an At-Large member. Gantt's name was submitted by the Nominating Committee to serve starting January, 1980. He and eight other new directors will serve for one year.

There are two other Black men serving terms on the Chamber's board.

They are Dr. Wilbert Greenfield, president of Johnson C. Smith University. Greenfield is serving a three-year term which will be completed at the end of 1981.

Bobby Lowery, president of Better Cleaning Maintenance Supply, Inc., is also serving a three-year term through the end of 1980.

The following will serve as 1980 Action Council's vice presidents and develop the Program of Work for the coming year: Gwen Cunningham, Education; Melvin L. Watt, Sports and Recreation; and Jerry J. Faison, Private Enterprise.

The Charlotte Chamber

of Commerce represents Charlotte's business community. However, "...any individual can join if they have any interest in what the Chamber should or should not do. The minimum dues for a year's membership is \$150.00," according to Pruitt.

Presently the Chamber consists of 2,900 member companies out of 10,000 Mecklenburg companies. And, according to Pruitt, 73 percent of these businesses have fewer than 20 employees.

"The Chamber raises money for all bond issues - schools, streets, airport etc. We also raised money for the Martin Luther King Statue," Pruitt concluded.