

BOB JOHNSON

What's happening!

Davis Calls For Unified Effort To "Open Up Jobs"

By Teresa Burns
Post Staff Writer

Becoming unemployed will stifle anyone's hopes, dreams, aspirations, and sometimes self respect. Economists predict that before spring employment opportunities will continue to dip - who will come to the rescue?



Robert Davis
...Party chairman

Robert Davis, chairman of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party is calling for an all out, unified effort to influence the private sector to employ and open up jobs.

"If this fails," Davis continued, "the government has the responsibility to create jobs."

The rescue of the unemployed may lie in the hands of local, county, and state leaders, as opposed to national political figures.

"We will look for superior candidates for the 1982 and 1984 elections," Davis continued. "We have to rebuild our party strengths and recapture the losses. We have a Search Committee to detect viable state and local candidates."

As citizens, Davis suggests we influence our present representatives by asking hard questions, making inputs and requesting that they stand for the poor and the near poor.

Everyone will be affected by President Reagan's efforts to improve our country's economical state. Whether they will be affected positively or negatively does not remain to be seen in Davis' eyes.

"The people who will be negatively affected and already have been affected are the very poor and the near poor, the aged, infirmed, and disabled. The middle income population are hurting also. They feel the weight of big government and these are the

people who pay the bulk of taxes."

Who stands to gain? It seems to Davis those who less likely need assistance - the wealthy and the

extremely wealthy.

The challenges that face Davis as Chairman of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party are challenges that face every citizen. But Davis has to tackle the responsibility of organizing the efforts for improvement - a responsibility he is certainly capable of achieving.

"I suspect the number one priority is pulling the party together. I feel apathy creeping within the party activities," he confirmed. "We have to pull together in spite of apparent set-backs. (Democratic seats lost both state-wide and nationally). We have to plan and execute to make our party alive and vital to the entire community."

White: Black Youths

Need To Get Involved

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ities."

However, there is one thing all blacks have in common - the difficulty of getting a job.

Since 1954, black youth have experienced one of the highest rates of unemployment for any group in the labor market. Data from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics show that the unemployment rate for black teenagers doubled from 16.5 percent in 1954 to 36.9 percent in 1975.

Between 1975-77, White says the black teenage unemployment rate was approximately 40 percent.

White made a study of black youth unemployment in the Detroit area before arriving at Temple and found that in 1980, unemployment in the Detroit standard metropolitan statistical area was 62

percent.

In addition to unemployment, White reports a high percentage of black youth are highly visible in mental health institutions and prisons, and that the number of suicides among black teenagers has also increased.

"Whenever the economy goes into a recession this group is always the hardest hit," he says.

"Historically, black youth have always been on the bottom in the labor market - whether he was a young plantation slave, sharecropping field hand or an industrial laborer.

"When they do find work it is in peripheral low wage jobs such as floor washers, fruit and vegetable pickers, hospital orderlies or parking lot attendants."

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Area Youths Enlist In Marine Corps

Three-area Charlotte youths have recently enlisted in the United States Marine Corps under the Delay Entry Program.

They are Todd E. Alexander, son of Mrs. Mary C Alexander of 2021 Rozzell's Ferry Road. Todd is a graduate of South Mecklenburg High School and has selected general enlistment as his optical field.

Tribonia Knox, a senior at South Mecklenburg High School, has chosen the

opted field of administration. Tribonia is the daughter of Mrs. Elsie Jarrett of 2016 Longleaf Drive.

A senior at Olympic High

School, Monica A. Rodriguez was awarded an enlistment bonus. Monica is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Juan Rodriguez of 524 Edgemoor Drive.

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THANKSGIVING HISTORY...The Thanksgiving holiday has passed, and the last turkey sandwich has probably been eaten. Thus, leaving only memories to fade into the sunset of a waning year. But one thing that shouldn't fade is, why do we celebrate Thanksgiving in the first place? How was it started and when? If we ever knew, that is. For those who didn't know or maybe had forgotten, let's take a peak into the past.

Thanksgiving, an annual holiday or harvest festival in the United States celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November for the purpose of giving thanks to God for the blessings of the past year. It is traditionally celebrated by religious services and at family gatherings. It was proclaimed a legal holiday by a joint resolution of Congress in 1941.

The first Thanksgiving in North America was held in the autumn of 1621, on the proclamation of Gov. William Bradford of the Plymouth Colony, in gratitude for the colonists' first harvest in the New World. It is said that the Pilgrims and Indians sat down together and ate wild



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turkey and venison. Similar observances were held at intervals in New England throughout the colonial period.

President George Washington issued the first Presidential Proclamation for Thanksgiving, which was to be observed, Thursday, November 26, 1789. Earlier during the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress had annually designated a day of national thanksgiving and in 1784 had recommended a holiday commemorating the end of the war. In 1815, President James Madison set aside a day in November for giving thanks for the end of the War of 1812.

Although nationwide observance of Thanksgiving did not follow either the proclamation of Washington or Madison, the tradition was kept alive by many state governors. The establishment of Thanksgiving Day as a national festival came about largely through the influence of the author and editor, Sarah Josepha Hale, who first urged it in 1827. She eventually won the support of President Abraham Lincoln, who issued a national Thanksgiving proclamation (October 3, 1863) setting the date as the fourth and last Thursday of November. Each year thereafter, the U.S. President has similarly proclaimed the holiday.

So much for the when, why and how of Thanksgiving, which happened so long ago that it carries very little meaning in the day-to-day lives of people. The important thing is that it happens and it allows a chance to relax and check things out while we give thanks for the blessings that the year has brought.

Giving thanks is a portrait that is flushed with a variety of colors and cowled with reason. Reason, the one thing that dictates who the immediate thanks is emblazoned upon.

8th ANNIVERSARY...Mike Cotton of the Midway Lounge on Statesville Ave., as he has done for the last eight years, said, "thank you," to his many customers. His appreciative gesture or social mural was done with the utmost care and attention in the form of an anniversary festivity.

A festivity that began around 6 p.m. with a champagne sip that was supposed to last for about two hours. However, when things calmed to where the guests could gather their senses it was time to close, about 1 a.m.

One thing was quite evident after a Thanksgiving night filled with activity and desire. There is an evening twilight of the heart and body, when their activity waves are lulled to rest.

Before the lull, though, a full house of people had a wonderful time enjoying the refreshingly delightful picture painted by Mike and the girls - Patsy, Gwen, Brenda and Phyllis.

Some of the guests were Gloria Tatum, Delores Reed, William Boger, George Bolton, Ella Nichols, Yvonne Stafford, Ruby Darby, Lotus Wright, Eddie Battle, Mitch and Carolyn Evans, Fred and Betty Scott, Leonard White, Nathaniel Rorie, Pat Cauthen, Dianne Wingard, Carl Clegg, Macie Sampson, Delores Wolfe, and Zander Moses.

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