

Gordon: "We (Blacks) Must Get Down To Business"

Robert L. Gordon, Polemarch (president) of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, in town for the fraternity's sixth annual Beattillion Militaire, talked about the economic gospel according to Charles Evers.

"If black people are to be free in Mississippi or anywhere else, we need to own something unique," he said.

"We must get down to business," he added. "A little less than five years ago I was telling people to be optimistic. Black folks had played a major role in putting James Earl Carter in the White House. We were in a good position. Tonight my optimism is dimmed. This country is trying to advance to the rear in dealing with black people. You young people cannot let it happen. A strong warning is the 25 percent unemployment rate among black people. The four percent gap in salaries and the three percent difference in the income of two salaried families."

Gordon, a national executive with Ford Motor Company in Detroit, spoke to 200 people at the Quality Inn which included families of the Beaux, members of the fraternity and interested people.

"The rise of hate groups, the increased violence by police in regards to black people and the politically conservative administration lead me to this assessment."

"Get In The Picture" Is Monthly Series

The April session of "Get in the Picture," the Mint's monthly series designed for family participation, will be held Saturday, April 16, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Mint Museum, 501 Hempstead Place. The program is free, and the public is invited. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

"Get in the Picture" programs, conducted by Doug and Judy Schill, are "explorations" of the Mint Museum and include such activities as dramatizing the action seen in Mint paintings, treasure hunts, costume making, painting, drawing and story writing. Hands-on experiences are often based on seasonal themes and vary each session. All supplies are provided for participants.

Reservations are appreciated, so call 334-9725 by Wednesday, April 13.

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WITH JAMES CUTHBERTSON

JAMES' NOTES:



James

"Pretending to help poor people, they cut the heart out of programs that are designed to help these people. We must stop paying lip service to black economic development. Nothing talks in America more than money. Money talks. Big money talks loud. We must learn to handle it properly. In 1985, we had a black income of \$185.2 billion. That's enough money to do something about and to talk loud.

"It begins with education," Gordon said. "It is time to stop letting the kids alibi their way out of doing good in school. We went through a bad system in our generation and we can read, write, do higher math. We had parents who cared, teachers who were creative and made sure that we learned. It is not easy to reproduce the environment in which we learned. But we can do it. We must go back to the basics. We can't just turn our children over to someone else. We must take control of their education for ourselves.

"How many of us take the time to stop and talk to our young children?" he questioned. "They need us. We are in a minority in a country that has advanced in almost every field of human endeavor. You must be leaders. You must become the best and become achievers. If you are going to be something, strive always to be the best.

John G. Medlin Jr., president of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, has been named the most outstanding chief executive officer of 1982 for regional banks in the nation for the second consecutive year by "Financial World" magazine.

Medlin's selection was made by a panel of the nation's leading security

analysts based on his and Wachovia's performance, contributions to banking and to the community, and effectiveness in dealing with various constituencies. He previously received the honor for 1981 and for 1977.

Medlin joined Wachovia in 1959 and became president of the bank in 1974. He has been president and chief executive officer of Wachovia Corporation and Wachovia Bank since 1977.

Clarence B. Adams, senior vice-president, First Union National Bank has been elected to the board of directors of the North Carolina Automated Clearing House Association, the organization which makes it possible for financial institutions to offer electronic funds transfer services such as automatic payroll deposit and pre-authorized payment of recurring bills. Adams, a native of Randolph County, began his banking career in 1960 with Scottish Bank of Lumberton which merged with First Union in 1963.

Businessman Sonny Wright has become the first black person to control a bank in Miami, Fla. He led a group of investors in acquiring the Peoples National Bank of Commerce.

Wright, a real estate broker, had been working for more than a year to acquire the bank. The bank has assets of \$14 million

and deposits of \$12 million.

Although one of Wright's objectives is to help minority business people obtain funds, he maintains that the bank will be a full service one.

"Our policy would be that we are a truly equal opportunity lender," said Wright. "It's not our intention to be a Liberty City bank. We hope to participate in the mainstream of Dade County banking."

Meharry Medical College has received a \$25,000 grant from the Joseph E. Seagram and Sons, a division of the Samuel Bronfman Foundation, Inc. College officials said the grant will be used to augment Meharry's faculty in the basic and clinical sciences.

Founded in 1876, Meharry has graduated more than 40 percent of the nation's practicing black physicians and dentists. It is the nation's only independent, predominantly black, four-year health professions college.

"This contribution comes at a time when private support is urgently needed," said Meharry President Dr. David Stacher. "Meharry's faculty is the college's major asset, and this money will help to substantially enhance our capabilities. We are extremely pleased to have Seagram volunteer this assistance."

Charles E. Bobbin has been named a trust representative for First Citizens Bank in Charlotte. He has been with the bank since 1982.

The Lenoir native is a graduate of the University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he earned a bachelor's degree in commerce. He received his juris doctor degree from Wake Forest University law school.

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