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# THE CHARLOTTE POST

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

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## Black TV Anchors Have Faded From Local News

By Russell Clark  
Post Staff Writer

Has the local television news media quietly lured the black community into assuming that only whites can be starting anchors on the 6 and or 11 o'clock news reports Monday through Friday?

Currently, there are no starting black anchors on either WSOC-TV (9), WBTV (3) or WPCQ-TV (36) and there have been no regular black anchors in Charlotte since the early 80s.

Now let's uncover a few black personalities who used to be very visible in front of the camera to get their view of what's happening in the local tv market.

"As long as no one raises the issue about the shortage of blacks in on-air positions, then everything will remain the same," asserts Ken Koontz, a former WBTV personality who anchored the morning and weekend news from 1975-1980. "The viewers make the ultimate decision about who appears on air. They can pick up their phone or write a letter to the stations to let them know who they prefer to watch. Letters are better because the stations have an obligation to keep them on file," adds Koontz, co-owner of the Excelsior Club on Beatties Ford Road.

Clara Williams worked from 1971-1980 in Community Affairs for WBTV. She did on-air public service announcements, appeared on Top O' The Day, This Morning, and Whistle Stop.

"I see a need for more positive news about blacks in the community," mentions Williams who now runs the C. L. Williams Public Relations Firm. "There are fewer blacks in the local media now than there were when the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) made them get more blacks on the air. When they do a story on teenage pregnancy or drug abuse, they use blacks as examples," says Williams who would consider going back into television. "I would



Ken Koontz  
...Formerly with WBTV



Clara Williams  
...Formerly with WBTV



Curt Peters  
...Former reporter/producer



Beatrice Thompson  
...Former WBTV reporter



Amanda Davis  
...Was a WRET anchor

like to go back into television if I could contribute positively to our youths and senior citizens."

The local media was criticized for its coverage of the recent County Commissioner case but Curt Peters feels they had a newsworthy subject.

"In my opinion, tv news doesn't go after a person because of their race or color, but because of the impact that they have on people. You can compare that issue with the recent PTL controversy because both of them have

an impact on people," he mentions. "The bottom line is they only have about 12 minutes of real news for a 30 minute news show and they have to make decisions about how it affects people as a whole." Are there other positions that blacks should consider in television?

Curt Peters, a former reporter and producer at WSOC-TV from 1972 to 1977, points out, "What blacks have done is concentrate their efforts in being on-air. That's fine, but the money is in



Rev. Hosea Williams

## Rev. Hosea Williams To Speak

The Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America serves as a watchdog on the situation in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

This group, composed of people of different races and denominations is especially concerned that poor people and blacks in America will eventually be the victims of the political situation there.

In observance of "Central America Week", the Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America will feature as its guest speaker, civil rights activist, Rev. Hosea Williams on Sunday, March 29 at 4 p.m. at Northwest Middle School, 1415 Beatties Ford Rd.

Rev. Williams' speech will focus on "In Sleeping Times Like These." According to Rev. James Barnett, minority outreach coordinator, Rev. Williams' speech is appropriately titled.

"Black people are sleeping. And as long as we close our eyes to what's going on, racism will continue to thrive," stated Rev. Barnett.

According to Rev. Barnett, "we need to look at Central America, South Africa, and the United States and see that attacks of racism are perpetrated on people of color."

"With the U.S. policy of war in Nicaragua and no action in South Africa and the growing amount of racism in the U.S., it is high time that black people took a stand against the U.S. policies. Why should blacks support the U.S. in Nicaragua when the U.S. will not support the blacks in South Africa?"

Rev. Barnett said that he fears that if the Reagan administration can not win the war in Nicaragua with money, then they will try to win by sending blacks and poor people there to fight. Blacks, need to be particularly outraged considering the fact that so many blacks enter the military service because of the lack of job opportunities.

"I feel that Rev. Hosea Williams will give a charge to blacks," exclaimed Rev. Barnett.

Rev. Williams will also be speaking on the movement in Forsyth County, Georgia and how it affects people in other parts of the country.

Rev. Williams is a native of Attapulgus, Georgia. He received his education from Morris Brown College and Atlanta University.

Very politically and civically motivated, Rev. Williams is the publisher of The Crusader newspaper.

Married to the former Justina Terry, Rev. Williams is the father of six children. He has received numerous awards and travels extensively as a speaker, lecturer and civil rights leader.

## SCLC Calls For Black FBI Director Appointment

Southern Christian Leadership Conference President Dr. Joseph Lowery has asked President Reagan to consider selecting a black as the next director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Lowery mailed President Reagan a list of 11 people he considered qualified for the post. The list includes the first black assistant U.S. Solicitor, the highest ranking black employee now working in the FBI and a man who not only became the first black Republican nominee for Governor last year, but also was one of five finalists for the top FBI slot more than 10 years ago.

Citing President Reagan's pledge to start anew for the remaining two years in office, Lowery declared, "What better way to signal change and a new beginning than naming a black American to head the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

The SCLC leader held a press conference releasing the names on the steps of his home just days after his release from a hospital.

Lowery has spent more than a week hospitalized after undergoing surgery for gall bladder ailment. But he said he considered it important to let President Reagan know there are black Americans qualified to sit in the FBI's highest chair. In a telegram sent to the President after the U.S. leader's last televised address, Lowery said appointing a black person to the FBI slot "would send waves of respect and recognition of the need to address failures in history to include black Americans for such important positions in law enforcement."

An editorial endorsing Lowery's proposal in an Atlanta newspaper put it more bluntly, stating that "Ronald Reagan could salvage a sickly civil rights record by seating a black in the old chair of J. Edgar Hoover."

Lowery's challenge drew applause and endorsement from civil rights leaders from across the country. Benjamin Hooks, executive director for the National Asso-

ciation for the Advancement of Colored People, noted the presence of a former black sheriff and Republican candidate on the list. Coretta Scott King, president of the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, says she was impressed because the list also included a black woman.

"It would be a most significant step for women and blacks for such an appointment to take place," she said.

Hooks commented that such an appointment "would be the single most significant step the Republican Party could take to give it serious consideration by black voters in 1988."

The 11 names Lowery sent to Reagan and other members in Congress are: William Lucas, former FBI agent, sheriff of Wayne

County, Michigan, one of five finalists for the job along with William Webster and Republican candidate for Governor in 1986.

## LDF Hosts Annual Banquet

Special To The Post  
The annual Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) fundraising banquet will be held Saturday, April 4 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Pre-banquet activities will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. The banquet will begin at 8 p.m.

Dr. Samuel Proctor, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church of New York City will be the guest speaker for the occasion. A native of Norfolk, Va., Dr. Proctor has been a minister and educator throughout his professional career. He has served as president of Virginia Union University and A&T State University. He has held administrative posts with the Peace Corps in Nigeria and in Washington, with the National Council of Churches, the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Institute for Services to Education, and the University of Wisconsin. He also was on the faculty of the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University and upon his retirement from this post in 1984, Proctor was named Martin L. King Professor Emeritus and was awarded the Rutgers Medal for distinguished services. Dr. Proctor has been pastor at Abyssinian Baptist Church since 1972.

The annual LDF fundraising event is held annually in Charlotte, the base of operation for the North Carolina Fundraising Committee headed by Zoel and Esther Hargrave. The Hargraves are well known in the Charlotte area for their many volunteer efforts.

The Hargraves are suggesting that persons interested in attending the banquet should get their reservation in right away because the affair was a sellout last year, with people on a lengthy waiting list. Ticket costs include: Table of 8, \$300.00 (benefactors) and \$35 for individual tickets. Tickets are also available for sponsors. Many organizations, businesses and churches have already reserved multiple tables according to the Hargraves. For more information or for reservations call Zoel or Esther Hargrave at (704) 399-8897.

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