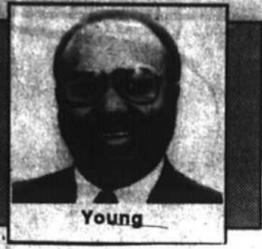


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THE CHARLOTTE POST

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

CHARLOTTE and MECKLENBURG COUNTY
CHARLOTTE, N. C. 28204

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Joseph E. Lowery

SCLC North Carolina State Convention Focuses On Poverty

Actions will speak louder than words as the North Carolina division of Southern Christian Leadership Conference begins its state convention in Charlotte in protest of poverty on Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16.

Internationally known civil rights leader and national SCLC President Dr. Joseph Lowery, will join forces with local leaders; Rev. Rudolph Seth, SCLC state president; James Palmer, who formerly held that position; Black Elected Municipal Officials Chairman Larry Womble; labor leader, James Andrew; public housing spokesman, Daisy Alexander; dentist/activist Dr. Reginald Hawkins and others to put the elimination of poverty on the state agenda in North Carolina.

The action officially begins with breakfast the morning of the 15th. Convention participants will hear from senior citizens at Charlotte's Belvedere Homes. At ten that morning, Lowery and SCLC state leaders will hold a press conference at Earle Village, a predominantly black housing project. Dr. Lowery believes poverty has been put on the back burner of the nation's agenda for too long. He says under the Reagan administration someone has turned off the fire. To dramatize the plight of the poor...the SCLC has started holding a series of hearings as part of

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its crusade Against Poverty. The fourth hearing in this series takes place in Charlotte Friday afternoon.

But Dr. Lowery is doing more than holding hearings to talk about poverty. He and other staff members are spending time in the homes of the poor. In Prince George County, Virginia last week he spent the night with a family of 10 living in a two-room shack. The night of May 14 he and other SCLC leaders will do the same thing in Charlotte. At least five members of the SCLC national staff will spend the night in one of the city's poorest houses or shelters.

Friday, North Carolina state leaders will give Lowery and staff a tour of some of the poorer areas in Charlotte, such as the Piedmont Court housing project. For lunch the Atlanta group and their hosts will share food with those in the soup line of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

The actual Poor People's Crusade Against Poverty hearing starts at two Friday afternoon at the Greater Mount Sinai Baptist Church in Charlotte. It's then representatives from other parts of the state such as Vance/Warren County SCLC leader Dollie Burwell; Pitt County SCLC activist Ben Roundtree; Charlotte religious leader, Rev. J. T. White and Dr. Jared M. Schwartz will join some of the others already mentioned to testify against poverty.

Similar hearings have taken place already in Atlanta, Kansas City, and Prince George County, Virginia. At least 11 more are scheduled around the country.

During the testimonies participants will explain how poverty has caused extreme pain and suffering in the areas of health, welfare, housing and they'll also discuss ways to combat homelessness.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., founding president of SCLC, died while trying to organize a Poor People's Campaign in 1968. Dr. Lowery says the plight of the poor is so bad that something must be done to make the country notice and SCLC leaders have taken action against the problem.

While citizens and civic leaders learn about the conditions of poverty... See SCLC On Page 4A

Black Men In Crisis Stage

Special To The Post Edited By Russell Clark

"By the year 2000, it is estimated that 70 percent of all Black men will be in jail, on drugs or in the throes of alcoholism," states an explosive article that came to the attention of The Post from the African Scientific Institute of Oakland, CA. Though we have received many disturbing articles regarding the plight of Black Americans, this study was especially unsettling. This article, which originated from the New York Times, discussed how more blacks are slipping into poverty while the black male is being destroyed. With data to back up his position, the author of this report caused the African Scientific Institute to cry out- "Unless we change in America, every urban area will witness SOWETO IN AMERICA".

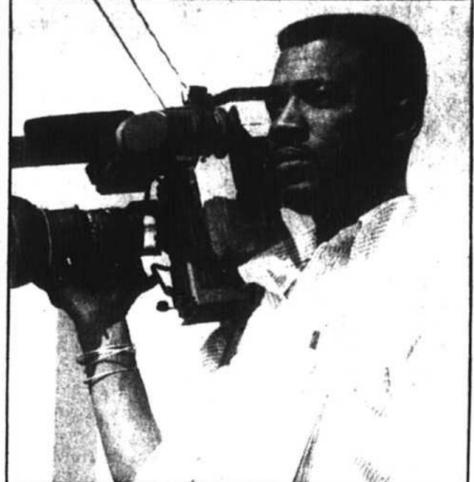
Black American Men are beyond the crisis stage of existence in the United States. These men have stepped beyond the critical indexes which indicate genocidal conspiracy by various elements in the most "free" country in the world. Black American men represents a time bomb, which is ticking the article continues. All concerned Americans should declare a state of emergency.

Whether the elements causing tragedy among Black American Men are accidental or by design is debatable by some, but the resulting condition could not have been designed better by those wishing to destroy Black Americans (both men and women). Some misconceptions which have contributed to the horrifying plight of Black Americans include A) Black Americans' primarily Christian religion states that people of African descent have been cursed by God. Black people pri-

marily worship images of white people portraying to be Christ and those of "great Christians."



Jimmy Clinton Mecklenburg County Felony Investigator I see a lot of good-looking healthy young men going in a cycle of crime and drug abuse everyday. We must learn to work for ourselves and change our value system because discrimination is shifting from racial to economical.



Carl McLean WSOC-TV News Photographer For no other reason, we as black men shouldn't have to wait for a report like this to come out before we start teaching our youth how to achieve. There is definitely a need for more news personalities in the local media because we are role models and our kids need someone to look up to.

B) Quest for education is a disaster. Public schools seem to be (and sitting centers, until young people are too old to stay. How else can we explain such deplorable literacy rates at various school grade levels among black youth? What few black youth are doing excellent in schools, the majority are performed by the young black females. Just look at the youth graduating from universities and colleges-- you will find the same ratio. If females are getting the low paying jobs, and the majority of the middle paying jobs are also going to the

Black young female, what's left for the Black male youth?

To help turn the tide of Black Americans' impending tragedy, the African Scientific Institute recommends the following

Solutions
Every leader and those who believe they are leaders of Black Americans should declare a state of emergency. All possible sources of remedies should be tapped and thrown into a pool of solutions. As many elements of the problems facing Black Americans must clearly be identified, then these elements must be prioritized for solutions. Black people have only so many resources. Such precious resources must be

used wisely until they are stretched almost to their limits, then the remaining problems are to go unsolved until additional resources are identified and become available to solve respective remaining problems.

Positive Role Model
Private and electronic media need to do a better job of balancing negative portrayals of Black people with positive role models. Though some people commit atrocious acts, 90 percent perform good deeds. The African Scientific Institute is assisting in this area by producing its "Blacks In Science Calendar". Everyday a

See Black Men On Page 4A

Riddick To Speak At JCSU Commencement

It's late spring and for some students that means prom time and exams. But for other students it signals an end to college life. For 93 seniors at Johnson C. Smith University, this is that time.

Graduation exercises will be held May 17, 1987 May 2 p.m., in Owens Auditorium.

Dr. Robert L. Albright, president of JCSU, will preside over this year's exercises. In addition to the

formal degrees which will be presented that day, three honorary degrees will also be presented.

The Baccalaureate speaker this 120th year observance will be Rev. Dr. Leon Riddick, pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. Rev. Riddick has served as pastor of the historic church since 1965.

He also serves or has served as Chairman of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Rela-

tions Committee, President of the Biddleville Housing Corporation, The Mecklenburg General Association and Crisis Assistance Ministry.

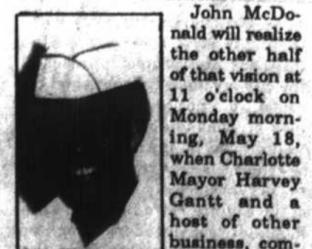
In addition to his community work, Dr. Riddick has been recognized for his outstanding leadership and ministry. Perhaps one of his greatest rewards is seeing the development of a school and nutritional center in Haiti.



Dr. Leon Riddick

McDonald's Hotel Groundbreaking

Charlotte restaurateur John McDonald had a Divine vision more than 10 years ago telling him to build a hotel and restaurant complex at the intersection of Interstate 85 and Beatties Ford Rd. Six years ago he realized part of that vision when he opened the now-popular McDonald's Cafeteria.



John McDonald will realize the other half of that vision at 11 o'clock on Monday morning, May 18, when Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt and a host of other business, community and political leaders converge on the rear parking lot of McDonald's Cafeteria for groundbreaking ceremonies to start construction of his Best Western McDonald's Inn.

Construction of the 105-room, mid-rise hotel is scheduled for completion in February, 1988. The \$3 million McDonald's Inn will operate as a franchise of the national Best Western Hotel chain and under the management of the Maxim Management Corporation of



Artist's Rendition Of The New Best Western McDonald's Inn To Be Built Behind The McDonald's Cafeteria

Charlotte, which also manages several other hotel properties across the country.

"We have talked about this project for a long time," says McDonald, "and now I am glad that the

planning and talking are now all over and we can get on with the actual building."

The hotel expects to hire about 26 full-time persons and yield an estimated 10 other jobs for the cafeteria, which will adjoin the hotel.

The groundbreaking ceremonies are open to the public. For more information about the hotel, call Barry Harper, president, Maxim Management, at 704-374-0607.