

Happy Thanksgiving

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Charlotte May Lose Mayors Conference

BY PAUL NOWELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER
CHARLOTTE (AP) — When the National Conference of Black Mayors elected Charlotte as the site of its 1988 convention, Mayor Harvey Gantt said he was looking forward to hosting his fellow black mayors from across the country.

"I feel confident I will be there to welcome the meeting," the two-term mayor said following the conference's June announcement. Gantt also said he was brushing up on his tennis skills

so he could beat Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young while he was in town.

But his best-laid plans went awry.

Gantt is now the lame-duck mayor, having lost to Republican Sue Myrick in a close election on Nov. 3.

Now Mrs. Myrick, who is white, is trying to prevent the city from being disqualified as the host of the April convention. At this year's meeting in Miami,

the convention voted to hold the gatherings only in cities with black mayors.

At the request of the Charlotte Convention & Visitors Bureau, Mrs. Myrick sent a letter to the conference stressing that Charlotte is still interested in hosting the meeting.

"The ball's in their court," she said last week. "But we want them to know that they are still very welcome."

Charlotte won out over such cities as Atlanta, Philadelphia

and Roanoke, Va., for its 14th annual meeting next April 12-17. Conference officials expect 500 to 600 people, including most of the country's approximately 300 black mayors and dozens of other elected officials.

The conference has been hosted in recent years by Atlantic City, New Orleans and St. Louis.

Conference President John Smith, mayor of Prichard, Ala., said no decision has been made yet on moving the conference.

"We were happy to come to Charlotte," said Parmele, N.C. Mayor Milton Andrews, a director and president of the N.C. Association of Black Mayors.

But Andrews added: "I'm sure there will be a lot of discussion on the issue. I'm sure other alternatives will be looked at."

The conference started in 1974 as the Southern Conference of Black Mayors. Its members now lead cities with populations totaling 15 million people.

Doug Stafford, president of the city's convention and visitors bureau, said Charlotte businesses would reap about \$500,000 or more from the meeting.

Mrs. Myrick, who takes office Nov. 30, believes the mayors will meet elsewhere.

"I don't know what their decision will be," she said. "It depends on whether they will change their policy. I would be surprised if they came."



Jackson Calls For Service Protection

BY STRAT DOUTHAT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER
ATLANTA (AP) — Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign is calling for immediate Secret Service protection in the wake of reports that the Ku Klux Klan has threatened to kill the Democratic candidate during "black November."

Frank Watkins, Jackson's press secretary, says the FBI notified the campaign of the threat last Friday. Watkins is calling on the government to provide Secret Service bodyguards or be ready to accept responsibility should anything happen to Jackson.

"A black life is as valuable as a white life," Watkins said Monday. "The Secret Service protects Vice President (George) Bush and has protected (Sen.) Ted Kennedy from time to time, when threats have been made on his life. I don't think the Secret Service should set up a whole new criterion just because it is Jesse Jackson who's the front-runner for the Democratic nomination."

Deborah Wade, a spokeswoman for the Justice Department's civil rights division, confirmed that the FBI is investigating the report.

She said the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights law firm in Montgomery, Ala., notified the department of the threat.

Morris Dees, executive director of the SPLC, said one of its investigators learned of the threats from Klan sources and subsequently obtained sworn affidavits from two former members of the Sir Knights of the Kamek, a small Klan group based in the Greenville, S.C., area.

He said one of the former KKK members told the investigator he had heard a leader of the Sir Knights say Jackson must be

killed during "black November."

According to Dees, the term "black November" referred to the November 1979 killings of five members of the Communist Workers Party in Greensboro, N.C.

Ms. Wade said the Justice Department will look at the evidence and decide whether prosecution is warranted.

"We consider all such threats to be serious," she said.

In his campaign four years ago, Jackson reported 314 death threats and was assigned Secret Service agents at the beginning of November instead of January, the usual starting date. This time, he submitted his request for Secret Service protection on Oct. 8, two days before announcing his candidacy.

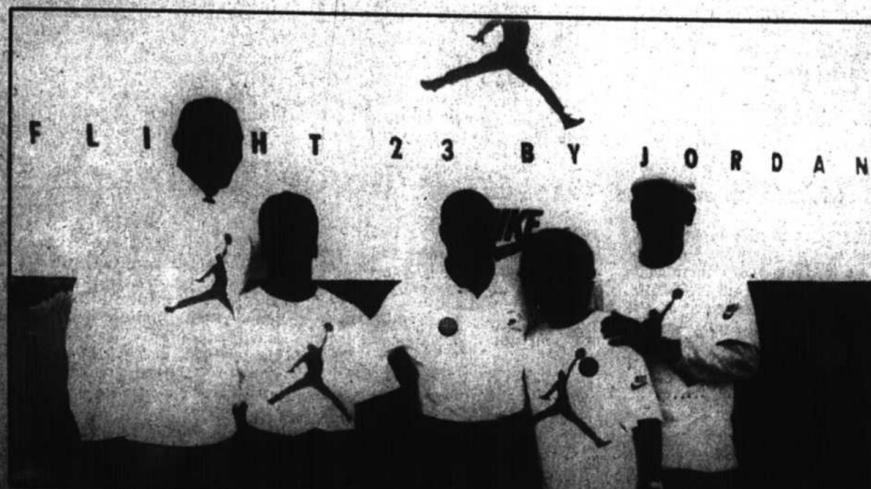
"We were told that they would set up the criteria in about three weeks but we still haven't heard anything back," Watkins said.

Richard Adams, a spokesman for the Secret Service, said it "has no authority to determine when and whom to protect."

He said a Treasury Department advisory committee composed of the speaker and minority leader of the House, the majority

and minority leaders of the Senate and a member of the general public determines the criteria.

A Treasury Department source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Monday that the 1988 criteria have not yet been determined.



Michael Jordan takes a time out from playing basketball to pose with his family at their new sporting goods store, Flight 23 By Jordan. Pictured here (from left to right) are Michael, Roslyn, Larry, Delores and James Jordan.

Jordan Opens Store, Greets Fans

By Russell Clark
Post Staff Writer

On last Wednesday, the parents of Chicago Bulls star Michael Jordan opened doors to their new NIKE sporting goods store in the Matthews Windsor Square shopping center.

Starting shortly after noon, admirers formed single-file lines outside the store, Flight 23 by Jordan, waiting to get a signed poster by Jordan.

The NBA's leading scorer was scheduled to appear from 2-4 p.m. but it was 4:30 p.m. when he endorsed the last poster. He reflected on his day-off from play-

ing basketball.

"It was work but it was fun, he said while on his way out the door. "I would rather be playing basketball than running a business, but this is what my family is interested in doing. It's a family effort and everyone who works in this store is a part of the team."

The store offers an assortment of NIKE athletic shoes ranging from size zero to size 17. According to Michael's father, the store is very different from other sporting goods.

"We're taking the headache out of shopping by offering a broad

selection of only NIKE shoes and apparel," says James "Poppa" Jordan, co-owner.

"A lot of stores offer a variety of goods made overseas but we want the people to know that what we offer is as good or better than our competition."

NIKE Director of Athlete Promotions, Fred Schreyer said that the store is one of a kind.

"It's very unique because there are no other family owned NIKE stores in the world. It's also the only store to my knowledge that carries a complete line of NIKE products."

Bob Davis Named To City Planning Commission

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer

In an ironic twist of fate, Bob Davis has reentered the political arena by replacing the man he lost a city council seat to on the Charlotte's most powerful commission.

In one of his final duties last week, Mayor Harvey Gantt appointed Davis to the Charlotte Planning Commission, to replace Dan Clodfelter, who beat Davis for the District 1 city council seat last October.

Davis was notified of his appointment last Wednesday and was sworn in the following day in time to join the board for his first meeting.

"It went beautifully," Davis stated. "Everyone received me well. It was an interesting meeting."

The commission is charged with overseeing the city's growth, ranging from zoning regulations, building permits and water and sewer services, Davis said.



Bob Davis
The commission has several committees to handle the city's growth, and Davis, principal at Spough Middle School, expects to be named to one soon. After losing to Clodfelter in a close runoff election, Davis borrowed a line from Gen. Douglas. See Davis On Page 3A

White Officer Wins City Suit

CHARLOTTE (AP) — A U.S. District Court jury ruled in favor of a white Charlotte police officer who sued the city last year, claiming reverse discrimination. The jurors awarded Officer Keith Johnson \$25,000 in damages.

Johnson, 29, sued the city in October 1986, claiming he was discriminated against when a black officer, Sam Brown, was chosen ahead of him for a helicopter observer job.

Testimony during the two-day trial showed that Johnson had ranked second among officers who had applied for two helicopter observer jobs. Brown had ranked fourth.

"I have nothing against Sam Brown," Johnson said after the verdict Tuesday. "But I am glad the jury looked at the qualifications of myself and Officer Brown and saw that I was more qualified."

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Thomas Moore of Charlotte blows the fallen leaves from his yard. Low temperatures in the city are leaving plenty of bare trees and plenty of work for homeowners.