

Supporters Meet To Thank Ron Leeper

Special To The Post
A historical event took place in Charlotte on Friday, December 4, at First Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church when the Charlotte community came out publicly to thank former city councilman Ron Leeper for ten years of leadership and service.

The church, located at 901 Oaklawn Ave, was filled with about two hundred people. Ron, his wife, Phyllis, and their two children, Aliba and Ronda, sat in front of the pulpit while friends, supporters and colleagues gave personal testimonies.

Those who gave testimonials included: Rev. Ben Stewart, Minette Trosch, Jackie Edwards, Richard Vinroot, D.G. Martin, Sam Smith, Lucille McNeil, Tom Cox, Willie Jetter, Nasif Majeed, Mike Evans, Harvey Gantt and others.

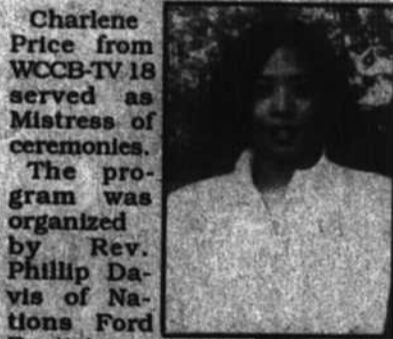
Minette Trosch and Tom Cox each thanked Leeper for helping them become better people. They said Ron helped them both look past cultural barriers, like an Afro and a Fu-Man-Chu mustache, and learn to judge people by the quality of their character.

Much more was said by all, but the consensus was Ron Leeper has made a difference in the lives of many, thereby improving the quality of life in Charlotte.

Special presentations were given to Leeper and his family by Maggie Freeman of the Wilmore Neighborhood, Betty Harris and Daisy Alexander of the Charlotte Public Housing Residence Association, Anna Hood of the Charlotte Club NANBPWC, Velma Leake of the Black Educators Association, Hlawatha Foster of Precinct No. 52, Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Silver Mt. Baptist Church, and a representative from Governor Jim Martin's office.



Former city councilman Ron Leeper: He helped curb the biases against black men with "Afros" and "Fu-Man-Chus."



Price

Charlene Price from WCCB-TV 18 served as Mistress of ceremonies.

The program was organized by Rev. Phillip Davis of Nations Ford Baptist Church and Rev. C. McArthur Sanders of First Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church.

Leeper gave up his District 3 seat on the council and ran at-large in November but lost his bid. However, insiders say, "Charlotte has not heard the last

of Ron Leeper."

Price stated at the Leeper event, "Ron's popularity reminds me of what Jesse Jackson said a few months ago. He said he got 'name recognition the old fa-

shioned way'---he earned it. That is certainly the case with Ron Leeper. He has earned the respect and admiration of all factions; he truly represented the broad cross sections of our community."



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN... Boris Finch, designer and distributor of the new THANKS GANTT! sweatshirt says we can all be proud of the positive image former Mayor Gantt projected as a leader for the city of Charlotte; and for that we can all be thankful. You can express your gratitude by donning a THANKS GANTT! sweatshirt, modeled here by Ann Stabler. Shirts are now available for \$13.95 through mail order or personal delivery. For mail order send check or money order, \$13.95 plus \$2 shipping to: E. Ann Stabler, 5600-A N. Sharon Amity Rd., Suite 171, Charlotte, NC 28215. For personal delivery, call Boris Finch at (704) 378-1534.

Albright Not The Only One To Withdraw From List

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer
Johnson C. Smith University president Robert Albright last week pulled his name from consideration for a similar position at Texas Southern University before Dr. William H. Harris was named Tuesday, he wasn't alone in that respect.

Chuck Smith, Director of Media Relations at Texas Southern, the nation's third largest black college, said Raymond Burse, president of Kentucky State University had also withdrawn his name from consideration.

In a news conference last week, Albright said he would stay at Smith despite being a finalist for a job that totals \$250,000 in salary and benefits. He cited a desire to finish some programs initiated during his administration and local support as the reasons why he decided to stay.

Smith said he had received several calls from Charlotte media to get TSU's version of Albright's withdrawal, but he said

there is no official response to his bowing out other than to say he called TSU's board of trustees to withdraw.

"All we did last Tuesday was receive calls from Charlotte media about his decision," Smith said. "I'm not aware of anything about Dr. Albright and the school having an official exchange. Someone did call him after the press conference, but he wasn't in."

Coincidentally, Smith said, Burse gave the same reason for bowing out as Albright—finishing a job he set out to do.

"Dr. Burse told the board that there were some things that he wanted to finish," Smith said.

When told that was Albright's intention as well, Smith replied with a laugh, "I don't know what it is—maybe the living is better in the Piedmont."

Harris, currently president of Paine College in Augusta, Georgia, was a finalist along with Dr. James Douglas, Dean of TSU's law school.

Busing

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black neighborhoods in addition to the busing issue. Battle said he agrees that inner city schools should be preserved and that the board is committed to the task.

"We've got schools in the black community," he said, noting that Harding and West Charlotte High schools, Bruns Avenue Elementary and Spough Middle schools are in black neighborhoods. "Our problem is to keep them there."

To assure the survival of inner-city schools, Battle said he supports shorter bus rides for black students through the re-drawing of district lines and more black involvement in the process.

Keeping Mecklenburg schools racially balanced is a tough act, Battle noted, because of the disparity in economics often dictate where people live. Those differences, however, shouldn't prevent the system from giving each child a good education in a culturally and racially mixed setting.

"If we had an ideal community setting, we wouldn't need (busing)," he said. "The purpose of it is to expose (students) to the real world where they would be exposed to different people."

Schools are doing a good job of motivating students, Battle says, but it could do more for black children, who are sometimes left behind by teachers who may fail to realize their potential because of their background.

"We've got to challenge black kids' minds to do the very best. If we don't challenge them, we've failed," he said.

"The system is a microcosm of society," Battle continued. "There are teachers who don't do a very good job of motivating black kids and there are some who do a better job with black kids. I'm not naive, but I think we can do better."

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