



For 1989:
Firm Up Your Finances
Special Business Section/4&5A

NAACP Upset Over Arsenio Show

Entertainment/ Page 10B

Clinton Chapel Aids Seversville

Lifestyles/ Page 1B

Inside The **Alliance**

The Black Teacher Shortage

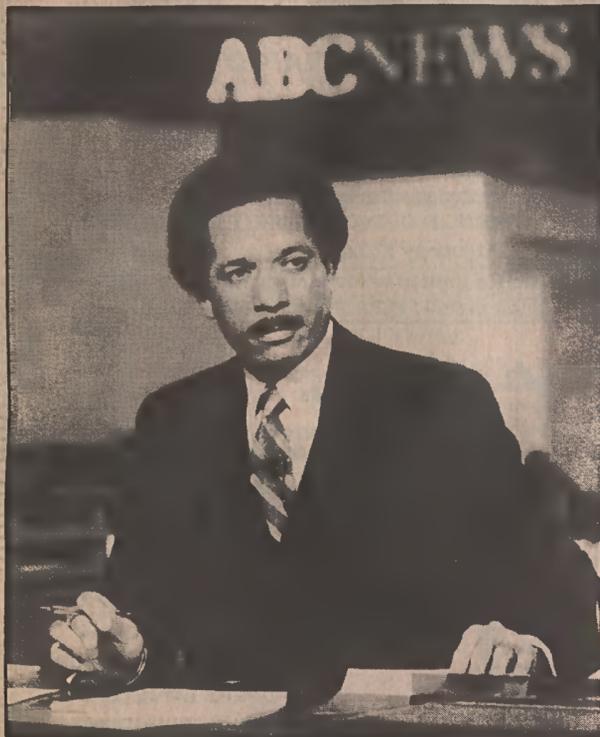
Page 1C

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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents



Robinson

Robinson Made A Last 'Confession'

By Chester A. Higgins Sr.
NNPA News Editor
Washington, DC - A year before he died of deadly AIDS complications, pioneer black TV network anchorman Max Robinson confessed to the Rev. Jesse Jackson in Chicago that he didn't acquire the disease through homosexual activity but "from promiscuity."

Rev. Jackson eloquently related Robinson's statement-- a testimony that amounted to a "death bed confession" -- at a huge memorial service held for the immensely popular Robinson at Washington, D.C.'s Shiloh Baptist Church. Robinson, 49, died at Howard University Hospital of complications from the dreaded disease.

In a moving memorial, Rev. Jackson talked about the troubled life of Max Robinson, a handsome, smooth, dashing figure who rose from performing as a disk jockey in his native Richmond, VA, to become the nation's first, black network anchor. In 1978, Robinson, in Chicago, Peter Jennings in London and the late Frank Reynolds in Washington, formed a three-man anchor for network ABC.

Rev. Jackson told the huge audience that he visited Max often during his hospitalization last year in Chicago. "Max and I discussed in detail AIDS..." Jackson said. "He said, 'Jesse, on this bed and on this Bible it is not homosexuality but it was promiscuity. I'm not sure and know not where, not when even on my dying bed-- if it is my dying bed. Let my predicament be a source of education for my people.'" Jackson said Robinson ob-

tained a measure of peace and serenity in the year preceding his death.

Robinson's path to the top was not easy, his grasp always tenuous, and his fall inevitable. Competitive tension at the anchor level is fierce. Add racism-- institutional or personal-- and it is deadly. James Baldwin said it: "To be black and aware in America is to be in a constant state of rage." Max was in a constant state of rage. Jackson weaved the theme throughout his moving testament. "Max," he cried, "would not adjust. He is a veteran and a casualty in the war to make America better!"

Throughout his brilliant career, Robinson's on-camera performances were marred by unexplained absences. He reportedly drank heavily at times and had bouts with drugs. But he was never dissipated in appearance. He worked as a reporter with local Washington station Channel 4 in 1968, and joined Channel 9 when Channel 4 refused to promote him to an anchor role. At ABC, Robinson reportedly was upset when the David Brinkley Show used only white pundits and guests.

For nearly a decade, he co-anchored with Gordon Peterson, the 6 and 11 p.m. news, making these the top news programs in the market. Jackson said: "Max wanted network bureaus in Africa. He drank deep from the cup of Afro-American history and culture because he felt a rootless people were a fruitless people." He described Robinson

See HUNDREDS On Page 2A

Mecklenburg's Top Lawmaker

Jim Richardson Stresses Hard Work, Cooperation For County Delegation

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

When the Mecklenburg County legislative delegation returns to Raleigh next week, there will be more cooperation among its members, said the chairman, Sen. Jim Richardson.

Despite well-documented reports of a partisan split in the delegation, Richardson, a Democrat said the 12-member group worked well last year.

"I don't think we were as far apart as reported in the media," he said. "Sure, we had our philosophical differences, but we worked well together."

Richardson, 62, said the delegation, which Democrats outnumber Republicans 7-5, appears to be a close-knit group that has been mapping out plans for the legislative session in advance.

"I characterize the delegation as one that's going to work very hard to cooperate with each other," he said.

The first black legislator to lead the delegation, Richardson is responsible for setting its agenda for meetings with constituents. The job is high-profile, but Richardson said he plans to use it to help the delegation push its proposals.

"I try to make it a low-key position," he said. "It's not a matter of clout for me, but of clout for the delegation."

Richardson's selection to the post last month is a sign that Mecklenburg politics is evolving toward full inclusion. The Democratic majority gave its vote of confidence and the Republicans concurred.

"I complement the delegation on my nomination and election,"

he said. "I see it as progress. I think it was a complement to the delegation that it was a unanimous vote and that race wasn't a factor."

The delegation returns nine legislators along with three newcomers, but unlike last year's group, this one is more experienced, especially with former Mecklenburg commissioner Fountain Odom in the Senate. Richardson said that experience will help draw the body together in working for the county's interests.

"Last year, we had people who weren't as experienced," he said. "When you have that, you don't seem to be as together as it seems."

The 1988 legislative session was a good one for the delegation. See RICHARDSON On Page 2A



Richardson

Plans For 2nd King Parade Are Bigger

Special To The Post

Across the country, the month of January ushers in an important national event: Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, celebrated by thousands.

The late civil rights leader was born on January 15, 1929, and 1989 marks the fourth national holiday commemoration of Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 16.

In Charlotte, this year will bring the second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade sponsored by WestFest, the NAACP, the Afro-American Cultural Center and The Charlotte Post.

The first Charlotte-based King parade by WestFest debuted last year. This year, with the aid of additional sponsors including The North Carolina Humanities Endowment, KISS 102, WPEG FM 98, Food Lion, Coca-Cola and Pepsi, the King parade, to be held Monday, January 16, will

be preceded by a full-slate of activities beginning Saturday, January 14.

A seminar entitled, "Reflection on the Dream (Where is the Dream - 1989?) will be held from 2-4 p.m. Friday, January 14, at the Afro-American Cultural Center. The seminar will feature several speakers, including Dr. Iris Carlton-LaNey of UNCC; Dr. Clark White, Director of Black Studies at Temple University; and Jerry Shinn of The Charlotte Observer. It will be followed by a reception at 4:30 p.m. and an evening activity is still to be announced.

Also at the Afro Center, a Spiritual Singing program will be held on Saturday, January 15, from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

North Carolina Senator Jim Richardson will be the Grand Marshal for the Martin Luther King Celebration Parade that will begin 11 a.m. on Monday, January 16. Deputy Marshal for the parade will be Charles Anderson, Executive Director of the Detroit Urban League; and Jalyne Strong, Editor of The Charlotte Post.

Line up for the parade will take place at 9:30 a.m. at Northwest

Junior High School on Beatties Ford Rd. The Parade will proceed down Beatties Ford Road to Trade Street, down Trade Street, left on Davidson, right on Seventh Street, and will end at Little Rock AME Zion Church on McDowell.

The parade will be followed by a rally from 2 - 3:15 p.m. at Little Rock Church.

Sam Young, chairman of WestFest Inc., says the organization expanded the King celebration activities because many asked that it be done. "At the first King parade, people were asking to do more," says Young. "We try to do the things people ask us to do and keep them at quality levels. We also wanted to get children actively involved. They may be in the parade or watch it from the sidewalks. These are the type of things children remember."

The idea of a Martin Luther King celebration parade in Charlotte originated with Young and Cal Thorton, both of whom are Morehouse College graduates. King was also a graduate of Morehouse.

The parade is a direct commemoration of the marches led by the late civil rights leader in

the 1960's.

Last year Charlotte's King parade featured the marching bands of West Charlotte, Myers Park and Harding. Young says there's hope to enlist more bands this year.

Charlotte Mayor Sue Myrick led the parade last year as the Grand Marshal. Myrick was unavailable at press time to say whether she would participate in the parade this year.

Anyone interested in participating in the 1989 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration parade or the other King celebration activities may call the following numbers for more information: NAACP, 376-6909; Afro-American Cultural Center, 374-1565; and WestFest, 568-5440.



EEOC Files Action Against Graphics Co.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission recently filed an action in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, Charlotte Division, seeking to enforce subpoenas against Jordan Graphics, Inc. for access to records and information and for testimony.

R. Edison Elkins, Director of the Charlotte District Office, stated that the proceeding against Jordan Graphics, Inc. originally began when a Charging Party filed a charge of discrimination with the EEOC's Charlotte District Office against Jordan Graphics, Inc. on October 5, 1987.

The Charging Party alleged that Jordan Graphics, Inc. denied him promotions because of his race (black) and discharged him because of his race (black) and in retaliation for his participating in another charge of discrimination. He also alleged that Jordan Graphics, Inc. discriminates against blacks as a class with respect to promotions, job assignments and discharge.

The EEOC issued the subpoena. See JORDAN On Page 2A

Muslims Close N.C. Building

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C.

(AP) -- Louts Farrakhan's Nation of Islam closed its building in Rocky Mount last Thursday after one of the group's members was arrested on charges of selling drugs.

"We want to take very clear decisive action because we don't want the public to get a false impression of the Nation of Islam," Abdul Alim Muhammad, a

spokesman for Farrakhan, said at a news conference.

Muhammad leads the "Dopebusters," a group of Muslims who patrol public housing projects in Washington, D.C., to keep drug dealers out.

"We have zero tolerance for drug activity, any kind of illegal activity at all," Muhammad said.

Betty R. Jenkins, a local member of the Nation of Islam, was arrested Sept. 28 by Rocky Mount police on charges of possession of marijuana and cocaine and maintaining a dwelling for the purpose of selling drugs. She has been arrested two more times since then on simi-

lar charges.

"Our own investigation leads us to believe that there is something to these allegations," Muhammad said.

Muhammad said Farrakhan has instructed that the operations of the Rocky Mount group be suspended until the matter is cleared. If Ms. Jenkins is found guilty, he said, the Nation of Islam will expel her for life.

"We have a good reputation among the people of Rocky Mount, and we want to keep it that way," Muhammad said. "I think that they should know that we regret any unseemly or inappropriate activity by any member of the Nation of Islam."

UNC Desegregation Plan Spurs Mixed Results

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) -- More than a decade of wrangling with federal officials over how to desegregate the University of North Carolina system ended recently, but the dispute over the success of those efforts may go on.

While black enrollment at the University of North Carolina system's traditionally white campuses never has met a target of 10.6 percent, UNC officials say they have made great strides in diversifying the schools' student bodies.

This year, black students account for 8.3 percent of the 118,960 students enrolled at UNC's mostly white schools, up from 3.1 percent in 1972.

But Reginald Wilson, director of the American Council on Education's Office of Minority Concerns in Washington, said the state still had a long way to go in desegregating its universities and should be more aggressive in working to diversify the cam-

pusers' racial mixture. "If you have a (desegregation) plan which has not achieved the success that it ought to have achieved, then it should be reviewed for changes," Wilson told The News and Observer.

Wilson served on a panel appointed by federal officials in 1986 to review the Southern states' efforts to desegregate their systems of higher education.

In 1981, UNC system officials entered an agreement with the U.S. District Court in Raleigh to increase black enrollment at the predominantly white schools to 10.6 percent.

Known as a consent decree, that agreement represented a compromise in a bitter legal battle between UNC system and federal officials over how to desegregate what was described at the time as North Carolina's "dual system of higher education," five schools that blacks were routed into and 11 schools

that attracted whites. The terms of that agreement expired Dec. 31, 1986, with the court continuing to monitor the UNC system's efforts for two more years.

With the last vestige of federal oversight of the desegregation efforts ending, Wilson said there was some concern that the university system may grow complacent about the issue.

"North Carolina did not eagerly move into this arena of desegregating its system of higher education and had a history of being one of the most resistant states," Wilson said.

But Raymond Dawson, senior vice president for academic affairs for the UNC system, said that boosting black enrollment would remain a top priority.

"The reason we made the progress we made is not because we were under the jurisdiction of the court," Dawson said.

"The reason is each of our campuses, chancellors and our pres-

idents are personally, genuinely committed to those goals. That's why they work at it. Not because they're out there visiting kids because the judge said they had to."

The consent decree was one of 10 agreements made with state university systems in the South, all of which expired some time in 1986. Like North Carolina, none of those states has met its target of black enrollment.

Increasing black enrollment significantly has proved an elusive goal for many colleges across the country for a number of reasons. The number of black high school graduates nationally has declined, dropping 9.3 percent from 1980 to 1984. Also, the shift in federal financial aid from grants to loans has discouraged many black students from going to college.

The consent decree grew out of a 1970 suit that the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund had filed, charging the U.S. gov-

ernment with violating the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by funding several Southern university systems it claimed were insufficiently desegregated.

Under the decree, UNC system officials promised to increase white enrollment at the five historically black campuses to 15 percent, a goal that has been accomplished. White enrollment at the schools is 16.5 percent.

And they agreed to upgrade the

See UNC On Page 2A

Inside This Week	
Editorials.....Pg. 6A	Obituaries.....Pg. 4B
Entertainment.Pg. 8A	Sports.....Pg. 6B
Lifestyles.....Pg. 1B	Classifieds.....Pg. 10B
Church News.....Pg. 3B	The Alliance.....Sec. C

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