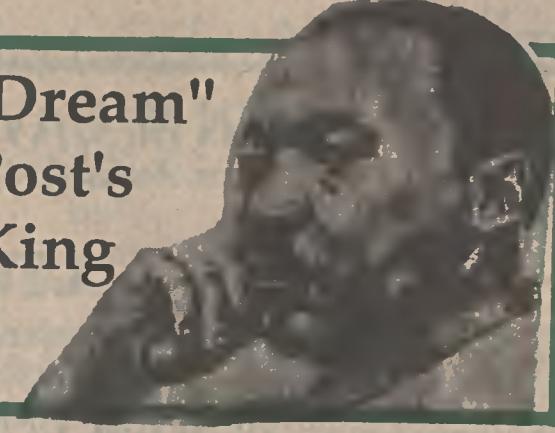


Celebrating "The Dream"

The Charlotte Post's
Martin Luther King
Edition

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The Charlotte Post

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Walton Close To Decision Announcement Jan. 24

By Herb White

Post Staff Writer

Incumbent Mecklenburg County Commissioner Bob Walton announced Wednesday he is leaning toward running for another term on the board.

In a telephone interview, Walton said he is "99 percent sure" that he will seek another term as the District 2 representative on the board, although there are a few details to sort out.

"I am very, very close to making a decision," he said.

Walton plans to make an official announcement at 3:30 p.m. Jan. 24 at University Park Baptist Church on Keller Ave.

If Walton, the lone Democrat and only black on the commission does run, he will face businessman Nasif Majeed in the May primary.

Walton, who has served five terms as a commissioner, said he looks forward to campaigning against Majeed.

"I don't have any problem with a competitor in any race I've been in," he said. "Competition is healthy and the bottom line is that it's good for the black community."

Walton said he plans to discuss the issues, which includes maintaining the county's "fiscal integrity," to keep its AAA bond rating, additional funding for schools and implementation of a solid waste management plan.

He said he will run on his record, but won't back away from possible questions regarding his 1986 assault conviction.

Walton said he expects the issue to come up during a campaign, especially from the media but he plans to run a positive campaign linked to his past accomplishments and issues that face District 2 and the county.

Majeed has said he doesn't plan to make Walton's past a campaign issue, preferring to make a point of his leadership



Walton

ability.

"I will be speaking to the issues," Walton said. "(The conviction) will be part of the record, and I will discuss it because it is, but I won't be going into any par-

ticulars. That should not be the major issue."

Walton said results from surveys he sent to constituents last month were an important factor in his expected bid. The questionnaires were seen by observers as a measuring stick of support for Walton regarding a possible reelection campaign.

"It was a very, very instrumental part in that decision," he said. "The response was overwhelmingly good. This was a real important survey because of the incident that occurred."

The December mailing wasn't the first time Walton used a survey to gauge public sentiment.

He said it is a useful tool in figuring the mood of voters and is a good method of staying in touch with constituents.

"As you know, it's not the first time I've done it," he said.



Photo By Calvin Ferguson

The city's snow storm caused many to be snow bound last week. Some felt a trip to a warm and sunny place was in order, like this snowman found on 7th St.

Dignitaries, Bands Make Parade

By Herb White

Post Staff Writer

Local and state dignitaries plan to join with plain folk in observing Martin Luther King's birthday Monday during a parade or Charlotte's west side.

WestFest Inc. and The Charlotte Post are sponsoring the first King Day parade, which will start at 11 a.m. at Irwin Avenue Optional School.

The parade route will run from Irwin Ave. to West Trade St. to Beatties Ford Road before concluding at University Park Shopping Center.

Mayor Sue Myrick is the parade's grand marshal and is scheduled to lead a procession of cars and people along the route to underscore the contributions King made to the struggle to im-

prove life for all Americans.

Kelly Alexander, an organizer of the event, said anyone can join the procession, which will be made up of people who will walk the length of the route or will ride along with friends or family.

"The idea behind it is to have citizens march to show their support of Dr. King's ideology," he said. "We're encouraging people to walk or ride cars in the parade. We only ask that if you ride, bring someone with you.

You can march a block or you can march the entire length if you want to."

Parades mean bands, and the King Day celebration will have some, with West Charlotte High and the House of Prayer expected to participate.

In addition to Myrick's appearance, other dignitaries are expected, including N.C. Attorney Gen. Lacy Thornburg, Alexander said.

"That's a coup," he said.

"There's very few council of state members who are committed to an event of this type."

Marchers should be ready to line up for the event by 10 a.m. in front of Irwin Avenue Optional, Alexander said. There is no way of estimating how many people will show up for the procession, but it doesn't really matter.

"We'll be happy with whoever shows up," he said. "It's a labor of love."

National Urban League's 1988 Report Details State Of Blacks



Jacob

nomics, politics, criminal justice, education and sociology, also included will be an introduction by Jacob and a chronology of events important to blacks in 1987.

Topics covered in the papers are: "Black Enrollment in Higher Education: The Unfulfilled Promise of Equality," "Tomorrow's Teacher: Who Will They Be, What Will They Know," "Civil Rights and the Future of the American Presidency," "Critical Perspectives on the Psychology of Race," "The Black Family: Striving Toward Freedom," "Black Youth At Risk," "Crime in the Black Community," "Blacks in the Military: The Victory and the Challenge," "Economic Status of Blacks 1987," "Black Wealth: Facts and

Fiction," "Crime is Not a Part of Our Black Heritage."

The State Of Black America is a widely recognized reference book that examines the living conditions of black citizens compared to whites in the nation. The report also gives insight into issues that need to be addressed and the work that must be done towards making a just and equitable society. The 1988 report is the 13th annual edition.

Madine Hester Falls, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League, says the annual national report is a necessary barometer for measuring and tracking on a regular basis the status of blacks in America. She notes, however, that there is a need for a similar publication at the local level.

"It is my hope," she says, "that we are able to assemble appropriate authors and garner the necessary financial resources to produce such a document at the local level. It could be a valuable tool in constructing various policies and charting courses aimed at improving not only the conditions of poor and disadvantaged blacks, but the conditions of our community as a whole."

The State Of Black America 1988 will be available to the general public through the National Urban League for \$18.

Group Plans To Breed Black Leaders

It took two years to hatch but the principals involved in Focus on Leadership feel they now are ready to begin a breeding ground for black leaders in the Charlotte community.

Kevin Patterson, President of Focus on Leadership, along with

Ron Leeper, the organization's founder, and Robert Albright, President of Johnson C. Smith University, will make an official announcement concerning the start-up of Focus on Leadership on Friday, January 15, 11:30 a.m. in the Seabrook Edu-

cation Building on the JCSU campus.

"This organization has a direct mission," states Patterson. "It is to develop leadership skills primarily among black citizens in the Charlotte community."

Supremacists Threaten California King Parade

FONTANA, Calif. (AP) --- A threat by a white supremacist group to cause disturbances at a Jan. 17 celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. forced the slain civil rights leader's son to cancel a parade appearance here.

The Rev. David B. Rodriguez, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Fontana and chairman of the Fontana Ministerial Association, which is sponsoring the rally honoring King's birth, told reporters security concerns caused Martin Luther King III to drop out.

However, a spokeswoman for King's son said scheduling problems caused him to cancel the parade appearance but he still plans to address an interfaith service at Fontana's Performing Arts Center following the parade.

Rodriguez said he and others were alarmed by a recent recorded telephone message from a white supremacist group in San Diego County urging a counter-demonstration in Fontana the day of the parade.

The December message on the "Aryan Update" information line service run by former California Knights of the Ku Klux Klan leader Tom Metzger said that "white workers of Fontana" will demonstrate if Martin Luther King III marched in the parade honoring his father.

James Farrands, the so-called Imperial Wizard, or national head of the KKK, confirmed Wednesday that he will be in Fontana to protest the King celebration.

"I will be there with my bodyguards," Farrands said from his Shelton, Conn., home.



King III

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