

Troubled Youth?

A Safe Alternative To
The Streets
Or Jail

Lifestyles/ Page 8A



A Crude Display By Jimmy "The Greek"

Editorials/ Page 4A

Will Local NBC Switch Affect Ratings?

Entertainment/ Page 1B

The Charlotte Post

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

Volume 13, Number 34

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, January 21, 1988

Price: 50 Cents

Charlotte Blacks In Search Of Leaders Like King

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the 59th birthday of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., a group of Charlotteans began a grassroots program to find more leaders like him.

Called Focus on Leadership, they described the program as an effort to get more blacks to the forefront of politics, business, volunteerism and other areas of community life.

"There are many opportunities in Charlotte for black Americans," said Robert Albright, president of Johnson C. Smith University, where Focus on Leadership was unveiled Friday. "But we don't believe the opportunities have been tapped as well as they could have been tapped."

"As our community continues to grow and prosper, and indeed evolve into that of a world-class citizenship --- a world-class city --- we think there must be a larger role for black Americans to play."

About 25 participants will begin a 13-seminar program Feb. 17, said Kevin Patterson, president of Focus on Leadership.

Program Launched To Foster New Black Leadership In Politics And Business

Story Page 2A

Ga. Rep. Lewis: "King was a Modern Day Moses"

Elsewhere, U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., speaking Friday night at the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, likened King to "a modern-day Moses, using his religion and the emotion of the black church as instruments ... for the freedom of his people."

Lewis, elected to Congress in 1986 from Georgia's 5th District over former state Sen. Julian Bond, another King protégé, said King's influence on him had been early and powerful.

"The concept of non-violent confrontation with the forces of segregation brought a ray of hope to me, as it did to many other people across our nation," Lewis said. "He was trying to make his religion relevant to the struggle of his people."

"As we celebrate and commemorate his birthday tonight, we must look at him as one of the founding fathers of the new America," Lewis said. "He not only freed blacks, he freed all of us."

Dr. Samuel Proctor, former president of N.C. A&T State University, likened King to Queen Esther. Esther risked her life by interceding on behalf of her people when her husband was persuaded to decree that all Jews of Persia be slain.

And 2,500 years later, King also "felt obligated to do something for his people," said Proctor, now senior minister at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York. "He could have gone into medicine, into law, into architecture. But he gave his life for his people."

While targets in the fight against segregation were clear in the 1960s, "things are very different today," Proctor said. "The targets are not so clear at all. You know there is racism and racial tension, but you don't know who to picket anymore."

Now, Proctor said, "We must do whatever we can to enhance our presence in all the high places of the country."

In Fayetteville, state Corrections Secretary Aaron Johnson told about 200 people at Fayetteville State University that King's dream did not die when King was killed by an assassin in 1968.

"He had a dream for America," Johnson said. "That dream is still alive. All that Martin Luther King did will not mean much if we do not chase that dream."

Johnson challenged FSU students to spend more time in the library, study harder and increase test scores to raise their opportunities and thereby carry on King's dream.

"The God that brought us this far didn't make you inferior," he said. "He gave you the same brain power as everybody else. Use it."

McMillan: "...Free to Climb the Highest Peaks"

In Charlotte, U.S. District Judge James B. McMillan praised King's "dream of equal opportunity" and "his ability to touch the hearts of people, whether they agreed with him or not."

"At one time, for many of us here, the mountains were only foothills," McMillan told a student assembly at Charlotte's Sedgefield Junior High School. "I suppose you could truthfully say that because of Martin Luther King, you are not limited to foothills --- but are free to climb the highest peaks."

McMillan in 1969 issued an order that made Charlotte the national test case for busing to achieve integration.

McMillan said that when the case began, he had no idea he would issue such a ruling.

"It took about a year and a half for the facts to sink into my brain," he said. "The process of improving Charlotte's schools by eliminating racial barriers had to begin with the education of a hardheaded judge."

McMillan said he's proud of Charlotte's response.

"I wish mankind in general could deal with problems as good-humoredly and peacefully as this community has," he said.



Lewis



Photo by Calvin Ferguson

EVERYBODY SING FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING...Charlotte's first Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade was quite successful. Sponsored by WestFest Inc. and The Charlotte Post, the event

brought hundreds together in honor of the late, great civil rights leader.

Griffin Files For School Board

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer

Arthur Griffin, a former member of the Mecklenburg County School Board, is really pumped up for his election bid.

He sees the county's 74,000 students as Mecklenburg's most valuable resource, especially the younger ones.

"The kindergarten class today is the 12th graders of the year 2000 and that's why I'm so excited about running," he said.

Griffin, who was appointed to the board in 1985 but lost in the 1986 election, said he considers himself an advocate of children and providing them with equal education opportunities. To meet that end, Griffin said the school system should try to move past the pupil reassignment plan currently in place.

"I feel we're moving from the

commitments we made in the '70s' to make education opportunities available to all students," he said.

"To move away from the controversy regarding pupil reassignment, Griffin favors the construction of "mid-point" schools between black and white communities.

"In order to guarantee that our children get the best education possible, we should have mid-point schools between predominantly black neighborhoods and predominantly white communities," he said. "That's a long-term solution. Everything else is short-term."

With the controversy surrounding the busing of children going full blast recently, Griffin said the suggestion of southeast parents to build neighborhood schools won't play in a county where blacks bear the brunt of



Griffin

the busing burden.

"We can't have neighborhood schools in the traditional sense because a lot of the neighbor-

hoods are too big," he said. "That may have been possible in the '50s when neighborhoods were smaller but in the '80s that's a misnomer."

Griffin said Mecklenburg should do a better job of balancing the burden of busing, a contention held in the black community. According to the county board of education, most of the busing takes place in Mecklenburg's 71 elementary schools.

See Griffin On Page 2A

Trucking Co. Sued For Racial Discrimination

Complaint Cites Thurston Motor Lines On Segregating Jobs

GREENSBORO, NC --- On January 7, 1988, the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a race discrimination lawsuit against Thurston Motor Lines, a multi-terminal trucking firm with nationwide operations.

According to a Complaint filed in U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, Greensboro Division, Thurston Motor Lines has engaged in racial segregation in truck driver job assignments and retaliated against at least one individual for questioning this practice.

In its lawsuit against Thurston Motor Lines, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is seeking injunctive and monetary relief.

According to R. Edison Elkins,

See Trucking On Page 2A

Study: Black Gains Were Few

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer

The state of blacks in Mecklenburg County is pretty much the same as in the rest of America.

Progress has been frozen and there is the threat of a retreat in most areas, according to a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League official.

Madine Hester Falls, executive director of the local Urban League, said the State of Black America report released last week by the national Urban League summarized that cuts in federal programs and legislation that have rolled back gains in employment and civil rights have put black Americans in a holding pattern at best.

The report was compiled by a panel of scholars who researched different aspects of

American life from the perspective of blacks. The report was made public a week ago in a national press conference.

Falls said education and employment are areas the Charlotte-Mecklenburg League have been directing much attention to recently and the national report mirrors the national mood.

"When it comes to Charlotte, it certainly does," she said.

According to Urban League figures compiled from the 1980 U.S. Census, 25.1 percent of black Americans live in poverty compared to 5.3 percent of whites. In Charlotte, blacks are three times more likely to be unemployed but the figures don't include underemployment where workers take jobs below their experience and education, Falls said. Mecklenburg's unemployment rate is currently hov-

ering around the 3 percent mark.

"For the most part, when we do work, we work in low-paying jobs," she said. "For black males, it's really at a crisis stage."

Attacks on affirmative action programs have played a major role in freezing black job prospects, Falls argues, and points to Mecklenburg's proposal to do with its policy in favor of a fairness-in-hiring statement.

She said most, if not all, county supervisors are white males but the vast majority of maintenance and dietary workers are blacks and women.

"Affirmative action can still be geared to areas where blacks haven't been getting jobs in Mecklenburg," Falls said.

See Black Gains On Page 2A

League Blasts Both Parties For Showing No Concern For Blacks

(Washington, D.C.-NNPA)-- Declaring that no Republican party presidential candidate and only one Democratic party candidate have minority staffs, National Urban League President John E. Jacob called upon "The black community and its organizations to take the lead in actively mounting programs to deal with our problems." The veteran civil rights leader urged the action in the NUL's annual State of Black America 1988 report this week.

"Not a single candidate on the Republican side has a minority person in a major campaign role and of the top ten minority campaign staff positions on the

Democratic side, none of the candidates has more than one minority person, other than Jesse Jackson, who has five," said Jacob.

"That's a shocking indicator of the failure of the Democrats to understand that they can't be elected without black votes and they are not going to get black votes unless they've got minorities who understand the black community from the inside, and who can shape campaign policies," he declared in delivering the impressive document at the National Press Club here. Jacob indicated that Blacks didn't expect much from Republicans.

The State of Black America re-

port documents the depth of the problem facing black Americans and the failure of most Blacks to participate in the economic recovery," added Jacob. "While America was riding an economic boom, Black poverty rose," the leader said.

Emphasizing NUL recommendations for black organizations to take the lead in addressing their concerns, Jacob continued "that's happening today as black churches, civil rights and social welfare agencies and community based groups are doing a tremendous job of helping to ameliorate all these conditions in poor black neighborhoods.

Paying particular attention to the Urban League's education effort, Jacob said the "leagues education initiative has already begun to have real impact on our kids and their schools." He also told the gathering of national media that other recommendations in the 1988 report include suggestions for legislation and government action to deal with problems of poverty, hunger, homelessness and racism.

The State of Black America 1988 includes eleven papers prepared by experts in the field of civil rights, education, economics, government, criminal

justice and social welfare. It was televised to sites of many of the nation's 117 historically black colleges and universities, as well as outlets on 700 other campuses via satellite, NUL officials said.

Responding to the NUL call for action by black organizations, Dr. Samuel L. Myers, president of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, said the increasing concern about the alarming decline in school enrollment will be the top priority of NAFEO's 13th annual Blacks In Higher Education Conference, March 23-27, in Washington, D.C.

Inside This Week

Politics
Dukakis Wants The Black Vote.....pg. 2A

Lifestyles.....8A

Church News
Bishop Bevel Jones Will Lecture At Myers Park United Methodist.....pg. 9A

Entertainment..1B

Sports
CIAA's Moorman Wants to Postpone Proposition 48 for Division II Schools....pg. 8B

Classifieds....12B