



# The Charlotte Post

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Majeed



Walton

## Walton-Majeed Race: Religion And Record

By Herb White  
Post Staff Writer

The year's best local race is shaping up in Mecklenburg District 2, where Democratic county commissioner Bob Walton and challenger Nasif Majeed are running for their party's nomination.

It should be some race, by all accounts.

Walton, who made his plans public Sunday at University Park Baptist Church, said he made mistakes in the past, but it shouldn't prevent him from being returned to office.

Walton was convicted in 1986 of assaulting an 18-year old man. He told the crowd gathered at University Park that the past is behind him and it's time to get on with the business at hand.

Right now, the business is to get past westside businessman Majeed, who fled for office earlier this month.

The race is a first for Charlotte, with two strong black candidates running for the same office.

"I'm happy there's more than one candidate," said Jesse Dent, a political scientist at Johnson C. Smith University.

"The black community, as well as other communities, are more cosmopolitan than other people think."

"You're getting a healthy dose of plural-

ism in the black community," said Schley Lyons, a political scientist at UNC Charlotte. "In the past, if you had an incumbent black, you don't get any competition. They battle the white community politically."

The contest offers a study in contrasts: Walton is a Presbyterian minister with a 10-year record on the county commission against Majeed, a political newcomer with strong business ties.

"They're hardly a matched pair," Lyons said.

"You've got a strange mix of factors," with Walton's conviction and Majeed's religion just two of several variables that could decide the race. The candidates will likely try to downplay those differences, at least in public.

"Both of those issues will be conspicuously played down, but those two issues will be central in the vote," Lyons said. "I think Walton and Majeed will try very hard to stay away from mud-slinging. They realize that the white community will be watching. They don't want to be part of a sideshow for them."

Walton, an adept campaigner, may use accounts of his trial and sentencing as a tool to gather support among voters who

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Dent

## Georgia Marchers Blast Police, Blacks In Parade

CUMMING, Ga. (AP) --- Blacks and police were vilified when 130 white supremacist demonstrators --- 36 clad in Ku Klux Klan robes --- staged a "Resurrection March" from the high school to the courthouse.

The march was in response to a civil rights demonstration in the county seven days earlier, as well as two now-famous marches last year.

There were no incidents during Saturday's 2 1/2 -hour march and rally sponsored by the Forsyth County Defense League, authorities said.

City officials had refused to give the league a permit to block a street for a rally. When organizer Richard Barrett, a Mississippi segregationist, told the demonstrators to block the street, they were forced back by a police cordon.

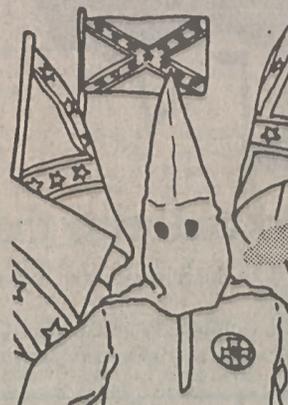
Many speakers verbally attacked the police.

David Craig, a state Klan official, vowed: "We're coming back up here, Walraven, and we'll have that street."

He referred to Sheriff Wesley Walraven.

At Saturday's rally, a series of speakers, including various Klan leaders and avowed racist J.B. Stoner, vilified blacks and "race-mixing fanatics and race-mixing lunatics."

The demonstrators, carrying Confederate, U.S. and KKK flags, walked the half mile from the Forsyth County High School, singing "Dixie" and chanting



"No King over us" --- a reference to Martin Luther King Jr. --- and "No way Hosea."

The Rev. Hosea Williams, an Atlanta city councilman, has led three marches in the virtually all-white county just north of Atlanta, including last week's march down a county road.

That march was intended as a symbolic completion of last year's march by about 75 people, which

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Williams

## School Changes Urged

By Herb White  
Post Staff Writer

The perceived weaknesses in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools has spawned a grass-roots effort throughout the community, and the black community could benefit from a more active role.

Enter Don Brown.

A 40-year-old industrial engineer manager at Radiator Specialty and parent of two Harding High students, Brown has turned his concern for education into a political career as a school board candidate.

Now that the final public forum on the pupil reassignment plan has been held, Brown said black participation was lacking, even for meetings at West Charlotte and West Mecklenburg.

"We're going to have to do something to promote more black parent participation," he said. "I think we need to have mini-school board meetings, especially in areas where there's low parent participation."

Brown argues that the lack of competitive courses is a cause of Harding's 50 percent dropout rate per class. The state average is 28 percent and Mecklenburg's is 25.

An example is this year's senior class. There were 499 freshmen in the 1984-85 school year, Brown said. The class of 1988--those freshmen four years ago--has 218 members.

"That kind of upset me when I found out," he said.

Although Charlotte-Mecklenburg has been a model of school integration, there could be some fine-tuning in the pupil assignment plan. Brown believes the concept of mid-point schools should be looked at as an alternative to long bus rides in addition to a more equal

table division of the busing load.

Of the 12,000 students bused in Mecklenburg, more than half are black elementary children in grades K-3. Brown advocates that whites share more of the burden among K-3 or shift the priority to busing to high school students. Regardless of its inequities, busing is going to be around for a while.

"Even if they put it to a referendum (to eliminate busing) it wouldn't pass," Brown said. "A majority of Charlotteans have gone through this for years and they know it's not perfect but it has to be done."

Brown is concerned about the quality of education, especially at Harding, a school with about 850 students and is 56 percent black, the highest ratio in the county.

The center of concern is Harding's course offerings, which Brown says is not as challenging as the bigger schools.

On the strength of courses offered by each high school, Harding has 46 courses that aren't offered at East Mecklenburg, the largest school in the system. East has 52 courses that aren't offered at Harding.

The difference is small in terms of numbers, but there is a wide gulf when it comes to the types of courses offered, Brown believes.

"I think it's been done that way because we've been neglected. It needs to be rectified. They have taken vocational classes like electrical wiring and auto mechanics out and there's not enough core curriculum."

The facts bear him out. According to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg course offerings guide, Harding doesn't offer as many advanced foreign lan-



Harding students walk to class.

guage or science courses as East Mecklenburg. Harding offers more Junior ROTC courses in addition to several social science electives.

"We have had a demand for those courses (offered elsewhere)," Brown said. "Our kids want those classes also."

Brown said the school system's method for allocating curriculum and resources is unfair in Harding's case because it judges on the basis of enrollment in grades 10-12. According to school figures, Harding is the smallest high school in the system in terms of total student enrollment.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg doesn't count Harding's 447 ninth-grade students in their computation for high school classes, which leaves non-

freshmen out in the cold when it comes to some advanced classes.

"That's a misnomer," Brown said of the system's offerings based on the average daily membership in each class. "They count 10th 11th and 12th graders, but they don't count ninth graders. You're taking out about 500 students when you figure up our average daily membership."

Brown said one way to alleviate Harding's problem is to offer more challenging courses much like at another westside school, West Charlotte.

"They put the curriculum at West Charlotte, they put the resources there and it's a magnet school," he said. "I say they should make Harding a traditional school or have a traditional arm and vocational courses."

## League's Education Initiative Paves The Way For Achievers

More than 26,000 parents and students have been involved in the National Urban League's Education Initiative since its inception more than a year ago.

In conjunction with the first anniversary of the Initiative, the Exxon Corporation has made a \$825,000 grant to the National Urban League's Education Initiative to increase parental involvement in the schools and to boost the achievement level of students.

The grant will allow the League to implement programs that will help parents to take a greater role in monitoring and assisting their children with their school work and in alleviating student discipline problems.

The initiative, which was officially launched on September 30, 1986 is designed to improve the educational achievement of black students. It involves over 90 of the 112 NUL affiliates and is being assisted by such organizations as the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the Black Child Development Institute, the Council of Great City Schools, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Educational Testing Service and The College Board.

Through parental involvement with the Initiative, parents and other adults involve themselves

in such areas as homework support programs, mentoring and guidance, test taking skills development and educational policy.

Some NUL affiliates have encouraged increased parental involvement by training a core group of parents in each of the Initiative schools, who in turn train other parents. The training involves how to work with teachers and principals to have an effective school and how to assess and improve the school's environment.

In some cases, student performance and achievement improved through the Initiative.

affiliates have begun to report such improvements as better standardized test scores, increase in attendance and reduction in suspension and expulsion among target students.

John E. Jacob, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League said, "Through the Initiative, our affiliates have been developing programs suited to the needs of black youngsters in their communities, using advocacy, coalition building, community mobilization, and direct services to parents and students."

"We believe that the black community must play a major role in responding to the crisis facing our children. We want to

impact the institutions that are responsible for educating our children," said Jacob.

Jacob added: "We are encouraged by the support we have received from the black community and from educators, businessmen, church groups and other important constituencies, especially the school superintendents, over 70 of whom have formally pledged to cooperate with local Urban Leagues in implementing these programs."

Other support has been received from Primerica Corporation and Readers Digest. The major aim of the Initiative is for each affiliate to work with community groups, parents, students and the public schools in order to facilitate corrective and progressive action needed to bring about education reform. The objectives are to work towards positive change which will lead to improved achievement and increased college attendance.

The Initiative was developed after the National Urban League's Delegate Assembly was moved to act in 1985 by the continuing underachievement of black students in the nation's public schools.

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Jackson

## Jackson Opens Southern Staff Headquarters

ATLANTA (AP) --- The Rev. Jesse Jackson's staff officially opened his Southern presidential campaign headquarters Saturday with a reception for about 300 people.

"The shaping of a new South requires the forging of a new coalition, a coalition of people from all walks of life who are dedicated to the proposition that racial prejudice will no longer be used to blind the people of the South to the glaring realities of economic violence," said Ron Daniels, the campaign's Southern regional director.

He said the campaign had targeted congressional districts across the South where supporters are registering voters in preparation for the March 8 presidential primaries and caucuses.

He would not specify how many districts were involved.

## Black Mayors In Philadelphia

After spurning Charlotte, the National Conference of Black Mayors will meet in Philadelphia for their 1988 convention.

A press conference scheduled for Jan. 28 at Philadelphia City Hall formally announced the convention will be held there instead of Charlotte, the original host city.

Charlotte lost the convention last year when former Mayor Harvey Gantt lost his reelection bid to Republican Sue Myrick.