



A record number of attendants turned out for the recent CABWE (Carolinas Association of Black Women Entrepreneurs) meeting, where Joan Zimmerman (standing, far right) was the guest speaker.

Photo by Calvin Ferguson
Zimmerman, co-owner of the Southern Shows, Inc., is the Charlotte Businesswomen of the Year for 1987. Also in attendance were the members of Charlotte Women Business Owners (WBO).

Majeed-Walton Offers Contrasts, Conflicts

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feel the media targeted him for persecution. He also has had almost two years to have the issue die down.

"There's no question that if the vote was held at the height of publicity, there's no question they would've voted him out," Lyons said of polls taken after Walton's trial. "How much of that has worn off?"

Majeed's primary hurdle at this point is getting his name out among district voters who may not be as familiar with him as Walton. There's something to be said for voters being able to match names and faces, said Dent.

"Incumbents are supposed to have an advantage, so Mr. Majeed's challenge is to even that out and surpass Walton."

Religion is going to come into play, Lyons and Dent agree. Ministers are lining up support for both candidates and encouraging their congregations to vote in the primary.

"Traditionally, the black church is a critical part of the social and political aspect of the black community. It brings a large number of people into the process," Dent said.

"The role the church leaders play will be a critical issue," said Lyons. "They're a brand new variable. This puts the churchmen right in the middle."

Majeed's Muslim faith could be a factor like Catholicism was in

the 1960 presidential campaign for John Kennedy. Walton supporters may use Majeed's religion to spark "a sharp reaction" that could trigger a free-for-all campaign with no holds barred between candidates.

In a community still trying to assess the shocking defeat of former Mayor Harvey Gantt and City Councilman Ron Leeper, the prospects for personal attack in this campaign looks threatening.

"I sense some polarization in the community," Dent said. "I'm sure there are some sentiments out there that will come to the surface. They look at the (Mayor Sue) Myrick-Gantt campaign. Some people thought the Myrick

campaign appealed to the worse in the community and the Gantt and Leeper defeat confirmed that to those segments."

Majeed has his share of supporters, including Gantt and Leeper but that doesn't necessarily translate into votes. Their support should be expected, Dent said, because the three have worked on several projects together and share the same views on many issues.

"Walton is a more traditional politician," he said. "Majeed appears to be the more corporate type of person and attracts that type."

Lyons discounts the notion of individual endorsements.

"I'm not sure their popularity

can be transferred to another person. It's like icing on the cake. It's nice to have but it doesn't go any farther than that."

Come March, we'll see how far it gets.

Marchers Blast Blacks

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was interrupted when some in a crowd of about 400 Klansmen and sympathizers began throwing rocks and bottles. More than 20,000 civil rights demonstrators returned the next week in one of the largest demonstrations in the United States since the 1960s.

Cumming Mayor Ford Gravitt said he was tired of demonstrations in the town of about 2,000.

"We had one racist (Williams) last week and another racist (Barrett) this week," Gravitt said.

Police Chief Wayne Lindsey said about 30 more demonstra-

tors showed up than he had anticipated, but the turnout was far short of the 500 he said Barrett had promised him.

"I guess we know the people here better than he does," Lindsey said.

The media has been criticized for portraying Forsyth County as racist, with local officials saying much of the activity of recent weeks and last year was the work of outsiders.

Saturday's demonstrators were largely ignored by passing motorists; Lindsey said he could recognize only one county native in the crowd.

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The preliminary events will be held at various sites throughout the Carolinas on April 16, 23, & 30; the semi-finals on May 7; and the final will be May 22 in the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. Entry blanks will be available at participating McDonald's beginning February 26, 1988. For more information, call (919) 876-9716.

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