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The Charlotte Post

Vol. 14, No. 16 Thursday, September 15, 1988

THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

Blacks Must Go To Polls

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

Black voters hold the key to improving the quality of life throughout Mecklenburg County if they do one thing: vote.

At a Sunday "town meeting" at Faith CME Church, about 45 people met Mecklenburg's black political leaders, who sounded the call for more involvement in the political process.

"I get more calls from white folks than blacks," said state Sen. Jim Richardson. "The only way we know what you want is to tell us."

Richardson said the perceived lack of voter participation goes beyond the black community.

"I don't think it's just apathy in the (low) black turnout....," he said. "It's estimated that there's 30,000 black voters not registered and then less than half of the registered voters turn out."

To get more blacks to vote, officials urged constituents to register and go to the polls before the county board of elections purges names from the rolls.

If registered voters fail to participate in an election within a four-year period, they are sent letters to reaffirm their



Bob Walton (standing) and other black elected officials spoke Sunday at a town meeting at

Faith CME Church.

Photo/TONY WHITE

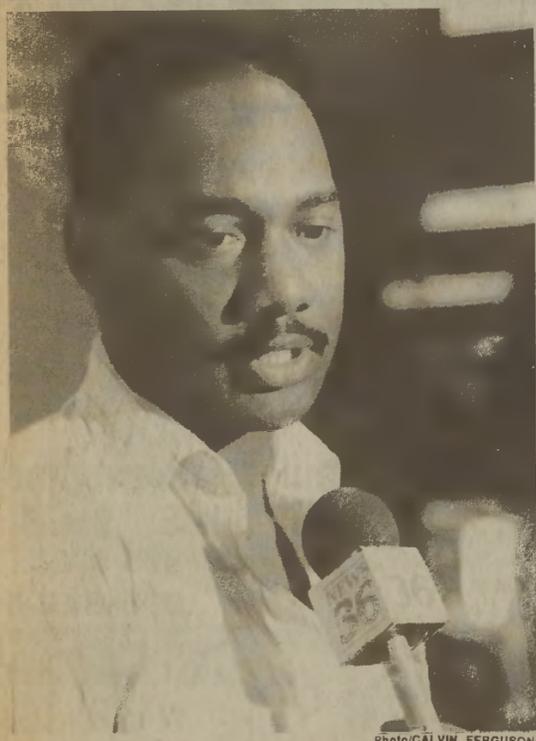
registration. Voters who don't respond are automatically taken off the eligibility list and must re-register.

Maria Macon, a representative of the Mecklenburg Voter Registration Committee, said

the group plans to increase the number of black voters. "Operation '88", the organization's project, is targeting 30 black precincts and eight predominantly black areas in white precincts for registration drives

and election-day voting efforts. Approximately 54,000, or 21 percent of all eligible voters in Mecklenburg are black. Another 30,000 aren't registered and that

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Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

AL OVERTON, official spokesperson for a group of black Piedmont Airlines employees, told the media the group will not comment, as yet, on any plans of action concerning allegations of discrimination at the airlines.

Black Employees Air Grievances Against Piedmont

BY JALYNE STRONG
Post Editor

Approximately 30 black employees of Piedmont Airlines in Charlotte met at McDonald's Cafeteria Monday. In a closed meeting, the group discussed possible actions to be taken to bring about results concerning complaints of discriminatory practices at the airlines office.

Al Overton, named official spokesman for the group, would not comment as to what direction the group would take as of Monday. "We're unhappy about some of the things going on at Piedmont," he said. "It's a little premature to make any further comment."

Tonya Sanders, initial coordinator of the group, pointed out some specific grievances. It was alleged that a white supervisor had made disparaging remarks about blacks at the airlines. The employees have asked for that supervisor's resignation with no results. There were also reports of "tokenism" taking place at the airlines.

Watson Furr, station manager at the Piedmont office, was unavailable for comment at press time.

N.J. Principal Speaks To NAACP Saturday

By Jalyne Strong
Post Editor

Joe Clark, the high school principal characterized in the media as the man who disciplines students with a bullhorn and a bat, will be the featured speaker for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Committee Dinner to be held Saturday, September 17, 7 p.m., at McDonald's Best Western Inn, 2812 Beatties Ford Rd.

Clark, who has been featured on "60 Minutes" and "Nightline" and written about in *Time* and *Newsweek*, is the Principal of Eastside High School in Patterson, New Jersey.

"When order and pride are firmly in place, then and only then, can the student and the school grow and flourish," said Clark who took the helm of Eastside High in 1982. He says he was able to change a "blackboard jungle" into a institution of learning by establish-

ing order, instilling pride and pursuing academic achievement.

A former Army drill instructor, Clark expelled 300 students during his first week as principal. He said he was making it abundantly clear that he would not tolerate fighting, vandalism, drug possession, assaulting a teacher or profanity directed at teachers. He made all such incidents grounds for automatic suspension.

Clark's tough methods have been both applauded and criticized. President Reagan has commended Clark as an example of the tough leadership needed in urban schools. However, the school board has charged Clark with insubordination and has threatened him with dismissal for what they deem as too harsh disciplinary methods.

Clark lives up to the title of "the maverick educator." The Charlotte-Mecklenburg



Clark

NAACP invite you to "come meet the man who dares to be different." For ticket information,

call Denise McIlwain at 334-1060, or the NAACP office at 333-1167.

Cabbies Steamed Over Rules

By M.L. LaNey
Post Staff Writer

Charlotte's independent cab owners are up in arms over what they see as an old problem.

In a disclosure of grievances, local officials of the Independent Taxicab Owners/Operators Association (ITOOA) were not optimistic about the outcome of a proposed plan to affect airport taxi service.

The concerns center on a study of ground transportation at Charlotte's Douglas International Airport.

According to ITOOA president Rubin Howard, the plan would give exclusive rights to five local taxicab companies and "effectively put independent drivers out of business."

The problem dates back to Charlotte's old airport and the difficulties that had been encountered policing independent drivers.

Howard admits to some problems in the past but insists that "We've cleaned up our act and taken stock of ourselves. We wanted to work with Airport management. But it soon became apparent that we were just being ignored."

The plan is to be presented to city council in a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 21.

Details of the plan would provide that five taxicab companies have a total of 100 slots for cabs at the airport. Each slot would require a certification with a \$1,000 price tag.



Photo/LANEY

Rubin Howard: "Independents are being left out."

Howard feels that independents are being left out. "We simply can't afford this extra burden. We pay high insurance

rates, we pay franchise fees, the cost of maintenance is skyrocketing. We pay high insurance

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Thompson



Walker

Minority Business Awards Banquet Lauds Enterprise

President Ronald Reagan has designated October 2-5 as Minority Enterprise Development Week (MED Week). The U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency, the Small Business Administration, and other participating agencies and companies planned activities for the Charlotte area for the week of September 26-October 2.

On Monday, September 26, Minority Business Exchange, Procurement/Purchasing, will be held at FDY Services, 1-77 Corporate Park. Tuesday, September 27, there will be a senior citizens bus tour spotlighting minority businesses.

The Minority Small Business Persons of the Year Award will be presented on Wednesday, September 28, during the Awards Luncheon to be held at McDo-

nald's Cafeteria, I-85 and Beatties Ford Rd.

The award will be presented to Contractors and Mechanical Associates, Inc. of Charlotte. Sullman El-Amin and Charles L. Brewington began this heating and cooling installation business in 1976. The firm has been selected as North Carolina Minority Small Business Persons of the Year and Southeast Regional winner. The Regional award will be presented to the principals during the National Minority Enterprise Development Week October 2-8, in Washington, D.C.

Master of Ceremonies of the luncheon will be Beatrice Thompson, News Reporter for WPCQ-TV. Thompson is a Charlotte native and attended UNC-

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Charlotte Voter Registration Deadlines

The Board of Elections reminds residents of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County that for the November 8th Presidential Election, the following deadlines apply:

DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION/CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Monday, October 10 at 9:00 P.M. in the Election Office or 9:00 P.M. in all Public Libraries (except Belmont Center which closes at 5:00 P.M.) Beginning 9/10/88 the Election Office will be open 10-4 on Saturdays. Regular hours are 8-5 Monday through Friday.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS will be available from the Election Office only. In-person absentee ballots may be voted beginning Tuesday, October 11. Deadline for in-person absentees is Friday, November 4 at 5:00 P.M. Mail in absentee deadline is Tuesday, November 1st.

For more information, visit or call the Election Office located at 741 Kenilworth Avenue. The telephone number is 336-2133.

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