



Mayor Sue Myrick (2nd from left) recently toured Dilworth Food Market, 100 W Park Avenue, in observance of National Small and Retail Grocers Week. Dilworth Food Market is family owned and operated. Pictured above left to right: Rita Shayeghi, Mayor Myrick, Hamid Habibifard and Fred Habibifard.

## Opposition To Bonds Building

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anything for granted, vowing to continue to work for passage.

"I never count chickens," she said, "but the majority of people I've heard from say the bonds will pass."

Although southeast roads need improvements, the referendum could put Charlotte's bond rating in jeopardy without a future tax increase, McCain said.

"It's not prudent, it's not fiscally sound," he said. "Once people understand this referendum boxes us in—all of us—they'll have a different opinion. What are you going to tell the people in northeast Charlotte when they want new roads in the next two years? What are you going to tell the people further out in the southeast when they want roads in the next two years?"

Myrick, who successfully campaigned last year on a platform of improving roads, said the vote isn't a referendum on her performance.

"This isn't Sue Myrick's issue. It isn't a something that's a personal thing for me," she said. "It's based on what's good for the entire community."

The bonds, Myrick maintains, won't deplete revenues or force immediate tax increases. The city has sizable cash reserves for unforeseen situations and the bonds would be paid off gradually, which lessens the chance of hurting the city's AAA rating should the tax base shrink.

"It's not like we're using our last dollar," she said.

Former city council member Ron Leeper said westsiders are more likely to support a referendum that includes their needs, including improvements along the Beatties Ford Road and Wilkinson Boulevard corridors.

"We would support a responsible bond referendum," he said. "If we have an opportunity, we would welcome it."

Traffic is going to be a problem

## ICMA Meet

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manager of a large city in the United States it should be Richard Knight."

"He is capable of separating politics from reality," said Foust.

Knight, 41, was quoted in this week's Jet Magazine after becoming the first black member of the formerly all white Salesmanship Club in Dallas.

Knight said, "I welcome the opportunity to be a change agent if it will provide an opportunity for stronger relations between the races. I don't mind being the first, but I don't intend to be the only or the last."

In addition to the pre-conference forum, the Civic League has planned several other activities for NFBPA members.

On Saturday, October 22, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. there will be a Black Arts Preservation Society Exhibit on display at the YWCA, 3420 Park Road. Throughout the conference NFBPA members will also visit black owned establishments.

## Racial Justice Forum

The Mecklenburg County Chapter of the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers along with the American Civil Liberties Union and the local chapter of Amnesty International will co-sponsor a forum on the Racial Justice Act. The aim is to educate the public on issues related to legislation pending before congress regarding the Racial Justice Act.

The forum will be held on Thursday, October 27, 7 p.m., at the Belmont Regional Center, 700 Parkwood Avenue.

The public is invited to attend free of charge.

in growing cities, Leeper said, and as Charlotte attracts more people, the problem will never be completely solved.

"Look at Atlanta, Los Angeles, Houston and New York. Where in this country do they not have traffic problems?" he asked. "And they throw a lot more money at it than we do."

Myrick insists that without improved roads, Charlotte will lose businesses and industry. Without them, the tax burden will shift to citizens.

"What people don't realize is that if we don't attract new business and industry, you and I will pay more taxes," she said.

Instead of pouring money almost into southeast roads, more should be done to spur growth in underdeveloped parts of the city, Leeper said. Companies are more interested in economics than location.

"The first question a business asks is how financially sound a city is and how high are the taxes," he said.

McCain said Charlotte could wait until early next year for a proposed state road bond referendum. If passed, that money could be used to solve traffic problems, but McCain charges the city is going off on its own without cooperating with legislators for help.

## Foster Moves To Cityfair

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After assessing the seriousness of the proposal, things moved fast according to Foster.

"They gave me all of the details about the expenses and their expectations. Then I contacted Randy Freeman, a black business consultant, at their suggestion.

"I went to Randy," Foster continued, "and asked him to help me set it (the business) up. We discussed the design of my business. Then we went to Harvey Gantt, at Gantt-Huberman. I was really surprised because we went through this process very quickly."

According to Foster, Gantt was able to come up with a very efficient plan in no time. With financial backing from Mechanics and Farmers Bank the deal

was struck.

"I'm looking forward to being here for some time in the future," says Foster.

The idea for Cityfair like complexes is not new. There have been a number of similar undertakings in Richmond and Norfolk, VA, New Orleans, La., Baltimore, Md. and New York.

All seem to be doing very well and local observers are hopeful that the same type of success will be achieved here.

Dr. Foster shares those sentiments.

"We foresee conventions and the new hotel facilities providing a host of opportunities in this project. I, for one, am glad to be here to share in the opportunities that it affords."

## Burke: Blacks, Indians Unite

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against native Americans. She cites Robeson County, NC, as an example, calling the death of Julian Pierce "another unsolved native American murder."

Other issues important to native Americans, says Burke, are land lost, "last year 200,000 acres were taken away," she cites, and Indian sovereignty (self rule) on their land.

A political alliance between African Americans and native Americans is about "power--- plain and simple power," says Burke.

"We see no threat from the black community towards native Americans, as we see coming from the four rich, white, candidates for president."

As far as Burke is concerned African Americans and native Americans find themselves in the same sinking boat of American politics. "We are ignored," she says. "The native American vote is not even courted and the black vote is taken for granted."

This fact is ironic to Burke, who concludes that Democratic Presidential candidate Michael Dukakis can't win without the black vote.

Meanwhile, the consensus among political observers is that Fulani, who was excluded from the presidential debates, can't win --- period.

But that's not an issue to Burke who claims the independent candidate is after larger gains.

"A vote for Fulani is a statement that our votes cannot be taken for granted and we can pick our own candidates," says

Burke.

If the Fulani independent political movement among "excluded" Americans continues to build, Burke assures that by

1992 there will be more balance in political representation in this country.

And, concludes Burke, "We're ready for a candidate of color."

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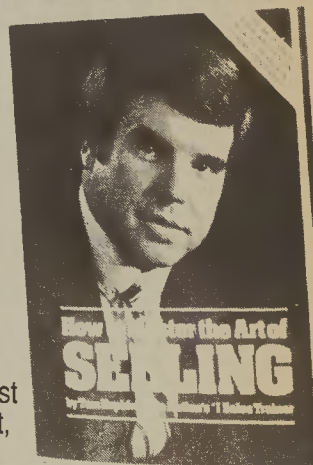
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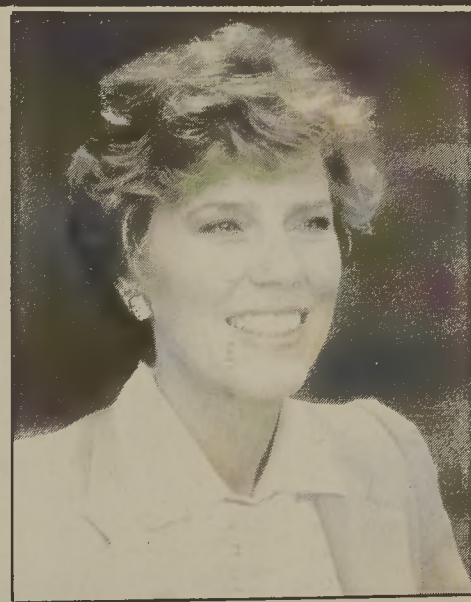
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