

NCNB Chairman McColl Speaks At Johnson C. Smith

Special To The Post

Hugh McColl Jr., Chairman of the NCNB Corporation, was the guest speaker for Johnson C. Smith University's Board of Visitors Distinguished Lecture Series last week. McColl spoke during a luncheon meeting in Grimes Lounge.

NCNB Corporation was recently awarded management of the 41 banks of First Republic Corporation of Texas by the FDIC. McColl spoke about that dramatic acquisition, among other things.

Recently, McColl has taken to speaking out on the status of Charlotte Mecklenburg's public schools. Several times he has voiced his opinions on this matter, agreeing with a report by the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce that stated there should be more involvement and support for education from businesses in the area.

At Johnson C. Smith, McColl took the opportunity to discuss at length his opinions about education and the future of schools in the southern region.

He began his lecture with a personal anecdote that spoke to the economic expansion of the south. McColl related, "In the past, a southerner's search for a better life meant packing up and heading north. When it came time for college and career, I did exactly that. I left home in Bennettsville, South Carolina and journeyed north, all the way to North Carolina. As I like to say, I came 12 miles north and 88 miles west."

Over the years, McColl continued, "clearly we've made tremendous strides. It really doesn't take an MBA from Harvard to figure out that the economic growth of the region has been a catalyst of growth for NCNB. All elements of our inner structure rank among the very best in the country. Without question, we are certainly above average in every category."

"That is, all except one," McColl pointed out. "In our march toward prosperity, we have quite frankly overstepped our schools."

"We've all got to wake up to the fact that the crisis in our schools is paving the way for the crisis in our communities," McColl stressed to the audience. "That's why dealing with this crisis is the obligation of every member of the community, not just the teachers and administrators. As the saying goes, if you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem."

McColl went on to lament the status of education today, particularly as it pertains to how we regard teaching professionals. "Teaching is one career that I can think of where you get absolutely no rewards for doing a great job and no punishment for an inferior performance," he said.

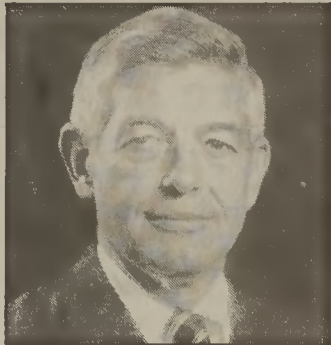
Stressing the importance of education in preparation for the modern workplace, McColl explained, "Careers will consist of six or seven job changes within a working lifetime and education will be a lifelong process of training and retraining."

"Simply put, the process for the uneducated are dismal."

In moving forward, McColl admonished the audience, concluding, "for too long, we've bashed educators for the failure of our schools. The fact is we are all guilty for the inadequacies of our system. Progress never comes from pointing fingers and passing the buck."

"We all have a role to play in improving the current state of our schools."

Formed in 1978, the JCSU Board of Visitors has been a ma-



McColl

...or factor in establishing close, strong and mutually beneficial relationships with the Greater

Charlotte community.

The Distinguished Lecture Series developed and produced by the Program Committee of the Board of Visitors. Chairman of

that committee is Terry Broderick, Senior Vice President, Royal Insurance.


Committee members include James G. Babb Jr., Executive

Vice President, Jefferson Pilot Communications; Cy N. Bahakel, President, Bahakel Television and Radio; Harvey B. Gantt, Principal, Gantt Huberman As-

sociates; Clyda S. Rent, Vice President/Community Affairs, Queens College and John A. Tate III, First Union National Bank, Corporate Banking Group.

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Julian Bond To Speak At Smith Sunday, Jan. 29

Johnson C. Smith University's Lyceum Committee recently announced its Program of Events for 1989. Some of the highlights include speaking engagements with Tony Brown, Dr. Alvin Poussant and Julian Bond.

The JCSU Lyceum Committee was established to develop and bring to the campus, a wholesome program of cultural and educational events and speakers. The programs are open to the public and will be held on the JCSU campus.

The Lyceum Committee has scheduled for early 1989 the following programs and speakers.

Julian Bond - activist/politician; January 29, 7 p.m.

Ron Harrill - First Union Vice President; February 9, University Chapel.

Kelly Alexander Jr. - N.C. President, NAACP, February 23.

Dr. Alvin Poussant - Psychiatry Professor at Harvard; consultant for THE COSBY SHOW, March 1.

Opera Carolina - March 26.

Tony Brown - Host of TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL; black spokesman and expert on the television industry, March 29.

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