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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

## Black Progress Slowed In 1988 As Economic Gulf Widens

By HERB WHITE  
Post Staff Writer

The state of black America is about the same in 1989 as it was a year ago, with no progress made in erasing economic differences between blacks and whites, said a National Urban League report.

"The State of Black America 1989", written by nine experts in diverse areas ranging from economics to drug abuse, was released last week at a news conference headed by Urban League President John Jacob.

The panel concluded the Reagan years were not kind to blacks in general, wrote David Swinton, Dean of Jackson State University's School of Business.

"In fact racial inequality in American economic life actually increased by many of the standard indicators," he wrote.

Black Americans face several pressing issues as the decade winds down, wrote Robert Hill, a research consultant. After making social and economic progress in the 1960s, the pendulum is turning back on blacks, with more families living in poverty than in 1969 (30 percent to 28), but also an unemployment rate of 12 percent compared to six 20 years ago.

"Such severe economic instability led to family instability. While black unemployment soared from six percent to 20 percent between 1969 and 1983, due to four back-to-back recessions, the proportion of female-

headed black families jumped from 28 percent to 42 percent," Hill wrote.

Other issues of concern to blacks Hill mentioned were:

- Out-of-wedlock births. Although the rates of births to single black mothers decreased in

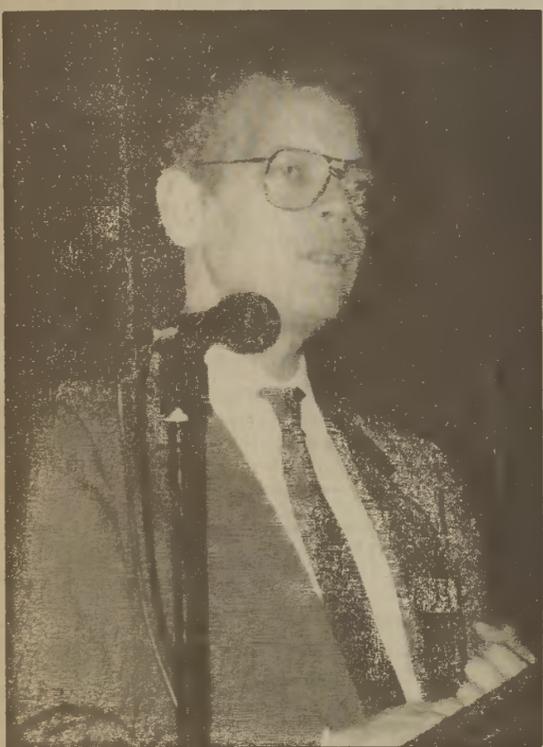
the 70s and 80s while rising among whites, black girls are four times more likely to have babies out-of-wedlock. Over half of all black births are to single mothers, compared to 13 percent for whites.

- Shortages of affordable housing. About 500,000 low-income

units disappear each year, contributing to the surge in homelessness among families.

- Shrinking of the black middle class. The proportion of middle-income (\$25,000 and over) black families grew from 33 percent to

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Bond

Photo/LAHEY

## Bond Bashes Former President's Policies

From Staff Reports

Former Georgia Senator and longtime civil rights activist Julian Bond criticized the Reagan Administration and predicted better treatment for blacks from President George Bush, during a lecture he gave at Johnson C. Smith University Sunday.

Bond spoke before a large crowd in Smith's Biddle Auditorium. The program was sponsored by the JCSU Lyceum Committee.

Bond also spoke at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte earlier Sunday.

At Smith, Bond said although Reagan's tenure had produced some positives for blacks and minorities overall, "...despite progress, in a very real way we find our condition unchanged." Bond also expressed concern over the continued disparities that exists between black and white America.

Bond said Reagan lashed out at minority leaders like Jesse Jackson and never stood on the same ground as blacks.

"Before leaving office, President Reagan could not resist blaming the messenger for the message," Bond pointed out. "His gratuitous attacks on Rev. Jesse Jackson and Dr. Benjamin Hooks say more about him than about them; more about the inability of this amiable incompetent to face the damage his eight years in office have dealt."

Professing that he is somewhat hopeful that President Bush and his administration will be more open and sensitive toward blacks, Bond said, "As for President Bush, it would be hard for him to be as low as President Reagan."

"If he just shows up in office every day and stays at work eight hours, he's better than I resident Reagan," he said, facetiously.

In a more serious vein, Bond added, "I do think the next four years will be better than the last eight have been."

"I'm not saying these will be the greatest four years of our lives. I just think he's (Bush) a different person -- cut out of a different cloth."

Bond cited "two hopeful signs" of the Bush Administration as being the re-entention of Richard Thornburg as Attorney General, "ending eight years of right-wing idealogues and moral midgets," and the acceptance of the resignation of William Bradford Reynolds. Bond depicted Reynolds as the point man for the Reagan Administration's assault on civil rights.

Further into his lecture, Bond analyzed the 1988 presidential campaign and denoted that both Dukakis and Bush were guilty of skirting the real issues. Neither painted a true picture, Bond claimed.

"When the presidential campaign formally began, both George Bush and Michael Dukakis saw an America too many Americans never see. For both these men, America was a land of happy families and successful suburbs; where every child waves an American flag; where everyday is the Fourth of July.

"But there was and is another America, at least, another side of America neither candidate dared to show or tell." It is this other side of America that must be noticed and dealt with, Bond concluded.



Last weekend's warm weather afforded a couple of volunteers the opportunity to get a head start on refurbishing the Afro-American Cultural Center's shotgun houses. Once renovated, the houses will

serve as studio space for artists. More volunteers are needed to complete the project by early next year.

## Black Teachers In Short Supply

WINSTON-SALEM (AP) --- More blacks need to become teachers, and black groups must lead the way in recruiting them.

say two college educators.

"Education understood in its broadest sense is the enduring bridge to social improvement," said Caroline L. Lattimore, dean of minority affairs and academics at Duke.



McClean

## Black Mortgage Rejections To Be Studied By Thrifts

CHARLOTTE (AP) --- A North Carolina League of Savings and Loans official says his organization will review a study which found that mortgage applications by blacks are more than two times as likely to be rejected as those of white applicants.

The study by the Atlanta Journal and Constitution also said savings institutions in the Charlotte metropolitan area are more than three times as likely to turn down blacks for mortgage loans as whites.

"I've been here 11 years, and I've never heard any such inquiry on the part of an individual or an organized group," said Thad Woodard, president of the N.C. League of Savings and Loans. If discrimination were widespread, "I would have expected a hue and cry would have been heard. We haven't heard a whimper."

She said she believes blacks are falling behind other groups economically and black teachers are essential to change the situation.

Ms. Lattimore and Mable P. McLean, a former president of Barber-Scotta College in Concord, spoke Saturday, January 28, at the Benton Convention Center to about 450 women attending the annual founders' day celebration of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, a mostly black group.

The number of blacks going into teaching is declining, and those who already are teachers

are leaving the profession, Ms. McLean said. At the same time, she said, the percentage of blacks in the public schools is increasing.

It's important for blacks to be teachers, she said, because they furnish role models for black children and also for white children who see blacks in strong roles. Black teachers also have insights into being black in America that they can offer to students, she said.

There are a variety of reasons

for the decline in the numbers of black teachers, she said, including non-competitive salaries and increasing opportunities for blacks in other professions.

One way to get more blacks into teaching is to start recruiting earlier and talking about the non-monetary rewards the profession offers, she said.

"There are satisfactions you get from teaching that machines will never give you," Ms. McLean said.

## Hate Crimes On The Rise

RALEIGH (AP) --- The number of "hate crimes" climbed in North Carolina in 1988, and watchdog groups say racial incidents have been rising steadily during the past four years.

Mab M. Segrest of North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence said the Durham organization had recorded 53 alleged crimes involving bigotry in the state last year.

"These include attacks against blacks, native Americans, Jews, homosexuals and white advocates or activists," she said.

Incidents have been reported across the state:

On April 29, three hooded men wearing white sheets and brandishing a gun shouted racial slurs and chased four black Winston-Salem youths.

In Fayetteville, on July 13, vandals painted racial slurs and "KKK" on the property of a black church.

In Gastonia on Aug. 5, a burned cross was placed on the hatchback of a black teenager's car outside his home in a mostly white neighborhood.

And North Carolina NAACP offices received hundreds of harassing telephone calls - sometimes as many as 25 in one day - between February and July.

The number of reported hate crimes was up from 1987, when there were 48, said Pat Clark of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala. There were 40 reported in 1986 and 31 in 1985, she said. Not all hate crimes might be included, however, because there is no statewide reporting system.

In a report released last week, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said anti-Semitic incidents nationwide had reached their highest levels in five years.

Five anti-Semitic incidents occurred in North Carolina in 1988, after none in 1987, the report said.

Three of the 1988 incidents occurred in Rocky Mount, Ms. Segrest said.

## District Voting Helps And Hurts Black Candidates

By HERB WHITE  
Post Staff Writer

District representation has secured black political input in Mecklenburg County, but blacks may find running at-large more difficult, says the county's elections supervisor.

Bill Culp, Mecklenburg's Elections Supervisor, said district representation has given black voters better representation, but it has also limited the chances of blacks winning at-large cam-

paigns. Most seats on Charlotte City Council and the Mecklenburg County Commissioners are district-based. All seats of the N.C. House and Senate are decided in district races. The county school board is elected at-large.

"We have had a major shift in black politics with the rise of district representation," he said. "We have reached the point where we have the guarantee of black representation on certain

boards, but that also means it will be harder for blacks to win at-large."

Fred Alexander, Harvey Gantt, Bob Walton, Elihue Alexander and Betty Miller are the only blacks to win at-large elections in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, according to board of elections records.

To win in predominantly black districts in the future, candidates will have to run against competitors, Culp said. As the

electorate becomes more sophisticated, the notion of an entire district backing one candidate will change.

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### Black History Special

Who were the pioneers of black politics in Charlotte?

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