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# The Charlotte Post

Vol. 14, No. 34 Thursday, February 16, 1989

THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

## Teachers' Exec: 'We're Making Headway'

BY HERB WHITE  
Post Staff Writer

While Tuesday's teachers march on Raleigh for better pay may not win immediate increases, it was a needed first step, says Vilma Leake, president of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Association of Educators.

"We're at least making headway," she said. "We need to start lobbying now with our legislators for a pay increase."

Local teachers rented 28 buses for the trip, which was spurred by Gov. Jim Martin's plan to freeze pay raises until next year. Teachers like Leake say their profession has long been neglected by the state and it's time to correct the situation.

"We are citizens in a democratic society. The best thing we can do is unify and let our voices be heard," she said.

N.C. teachers rank 29th nationally in pay, a fact that doesn't sit well with educators. "That's pretty poor for a state and a governor that says he's an education governor," Leake said. "It's a very serious problem."

Monday Martin revised his position, calling for a 4.5 percent increase in teachers' and state employees' pay as early as July.

The CMAE offices at 611 Templeton St. were abuzz with activity Monday in preparation for Tuesday's rally. Teachers lined up to buy sweatshirts urging supporters to "Have a Heart" for

a pay increase. Leake, one of the leaders of the Mecklenburg contingent, first announced the trip to Raleigh last month. Colleagues didn't pay much attention to it at first, she said, but attitudes suddenly changed.

"At that point, it wasn't important," she said. "After that, people began to zero in on it when the governor made his statements."

Over 1,000 teachers took Tuesday off to go to Raleigh at their own expense. Most rode the chartered buses, at \$54 each, while some drove their own vehicles. Substitute teachers took their places in the classrooms.

"We're willing to sacrifice that," Leake said of the teachers' forfeiting a day's salary for the trip. "We want (the legislature) to hear what we have to say. Nobody can speak for us like we can."

Although teachers are on the front of this battle, winning an increase could help other school personnel, Leake said.

"The administration of this system has showed their concern and it will help them in the future," she said. "From the custodians to the administrators, this is something that will benefit us all."

Education, which has seen some of its best teaching prospects leave the field for the private sector, needs better pay to compete for talent, Leake said. That is especially true in the recruitment of blacks.

"The business community has opened up new avenues for blacks," she said. "That's one of the factors, but not the only one."

## Tenn. NAACP Faces Drain On Memberships

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) --- East Tennessee membership in local NAACP chapters is waning, for reasons ranging from a fading sense of black history to the group's very name, some association officials say.

While the NAACP prepares to celebrate its 80th anniversary, it also should consider new ways to increase membership, said Sarah Moore Greene, former Knoxville branch president and one of 64 national NAACP board members.

"Many young blacks are not joining because they do not understand black history," said Greene. "We had 1,000 in the youth chapter before the schools were integrated."

"A lot of blacks who have gone to integrated schools do not know who they are. Black history is not taught now, but you have to take your bitters with your sweets," she said.

The Knoxville chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has 400 members. There are 26,000 blacks in the city's approximately 180,000 total population.

The chapter in Memphis, where about half the city's 652,000 people are black, has almost 7,000 members.

Robert Fain Jr., former president of the Morristown chapter, said it's probably time the association changed its name and some of its strategies.

"Several things have hurt membership," he said. "The national office insisted on keeping the word 'colored' in the name. So we lost a whole generation of blacks who refuse to have anything to do with it."

"Even today, the average black takes a deep breath when they hear the word 'colored,'" he said.

## Local Democrats Blast State's Party Chief Davis

BY HERB WHITE  
Post Staff Writer

State Democratic Chairman E. Lawrence Davis's recent comments on what ails the party amounts to a call to refute the party's staunchest supporters, two Charlotte Democrats say.

Cathy Chapman, a longtime Democratic activist who campaigned for former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, said Davis's stand on abortion and second primaries run counter to present party position.

Davis, a Raleigh lawyer who was elected to the chairmanship last month, has said the party needs to move to the right to win back moderate and conservative voters from the Republican Party. Chapman, however, said Davis's job isn't to set policy, but follow it.

"I think he's being unrealistic," she said. "As chairman, he is supposed to carry out what the party wants, even if it is



SET THE SAILS... Robert Lyles and his son, Brion, prepare to set their boat to sail on the lake at Freedom Park. Charlotte's recent

bursts of spring-like weather provides just right conditions for these navigators.

Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

## Cash Flow Has Center In The Black

BY JALYNE STRONG  
Post Editor

The financial forecast for Charlotte's Afro-American Cultural Center (AACC) is strengthening due to two major monetary boosts since January 1989.

On February 4, the Center raised \$10,000 through a successful fund raising, Fashion Show, sponsored by Canadian Mist.

Then, Monday night, the City of Charlotte agreed to grant the Center \$39,650 for operating costs.

These contributions have put the Center more than half way

to its goal of raising \$247,000 for fiscal year '89. Vanessa Greene, AACC Executive Director, says the Center needs to raise an additional \$75,000 by June 1989 to meet that goal.

With its \$39,650 grant to the Center, the City has upped its contribution to the Center more than nine fold. Previously, through its lease agreement to the Center, the City contributed \$4,080 per year for ground's maintenance, according to Greene.

The City's 1988 budget reflects that it was contributing substantially more money to other arts and cultural programs in Charlotte. For example, for fiscal year 1988, the City contributed \$1,323,513 to the Mint Museum; \$322,369 to Discovery Place; \$215,500 to the Nature Museum, and \$159,873 to the Hezekiah Alexander Homestead

Place.

"We wanted the same type of operational support the city was offering other similar programs in Charlotte," explains Greene.

Greene was confident that the City would increase its contributions to the Afro Center. She points out that no one from the Center had approached the City before to ask for additional financial support.

Initially the Center asked the City to amend its lease agreement and cover all operating costs. The City chose not to amend the lease, but offered the grant instead. The grant covers one half of the Center's operating costs for fiscal year 1989. The Center's fiscal year began June 1988 and ends June 1989. The grant will pay for the Center's electricity, water and sewer, elevator maintenance, security support and repairs.

Greene says she will ask the City in June for operating assistance for fiscal years 1990 and '91.

"There is no question that we'll be in business," says Greene referring to the fact that the Center has now raised sufficient funds to cover administrative costs.

The Center will now concentrate on raising the necessary funds needed to continue and improve its program offerings.

The Center recently applied to the County of Mecklenburg for a \$95,000 grant to continue and expand its Building Bridges program. This arts, cultural and education program benefits the children who live in First Ward.

Greene is planning to seek more private funds to assist with the Center's programming. A major community fund raiser is planned for June 29.

## Minorities Hold The Key To Future Southern Votes

BY JOSEPH FRAZIER  
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) --- If black and Hispanic voter turnout in the South equals that of whites in 1992, Democrats could win most of the Southern states with only a modest increase in white support, a study released Friday concluded.

The study by the Southern Regional Council said that with

equal levels of voting, Democrats would have to increase their white support in 1992 by about five percentage points to win in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas and to capture most of the Southern electoral college votes.

The council said the conclusions of the survey counter claims by some white Democrat-

ic leaders in the South that the party must make major philosophical changes to attract enough support to win presidential elections.

"The 1988 presidential election returns suggest that the Democratic Party is a lot closer to regaining a large part of the South than many Democrats apparently realize," said SRC executive director Steve Suits.

"While the Democratic solid South is gone forever, a Democratic victory in the South seems feasible if the party and others give serious attention to increasing the levels of minority registration and turnout."

The SRC, founded in 1944 by a biracial group of Southerners, does research and analysis of

See BLACK HELP on page 2A.



Chapman

against his personal beliefs. If you can't resolve that, you don't need to lead."

And to make a point about how she feels about Davis, Chapman parodied him Sunday at a Susan B. Anthony celebration.

A group of 13 women lambasted men who were considered to have held back the progress of

"I'm offended that the party would have a chairman who would repudiate the party's platform. It's regressing into a closed white male shop."

Louise Brennan

women. The committee was formed in honor of Anthony, an abolitionist and women's rights activist, whose birthday is Feb. 15.

"Some Democrats, however, support the chairman. Kenneth Olo, a member of the state party's executive committee Mt. Pleasant, said the party is losing ground to the Republicans because of its liberal stance."

"If the Democrats (sic) want to achieve victory in the 1990s, then we must be willing to reexamine the Party's platform from abortion to affirmative action to capital punishment to social programs," he wrote in a letter to fellow Democrats and was obtained by The Charlotte Post.

"I agree with our Chairman, Mr. Davis, that the Democratic Party must shift to the right in order to win back moderate and conservative voters who have been increasing turning (sic) to Republican candidates."

Louise Brennan, chairman of the Mecklenburg Democratic Party said Davis's statements threaten to lock women and minorities out.

"I'm offended that the party would have a chairman who would repudiate the party's platform," she said. "It's regressing into a closed white male shop."

Davis's position on issues dear

to women and blacks have created a stir among Democrats. Second primaries, which the state party voted to work to eliminate last year, has long a target of blacks, Chapman said. Second primaries, also known as runoff, historically favored white candidates running against a black.

"We have lost women and blacks because of the second primary," she said. "I don't think we'll go back on that."

Conservative Democrats are so preoccupied with moving to the center politically, Chapman said.

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