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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

Blacks Seek New Action From Springfest, Inc.

By JALYNE STRONG
Post Editor

Last month, Springfest, Inc., in effect, closed the door of opportunity for possibly the only black vendor who would participate in the 1989 festival.



Jones

An alarmed black community has begun to discuss ways to address the situation.

Charlotte's African-Americans are concerned about their part in the downtown festival that annually brings hundreds of thousands of people to the city. The fact that Carolyn Mason, owner of Balloon-A-Grams and four-year Springfest vendor, would not be able to sell at the festival this year because of a new policy, compelled many blacks to ask whether they would only be able to participate in Springfest as consumers -- never producers? And if the answer is yes, what should the black community's response be?

At Friendship Baptist Church last Sunday, SpringFest was a point of reference in Rev. Clifford Jones' sermon on the social issues that affect the African-American community.

In a telephone interview Tuesday, Dr. Jones related, "I made mention of Springfest and pointed out if this event is supposed to be wholistic, involving



Mills



Young

the entire community, then it must represent all sectors of the community. African-Americans must be involved not only as purchasers but also as vendors. And if this cannot occur, African-Americans should reconsider whether they should be attending."

There has been talk of a black boycott of this year's Springfest and Dr. Jones said that action could be considered, but first, he pointed out, "We need to talk to the powers that be to let them know we are part of the city."

"The African-American community must look at the system and how it operates. If the system is not equitable, if a segment of the community is being excluded, those who are excluded should reconsider whether they want to take part in the system."

"Someone needs to ask the hard questions, and the community is deserving of an answer," said Dr. Jones.

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Drafting Jackson For D.C. Mayor Draws Support

By RICHARD KEIL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A member of the city school board and a leader of the Statehood Party of the District of Columbia said last Friday they plan to organize a campaign seeking to draft civil rights activist Jesse Jackson to run for mayor next year.



Jackson

R. Calvin Lockridge, a school board member, and Tom Chorlton, a Statehood Party leader, told The Associated Press they are planning to organize the draft-Jackson drive, expected to center on gathering petition signatures.

They said Jackson, who made unsuccessful bids for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988 and recently denied being interested in seeking the mayor's office, had no knowledge of their plans.

Jackson, who has owned a home in northwest Washington since 1984, and embattled Mayor Marion Barry Jr., a Democrat who was first elected in 1978 and has not announced

whether he will seek a fourth four-year term in 1990, were not immediately available for comment.

However, after leading an anti-drug rally at a local high school two weeks ago, Jackson said: "I've expressed no interest in the job." He added that "under no condition would I run against Marion Barry."

"We want to show Jackson that he should express interest in the job," said Lockridge. "Barry has not decided what he will do, but I think this movement will help him come to the right decision. For now, we're just asking Jesse to listen to what the voters will have to say."

"The district is suffering a crisis in spirit," Chorlton said. "We need a leader -- Jesse Jackson -- who can pull people together toward something positive."

Barry has been trying to deal with a drug-related crime wave in the city, and has appeared before a federal grand jury investigating his ties to a drug suspect. He has repeatedly denied using drugs or knowingly being associated with drug dealers or users.

Under city law, Jackson could qualify for the 1990 election by switching his voter registration from Chicago to the district by November 1989.

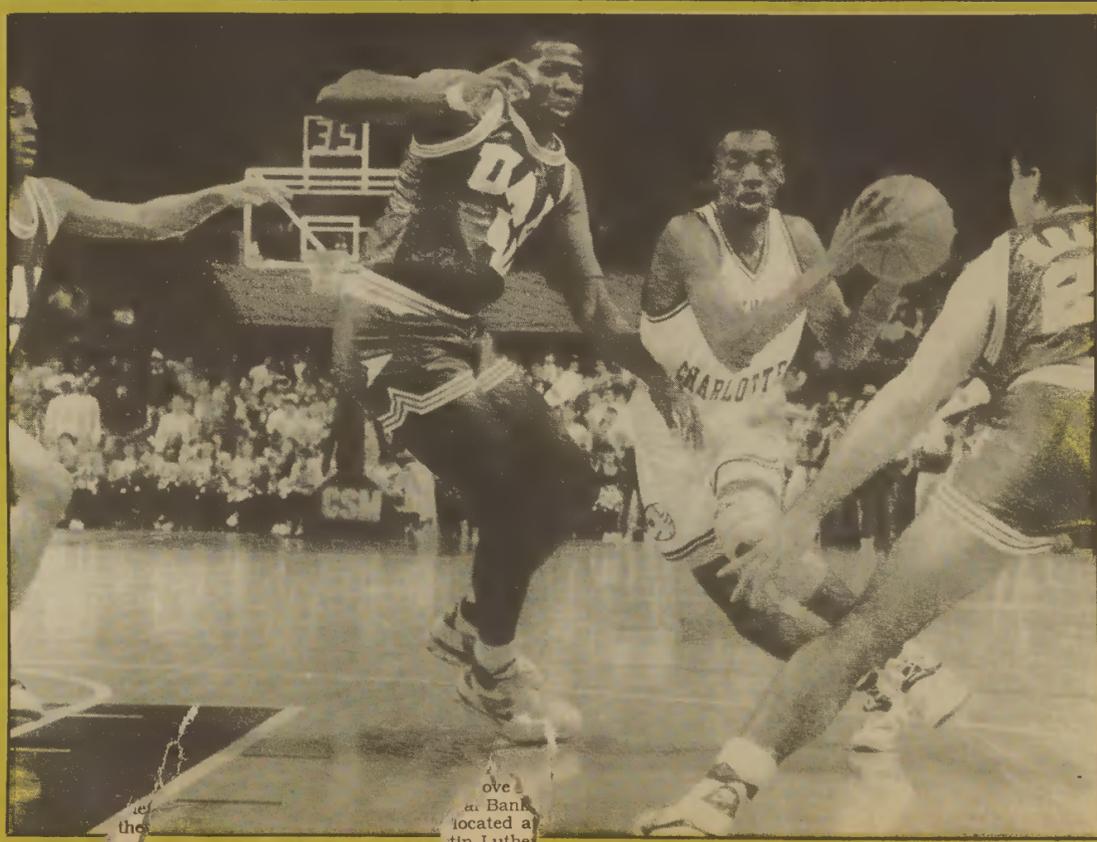


Photo: CALVIN FERGUSON

UNC Charlotte's Byron Dinkins (in white) drives against Alabama-Birmingham's Larry Rembert (in black) during a basketball game.

Belt basketball game. Dinkins, a senior and Charlotte native, played his last regular-season game for UNCC.

School Concerns Stir More Vocal Response

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

Ashley Hogewood, chairman of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board, was feeling a little stressed Tuesday.

As the board faced another series of long debates over pupil assignments, midway schools and the capital improvement plan to build new schools, Hogewood took a little rest.

After pressing his finger on a heat-sensitive stress card, he proclaimed to feel a little peaked.

"It went right through the top," Hogewood said to the laughter of the audience.

But for the most part, the meeting was very serious as parents and supporters pleaded with the board to reconsider some of its proposals.

The panel, going through the yearly ritual of assigning students, heard from several speakers, both black and white, as part of its public discussion of the reassignment plan. The

current proposal, which would shift about 1,345 students next school year, will be voted on later this month.

Many speakers lined up to tell the board that they support integrated schools, realizing that busing is the only means to accomplish it. Libby Randolph, a former teacher, said integration is the best way to preserve "the subtle humanity of our community, regardless of race."

Acknowledging that schools are asked to bring together people who live apart because of housing patterns, Randolph urged the board to remain committed to integrated schools.

"Busing will remain the only consideration of desegregating our schools as long as our neighborhoods are segregated," she said.

The school system's five-year capital plan for building new schools also came under public scrutiny. The proposal would build new schools in mostly white southeast Mecklenburg

County to accommodate that area's growing population.

Madine Falls, Director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League, said that policy should be reexamined because it signals a shift away from inner city schools located close to black neighborhoods.

"I don't believe a conscious effort has been made" to study alternatives to building suburban schools, she said.

Parents from the Chantilly neighborhood, an integrated neighborhood, took up the cause for their school, which the board is considering turning into the county's first midway school. Chantilly Elementary, they said, should be spared that designation because it meets the system's standards for natural integration.

"I believe our school and our neighborhood should be recognized as the ideal and our children should be allowed to attend school together," said Carol York, a white parent who

brought her two sons and three black classmates.

"We have earned the privilege of attending a neighborhood school by choosing to live in an integrated neighborhood. We believe the ideal situation is a neighborhood K-6 integrated school."

Robert Baxley, a south Mecklenburg resident and Clear Creek Elementary parent, opposed midway schools as well.

"The definition of a midpoint school is a neighborhood school where neighborhood students don't attend," he said.

Ron Leeper, a former city council member, said the debate over busing to achieve racial balance shouldn't even occur. Charlotte's busing plan, held as a national model since it was implemented in 1971, should remain.

"This community is going in such a way that there is a serious concern," he said. "This is one clock we can't afford to turn back."

The GOP To Blacks: We Want Your Vote

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

The Republican Party realizes blacks aren't going to flock to it in the next election, says N.C. Sen. Larry Cobb, but it could happen in the future.

Cobb, a Mecklenburg Republican who is a member of the N.C. GOP Voter Outreach Task Force, said the party can form a working relationship with African-Americans. The 35-member board is charged with encouraging blacks to join the party.

"The Republican Party needs

to go into the black community to explain the position of the Republican Party," he said. "Especially in the South, the Republican Party is seen as racist when that's not true."

The GOP, Cobb said, has helped Americans of all colors during the Reagan-Bush years by providing millions of new jobs. That economic prosperity has helped African-Americans.

"There have been many blacks who have prospered in the last eight years and have gotten into mainstream America," he said.

The task force met last month with Jack Hawke, chairman of the N.C. Republican Party, Gov. Jim Martin and Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner to map a strategy for attracting black voters, who make up about 20 percent of the state electorate.

"The Republican Party can't afford to continue to automatically discount 20 percent of the vote in North Carolina," said David Stith, chairman of the task force. "Our challenge is to help

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Bodies Of Black Civil War Soldiers Discovered On S.C. Islands

By Chester A. Higgins Sr.
NNPA News Editor

WASHINGTON, DC - A large construction firm excavating on Folly Island, S.C., in 1987, accidentally dug into graves of 19 black, Civil War soldiers, NNPA has learned.

The accident not only has held up construction since that time, but it has triggered a hurried up visit by a University of South Carolina team of archeologists and anthropologists headed by Steven D. Smith who quickly petitioned the State Historic Preservation Commission to halt development until the site could be thoroughly investigated and the soldiers identified.

Memorabilia including uniform buttons and insignia have pinpointed soldiers' unit identities.

It launched a brief tug of war between the cities of Florence and Beaufort over which would receive the signal honor of re-burying the soldiers. Each city has a national cemetery. Beaufort has won, and its citizens, black and white, are working together to raise money to pay for the re-burial.

Folly Island, one of the famous coastal sea islands, is situated just south of Charleston. William Grant, veterans affairs officer at Beaufort, a sea coast town, said Folly Island "was used as staging area by troops

of the 55th Massachusetts Regiment in the winter of 1864." Grant said that the 55th and the 54th as well as units of the First South Carolina and First North Carolina artillery and infantry operated during that time "from Hilton Head to Charleston." Black troops were a prominent part of the engagement called "the Battle of Honey Hill."

Re-burial is set for May 29, Memorial Day, Grant said. Cost of soldier re-burial is about \$500-\$600 each, Grant said. Pentagon officials reportedly told volunteer officials that it could not by law provide funds for the project. Full military honors and a color-

ful parade are planned. Grant said the recently discovered soldiers belonged to the

55th Massachusetts, and that each soldier was buried individually.

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Gov. Martin To Speak At U. L. Banquet

N.C. Governor Jim Martin will speak when the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League, Inc. hold its 10th anniversary banquet on March 30.

Madine Hester Falls, president and chief executive officer of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League, said the banquet will be at the Marriott City Center in uptown Charlotte.

"The mission of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League is to enable blacks and other minority group members to cultivate and exercise their full human potential on par with other Americans," Ms. Falls said.

In conjunction with that mission, the celebration also will serve as the Urban League's annual equal opportunity banquet. There will be awards for people in the community who have contributed significantly to equal opportunity efforts, she said.