

## Push Is On For Black Housing Director

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 in public relations and client sensitivity," Davis remarked.  
 He believes an African-American director of public housing will be able to enhance community relations and the overall perception of public housing. "I certainly think a black director will be more open to such," said Davis.

Presently, Davis has no one in mind for the position. He and

the six other members of the housing commission will be responsible for screening the applicants and deciding who will get the job. Davis says his belief that a black should head the Housing Authority is not necessarily shared by the other commission members. The commission, chaired by Don Carroll, is made up of three African-Americans and four whites.

"We (the commission) have not

yet discussed the criteria or qualifications for the position," Davis related. "Whether the new director is black or white, he or she will have to have met the qualifications."

"In general, we will be looking for an innovative, visionary, people person. And we'll have to make sure that person is cognizant of what is happening in public housing in Charlotte and across the nation."

"We have no choice but to develop self sufficiency among the public housing residents. With the political climate as it is, there's not a lot of money coming from the federal government except for self-help programs," Davis pointed out.

"We can't continue to allow people to live in the projects, year in and year out, without job training or money management skills."

## Family Strife Due To More Poverty, Little Guidance

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believed in hard work, family life and the church," said Anderson. "His acknowledged role was to teach, support and encourage... In effect, to socialize young men to meet their responsibilities regarding work, family life, the law, and common decency."

With little or no parental guidance, children stray into premarital sex, crime and drugs, further weakening the family. Thompson said the lack of positive role models makes it easier for young people to fall into so-

cial traps.

"Sometimes we're not taught how to live within a family relationship," she said. "Many of these kids have seen how men interact with their mothers and they get a distorted view. The breakdown in the family is germane to a lot of problems."

### Education A Sham?

Education, seen as an avenue to a better life by many blacks, doesn't have the same allure, Thompson said. All too often, young African-Americans now equate academic achievement with "acting white."

"A lot of times, we put down people with education, people with training," Thompson said.

Eliminating inequities in hiring black graduates can send a message that education is a viable path to success. Failing to find a family-sustaining job, young blacks slip into lawlessness, often rejecting the advice of older adults, Anderson said.

"As meaningful employment has become increasingly scarce for young blacks, and crime and drugs have become a way of life for many, the old head has been losing his prestige and authori-

ty," he said.

"With the expansion of the drug culture and the opportunity to make large sums of money quickly, these street-smart kids are reaching the conclusion that the old head's lessons are no longer relevant."

"If a white person has a high school diploma, that says he has certain skills," Thompson said. "We need to have a system where a diploma for a black student means he can do more than pick up golf balls or cut grass."

Next Week: A look at how Charlotte tackles the problem.

## Goldberg To Charlotte: Stop Violence

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Goldberg does not have any personal experiences with domestic violence but she played the role of Celie, an abused woman, in "The Color Purple," and she says that was not a problem.

"That was the movies, so it was easy. I knew that Danny Glover was not going to hit me," she said.

Goldberg contends that this is a serious problem whether it occurs in your home or not.

"The attitude is, if a man hits his wife, it's his wife. Well, we're here to say we're not anyone's property any more."

"If you don't have domestic violence in your home be glad...but there are people who do and the problem is very real," she said.

"This can visit you any time. It could be your sister, your mother, your daughter or son."

"The children of batterers may be abusers of the future."

Goldberg has been involved in a number of social causes during her stage and movie career, including the "Comic Relief"

benefit that raised millions for the homeless.

"People like myself get involved with serious issues like these because we see so much of the hurt," she said.

"I'm angry about these situations...more should be done."

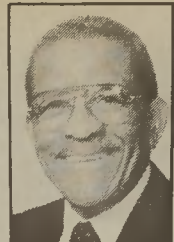
Goldberg compared the \$32 million that was spent on the inaugural ball to the fact that the government will not match \$6 million in donations to "Comic Relief."

"I pay a lot of taxes and I want to see where my tax money is going," said Goldberg.

## Barnhill Pushes New Medicaid Legislation

RALEIGH - A bill that could increase the amount of savings Medicaid recipients can keep before they qualify for the federal health program has been introduced in the N.C. House by Rep. Howard Barnhill, D-Mecklenburg.

House Bill 428 would make Supplemental Security Income limits equal to the resource limits for Medicaid. Barnhill's bill would raise financial asset limits from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for an individual and from \$2,250 to \$3,000 for a family of two. HB 428 appropriates \$3.9 million in 1989-90 and another \$3.9 million in 1990-91 to cover the cost of the program.



Barnhill

"Currently, Social Security recipients must meet financial eligibility tests to qualify for Medicaid," Barnhill said. "If their savings or assets exceed a certain amount, they cannot qualify for Medicaid. This bill would raise the financial limit, and will allow Medicaid recipients to keep some of their savings for other emergencies."

If approved, the legislation would take effect January 1, 1990. A companion bill has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. James Richardson, D-Mecklenburg; Sen. Russell Walker, D-Randolph; and Sen. Ralph A. Hunt, D-Durham.

## Juan Williams To Speak

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He has been a member of the *Washington Post* staff since 1976. A prolific writer specializing in political and social issues, Williams has been published in several major U.S. magazines. He received wide acclaim for *Eyes on the Prize*, a history of the civil rights movement that served as a companion piece to the PBS television series by the same name.

Esther Hargrave, banquet committee chairperson, says the committee is very excited about bringing Williams to Charlotte. "This will be a great event for young people especially," said Hargrave. "Williams is young, talented and has a message our youth can relate to. Many young people followed the PBS television series and read Williams' book. It will be wonderful if they can have this opportunity to meet and talk with him in per-

son."

Hargrave said that individuals, churches, groups and organizations planning to attend the banquet should make reservations as soon as possible as seating is limited.

To reserve tickets or to find out more about the Legal Defense Fund and this fund raiser, please call 399-8897.

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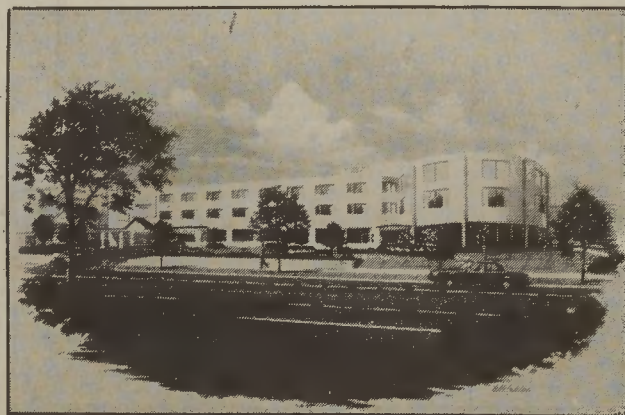


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