

Ways To A
Picture Perfect
Wedding
Lifestyles/ Page 1B



Blues Exhibit At Afro Center
Entertainment/ Page 7A

Lowe's Return To NBA
Sports/ Page 8B

In The
Alliance
King Holiday
In Gastonia?
Page 12B

The Charlotte Post

Vol. 14, No. 44 Thursday, March 30, 1989

THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

South Africa Still 'A Nation At War'

The Black Struggle Is On Everyone's Mind

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

James Ferguson, a Charlotte lawyer who has seen how South Africa's apartheid system affects blacks, says he expects to see worsening conditions when he visits this summer.

"I think I'll find what I find every time I go back," he said. "I expect to find a more repressive atmosphere. You don't get the impression that South Africa is a nation at war, but it is."

Despite the white-controlled government's self-proclaimed reforms, there has been little change in South Africa, said Ferguson, who has conducted seminars with black lawyers for the past three years. He plans to return in July.

Ferguson, whose firm has handled some of America's best-known civil-rights cases, including Swann vs. Mecklenburg County Board of Education and the Wilmington 10, said South Africa's racial and political divisions haven't been dealt with.

The result is two cultures, one white, the other non-white.

"That society is a racially separated as it ever was. The two societies in South Africa are to-

tally separated. The reforms are not really reforms at all."

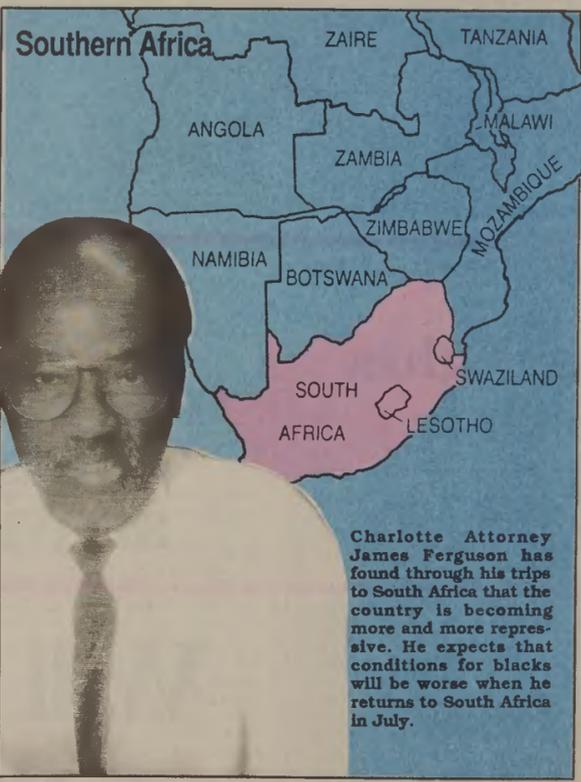
South Africa has been under a state of emergency for almost three years, cutting off most media reports in the process. Ferguson said the declaration makes it harder for Americans to find out what is going on as black South Africans try to dismantle apartheid. The government's press blackouts, however, makes it difficult to keep up with details.

"That's a method of control," he said, "keeping people uninformed."

However, the black struggle is on everyone's mind, black and white alike, Ferguson said.

"The whole topic of conversation in South Africa is race, apartheid and government repression," he said.

Black South Africans and the African National Congress, an outlawed organization headed by jailed leader Nelson Mandela, are pushing for a new nation where majority rule and racial cooperation are fact, Ferguson said. Blacks seem resigned to the bloodshed that will be required to bring that day closer, but are generally optimistic.



Charlotte Attorney James Ferguson has found through his trips to South Africa that the country is becoming more and more repressive. He expects that conditions for blacks will be worse when he returns to South Africa in July.

Photo/LAHEY

"There is hope. There is no hope that the government is going to change," he said. "The hope is that the African National Congress can build support to wrest control from the black people of South Africa."

The white government has

tightened its grip over the lives of South Africa's black majority, but blacks are growing less tolerant, Ferguson said. Although the 77-year-old ANC has been labeled a terrorist organization

See STRIFE On Page 2A

Local Programs Try To Break Cycle Of Misery

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

Even as African-Americans move into middle income neighborhoods and more prosperous lives, those in the lower financial groups are struggling. And it's taking a toll, with crumbling families and shorter life spans.

"It's just stressful living in a society that's not totally open to them," said Madine Falls, Executive Director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League. "For most black people, life is still the same...it's a struggle."

Finding A Good Job

African-Americans face an uphill battle to secure meaningful employment, Falls said, because they often lack specialized skills or education. The Urban League's commitment is to help people develop independence.

"So many problems can be traced to not having a job," she said.

To combat the problem, the Urban League offers job training programs and employment expositions to help clients move toward better-paying jobs. The organization's four-year-old word processing program has trained over 200 participants, Falls said. Once students finish the course, they are placed with

private-sector companies. Ninety-one percent of the graduates find jobs, with an average starting salary of \$12,000 a year.

While there is help for the poor, Falls said there is little for the "working poor" who barely get by with minimum-wage jobs.

"It's extremely difficult to do," she said. "The working poor is undercounted in employment statistics and poverty statistics."

Bills that are pending in Congress would raise basic pay would help borderline income-earners, Falls said. The last minimum wage increase was enacted in 1981.

"For eight years, we've been looking at a minimum wage of \$3.35 an hour," she said. With Mecklenburg County's unemployment rate at 2.5 percent, "you would tend to think that most people are working at minimum wage."

Attracting labor-intensive businesses, which requires large numbers of workers, could reduce the number of ranks of unemployed and underemployed in the area, Falls said.

Emphasize Education

Education, once seen as a bea-

See BOOSTING On Page 2A

Charlotte Entrepreneur John McDonald Feted In April

By EVALYN CARRINGTON
Special To The Post

A Tribute to John McDonald banquet will be held Friday, April 28 to honor a long-time entrepreneur who employs 150 blacks and has big plans to create jobs and opportunities for many more.

McDonald and his first wife, Annie Lou Hill McDonald, operated McDonald's Dining Room, a popular spot in Brooklyn, NY, for 21 years. They moved to Charlotte to retire in 1970.

Mrs. McDonald died shortly after the move and McDonald plunged into another round of entrepreneurship. He opened his first cafeteria on Beatties Ford Rd. and LaSalle St. in 1971 and the one he still operates at I-85 and Beatties Ford Rd in 1981.

McDonald points to development projects in other parts of Charlotte and insists that other blacks must do the same in their communities.

He has envisioned a major center of urban development around the cafeteria for a long time and the first part of the dream became a reality last year when the Best Western McDonald's Inn opened next to the restaurant.

McDonald owns 12 acres of land east of Beatties Ford Road and north of I-85. He plans an

expansion of the hotel and the development of a shopping center, office center and retirement center.

His past and present ventures point to success. The cafeteria serves 1,500 meals on an average weekend and has three of four banquets a day during the busy Christmas season, according to Margaret Epps, McDonald's sister who works at the cafeteria. McDonald's second wife, Eunice, and his daughter, Brenda, are also supervisors in the family-run business.

McDonald was born in Paw Creek in 1921 and moved to

Charlotte in search of opportunity at age 16. He worked as a welder and a cook in a plant producing war materials in World War II.

Afterwards, he moved to New York where he worked as a dishwasher and a cook before he opened his own restaurant. As a business sideline, he operated Brenda's Hair Weaving Company.

McDonald left school after the eighth grade but completed high school and business courses through correspondence study. He is an advocate of modern

management practices and points with pride to the generous fringe benefits his employees receive --- something uncommon for restaurant workers.

He also supervises a lot of the food preparation personally, his sister notes. "He's still a worker," she says to which McDonald adds, "I can cook."

To judge from the long lines formed at the cafeteria, Charlottians like McDonald's cooking. What do they enjoy best? "Roast chicken is the biggest seller," says Mrs. Epps, "and croaker is second."

Proceeds Endow J.C. Smith Scholarship

By EVALYN CARRINGTON
Special To The Post

The Tribute to John McDonald banquet to be held April 28 will feature community leaders who will speak on the accomplishments of the restaurateur and hotel builder.

Proceeds from the banquet will go towards the John McDonald Scholarship endowment at Johnson C. Smith University. Scholarships from the fund will go to stu-

dents in the management and public relations programs preparing to work in the hospitality industry. Faculty members will work to establish internships to complement courses.

"A number of our students work in hotels and restaurants, and some have decided to remain and succeed in the field after graduation," JCSU President Robert Albright said. "As Charlotte expands as a commercial and convention center the number of such stu-

dents will increase, creating a growing pool of worthy recipients for the John McDonald Scholarship."

The Tribute to John McDonald banquet will begin at 7 p.m. April 28 at McDonald's Cafeteria, I-85 and Beatties Ford Rd. Tickets are \$35. To order tickets, to place ads in the program or to become a patron, sponsor or benefactor, call Evalyn Carrington at 377-0242 or 535-1899.



McDonald stands at the lobby desk of his hotel.

SCLC's Joseph Lowery To Speak In Kannapolis

Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), will speak in Kannapolis at an event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King. The program will begin at 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 2 at the A.L. Brown High School Auditorium on East First St.

April 4th marks the anniversary of three important events. Twenty-two years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King made a speech about peace at the Riverside Church in New York. Twenty-one years ago, King was assassinated. People in Kannapolis are gathering on April 2 to honor King and his message of peace which focused on the military budget and the funding of human needs.

The event is sponsored by the Piedmont Peace Project, a multi-racial organization that works for peace by linking local justice issues to the military budget and building power for change through voter registration and electoral work. "We be-

lieve that our government should put more funding toward human needs by cutting military spending," says Grace Joan Bryant, the group's organizer.

The Cabarrus County Black Political Caucus and the Kannapolis Evening Optimist Club have joined Piedmont Peace project in sponsoring this event.

April 4th is also NATO's 40th birthday. This celebration is one of the hundreds of commemorations of the NATO anniversary to be held across the country organized by a coalition of national and local organizations including SANE/FREEZE, Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament, and the Professional Coalition for Nuclear Arms Control.

The organizations involved claim that the 40th anniversary project signifies the beginning of a continued effort to educate the public and representatives in Congress to the need for cuts in the military budget and more funding of human needs.



Lowery

An unusual birthday cake will be cut and distributed at a reception after the program. The cake will show how federal tax dollars are spent by the government (over half for military spending, two cents for education, two cents for housing, etc.).

Grace Joan Bryant, a retired school teacher and the groups' organizer, will make a statement to show how the military budget affects Kannapolis and North Carolina citizens. Lowery will symbolically "cut" the military budget.

Crack Use Linked To Atlanta Syphilis

ATLANTA (AP) --- Caseworkers are blaming the increasing syphilis rate in Georgia on the growing practice of buying crack cocaine with sex.

There have been 3,630 cases reported since July 1, and health officials estimate the number of cases for the fiscal year, which ends June 30, will nearly double the 2,953 cases reported two years ago.

"The increase is almost entirely in the heterosexual black community," said Dr. Joseph Wilbur, medical director of AIDS programs at the state's Department of Human Resources.

"We believe the majority of the increase is due to the use of crack."

Dr. Ted Holloway, district director of health in Waycross, said crack cocaine is readily available in \$5 or \$10 amounts in many small Georgia towns.

"Many of the women are addicted to crack and are offering sex in exchange for smoking crack," Wilbur said. He said that many exchange sex for crack --- or for the money to buy it --- so often that "they don't know the names

of their sex partners."

He said some women develop clienteles of 30 or 40 people with whom they have sex to support their habit.

"Some of these women use as many as 10 to 15 of \$5 dollar rocks a day," Holloway said.

Field epidemiologists say they are convinced of the link between sex and drugs from interviews they conduct to gather the names of patients' sexual contacts so that they can be treated for the disease.

"We've had several cases with contacts who we've believed are dealing drugs," Holloway said.

Several outbreaks of syphilis in the Waycross area, he said, have been linked to suspected drug dealers from out of state.

Wilbur said the state's syphilis epidemic could be an early warning of an increase in the number of AIDS cases in rural Georgia.

"Many scientific studies show that people with a medical history of syphilis are three to five times more likely to get AIDS," he said.

One reason is that promiscuous people are more likely to have syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Inside This Week

Editorials..... Pg. 4A	Obituaries..... Pg. 6B
Entertainment.. Pg. 7A	Sports..... Pg. 8B
Lifestyles..... Pg. 1B	Classifieds.... Pg. 11B
Church News... Pg. 5B	Alliance..... Pg. 12B

Subscribe To The Charlotte Post, Call 376-0496