



The Post Salutes
High School Seniors
Special Section/ Page 1C

Cooking Caribbean In Charlotte

Lifestyles/ Page 1B

View 100 Years Of Black Art

Entertainment/ Page 9A

In The Alliance

Shirley Chisholm
At Gaston College
Page 14B

The Charlotte Post

Vol. 14, No. 52 Thursday, May 25, 1989

THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

Brown: Make Schools Seek Better Results

'What We're Asking For Isn't That Much'

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

African-American students are being shortchanged academically by a slow-moving local school system, says Don Brown. So he wants the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners to light a fire under it.



Brown

Brown, an unsuccessful candidate for the school board last year, went before the commissioners Tuesday with a proposal: get the school board to initiate "measurable objectives" in raising black achievement test scores.

Brown, representing the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Action Committee, a group interested in raising black achievement, said the school board has been unresponsive to his proposal of raising black test scores to the 50th percentile by 1991 and 75 per-

cent by 1993.

African-Americans scored in the 32nd percentile of the national average on the California Achievement Test (CAT), a tool for measuring progress in basic subjects.

"What we're asking isn't that much," he said. "There just doesn't seem to be any commitment."

The commissioners, who were to meet with school representatives Wednesday to discuss the proposed 1989-90 budget of \$92 million, have the influence to persuade the board to enact goals, Brown said. Although the commissioners didn't take any official action, Brown is hopeful something will be done.

"We're going to have to wait and see," he said. "I'm just trying to get the problem to the forefront."

Bob Walton, the only black commissioner, said he was impressed with Brown's initiative and would support his efforts.

"It's always good when citizens express their concerns to public officials," he said. "There is cer-

See ACCOUNTABILITY On 2A.



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

THANKS FOR THE PARK, MR. PRESIDENT...Four-year-old Marcus Sturdivant appears to be telling former President Jimmy Carter that he approves of his latest endeavor.

Carter raised money to build a park for children in the Optimist Park community. The park now bears the former president's name.

Carter Dedicates Park Near Habitat

From Staff Reports

When former President Jimmy Carter came to Charlotte to help Habitat for Humanity in 1987, he saw more than the home he was helping build. He saw that a park was needed for the children. While in Charlotte, he raised the money for that park from his fellow workers.

Now a year and a half later, that park is a reality and the money raised has more than quadrupled as an additional \$35,000 in materials and in kind contributions were added to the original \$8,000.

Monday, Carter returned to Charlotte to dedicate the park which will bear his name.

The Jimmy Carter Park is located in Optimist Park on 16th Street between Caldwell and Davidson Streets.

Carter officiated over the dedication, then attended a neighborhood reception.

The park was designed by Ed Evans of FWA Group. Major contributions were made by Blythe and Crowder Construction Companies with major plantings donated by Furr Nurseries and First Union. Additional contributions were made by a large number of churches, companies and individuals.

"President Carter saw it first. We needed to build a neighborhood, not just homes. We had to provide for the children who live here, for their future. That's what makes Habitat strong --- looking beyond simple shelter to the other needs our families have. The commitment of people have to this work and their vision and generosity make it all happen," says Hancock.

NAACP Files Suit Against Anson Co.

Mr. Kelly Alexander, state NAACP president, and Ms. Carolyn Coleman, director, NAACP Southern Voter Education Project, announced recently that the NAACP and its affiliate, the Anson County Branch along with two citizens Ada Ford Singleton and Geneva Lisenby filed suit in the United States District Court in Charlotte against the Anson County Board of Education. The suit under the Voting Rights Act seeks to change the at-large, majority vote and staggered term method of elections to a district system where residents of the district vote for the respective

candidates.

The present Board is composed of nine members elected at-large.

The suit alleges that the election procedure in Anson County, North Carolina effectively dilutes the black vote and denies the black community a fair opportunity to elect representatives of their choosing.

See ANSON On Page 2A.



Alexander

Program Targets Basic Self-Reliance

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

Pulling the family from the grip of poverty is the goal of Project Independence, a venture that works with area churches to help low-income families gain self-sufficiency.

Mary Staton, an income management specialist with the Charlotte Area Fund (CAF) and a coordinator of the project, said single-parent, low income families are the primary clients. The area fund works with churches to pool resources.

Two families have completed the year-long program, Staton said, and more are being sought, along with churches to work with them. Family eligibility is determined by total income, which can't exceed the U.S. government's poverty threshold. A family of four must make less than \$12,100 per year to be eligible, for example.

The CAF screens families for the project, working with them to decide on a plan of action to help achieve self-sufficiency. The



Staton

family is then referred to a church, which provides for the family's immediate needs, such as food, clothing and shelter. Later, the church will help the head of the family find long-term employment through its congregation or contacts.

The CAF provides an 11-hour income management course where clients get counseling to help control the family finances. After completing the course, graduates become eligible to participate in a consumer club to help them save money. The area fund refers families to money management programs and other services as well.

For the financially strapped, the CAF provides emergency aid as well as food, clothing and shelter through other non-profit groups and local churches on an individual basis.

Even with the program's help, the family unit has to be convinced it can help itself, Staton said.

"They have to be motivated to the point that they want to get off welfare," she said.

Local churches have provided support for family members by offering job training and education opportunities in addition to giving emergency aid.

"Whatever the area fund cannot provide in services, the churches will," Staton said.

For more information on Project Independence, call Mary Staton at the Charlotte Area Fund at 372-3010.



City Offices Closed May 29

All offices of Charlotte City government will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day. Regular business hours will resume Tuesday, May 30, at 8 a.m.

The City Sanitation Division will operate on a normal schedule on Monday, May 29. Residents that normally receive either backyard garbage pick-up or curbside trash collection on Monday will receive that service on Memorial Day. Call 336-2673

See POLICE On Page 2A.

See MEMORIAL On Page 2A.

Will Inner-City Kids Have A PAL After This Year?

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

Charlotte's Police Athletic League (PAL), the target of City Manager Wendell's budget knife, would cut off an outlet between inner city youth and the police department, says PAL's director.

Sgt. Robert Reives, who has worked with PAL for five years, said the league's uncertain future won't hurt the athletic skills of youngsters, but could have a negative impact nonetheless.

"The decision won't hurt us physically, but it does mentally," he said. "Is it going to get to a point where we have to defend

PAL every year, or every few years?"

White has proposed saving the city the \$149,670 it takes to fund PAL and its staffers, but Reives said those savings could be lost if the children PAL serves have nothing else to do.

"I realize the city is trying to save money, but think of what it would be like if these kids didn't participate in sporting activities," he said. "Instead of having something to do, these kids could be on the streets watching someone commit a crime or committing a crime themselves."

The fight over PAL's survival has taken an emotional turn, with officials defending the pro-

gram while others acknowledge the city's need to trim expenses in the face of a tightening bud-

See POLICE On Page 2A.

See MEMORIAL On Page 2A.

Inside This Week

Editorials..... Pg. 6A	Obituaries..... Pg. 6B
Entertainment.. Pg. 9A	Sports..... Pg. 8B
Lifestyles..... Pg. 1B	Classifieds.... Pg. 13B
Church News... Pg. 3B	Alliance..... Pg. 14B

Subscribe To The Charlotte Post, Call 376-0496



Photo/LANEY

Actor Danny Glover greets Johnson C. Smith University President Robert Albright. Glover was commencement speaker at Smith last Sunday when the university graduated 123 students. The screen star said he was impressed with Smith and he congratulated Dr. Albright for his commitment to education. Glover and NCNB Chairman Hugh McColl were awarded honorary degrees during the commencement exercise. Theresa Childs was valedictorian and Winston Crisp was salutatorian.