



Five students who participated in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League's Enrichment program were awarded scholarships. Funds for the scholarships were raised through the Urban League Guild's Golf Tournament that proved to be quite a success.

Pictured above are: Haze Moore, Guild President; students Maria Weldon, Danetta Casey, Samantha Barnes, Dwyer Lawhorn, and U.L. Madine Hester Falls. Student Donna Reid is not pictured.

Redlining Foes Tackle First Union Bank

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bank lobby demanding a meeting, but were intercepted by Dan Balsden, a First Union executive. After a five-minute stand-off, Allen led the group outside.

Barbara Moore, president of the Villa Heights Neighborhood Association, said black neighborhoods have been good customers of white banks like First Union, but haven't gotten a fair share of services or loans.

"We're the last ones to get anything," she said. "At times, we're getting the crumbs while the cake is being passed around to southeast Charlotte."

Moore said that if First Union refuses the alliance's proposals, they will move to block the First Union-Florida National merger.

"We feel we have a very good case. We feel positive about the moves we're making," she said. "We want them to look at us as people with a profit instead of people with a loss. Accept people of color as individuals who can help them profit."

T.V. Adams, a First Union vice president who has handled negotiations with the alliance, said the bank has acted in good faith and pickets aren't really necessary.

"We think we've been totally responsive to what they've asked," he said. "I think the most effective way (to resolve the issue) is to have these meetings we've had in the past three months."

"The bank has never redlined. To my knowledge, we have never turned down a qualified loan in those communities."

Allen, however, disagrees, citing First Union's figures that point to fewer loans in black neighborhoods than white ones.

"Their statistics show that they haven't made any loans to 25 census tracts, which are basically minority neighborhoods," he said.

The bank would be wise to work with the communities in terms of not only complying with federal standards, but to taking on a new source of income: the black community.

Gardner

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aren't as bad as people say."

With the Republican primary Sept. 26, Gardner faces strong competition for one of the four available at-large spots, but he's ready to challenge the perception that black Republicans can't win.

"We'll have to see. It's new ground," he said. "Before, people asked if a Republican could win in a Democratic district, and we know what that answer was."

"For one thing, it's the law," Allen said. "For another, it gives them a chance to tap into new markets."

Adams insists First Union can win its merger if the community group tried to stop it, but believes negotiation can keep both sides happy.

"We do not think they can delay the merger," he said. "The next move is that if they ask for another meeting, we will attend it. The ball is in their court."

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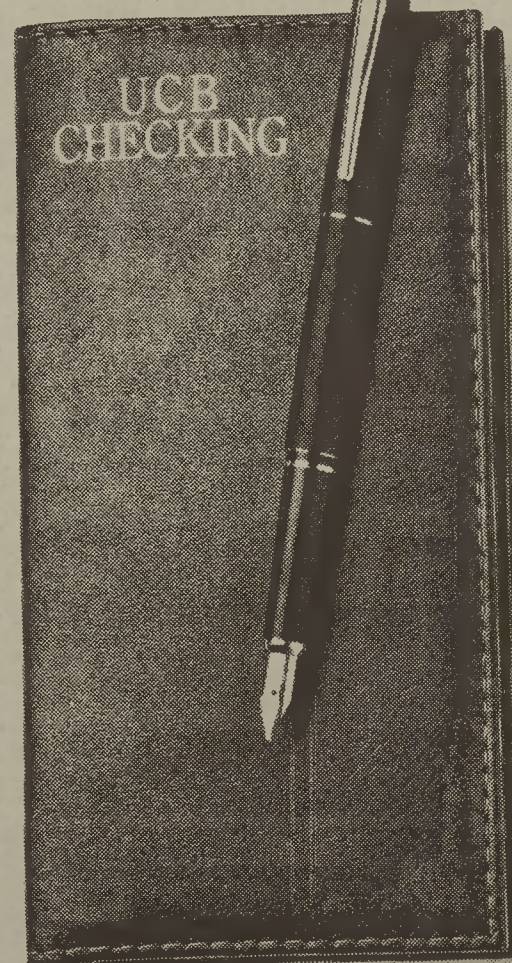
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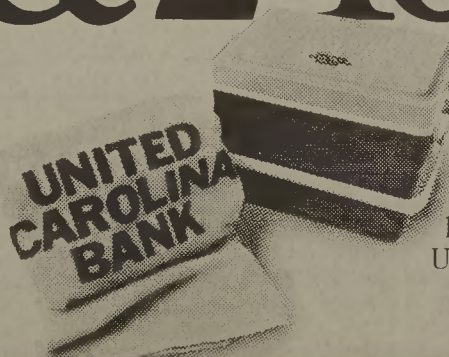
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