



The ESSENCE Of A Cover Girl

Entertainment/ Page 8A

Jazz Mix Of Take 6

Entertainment/ Page 7A

Chill Out And Grill Out

Lifestyles/ Page 1B

In The

Alliance

Gastonia Las
Amigas Honored
Page 11B

The Charlotte Post

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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

Third Black Republican Enters Council Contest

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

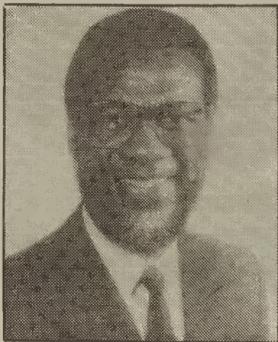
James Ross, who plans to run for Charlotte city council as an at-large candidate, believes an improved thought process can help in planning the city's future.

"There's a missing ingredient in decision-making in local government," he said. "And that ingredient is common sense."

Ross said he had given thought to running in District 2, but feels his experience in local and state government would be better received at large.

"I would have responsibility for the entire community," he said. "I think at-large requires a different concept of the community at large. I think I can be of more service city-wide."

Ross, a 54-year-old human resources consultant, is one of



Ross

three African-Americans planning to run for Republican at-large seats. Seven candidates have announced their plans to compete for the four nomina-

tions up for grabs in the September primary.

"It's going to be a little tough in the primary," Ross said. "My feeling is there are four seats and one incumbent, so that tells me there are three seats out there."

The primary is Ross's first priority. With candidates outnumbering seats by nearly 2-to-1, the first hurdle is likely to be the most difficult one. But if he can win in the primary, Ross feels that he can win in the general election.

"The important step is the primary," he said. "By the Republican vote being a very disciplined vote, by getting through the primary, I can get some support (in November). I think I can as many Democratic votes as Republican."

See ROSS On Page 2A

Lowery: Blacks Must Be Free From 'Confused Priorities'

ATLANTA (AP) --- A top civil rights leader, speaking 25 years after major civil rights legislation took effect, says the struggle for racial equality has become primarily economic rather than social.

The Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said blacks must take responsibility themselves for improving their economic condition, including embracing what he called "liberation lifestyles" to make blacks free from drug abuse and "confused priorities."

"In 1964, we were barred from eating in public restaurants by 'white only' signs and in 1989 millions of us are excluded by the dollar signs on the menu," he

said. "All of us have earned the right to check in to the Hyatts and Hiltons, but millions of us lack the means of checking out."

Lowery was among the 200 civil-rights leaders who met Friday with President Bush at the White House to commemorate the 1964 act.

The act, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 2, 1964, banned segregation in public accommodations and paved the way for court action to end racial bias in hiring and promotions.

The SCLC, under the leadership of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., was instrumental in the protests and voter-registration drives across the South that brought the Civil Rights Act into being.

In a statement issued at SCLC headquarters in Atlanta, Lowery said much has changed --- but much has not.

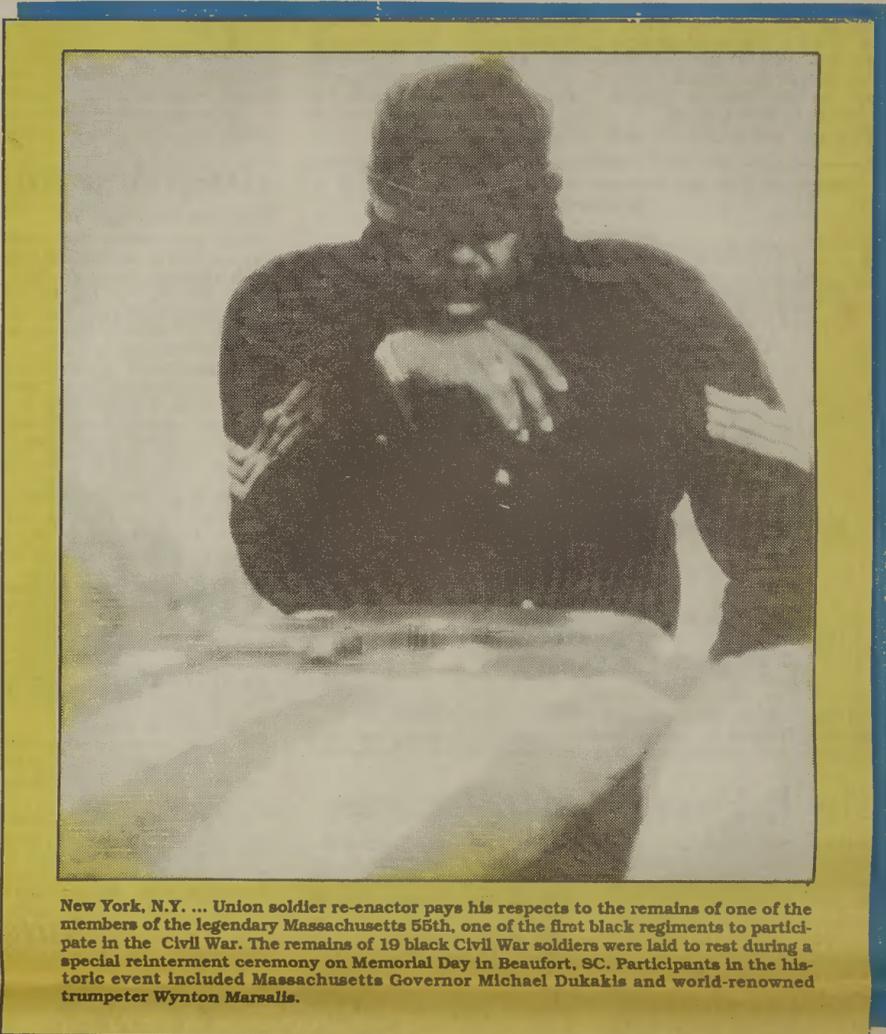
He noted there are now some 300 black mayors and a sizable

black middle class, but those gains were overshadowed by a fast-growing black underclass in 'poverty-stricken slums.'

Lowery also urged Congress to legislate against recent rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court, such as a ruling that voided many affirmative action contract programs in the nation's cities, that he said reversed the civil-rights commitment made in the 1950s and 1960s.

Lowery seized on the current furor over Bush's proposal to amend the Constitution to outlaw burning of the flag by calling for the same fervor toward fighting for equal rights.

"A constitutional amendment on flag burning, though expedient is not essential and will not force people to respect the flag," Lowery said. "Let's show respect for what the flag is really supposed to represent --- liberty and justice for all, including economic justice for blacks, Hispanics and women."



New York, N.Y. ... Union soldier re-enactor pays his respects to the remains of one of the members of the legendary Massachusetts 55th, one of the first black regiments to participate in the Civil War. The remains of 19 black Civil War soldiers were laid to rest during a special reinterment ceremony on Memorial Day in Beaufort, SC. Participants in the historic event included Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and world-renowned trumpeter Wynton Marsalis.

Group Tries To Save Slave Cemetery

IVANHOE, N.C. (AP) --- In August 1831, a 31-year-old slave named Nat Turner inspired a short-lived but infamous slave rebellion in Virginia that left 57 whites dead, including women and children.

Though Turner and 20 cohorts were quickly hung, along with 100 innocent slaves, news of the uprising sent a wave of panic across the South.

Many states responded by quickly passing laws that strictly controlled the movements of slaves.

Others exercised a more brutal means of control. In the Sampson County community of Ivanhoe, for example, black folklore has it that respected slaves were killed, and their heads placed on poles along the main road to Wilmington.

In this small community on the Black River, you can still find a few ramshackle slave quarters, plantation homes and an overgrown graveyard reputed by locals to be the resting place of slaves.

It is this cemetery which recently has become the focus of an effort by blacks to memorial-

See IVANHOE On Page 2A

Many Aren't So Optimistic About Future Of Civil Rights

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For civil rights activists with an eye on the future, the 25th anniversary of the signing into law of the Civil Rights Act is bitter-sweet.

"When I look at it from the perspective of today, I have a sense of grief, disappointment, frustration," said the Rev. Clifford Jones, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Jones worries about the continuing economic gap between blacks and whites and recent Supreme Court decisions eroding affirmative action.

"We are slowly but progressively retreating in our society," he said, "as it is related to a sense of justice for the poor, the disenfranchised and minorities --- especially African-Americans."

Some North Carolina legal experts agree that recent Supreme Court decisions threaten two decades of civil rights progress that began when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act on July 2, 1964.

"The civil rights movement seems to be pretty dead at the moment, with no allies in the court, in the White House, or in Congress," said Daniel Pollitt, a law professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Another UNC-CH professor agreed. "Early Supreme Court decisions were intended in a way to further the purposes of eliminating discrimination with interpretations favorable to the plaintiff," William P. Murphy said. But now the Supreme Court has made almost a 180-degree turn and "made it tougher for plaintiffs and easier for defendants," he said.

In a June 5 decision, a sharply divided Supreme Court changed ground rules that had for much of the decade governed a major category of lawsuits pressed under the Civil Rights Act.

The ruling shifted the burden of proof in discrimination cases to the plaintiff, making it more difficult to bring discrimination



Jones

"Progress is so tenuous."

Franklin McCain



McCain

suits against employers. It relieved employers of having to prove that allegedly discriminatory practices were not discriminatory but were in fact necessary for business.

In a June 12 decision, the court split along the same 5-4 line to rule that court-approved affirmative-action settlements on sex and race discrimination cases are open to subsequent legal challenges by outside parties.

In another 5-4 ruling the same day, the court placed tight time

limitations on the filing of lawsuits challenging seniority systems that are alleged to be discriminatory.

But the 1964 act, coming after years of struggle, was a beginning.

"Until then, your entire world was circumscribed by two words," said David Goldfield, a Southern historian at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. "White and colored."

The law outlawed dual water fountains and dual bathrooms

and made it possible for Chris Crowder, a black woman, daughter of a Monroe sharecropper, to own The Coffee Cup, a diner in Charlotte.

Once, she couldn't even have sat for a meal there.

"It was an all-white restaurant," she said. "They served blacks through a little window, but they couldn't sit down to eat."

Twenty-five years later, that serving window is boarded up. And Chris Crowder is the boss.

"Things have gotten better," she said. "Such a change has come to me over the past 25 years."

But Franklin McCain, one of four N.C. A&T State University classmates who began sit-ins and boycotts against whites-only restaurants and lunch counters throughout the South when they walked into a Woolworth's in Greensboro and asked to be served, isn't nearly as optimistic.

"Progress," he warns, "is so tenuous."

* The South had the greatest

See BLACK On Page 2A

A Dog By Any Other Name...

SUPPLY, N.C. (AP) --- A Boiling Springs Lake man said Saturday he had recovered from the anger he felt when he went to the Brunswick County animal shelter to look for a dog to adopt and found an animal who was identified with an offensive term for blacks.

William Clayton, who is black, said he noticed an identification tag on one of the dog cages indicated the dog was named "Nigger." The dog was black with brown and white spots.

"... It seems inconceivable to me that anybody old enough to have a job working the county would put something like that down," Clayton, 45, said Saturday. "Common sense would tell you that would be offensive not only to blacks, but also to whites."

Clayton walked out of the shelter, but not before asking someone why the dog was identified with that name.

Dennis Harpster, who talked with Clayton on Thursday, said he responded angrily to Clayton because the man was swearing at him.

"I told him that was the name of the dog and I couldn't help it," he said. "I told him I didn't name the goddamn dog."

See DOGS On Page 2A

Black Population Still Greatest In The South

Black population estimates for selected local areas in 1980-85 were released recently in a report by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

The estimates result from the latest research techniques for estimating population by race and Hispanic origin for states and counties. The bureau advises that the methodology used has not been fully evaluated against results of a decennial census, and that these estimates have not been integrated into the agency's official current estimates program.

The report provides estimates

for states and their local metropolitan and non-metropolitan components; metropolitan areas with at least 10,000 blacks; and individual counties with at least 80,000 blacks.

Here are some highlights from the report:

* Sixteen states had 1985 black populations of more than one million. New York (2.7 million) and California (2.1 million) had black populations of more than two million; only 12 states had more than one million blacks in 1980. The black population of the United States was 28.9 million in 1986.

* California had the largest increase in black population (243,000) from 1980 to 1985, followed by New York (219,000), Florida (215,000), and Texas (201,000).

* Among the 16 states with a black population of at least one million in 1985, Florida had the highest growth rate at 16 percent, followed by California with 13 percent. The black population in Maryland and Texas each grew by 12 percent. Michigan's growth rate of four percent was the lowest of the 16 states.

* Mississippi had the greatest population of blacks (36 per-

cent) in 1985, followed by South Carolina with 31 percent and Louisiana with 30 percent.

Inside This Week

Editorials..... Pg. 4A	Obituaries..... Pg. 3B
Entertainment.. Pg. 7A	Sports..... Pg. 7B
Lifestyles..... Pg. 1B	Classifieds.... Pg. 10B
Church News... Pg. 3B	Alliance..... Pg. 11B
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