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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

Local African-Americans Entering GOP's Open Door

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

African-Americans are taking advantage of the Republican Party's open-door policy toward blacks by running at-large city council campaigns.

But those campaigns could pose some problems for the GOP as the party faithful decides who gets nominated.

Three African-Americans--James Ross, Elloree Erwin and Roosevelt Gardner--have announced their candidacies and more may be on the way. At present, seven Republicans are expected to run for the four at-large nominations that will be decided Sept. 26.

The GOP's success in recent local elections has made the party more attractive to voters, including blacks, said Mecklen-



Ross



Erwin



Gardner

Black GOP Candidates In At-Large

"I think traditional politicians will be shocked to see as many black candidates as we have."

Bobby Lowery



Lowery
President, Mecklenburg
Black Republican Council

burg Elections Supervisor Bill Culp. The party has grown to the point where there is now a diversity of candidates.

"The Republican Party has ex-

perienced enormous success in the past few years," he said. "And that success has encouraged other Republicans to run."

Bobby Lowery, president of the

Mecklenburg Black Republican Council, said the emergence of African-American candidates is likely to astound political observers.

"I think traditional politicians will be shocked to see as many black candidates as we have," he said.

While the Republicans have a slate of African-Americans, the party is unlikely to give its support to any particular candidate during the primary season, Culp maintains. If the number of anticipated candidates stays the same, there's the possibility at least one black will be on the November ballot.

"It's too early to endorse anyone," he said. "Once they have their four candidates, then they'll back them."

The GOP will offer its support to all its candidates, Lowery said, but there won't be a special emphasis on African-Americans.

"I would expect they would get

the same help as the other candidates," he said. "No more, no less."

The sudden appearance of black Republicans is linked to the party's intention to embrace conservative African-Americans, said Black Political Caucus Chairman Bob Davis.

"It appears there is a new thrust by black people who were real active in the 60's and they're coming back as Republicans," he said.

The Republican drive to attract African-Americans hasn't been lost on its competition.

"It's sending a message to the Democratic Party about taking black voters for granted," Davis said. "I think the Democratic Party has got to recruit blacks to

See GOP Black on page 2A.

Family Remains Skeptical Of Recent Mandela-Botha Meeting

BY LAURINDA KEYS
Associated Press Writer

PAARL, South Africa (AP) --- Winnie Mandela met Monday with her husband, jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, who has not been heard from since his meeting last week with President P.W. Botha.

After a one-hour visit, Mrs. Mandela declined to answer questions, saying she first would talk to anti-apartheid leaders in Johannesburg.

"I'm afraid I have instructions from the (black) community leaders to go and report back to them before we are able to answer questions," she told reporters at the gates of Victor Verster Prison in Paarl outside Cape Town.

Mrs. Mandela said she planned to meet with the Rev. Frank Chikane, a family friend, but gave no indication of when a statement would be released.

Chikane on Sunday described the Botha-Mandela meeting as an act of "political mischief" intended to "sow confusion in the minds of black people and the outside world."

But other anti-apartheid activists and commentators on various sides of the country's racial issues praised the event.

The independent Cape Times newspaper said the encounter had "huge symbolic significance, foreshadowing Mr. Mandela's release and, ultimately, serious negotiation to resolve the South African crisis."

The white-led government's announcement Saturday that Botha and the leader of the outlawed African National Congress had met took the Mandela family and the anti-apartheid movement by surprise.

"The feeling is that it is of vital importance that Mrs. Mandela meets Mandela personally, so she does not hear first from the press what is happening," said

Chikane, secretary-general of the South African Council of Churches.

He said Mrs. Mandela flew from Johannesburg to Cape Town to visit her husband at a prison farm at Paarl.

Chikane said Mrs. Mandela already had planned to see her husband and that this was a "normal visit." Her last visit was three weeks ago.

Mandela, 70, was transferred in December from Pollsmoor prison at Cape Town to Victor



Mandela

Verster prison farm, where the conditions of his imprisonment

were eased and he was allowed to stay alone in a prison warden's house.

He was jailed in 1962 and two years later began a life sentence on conviction of plotting to overthrow the government.

Botha, who is to step down after elections in September, and other members of his dominant National Party have hinted in recent months that they would like to find an acceptable formula to release Mandela.

Botha has suggested that the government could modify its demand that Mandela make an outright renunciation of violence before his release.

Mandela retains wide popularity among blacks. The exiled African National Congress guerrilla movement, as well as anti-apartheid black groups within South Africa, have said Mandela's freedom is a condition for negotiations with the government.

Affordable Housing Beyond Minorities' Reach

Housing Problems Severe Among Poor Black And Hispanic Households

BY JENNIFER DIXON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) --- Affordable housing is beyond the reach of nearly half the nation's black and Hispanic families, according to a study released Monday.

The study by the private Center on Budget and Policy Priorities also found that blacks and Hispanics of all income levels are much more likely than whites to live in substandard housing.

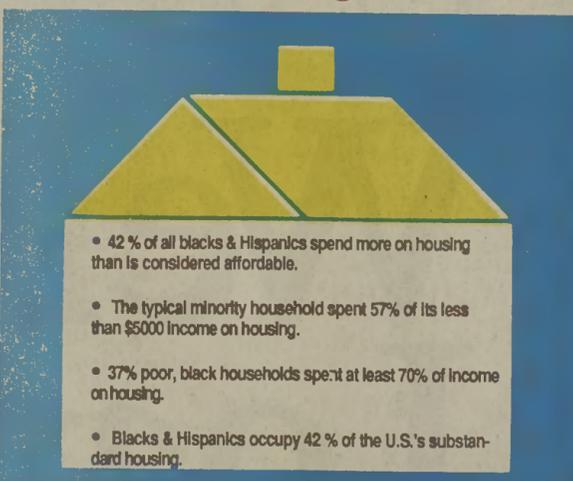
Using recently released data from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Census Bureau, the research center found that 42 percent of all black and Hispanic households spent more on housing in 1985 than is considered affordable, compared with 27 percent of all whites.

Under standards established by HUD, housing is considered affordable if it consumes no more than 30 percent of a family's income.

The study said housing problems are especially severe among poor minority households, with nearly four out of five paying for housing costs outside the affordable range.

Some 40 percent of poor Hispanic households and 37 percent of poor black households were

Minority Housing Crisis



spending at least 70 percent of their income on housing costs in 1985, leaving little money for food and other necessities, the study said.

And while black and Hispanic households make up 17 percent

of all households in the country, they make up 42 percent of those occupying substandard housing and more than half of those living in units with holes in the floor or evidence of rats.

In fact, the proportion of non-

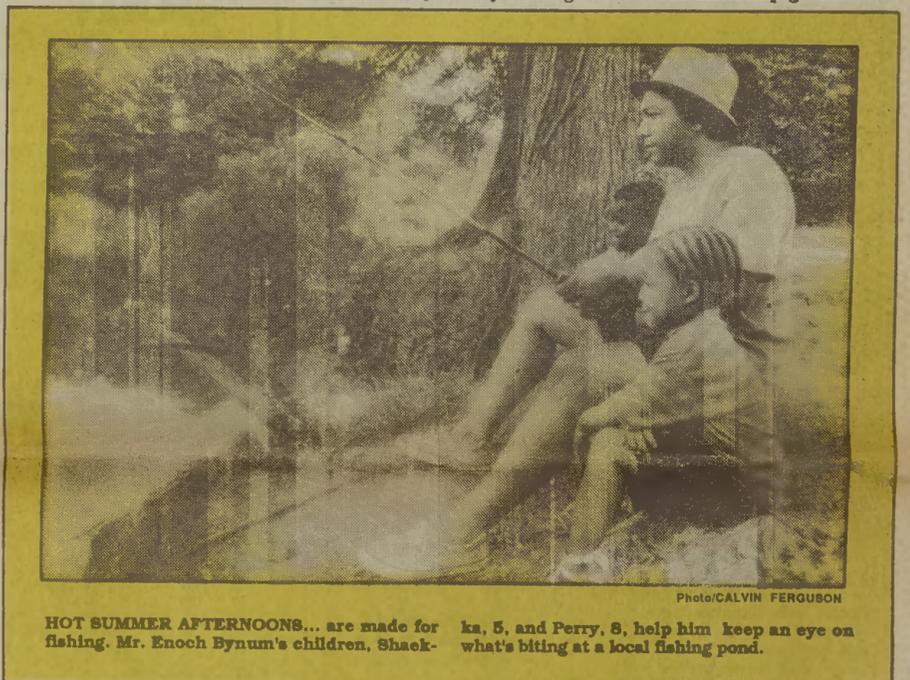
poor black and Hispanic households living in substandard conditions exceeded the proportion of poor white households in similar conditions, the study said.

"These stark findings indicate that the growing lack of affordable housing has reached a crisis stage for blacks and Hispanics, as well as for low-income Americans in general," said Robert Greenstein, director of the center, which studies the effects of government policy on the poor.

Although the study was based on 1985 data, the report said housing costs burdens are unlikely to have eased since then because rental costs and the average income of poor families have risen at about the same pace since then.

In 1985, the study said, the typical poor minority household had an income of less than \$5,000 and spent 57 percent of its income on housing.

"These high housing cost burdens are likely to have contributed substantially to the growing problem of homelessness and to have intensified other problems, such as the rising incidence of hunger," said Edward B. Lazere, the study's principal See HOUSING on page 3A.



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

HOT SUMMER AFTERNOONS... are made for fishing. Mr. Enoch Bynum's children, Shaak- ka, 5, and Perry, 6, help him keep an eye on what's biting at a local fishing pond.



Panel To Discuss Racial Unity

A panel discussion titled, "Race Unity: The Most Challenging Issue in America," will be held on Saturday, July 29, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the International House, 3000 Hawthorne Lane.

The panelists will be: Mary Clark, president of the NAACP, Charlotte chapter; Louise Sellers, community and civic leader; and Ralph (Dick) Hauck, vice-chairman of the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Charlotte.

The panel moderator and introductory speaker will be Fred Meyers, regional director of the Equitable Life Insurance Company, from Columbia, Maryland.

An informal question and answer period will follow the formal presentations and participation from the audience assembled will be encouraged.

The panel discussion is sponsored by the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Charlotte, N.C., Inc.

Refreshments will be served. Admission is free and there is no collections. The public is invited.

Bigger Schools Are Winning In The Battle For Black Students

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Several North Carolina universities expect significant increases in black student enrollment this fall, but there are indications the growth may be at the expense of some of the state's smaller colleges.

At Duke University, the number of blacks in the freshman class will increase by 25 percent.

"Since Duke opened its doors to blacks in the late '60s, this is probably the largest increase we've had," said Harold Wingood, an official in the Duke ad-

missions office.

Despite this year's gains, only about 300, or 5 percent, of Duke's student body will be black.

At Wake Forest, the numbers are also small, but rising.

Ernie Wade, director of minority affairs, expects a 35 percent to 40 percent increase in the enrollment of blacks who are not athletes.

Overall, about 80 of the 850 incoming freshmen will be black. That's more than 9 percent of the class compared to 8 percent last year.

Campus-wide, blacks make up

only 5 percent of the student body, but Wake Forest officials have set a goal of 10 percent by 1992.

Wade explained that Wake Forest has been aggressively recruiting blacks only since 1986.

"We're really playing catch-up," he told the Greensboro News & Record.

But so are many predominantly white campuses in the state.

At North Carolina State University, officials project that the number of blacks in the freshman class will increase about 8 percent.

That means blacks should make up about 10 percent of the student body.

The news is not as encouraging everywhere, however.

At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, blacks will make up about 13 percent of the freshman class, about the same as last year.

Nationally, the number of blacks going to four-year colleges is declining. However, some admissions officers believe the college-going rate is increasing for blacks in North Carolina.

But there's no doubt that the competition for black students gets keener every year.

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