

Barnett Heads To Embattled Nation

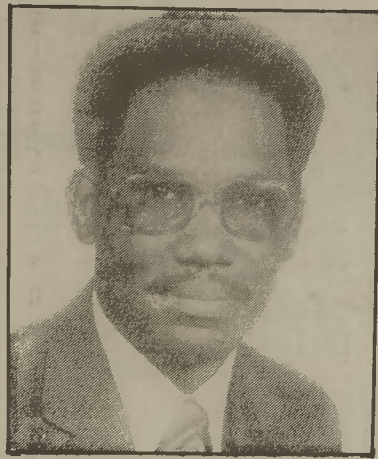
By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

James Barnett believes there is a connection between South Africa's apartheid-driven regime and the war between Nicaragua's Sandinista government and the Contras.

The U.S. government is involved in both countries, but on opposite sides of their struggles. But the result is the same: black people die.

"The government gives weapons to the Contras although they're not popular in their own country," he said. "But if they gave the black South Africans old rifles, they could win a revolution in a month. We just wonder why don't they do the same in Nicaragua that they do in South Africa."

Barnett, a member of the Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America, was scheduled to leave Thursday on a 3,300-



Barnett

mile trip to the war-torn nation. The caravan of 30 vehicles and 66 people will take about 12 days to reach its destination. A third of the multi-racial delegation is made up of ministers.

The vehicles will be left for construction companies to use in delivering supplies to the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, where a devastating hurricane left thousands of blacks homeless.

Barnett, who is making his fourth trip in as many years, said the fighting between the Sandinistas and U.S.-backed Contras is draining the nation. He feels America would do more for peace in Nicaragua by staying out of its affairs.

"It seems that it just gets poorer and poorer every time I go there," he said.

Traveling to Central America raises suspicion among some Americans, Barnett said, especially to a country perceived to be a communist stronghold. But the caravan's only goal is to help the black Nicaraguans, not take sides in the 10-year-old war.

"We're helping the people of

Nicaragua," Barnett said. "We don't get involved with the government."

Helping Nicaraguans can not only quell a dangerous situation in Central America, it would go help keep the peace throughout the region, Barnett said. If fighting were to spread to other nations in the area, American forces, which is estimated to be about 40 percent black, would likely be sent to defuse it.

"A lot of us would go down there to die," he said.

Public awareness about the U.S.'s involvement abroad is increasing, resulting in more money for excursions to Nicaragua.

"The movement is alive. I see it's alive because we had less trouble raising money than before," Barnett said. "I see an awakening in the grass-roots people that I didn't see three years ago."

Center's Move Is Offensive To Neighborhood Leaders

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taken the brunt of facilities that do nothing for the community, and he feels the county should look elsewhere.

"When we started the coalition, we said to the county that we didn't want (the facility) in no black neighborhoods," he said. "Anything that affects one black in Charlotte affects all blacks."

Mecklenburg's decision to go to Dalton Avenue was decided by two factors, Remington said: the proposed site is "aesthetically pleasing" and is located near uptown, making it more accessible to public use.

Miers said evergreen shrubs and trees will divide the facility from homes, making noise less of a problem. There will be no smell or waste emitted into the neighborhood, because the recycled material will be held on the property until it is moved.

"Unlike waste transfer stations or incinerators, there should be little impact on the environment."

"This is a clean business, with no odor, no liquid," Remington said. "This is going to be one of the cleanest industries in the area."

To relieve fears about the facility's purpose, FCR plans to put an amphitheater, education center and even gift shops in the facility. Miers said the center's intent is to educate consumers about the benefits of recycling, which helps preserve finite resources.

"We look at it as an asset to the community, not as a garbage dump," he said. "That's the image of recycling we're trying to eliminate."

Miller, however, sees the move as the county's way of finding another African-American community to pick on.

"They went for the weakest link. After they found out that we weren't going to go away and saw some blacks who were going to fight to the last, the county went out and got a private company to come in," he said.

"They'll always put them in black neighborhoods if we let them."

J.C. Scoggins, another member of the coalition, said that although the county has turned away from LaSalle, he fears the county commissioners may try to put another facility there.

"I don't trust any of them," he said. "There's no telling what they might do."

Although the county has abandoned LaSalle, the coalition is maintaining its suit, which is

Klan Sentence

Continued From Page 1A

ered new evidence that eventually prompted the Justice Department to reopen its investigation of the May 26, 1979, incident.

A group of robed Klansmen clashed with black marchers in Decatur who were protesting the conviction the year before of a 19-year-old mentally retarded black man for raping three white women. Gunfire erupted during the incident, and two Klansmen and two blacks were wounded.

Ten Klan members, including Handley, the top Klansman in Alabama at the time of the incident, were indicted in 1984 on civil rights charges. All were either convicted or pleaded guilty. Earlier this year, Handley and six of his cohorts drew federal sentences ranging from two months to two years.

Ms. Clark said the settlement of the civil lawsuit, which came after several months of negotiations, brought the 10-year-old case to a close.

Correction

Last week's Post incorrectly stated that Duke Power's Pre-College Career Development program would match up to \$6,000 of students' savings from the program. The company will match \$600 of the savings when students deposit program earnings into a special account.

being heard by U.S. District Court Judge James McMillan.

"We are not relenting...until he makes a decision," said Scoggins.

County commissioner Bob Walton said history has worked against African-American neighborhoods when it comes to negative facilities, but there is little the county can do about it.

For decades, heavy industries have been located near black communities, making them likely targets for refuse facilities.

Black Opposition To Saturday March

Continued From Page 1A

American community attended a city council meeting to protest the anti-drug rally. Most opposed the route the march will take.

In a flyer mailed to 3,000 Charlotteans last week, Myrick stated that the rally will serve as a stand "against drug dealers." She said it will be the first of several anti-drug marches planned for the city.

Petunia Lee, an 18-year resident of Fairview Homes, feels Myrick should have started elsewhere.

"She doesn't have to keep picking at people in Fairview Homes. They're always picking at our area," said Lee. "It already looks bad. They are going to make it look worse."

"She's making the people over here look bad because they're black," said Lee's neighbor, Claudia Williams, who has lived in Fairview Homes for 17 years. "What I take into consideration is that the biggest drugs in this county come from white folks. Why don't they take that march over to where they live?"

The march Saturday will be Myrick's second attempt at focusing anti-drug attention on the Fairview Homes development. In April Myrick brought Lt. Governor Jim Gardner in to speak with residents about drug abuse and violence in the area.

"I have been talking with resi-

"Neither site is the better site," he said. "Most of the best sites are unfortunately found in black neighborhoods. Unfortunately, you're caught in a bind."

Noting that "there is a vast difference" between a recycling center and the waste transfer station the county originally wanted on the westside, Walton said the new proposal signals that the coalition's efforts have worked to an extent.

"They have scored a significant victory," he said.

dents and the feedback has been much more positive," said Myrick, defending the march against the criticism that's come from some segments of the black community.

"I can understand their concern. But I told them we were going to do this. The march is just another step in the process."

A resident of Fairview Home who did not want her name used said the march may help the area. "I believe it will help. It already has," said the resident. "The attention we've gotten so far has helped some."

Asked whether she would attend the rally, she offered, "I'll look on and give them an encouraging word."

Blacks who have denounced Myrick's plans say if the mayor wants to have an anti-drug march it should not be confined to the poor, black areas of Charlotte. "Enough attention has been drawn to the drug problems of the black neighborhoods. Myrick needs to focus on other neighborhoods," said Dannelly.

Myrick counters that there are plans to hold rallies in other Charlotte areas. "We will march in all areas of town. But the problem exists in these areas (public housing) and we have to do everything we can to increase the public's awareness of this problem. We want to get the community to believe it when we say we care."

NAACP Sponsors Fourth Life Membership Dinner

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg branch of the NAACP will sponsor its annual life membership dinner at 7 p.m. Monday at McDonald's banquet facilities at 2812 Beatties Ford Road.

Nicholas Anderson, president and chief executive officer of the Detroit Urban League will be the guest speaker.

The dinner affords Life members, Golden Heritage members, Junior Life members and subscribers to fellowship and encourage others to become Life members.

Tickets are \$60, and include a \$50 payment on a life membership and dinner. Checks should be made payable to the Charlotte branch.

Prior to joining the Detroit Urban League, Anderson was director of the NAACP's Midwest Region III, with responsibilities for operations in seven states.

For more information, contact

Housing Scholarship Awards

The Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship Committee and the Foundation for the Carolinas will sponsor a scholarship awards day at 5 p.m. Sunday at First Baptist Church-



Anderson

General Frazier at 394-7865, Mary Clark at 334-0207 or Margaret Alexander at 392-6775.

West at 1801 Oaklawn Avenue.

T. Willard Fair, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Miami Urban League will be the guest speaker.

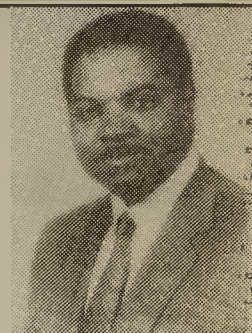
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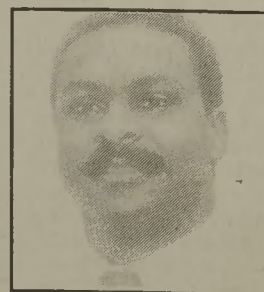
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