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# The Charlotte Post

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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

## Africa Comes To Charlotte

Aug. 26 Exhibit To Display The Continent's Rich Culture, History

By HERB WHITE  
Post Staff Writer

Sylglenda Saziru feels that Africans and African-Americans living in the south have something in common.

Both, she feels, have been targets of negative perceptions--Africa's reputation as "the dark continent" and black southerners as unable to understand the importance of the continent's culture and history.

Saziru, a native of Kenya, hopes to chip away at the stereotypes this month with an African gala in Charlotte.

"An Evening In Nairobi," scheduled for Aug. 26 at the Charlotte Convention Center, is an authentic exhibition of dance, music, and culture from the Kenyan capital.

Tickets are \$12 a person, \$10 for groups of five or more and \$30 for groups of families of four or more. For more information, call (704) 527-6120 or (803) 463-4867.

Saziru, founder of the African International School of Thought in Clifton, S.C. along with her husband Nathan, said southerners are interested in African culture, and to prove it is bringing

the gala to Charlotte for the first time.

Previous exhibits held in northern and western cities were sponsored by local promoters, but AIFS is sole producer of this show.

"Other people had doubts about doing it in the South," she said. "But the opposite has been true--southerners have been very positive, especially in Charlotte."

Saziru said American media has traditionally portrayed Africa in an unflattering light, mostly as a land of famine and the alleged place of origin of AIDS. "An Evening In Nairobi" is intended to change the image.

"We want to give people a true picture of Africa," she said. There's more to it than famine and war. That's a part of it, but that's not all of it."

Saziru founded AIST in 1982 with the purpose of educating Americans in African culture. The organization teaches Swahili, an African language, in addition to offering seminars on African life and tours of Kenya. Most of AIST's students, though,

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Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

A NATIVE AFRICAN DANCE was performed by Afrikadzata Deku at the Afro-American Cultural Center. Deku gave a preview of what the public will be able to see at the planned "Evening in Nairobi" event to be held in Charlotte.

## U.S. Hasn't Finished Job Of Providing Equal Opportunity

WASHINGTON - A gap of "the most serious proportions" continues to exist between blacks and whites in virtually every aspect of American society, a blue-ribbon committee on the status of black Americans has reported. The nation faces an "unfinished agenda" to correct these inequities, the National Research Council committee said recently.

Moreover, despite significant gains since the 1940s on many key indicators of status, blacks on average lost ground or have remained at the same level since the early 1970s, especially in real income, the committee concluded.

"By almost all aggregate statistical measures -- incomes and living standards; health and life expectancy; educational, occupational, and residential opportunities; political and social participation -- the well-being of both blacks and whites has advanced greatly over the past five decades. By almost all the same indicators, blacks remain substantially behind whites," the committee's report notes.

Gains made since 1940 are attributable to a rapidly growing economy and to public policies, such as passage and enforce-

ment of civil rights laws and equal opportunity efforts, the committee said. Black initiatives and black identity -- a high degree of racial pride and group cohesion -- have also played primary roles in bringing about changes in government and private institutions and improvements in blacks' economic, social, and political status, it noted.

"Purposeful actions and policies by governments and private institutions make a large difference in the opportunities and conditions of black Americans," the committee wrote. These policies have been "essential for past progress, and further progress is unlikely without them."

Continuing racial discrimination is one major barrier to additional improvements, the committee said. However, "if all racial discrimination were abolished today, the life prospects facing poor blacks would still constitute major challenges for public policy," the committee concluded.

This is partly because black

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## Charlotte Stores Barred From Stamp Program

By HERB WHITE  
Post Staff Writer

Four Charlotte stores have been permanently barred from participating in the food stamp program because the businesses exchanged coupons for money.

The stores--Skip's Mini Mart at 1100 Beatties Ford Road, Gardner Gulf and Discount Beverage at 830 Sugar Creek Rd., Cold Beverage Convenience Store at 1021 Belmont Ave. and Villa Heights Soda Shop & Grocery at 1008 Belmont Ave--were declared ineligible last month after an investigation by Charlotte police and the investigative division of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA).

The coupons can be used le-

gally only to buy food or seeds and plants to be used in gardens to grow food and are not intended to be used as cash in non-food transactions.

Under USDA rules, violators are disqualified from the program for periods ranging from six months to permanently, said Gerald Holt, head of the USDA's Food and Nutrition office in Raleigh.

The stores' owners were either convicted of taking food stamps for money or were found to have employees who made exchanges, said Holt.

Two owners, Rodger Lee Stewart of Cold Beverage and Essie Hair Gilliard of Villa Heights Soda Shop, were found guilty of trading stamps for money.

Delores Hines Miller of Skip's Mini Mart and Michael D. Gardner of Gardner Gulf and Discount Beverage weren't charged but were held responsible for their employees' actions.

After the criminal proceedings were finished earlier this year, the USDA took administrative action against the stores, sending the owners letters in June notifying them of their exclusion. The bans took place during the first week of July.

Holt said the owners were entitled to filing appeals with USDA to remain eligible within

10 days of receiving the letters, but none chose to do so.

"They have 10 days after getting notice to file for an administrative review," she said. "But since there were convictions, it was unlikely they would ask for an appeal."

All of the stores made exchanges of stamps at half their value, Holt said, a violation of USDA rules and a federal offense.

"The rates sometimes vary" on the amount of money swapped for stamps, she said, but taking coupons for anything less than

their face value or for non-food items isn't allowed.

"It doesn't make a difference whether it's \$300 worth of food stamps for \$150 or \$75 of stamps for \$65, it's the same to us."

More than 10,000 stores in North Carolina accept food stamps, with the overwhelming majority of them abiding by the rules, Holt said.

"It looks bad if some stores are disqualified, but most of them are abiding by the rules," she said. "The compliance rate with food stamps is pretty good."

## Film To Highlight Segregation In 1960

GREENSBORO (AP) --- A son of a participant in 1960 sit-ins that helped spark the civil rights movement says white students don't understand what blacks went through under segregation and he hopes a film he is helping make will help inform them.

"Some white students don't really understand how blacks suffered through those years," said Jim West, a 12-year-old from Raleigh who is taking part in the making of a 15-minute film on the 1960 sit-ins at the downtown Woolworth counter.

"I think this will really be provocative and inform whites and blacks," said Jim, whose father, James West, attended N.C. A&T in 1960 and participated in the demonstrations.

The film about the sit-in on Feb. 1, 1960, staged by four N.C. A&T State University students, will be shown to North Carolina eighth-graders beginning in Oc-

tober.

The sit-in story is the second segment of a three-part film titled "We The People of North Carolina." The first vignette, a re-creation of the 1917 fight for women's suffrage, was filmed Saturday at the Old Capitol in Raleigh. The third, dealing with the state's conflict about seceding from the Union, is scheduled for filming at the Duke Homestead in Durham Tuesday.

The producer of the film said he hoped black and white students alike are inspired by what they see.

"I want students to realize this was about people like themselves," said Steven Channing, a Chapel Hill filmmaker and historian. "Those four freshmen from A&T who gave each other the courage to come in here that day really started something."

But Don Penven, who portrays the Woolworth manager, said students are not well-taught

when it comes to state history. He said some students, when they were auditioning, could not even pronounce "segregation."

"That's a shame," Penven said. After being told that only white people could eat hamburgers and drink milkshakes at the downtown Woolworth lunch counter in 1960, Katherine Rogers, a 12-year-old from Raleigh, was puzzled.

"You mean black people couldn't even come in here?" she asked.

"Sure they could, to wash the floors," Jim replied.

By 2:30 p.m., Jim had said his line about black people scrubbing floors nearly a dozen times. Yet he and the other students -- all seventh--and eighth-graders from Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Raleigh -- perked up each time they heard "ready on the set."

## NAACP Plans Silent March On D.C.

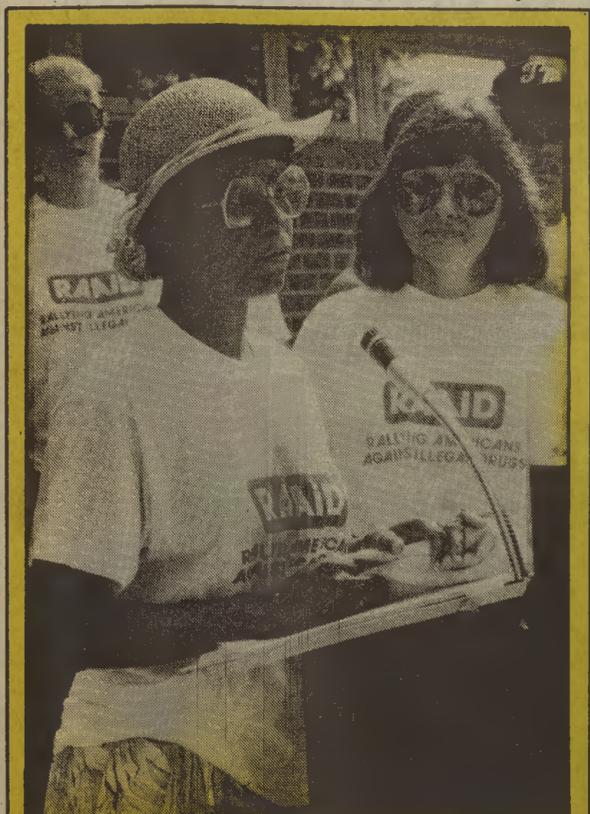
A "Silent March" protesting four recent adverse decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court on civil rights and affirmative action and calling on Congress to undertake legislative remedies, has been scheduled by the NAACP for Saturday, August 26, at noon in Washington, DC, according to Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director, NAACP, and Dr. William F. Gibson, chairman, NAACP National Board of Directors.

The route and other details of the march remain to be worked out, but Dr. Hooks said it would closely resemble the famous "Silent March" of 1917 when over

5,000 men, women and children headed by Dr. W.E.B. DuBois and James Weldon Johnson of the NAACP, marched in silence down New York City's Fifth Avenue, protesting "Jim Crowism", lynching, segregation, disenfranchisement and race riots in Waco, Memphis, and East St. Louis.

"Our silent march will be concerned with one issue alone -- the Supreme Court and its recent hostile decisions. We will be sending a message primarily to the administration, Congress and the American people that the decisions of this Court are harmful to the body politic of

this nation and prompt action must be taken to reverse them through legislative means," Dr. Hooks said at a press conference in Washington recently.



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

Faye Jones (l), spokesperson for residents of Fairview Homes, greets Mayor Sue Myrick at the start of Mayor Myrick's anti-drug march held last Saturday. The rally drew a racially mixed crowd of approximately 120 people in a show against drug abuse in the city of Charlotte.



## Charlotte Turns Light On Crime

On Tuesday, August 8, Charlotte residents are being invited to join thousands of other communities across America in supporting a unique, coast-to-coast crime prevention project called NATIONAL NIGHT OUT. The event, sponsored by the National Town Watch Association and co-sponsored locally by the Charlotte Police Department, involved over 16 million people from 4,700 communities last summer.

This August 8th, residents across the nation will be asked to turn on all outside lights from 8:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. and spend at least an hour on porches, lawns, stoops, etc. Many neighborhoods throughout Charlotte will be hosting special Night Out activities such as block parties, cookouts, flashlight walks, homemade ice cream parties, dessert parties, neighborhood walks, pool parties, and many others.

Overall, National Night Out is designed to: (1) heighten crime prevention awareness; (2) generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; (3) strengthen neighborhood spirit in the Crime Prevention campaign and; (4) send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods across the U.S.A. are organized and fighting back.

National Project Coordinator Matt Peskin said, "This is an op-

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