



## Prince Scores With Batman Jam

Entertainment / Page 8A

## The New Civil Disobedience

Editorials / Page 6A /

## Parbusters Golf Preview

Sports / Page 7B

In The

## Alliance A Better Habitat

Page 11B

# The Charlotte Post

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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

## Mayoral Candidates' Paths To Win Black Support Differ

By WINFRED CROSS  
Post Staff Writer

Democratic mayoral candidates Craig Madans and Al Russo both know that support from the African-American community can help them win their party's nomination. But they differ on their strategies to get the support.

Russo and Madans will face each other in the Sept. 26 Democratic primary.

"My strategy is to let as many people meet me as possible," Madans said in a telephone interview this week. "I want to let them know that I have the energy and the ability to get things done."

Madans opened a campaign headquarters in the westside at University Park Shopping Center last month. He said it is "the first functioning mayoral campaign office in the history of Charlotte on the westside."

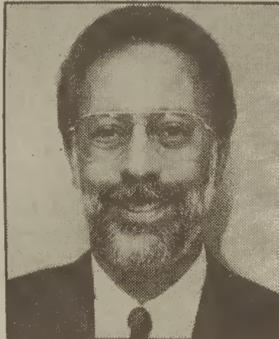
"I'm bringing my office and campaign to the westside because I think they have been taken for granted," Madans said. "I think when you here the same problems over and over again and get no results, it's time to change players."

Russo said in a telephone interview he will also be in the African-American community, "meeting with any segment of the population that I can."

Russo said he is in the process of opening a campaign office in the McDowell and Morehead streets area. He said he chose



Russo



Madans

that area because it is centrally located and has better parking.

Madans said he is also spending money in the westside. He said part of his television commercials are about the westside and he also uses a media firm located in the area. Madans said he will also use billboards and yard signs in the area.

Madans said he is doing this to educate the community about himself and Russo, whom he said benefits from an undeserved perception.

"What you have with Al Russo is a professional victim. The media elected him," Madans said. "Al fought City Hall about his building and everyone thought he would fight for them. Instead Al made a lot of money and didn't fight for us at all."

"Al's a nice guy, but you cannot let imagery affect how you vote."

Madans said, "Al's been in for four years and hasn't done anything. He's had the popularity but hasn't done anything with it. I'm trying to show people that."

Russo disagrees. "I don't think that's true," he said. "I support all types of economic development for the westside of Charlotte. I think I have been very supportive."

Bill Culp, supervisor of elections for Charlotte-Mecklenburg, said both candidates will have to have their names in the community.

"The most loyal voting block in the Democratic Party is the black community," Culp said. "Because of that, it is essential for the two candidates, for the Democratic Primary -- both of which are white and both of which are Jewish -- to get name recognition in the black community."

## Fewer Blacks Are Signing Up To Vote

By A.C. TURNER  
Post Staff Writer

The number of blacks registered to vote in Mecklenburg County as of June 30 is below the number of registered at the end of the last non presidential election year.

This year there were only 134 blacks that registered to vote for the first time, far below the 1,401 newly registered blacks at the end of 1987.

Bill Culp, Mecklenburg Board of Elections supervisor, said that a small black voter turnout is not surprising. "Registration in black communities are generally low because there is little effort by the politicians outside of election time to motivate people to register," he said.

Board of elections statistics show that during presidential election years the total registration for both blacks and whites increases, but the black turnout at the polls is traditionally low.

"You can register at any library or Mechanics and Farmers Bank. The libraries and banks in predominantly black neighborhoods do not have much registration interest," Culp said.

Members of the black community are taking steps to remedy the problem to achieve greater black representation.

**There were only 134 new black voters registered in Mecklenburg County as of June 30.**

According to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg branch of the NAACP, its Political Action Committee will sponsor a voter registration drive Saturday in the Enderly Park neighborhood.

Sam Carr, a candidate for city council, has organized a registration drive for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.



Carr

The September elections will prompt other groups and politicians to organize similar drives, Culp said. Prospective voters have opportunities to register every day before Aug. 28 for the Charlotte city primaries at any library or the elections office.

## Congressman Leland's Death Brings Condolences, Praise To Family

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
Associated Press Writer

State leaders said the death of U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland will be felt most by the hungry, the poor and others in need of a champion.

Across Texas, colleagues and constituents of the six-term Houston Democrat took time from their grief to implore others to adopt Leland's passion for helping those who were hungry.

"Mickey would love that," Howard Johnson of the Houston Independent School District told a group of 500 people in the Phillips Wheatley High School auditorium, where Leland attended.

"Sometimes they fall for a purpose," he told the somber gathering Sunday.

At the Astrodome, afternoon baseball crowd of about 27,000 observed a moment of silence before the Houston Astros played the Cincinnati Reds.

George Thomas "Mickey" Leland, chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, was on his fifth visit to refugee camps near the Sudanese border when the plane carrying him and his party crashed. He was 44.

The wreckage was found Sunday, six days after the plane vanished after taking off in bad weather from Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, and heading for the Fugnido refugee camp, 480 miles southwest.

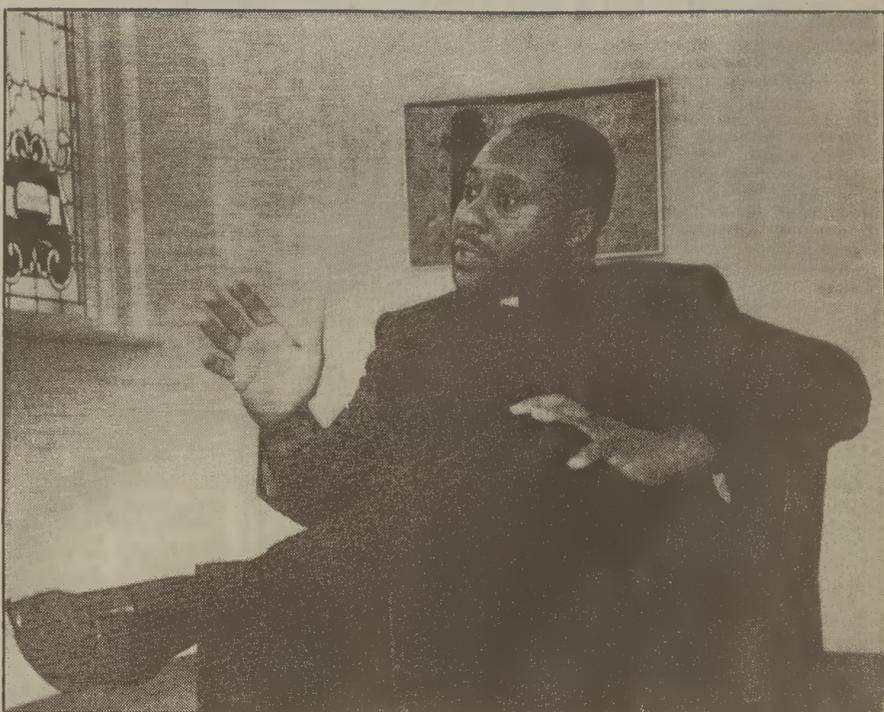
Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower noted Le-

land's helping hand spread across the globe.

"Mickey certainly was a champion of people who needed a champion, whether it was in the wards of Houston, in the backwoods of rural America or in the barrios of Los Angeles," Hightower said in Austin.

"Mickey was a friend of people throughout the world that didn't have any other friends in high places," he said. "He didn't just espouse the high values of our democracy; he tried to live them and act them."

Former House Speaker Jim Wright of Fort Worth said Leland's heart was big enough to accept all people as his brothers and sisters. "The world needs his message."



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

Rev. George Stallings says he wants to expose racism in the Catholic Church, even if he has to

offend its leaders: "We're just trying to get to the land of milk and honey and enjoy Canaan land."

## Reverend Rebel

### Catholic Priest Pushes For Inclusion Of Black Culture

By LORA VANDERHALL  
Post Staff Writer

Some call him the renegade priest, a rebel or an egomaniac. But others refer to him as a man with vision and an idea whose time has come.

Rev. George Stallings, the Washington, D.C. priest who recently inaugurated his own independent African-American Catholic congregation, says he's following the instructions of the Lord.

He says the Catholic church is not meeting the needs of its African-American parishioners.

"We're not trying to be nationalistic, segregationist or elitist," said Stallings. "We're just trying to get to the land of milk and honey and enjoy Canaan land."

A native of New Bern, N.C., Stallings was baptized in the Catholic church and also attended Baptist churches. He has been a priest for the past 15 years.

Because of Stallings' recent actions, more attention has been brought to the problem of racism in the Catholic church.

Despite efforts within the church to reach out to blacks, statistics show that African-Americans remain predomi-

nantly Protestant.

Only two million of America's 54 million lay Catholics and 300 of the nation's 19,000 priests are black. Thirteen of 314 active Catholic bishops in the United States are black. In the Charlotte diocese, only about 2,400 of 83,000 Catholics are black.

Most Catholics agree that racism exists in the church but disagree with the route Stallings has taken.

He has been in almost every national publication and on national television. He has appeared on the "Oprah Winfrey Show" and he will be featured on "The Reporters" later this month.

On a recent trip to Charlotte to tape "Assignment Sunday," a public affairs program on WJZY (Channel 46), Stallings spoke on the current establishment of the Catholic church.

He is controversial to the point that other priests are reluctant to align themselves with him.

John Gordon, public affairs director at WJZY, said he could not get anyone to appear on the program with Stallings.

"I called the chancellor of the Charlotte diocese, Msgr. John

McSweeney, and he said he did not want to participate in the program. I called Father Wilbur Thomas, a black priest in Hickory, and he also said he did not want to participate," said Gordon.

"I called Archbishop Eugene Marino in Atlanta and I spoke with one of his spokesmen, Father Peter Dora, and he said, 'It is the position of the Catholic church to discuss the issue in private...it could jeopardize his future relationship with the Catholic church,'" he added.

See REV. On Page 2A



## Two Stores Banned In Stamp Case

RALEIGH - Two Mecklenburg County stores have been barred from participating in the food stamp program because of program violations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service reports.

Mini General Food Store, 1700 S. Blvd., Charlotte, owned by United Friends Corporation, was permanently disqualified based on evidence showing that store personnel purchased food stamps for cash.

Statesville Ave. Discount Store, 2214-A Statesville Ave., Charlotte, owned by Lawrence Lotharp, was permanently disqualified based on evidence showing that store personnel purchased food stamps for cash.

Gerald D. Holt of the Food and Nutrition Service's Raleigh office, said food stamps can be used legally only to buy food or seeds and plants to be used in gardens to grow food.

## South African Educators Visit Johnson C. Smith

By A.C. TURNER  
Post Staff Writer

A group of South African educators recently visited Johnson C. Smith University to learn new teaching methods and to observe American culture.

The United States Information Agency is sponsoring the "English Teaching Institute Follow On" program.

USIA arranged for 25 black, white, and Indian South Africans to tour learning institutions in Pittsburg, Washington, Charlotte, and New York.

Some teachers said that America was exactly what they expected. "I took American history classes before so I knew what to expect. The Americans are fantastic they are so open

and prepared to share. American television doesn't give you a good idea of what life here is like," Wendi Kilfoil said.

Msi Slinga said he was surprised to see the condition of his black brothers and sisters in America was not much better than blacks in South Africa. "I did not expect to see so many homeless people living in the

streets, they were mostly blacks. I have not seen as much in this town as in Washington and Pittsburg," he said.

Slinga was impressed with the facilities that black students had access to.

"In South Africa nothing is provided for our schools. People in the community have to build

### Inside This Week

Editorials.....Pg. 6A	Obituaries.....Pg. 4B
Entertainment.....Pg. 8A	Sports.....Pg. 7B
Lifestyles.....Pg. 1B	Classifieds.....Pg. 10B
Church News.....Pg. 3B	Alliance.....Pg. 11B

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See U.S. On Page 2A