



# The Charlotte Post

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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

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## Madans Moves Up

By **HERB WHITE**  
Post Staff Writer

Democratic mayoral candidate Craig Madans said he expects to get the full support of his party if he carries its banner against Republican Mayor Sue Myrick.

"My campaign has always been geared to not only win the nomination, but to also beat the Republicans," he said. "I believe not only in my ability but also in the Democratic Party."

Mayor Pro Tem Al Rousso withdrew from his city council seat and the primary Tuesday, citing health. A lingering bout of pneumonia had sapped him of the energy to run a campaign.

"This decision is very hard for me to make," Rousso said at a news conference. "I cannot run a viable, energetic campaign...I just don't feel like I can carry on past the primary the way I feel today."

Rousso's departure came as a surprise to Madans, who has based his campaign on charges of inaction by Rousso and Myrick on issues ranging from roads to keeping the Charlotte Knights minor league baseball team within the city limits.

"This announcement from Al was a complete shock," he said.

"I'm very concerned about his health and well-being. We're still stunned."

As Rousso's only challenger, Madans would automatically inherit the nomination, if Rousso, a four-year member of city council, formally withdraws his candidacy in writing to the Mecklenburg Board of Elections.

The city council will vote on Rousso's successor on that board, said Elections Supervisor Bill Culp. Although Rousso's withdrawal appears imminent, the primary will go on unless a written request to drop Rousso's name from the ballot gets to the elections board.

"If Al Rousso formally withdraws, there will be no tabulation of votes," Culp said. "He's indicated a withdrawal immediately."

Madans said he will continue to run an aggressive campaign, and expects Rousso's supporters to join it for the Nov. 7 general election.

"I firmly believe Al's supporters will stand behind me and beat the Republican mayor," Madans said. "Al and I have the same goal--to put a Democrat in the mayor's seat--period. We

want all the Democrats to come on board."

Former mayor and Rousso supporter Harvey Gantt said Madans can be competitive with Myrick and pledged his support.

"I think he can win this election," he said. "I'm going to go out and work for him just like I would for any Democratic candidate."

Gantt warned that Madans will have to work to build a coalition within the party. His success will depend on how well he pulls Democrats together against an incumbent mayor.

"Sometimes, given adversity, a lot of things can happen," Gantt said. "But I think Craig can do it."

Culp said a Madans-Myrick campaign will likely be hard-fought, with each candidate pressing to gain the advantage with voters.

Madans "has shown he's a tough campaigner" who is willing to talk about issues, Culp said. "I think this turns up the heat for the campaign. Al Rousso was seen as the nice guy in the race, so I guess this turns up the heat."



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Supt. Peter Relic (left) chats with Jesse Jackson Wednesday before a rally at West Charlotte High.

Photo/LANEY

## Jackson Pushes For Best National Activist Kicks Off Charlotte Basketball Benefit

By **WINFRED CROSS**  
Post Staff Writer

Students have to live with the consequences of their choices, but those choices don't have to include drugs, violence or dropping out of school, said Rev. Jesse Jackson Wednesday as he spoke to 850 cheering West Charlotte Senior High School students.

The anti-drug rally was part of the promotion for the Push Excel Pro Basketball Classic to be held 7:30 p.m. Sept. 23 at the Charlotte Coliseum. The game will feature many of the National Basketball Association's top players.

But Jackson was in town pushing education and anti-drug use, not athletics.

Jackson was greeted with a thunderous standing ovation. Surrounded by platform guests which included Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Supt. Peter Relic and N.C. Sen. Jim Richardson, Jackson told the stu-

dents that "valuable people do not pollute themselves with drugs, cigarettes or alcohol."

He said students have told him that drugs and alcohol provide a thrill but told the crowd: "Graduating is a thrill. Your whole life can be a thrill if your mind is made up and you discipline your character in the formative years."

Jackson, always sounding like the Baptist preacher that he is, punctuated his speech with humor, biblical quotes and numerous examples from his personal life. He kept the crowd actively involved in his speech by leading them in his now famous "I am somebody" chant and fielding questions to the audience.

He asked the members of the school's football team about their practice habits and if they used the same kind of discipline in their study habits. He was told no.

"I know why we are producing

the best athletes," he said. "It is not in our genes. It is in our agenda. We're good at what we work at."

"If you studied for three hours every night without the radio, television or talking to your girlfriend on the phone, you

See **JACKSON** On Page 2A



## Labor Day Closings Affect City, The Post

All departments of Charlotte City government will be closed Monday, September 5, for the Labor Day holiday. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, September 5, 8 a.m.

The Sanitation Division will observe the Labor Day holiday. Residents who normally receive backyard garbage pick-up or curbside trash collection on Mondays will not receive that service on Monday.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Animal Shelter will be closed Labor Day. Only emergency cases will be handled on September 4 by calling 334-9146.

Recreation centers, operated by the Charlotte Parks and Recreation Department will be closed on Monday, September 4. Revolution and York Renaissance Park Golf Courses will be open and operate on their regular schedule.

Buses operated by the Charlotte Transit System will be on a Sunday schedule on Labor Day. Buses will return to their regular schedule on Tuesday, September 5. The Wilkerson Boulevard/Uptown Connection will not operate on Labor Day.

The Charlotte Post will observe Labor Day, September 4, and our office will be closed. The office will reopen Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Have A Safe Holiday!



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

Mayor Pro-Tem Al Rousso (second from left) leaves Tuesday's press conference after stepping

down from city council and the Democratic mayoral primary.

## Silent March Evokes Memories Of 1917 Protest In New York City

WASHINGTON - To the slow cadence of muffled drums and with somber faces, tens of thousands of persons drawn from every part of the country and from virtually every racial, ethnic and religious group, moved silently through the streets of the nation's Capitol Saturday, August 26, in the NAACP's "Silent March" to protest a series of recent adverse civil rights rulings by the Supreme Court and to call on Congress to take remedial legislative action.

Veteran observers estimated

that up to 100,000 people participated in the march which took more than an hour to pass a given point. When the earliest contingent of marchers reached the west front of the capitol, the site of the concluding rally, they could look down the vast expanse of open space before the imposing edifice and see thousands of people still waiting at the foot of the National Mall to begin the march of slightly over one mile.

The colors of the day were black and white, a link to an ear-

lier Silent March of the NAACP in 1917 when 10,000 men, women and children marched in silence down New York's Fifth Ave. to protest lynchings, discrimination, segregation and race riots.

Regarded as one of the most effective and historically important of all demonstrations, the 1917 march served as the model for its 1989 counterpart, even to having the first line of marchers - the Ujamaa Actors from New York City -- dressed in clothing from the 1917 era.

The staging area was the National Mall in downtown Washington and early activity began to provide evidence of the scope and diversity the march would take on. The Mall quickly became a sea of marchers, assembling signs, banners, and greeting new arrivals. Throughout the morning, a steady stream of marchers continued to make their way from subway stations after disembarking from buses at RFK Stadium in northeast Washington. It is estimated that more than 700 buses with

The colors of the day were black and white, a link to an earlier Silent March of the NAACP in 1917 when 10,000 men, women and children marched down New York's Fifth Ave.

NAACP members, supporters and allies from throughout the nation made the trip to Washington.

## Charity Begins New Job Of Helping Rural People At Home

By **WINFRED CROSS**  
Post Staff Writer

Ron Charity seems like an unlikely candidate to be executive director of Rural Advance Fund/National Sharecroppers Fund, an organization whose goal is to assist rural residents and family farmers.

His college degrees are in accounting, economics and business administration. He has been active in politics since he was twelve and has been involved in many multi-racial coalitions.

He even taught Arthur Ashe the basics of tennis. But Charity feels his varied background, especially his political background, makes him a good choice for the job.

"In addition to working on issues that effect small and low income farmers, I think there is a real electoral potential for this region," Charity said. "I think I have some skills that I have amassed over the past 25 years

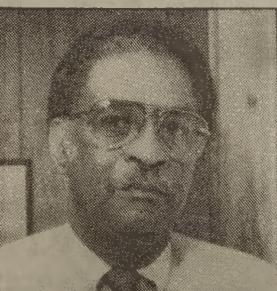
that can be used in helping to empower the people we work for."

Charity, the first African-American executive director in the RAF/NSF's 52-year history, has been on the board of directors since 1983. He was elected president of the board in 1987. He was named executive director May 15.

Charity said his goals are to make the Fund's presence more widely known, especially in the African-American community, to provide information that will make living in rural areas more appealing and to get rural residents to form coalitions that are concerned about their needs.

"If we can do these three things we will have lived up to our mission," Charity said.

The RAF/NSF covers North Carolina, South Carolina and some of Georgia. RAF handles programs that educate while NSF lobbies national and local governments for farmers rights.



Charity

RAF was founded in 1966 while NSF was founded in 1937.

Charity said the organization has a great deal of work to do considering the setbacks that took place during the Reagan administration. He simply called his policies "terrible."

"Foreclosure notices were sent out by the barrel full before people had the opportunity to respond," he said. "We are think-

ing of alternative ways where small farmers can survive and maintain there way of life."

Charity would not speculate on how the Bush administration would handle farm issues.

"I think it's too early to tell," he said. "While the Bush administration may be doing some cosmetic things to make people think they may treat everyone justly, I don't want to say what he might do."

"I understand the president is a figurehead and he sets the tone, but we have to deal with the members of congress and the senate on the national and local levels," Charity said. "That's where we really have impact in gaining empowerment."

Charity was born in Richmond, Va. in 1930. He has been active in voter registration in Virginia as well as managing political campaigns in that area.

In 1970 he established the Black Teenage World Scholarship Program which has raised

more than \$3,500,000 in college scholarships for African-American teenagers.

He and his wife Ruth now live in Danville, Va. He recently rented an apartment in Charlotte but said "I really live out of my car."

"I put 78,000 miles on my car in 18 months. I had to get rid of it," he said. "I think I have 12,000 on the new one. He bought that one in June."

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