

Westside Task Force Solicits Money To Fight Back Drugs

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 Citizens often look to law enforcement to eradicate the drug problem, but police can't do it alone.

Police Chief Sam Killman, who has been in law enforcement for 28 years said that law enforcement is not the long term goal of solving the drug problem. Killman feels that it is up to the citizens and local agencies to seek solutions to combat the drug problem.

"The short term goal is the reaffirmation of the churches, schools and families of Charlotte," said Capt. Killman.

"We have to come up with additional resources and improve and tinker with those resources that do work," added District Attorney Peter Gilchrist.

Gilchrist referred to the drug problem as an "albatross hanging around the neck."

As vice chairman of the task force and as a father of three sons, Frank McCain indicated

his concern for the young people of the community.

"I believe the task force and I are ready to march with every ounce of strength to fight the problem that is about to poison our city," he said.

Jonnie McLeod, president of the N.C. Medical Society, says

the infant mortality rate is increasing in North Carolina.

"And more and more cocaine babies are being produced in this county," she said.

McLeod commended the city of Charlotte for its ability of working together for a common cause.

"I have not seen a city like Charlotte that strives so hard to work together," McLeod said.

The westside program, which has the backing of Mecklenburg County Commissioners, not only calls attention to drug prevention, but seeks to identify the causes of drug usage.

District 2 Commissioner Bob Walton said, "I believe in asking for what you want. You can only answer yes, no or maybe."

Members of the task force said that will continue to fight for a drug-free community with or without assistance from the foundation.

Blacks For N.C. Offices? Va. Success Could Help

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specialist in Southern politics at East Carolina University. "It is hard to break the top office barrier, when you haven't broken the secondary barrier."

Gantt, 45, an architect and a Democratic national committee member, is no stranger to breaking barriers. He gained national attention in 1963, when he became the first black student to enroll at Clemson University. In 1983, he was elected the first black mayor of Charlotte, which is about 75 percent white.

A two-term Charlotte mayor, Gantt was defeated in 1987 by Republican Sue Myrick. And Gantt, who has no statewide political base, would face a well-financed, three-term incumbent in Helms. He readily conceded that his task would be more difficult than that of Wilder, who ran for governor of Virginia as the incumbent lieutenant governor.

"It is a totally different ball game in one sense," Gantt said. "Once you get past the issue of race, you have to examine a number of other factors that are different in the two races."

Among the potential problems Gantt would have to face are: --- Home turf. Gantt's Charlotte base could be sharply eroded if D.G. Martin, a University of North Carolina official who lived in Charlotte until recently, enters the race. The two men say they have agreed not to run against one another.

--- Money. Gantt said he was trying to determine whether he can raise the money to run a competitive campaign. Although a number of Charlotte business leaders recently sponsored a Helms fund-raiser, Gantt said he believed he could receive substantial financial backing from the business community.

Lee, looking back on his race for lieutenant governor, said that North Carolina voters may

have not been ready to elect a black to statewide office 13 years ago. But he said he did not believe that is true today.

"In the next four years, North Carolina could very well elect a black as attorney general or lieutenant governor," Lee said. "Any other position right now would be a long shot, including the Senate."

Gantt expresses hope - but not certainty --- that North Carolinians are as ready as Virginians to elect a black to high office.

"If you had asked me that question back in 1960, I would have said that North Carolina would likely be the first state to do that," Gantt said. "It was known as a more progressive Southern state. Its record with regard to desegregation and other kinds of issues was far in advance of states like Virginia, which had a policy of massive resistance to desegregation of the schools."

"Today, in a lot of ways, the jury is out," Gantt said. "I obviously feel we are probably as good as Virginians and would probably elect our candidates on the basis of our own aspirations for the future. Otherwise I wouldn't even consider the race."

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Educators Debate Choice In Charlotte Conference

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education in terms of concepts and that people are just using different words now to describe the same thing.

"We've had choice before. I grew up in Charlotte and went to Second Ward when the white children would pass by our school on their way to a school across town. They chose not to come to our school."

Griffin said he doesn't see what choice is going to do because North Carolina law dictates instructional programs and reduction of class size. He said the pro-choice people have not talked about changing laws in order to make the concept work.

The success of choice in New York's East Harlem can be attributed to the restructuring of the schools, Griffin said.

"Why can't we restructure all the schools?" Griffin said. One of the problems of choice, Griffin said, is the pro-choicers inability to define choice in order to get governmental support. He also added that there are no safeguards to prevent resegregation.

Griffin said pro-choicers are advocating parental involvement, and he said that is something that's hard for people to say no to.

"That's what they are riding on," he said. Before choice can work, Griffin said, more factors of the concept will have to be presented and choice will have to be defined for the public.

"There has to be research done to show that choice is going to provide a better education."

NAACP Supports Extension Agents

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faith with the nearly 200 current and former agents.

"It is a case of old fashion vindictiveness," he said.

Alexander assured Attorney General Lacy Thornburg that the 35,000 registered voters who belong to the NAACP are paying close attention to the rules and procedures of the courts.

Mary Peeler, executive director of the NAACP, said: "There is no good reason why this case is be-

ing dragged out this long."

"These agents are entitled to expedient recovery," said Peeler. "They are not getting any younger."

"Any case that drags on for over 15 years is not being handled with expediency."

On November 6, 1989, the case was to be tried again before Judge Dupree.

Associated Press contributed to this article.

Charlotte M.D. Is Inducted

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Before admission into Fellowship, the surgeon must further demonstrate ethical conduct and good character for acceptance as a member of the College and must be approved by a three-fourth majority of its Board of Regents.

The Convocation Ceremony on October 19 was the highlight of the five-day Congress, which also included reports on research-in-progress, post-graduate courses, panel discussions and symposia and scientific and industrial exhibits.

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