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Bring Prosperity
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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

Majeed: Count Me In The Race

By GWENDOLYN DANIELS
Post Staff Writer

After coming within 30 votes of winning the Democratic nomination for a seat on the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners in 1988, Charlotte businessman Nasif Majeed plans to unseat incumbent Bob Walton in 1990.

Majeed, who plans to run for Walton's District 2 seat, said he is looking for voters and building his campaign for the Democratic primary. He came close to an upset in 1988 when he outpolled Walton in the primary, but lost in the runoff.

Majeed said his campaign is already working in the district and trying to reach people who have been confused by what he termed "misinformation".

"We are trying to bolster areas we were weak in and we are working hard to educate citizens about what the Majeed campaign is about," he said.

Filing dates for the primary are Jan. 2 to Feb. 1. The primary will be held in May. Majeed will make his official announcement about the race Friday at 11:45 a.m. at McDonald's Cafeteria on Beatties Ford Road. Walton will be running for his seventh term.

Crime is a prime concern in District 2, Majeed said, and his campaign plans to address the issue. To help victims of crime recover from their losses, Majeed said he would push for an effective victim compensation program if elected. The program would protect those who are victimized on the street and have no way of getting compensation for their stolen goods, he said.

Another concern of Majeed's is housing. Currently a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Commission, Majeed said work has to be done to eradicate the shortage of affordable housing.

"We have people without houses and those who have to go outside to use the toilet. It's going into 1990 and we still have this kind of thing going on," he said.

Majeed said his campaign will be geared toward people of all ages and political positions.

"Our support is growing. Some people say it's the old guard against the new guard, but we call ourselves the vanguard," he said.

Majeed said there are older people who understand, support and relate to what his campaign is about.

"It's all about ideas," he said.

Majeed said the people in District 2 are good people and act according to the information they are exposed to and how it is given. He said it takes time to work with the community and learn their needs and concerns.

"We have the time and a very positive showing for the people," he said.

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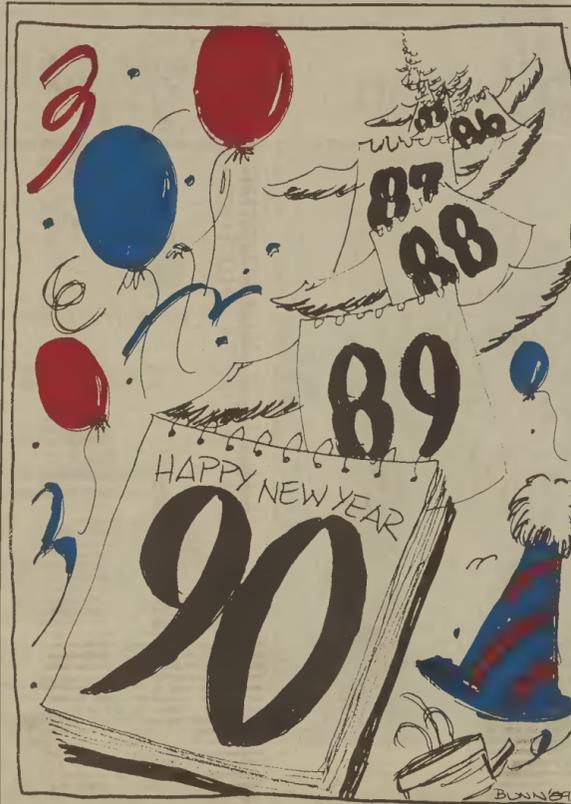
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Majeed



A Look Back: 1980s Brought Change, Firsts

By HERB WHITE
Post Managing Editor

As the 1980s draw to a close, the decade will surely be remembered as a time of trends for African-Americans--working to reverse some while struggling to foster new ones.

In Charlotte, black progress can most easily be identified in the political arena where the main figure was former Mayor Harvey Gantt. Using his experience on city council as a springboard, Gantt made local history and national headlines two years later when he was elected the city's first black mayor.

Gantt, who became one of the hottest properties in the national Democratic Party while serving two two-year terms, lost a bruising and controversial race to Sue Myrick in 1987. The campaign is now regarded as Charlotte's introduction to big-time politics, with Myrick at-

tacking Gantt's business activity with a Belmont television station and handling of the city's traffic woes. Out of office for two years, Gantt's name is prominently mentioned as a candidate for the U.S. Senate, where he would take on a growing field of white Democrats before meeting Republican incumbent Jesse Helms.

Gantt wasn't the only African-American making headlines. Mecklenburg County Commissioner Bob Walton became the board's most experienced member, but not without struggle. In 1987, Walton, the representative for District 2, was convicted of assault in a sexual encounter, threatening to end his career. Enter Nasif Majeed, a businessman and political newcomer, and James Baldwin, a community activist and self-proclaimed maverick in the

See 1980s On Page 2A

Morial Dies In New Orleans First Black Mayor

BY LINDA ASHTON

NEW ORLEANS (AP) --- Ernest Morial, New Orleans' first black mayor who spent a lifetime breaking down racial barriers, has died from an apparent heart attack after leaving a Christmas party. He was 60.

Morial was found slumped over the steering wheel of his car at 11 p.m. Saturday after leaving a party, said Jinx Broussard, a spokeswoman for Mayor Sidney Barthelemy. Morial apparently had suffered a heart attack.

He was taken to Mercy Hospital where efforts to revive him failed, and was pronounced dead at 1:30 a.m. Sunday, Broussard said.

The felsty attorney became the city's first black mayor in 1978 at a ceremony loaded with symbols of black-white unity and tough promises.

He served two terms, leaving office in 1986 after an unsuccessful attempt to persuade vot-

ers to amend the city charter to allow him a third consecutive term. He then practiced law.

Becoming mayor wasn't the only time he achieved a first for blacks.

He was the first black graduate from Louisiana State University law school in 1954. He was the first black assistant U.S. attorney in Louisiana, serving from 1965 to 1967. He became the first black Louisiana legislator in modern times, serving in the House from 1967 to 1970, when he was appointed to a juvenile court judgeship. In 1973, he was the first black elected to the Louisiana 4th Circuit Court of Appeal.

He also was a president of the National Conference of Mayors, a Democratic National Committee member, and an adviser to Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis in 1988.

Moon Landrieu, who was mayor from 1970 to 1978, said Sunday that Morial was a formidable leader who left his mark on city, state and national politics.

"I'm satisfied that when you're the first of anything, you're long remembered for that. 'Dutch' was the first black individual to achieve high public office in this state. ... That alone I think is a very significant achievement," Landrieu said.

"I think he will also be remembered for his tenacity and pugnaciousness. He was certainly controversial, and I think will be remembered for that also, and very fondly by some."

Morial was born Ernest Nathan Morial on Oct. 9, 1929, a son of a New Orleans cigar maker. Morial later had his name changed to make his nickname, Dutch, his second middle name.

"He was really an extraordinary individual," said Arnold Hirsch, a professor of history and urban studies at the University of New Orleans.

"If there's one thing that constantly comes to mind about Morial, it was his dogged refusal to accept any of the barriers that were laid in his way."

Morial's public service career was launched in the 1960s when he became president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"He had his signature on almost every case that began to dismantle the edifice of Jim Crow here, brick by brick," Hirsch said.

At a speech in 1967, Morial said: "New Orleans won't have the kind of political climate it takes to elect a Negro mayor for

eight or 10 years." He was elected 10 years later.

As mayor, Morial dealt with floods in 1978, a city police strike in 1979 that effectively shut down Mardi Gras, and the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition that was a financial disaster.

When voters rejected a charter change that would have allowed him to run for a third term, Morial backed Sen. Bill Jefferson to succeed him. But Jefferson was defeated by Sidney Barthelemy, a former state legislator and councilman. Barthelemy is up for re-election in February 1990.

Morial had been considering running against Barthelemy and challenger Donald Mintz. But two weeks ago, he said the demands on his family would be too great.

Survivors include his wife, Sybil, and five children.

Morial will lie in state Wednesday at Galler Hall in New Orleans. A prayer service is scheduled that evening in Municipal Auditorium.

A funeral Mass will be said today at historic St. Louis Cathedral in the French Quarter. Burial will be in St. Louis Cemetery No. 1.

City Is Closed Jan. 1

All departments of Charlotte city government will be closed January 1 for New Year's holidays.

The Sanitation Division will also observe the New Year holiday on Monday, January 1. Customers who normally receive Monday backyard garbage pickup or curbside trash collection will NOT receive that service on Monday, January 1.

Christmas trees placed at the curb will be collected the week of January 1-5 and 8-12. Collection will be made from the curb.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Animal Shelter will be closed January 1. Only emergency cases will be handled by calling 334-9146.

Charlotte recreation centers operated by the Charlotte Parks and Recreation Department will be closed January 1 for the holiday. Check with individual centers about scheduled holiday events.

Buses operated by the Charlotte transit System will be on the Sunday schedule for January 1.

Tutu Comments Rile Israelis At Christmas

JERUSALEM (AP) --- Archbishop Desmond Tutu arrived on a Christmas pilgrimage last week after stirring anger in Israel by comparing its treatment of Palestinians with South Africa's oppression of blacks.

The black Anglican archbishop of South Africa, who won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, told reporters at Ben-Gurion airport: "It is a great honor and experience to celebrate Christmas in the Holy Land."

In a five-day visit, Tutus plans

to visit Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank on Christmas Eve and preach in Jerusalem on Christmas Day.

At the airport, Tutu was greeted by the head of the Anglican church in Israel, Bishop Samir Kafity, and two low-level Israeli officials.

The Israeli daily Haaretz published a telephone interview Thursday in which Tutu was quoted as saying: "The description of what is happening in the (occupied) Gaza Strip and West Bank could be describing what is happening in South Africa."



Photo/REMARK

Banana Claus (Hardin Minor of Charlotte) entertained children at the recently-opened Wyndham Garden Hotel. Each child received treats,

including a photo with Banana Claus and gift book.

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