

# The Charlotte Post

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THE AWARD-WINNING VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

50 Cents

## COLUMN ONE

News And Notes From Charlotte And The Rest Of The World.

### Shrinking Pool Of Black Men

WASHINGTON--The experts have figured what Black women have been saying for some time: there are fewer eligible Black men out there.

The proportion of Black women who will never marry has tripled since 1960 to 25 percent, almost three times the rate for White women. Black women also remarry at lower rates than their White counterparts and those who do take longer to do so.

For college-educated women, it gets more difficult if they're looking for a mate of the same academic background. The number of college-educated men is also falling, in part to a decrease in college enrollments.

Researchers note that incarceration, unemployment and homicide are the likely culprits in reducing the numbers.

### Magic Johnson To AIDS Panel?

Former Los Angeles Lakers star Earvin "Magic" Johnson is being considered for a spot on another team.



Johnson

Johnson, who retired from basketball last week after acknowledging he has contracted the HIV virus, may be named to the National Commission on AIDS. He would fill the vacancy left by Belinda Mason, who died recently of AIDS.

Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan is likely to press the White House to make the appointment.

### Keeping The Dream Alive

Nominations for the "Keepers of the Dream" Honor Roll are now being accepted by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee up to Nov. 30.

The annual recognition program honors local citizens who continue the late Dr. Martin Luther King's fight for equality and justice for all. The awards will be presented at the Martin Luther King holiday observance in January.

For more information about the Honor Roll program or to request a nomination form, call 336-2424.

### JCSU Alumni Phonathon

The opportunity for Johnson C. Smith University alumni to give back will come calling next week.

The annual alumni giving phonathon will be held Nov. 19-21 between 6-9 p.m. each day. Members of the Charlotte Alumni chapter, students and volunteers will call JCSU graduates to raise funds for the university. This year's goal is \$350,000.

For more information, call 378-1026.

## Racial Tension High In County Adoption Unit

By William J. Brock  
POST CORRESPONDENT

First of a two-part series.

National Adoption Month has focused community attention on an estimated 700 children awaiting adoption in Mecklenburg County. Most of the children are Black. Most of the Department of Social Services supervisors whose work is trying to find them permanent homes are White. Therein

lies the source of considerable racial tension bubbling beneath the surface of the vast bureaucracy charged with their custodial care and ultimate placement.

That tension comes as no surprise to Bob Walton, the only Black member of the Mecklenburg County Commission. He has brought the problems to the attention of County Manager Jerry Fox and Assistant County Manager Marie Shook many times. DSS Director Merlene Wall reports to Shook, who

### UNREST AT DSS

in turn reports to Fox.

"I've pointed out to both Jerry and Marie many times that there is a disproportionate lack of Black people in decision-making capacity throughout," Walton said. "This tone was set first by the Reagan White House and has been nurtured since by

George Bush. While I'm not aware of the specific current problems in the adoption area, I'm certainly going to become more directly involved now."

The current problems, according to Black DSS employees, include: At least two Black employees are on the verge of filing lawsuits due to racial discrimination and harassment. One of them has allegedly been "hounded" for months by White supervisors; Black co-workers were told to "not be seen talk-

ing to this person if you value your job." Neither the potential litigants nor the Black employees who described the other so-called problems would allow their names to be published. All cited fear of reprisals and possible loss of jobs.

Dolls used by Black employees in working with adoptive children are "placed in obvious sexual coupling positions--to be seen by the Black kids. Black workers find their See MECKLENBURG On 2A



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

Striking Avante Nursing Home employees Claudette Patterson, Selena Hinson, Linda Reynolds and Barbara Butler (left to right) have been on the picket lines for three weeks since walking out in a contract dispute. Eileen Hanson, the strikers' union representative says they had no choice but to walk out and file a suit against the home. "We had no other choice but to file charges to protect the workers' rights," she said. The 60 strikers are being compensated by the union for the duration of their walkout.

## A Strike Lingers

Nursing Home Workers Keep Picketing Despite Financial Woes

By Joy Williams  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Striking Avante Nursing Home workers and their supporters say the three-week-old walk-out has gone beyond dollars and cents.

"This is an unfair labor practice strike. They have violated federal law. This strike is not about money," said United Food and Commercial Workers Union representative Eileen Hanson.

UFCW Union Local 204 represents about 60 Avante employees who went on strike Oct. 26 because of alleged unfair labor practices. Most of the strikers are Black women who say they won't go back until Avante meets their demands.

They include nursing assistants, cooks, dietary, housekeeping, and laundry employees. They say benefits were cut from sick and funeral leave, insurance plans, and credit union benefits.

Avanti also began requiring employees to work every weekend instead of the two weekends per month in their contract. Many employees who relied on public transportation were required to take cabs to work on weekends, which could cost \$20. Most workers' wages ranged from \$4.50-\$6 per hour.

Initial cuts in employee benefits were never explained to the workers. Avanti President Brenda Peterson had no comment on the strike. Peterson has been with the nursing home since May 1, but did not meet with the union's negotiation committee until late August.

The union contract was established under Beverly Enterprises, the former company in charge of the facility. Beverly Enterprises announced in April Avante would take over May 1. Avante employee Barbara Izzard said the strike had not been going well because "They haven't given in yet. They're spending more money now. We're just asking for a little. They'll have to give in."

To compensate for the strikers' absence, Avante hired temporary employees who earn at least \$11 per hour. See STRIKE On Page 2A

## Ambassador: Namibia's For Peace In Africa

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

South Africa's apartheid system of government doesn't need to fear African self-determination, Namibian ambassador to the U.S. Tulliameni Kalomoh told an audience at the Afro American Cultural Center Tuesday.

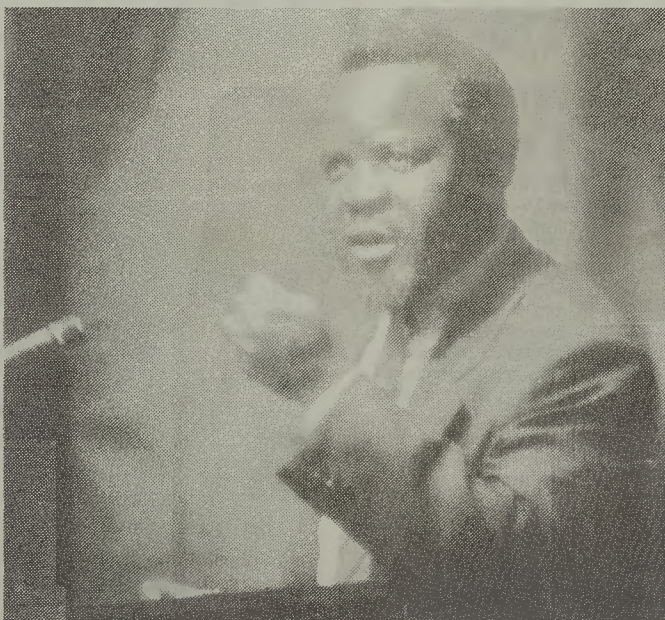
Kalomoh, who was in Charlotte to open "Namibia: Faces of Change," a photographic exhibit of the country's first year of independence, said the former South African satellite wants to be a force for peaceful change in the region. Namibia gained its independence from South Africa last year.

"South Africa has nothing to fear from democracy," Kalomoh said. "If we can only prove that, we would make a significant contribution" to peace.

While Namibians are still celebrating its political freedom, the nation faces many challenges. Still, when voters went to the polls to decide how the country should be governed, turnout was almost 100 percent.

"Becoming independent is very exciting, especially after leaving the clutches of South African apartheid," Kalomoh said.

Namibia's economy has been sluggish, though, taking the



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

Namibian Ambassador the U.S. Tulliameni Kalomoh was in Charlotte Tuesday as a special guest at the exhibit, "Namibia: Faces of Change." He spoke at the Afro American Cultural Center.

edge off independence. Its poor performance has prompted the government to look for foreign investors

for an infusion of capital. Literacy is the exception -- at 35 percent of the 1.5 million See NAMIBIA On Page 2A

## Fighting Back Money Isn't Going To The Crusade

By Winfred B. Cross  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Rev. James Barnett's Crusade will go on, but without money from West Charlotte Fighting Back.



Daniels

"I had been informing our supporters that we would be getting some of that money," Barnett said. "When we found out we were not, we went to them. Everybody got the chance to See FIGHTING On Page 3A

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