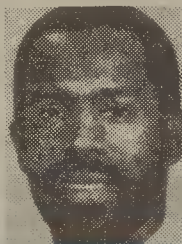


Black
Astronauts'
Legacy 7A

Pastor
Robyn
Gool 10A



The Star Of 'Ain't
Got Long To Stay
Here' 1B



Big Stick Carries
Charlottean To
Softball Shrine 7B

The Charlotte Post

Volume 19, No. 25

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4, 1993

50 Cents

COLUMN ONE

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

Unsung Heroes Deadline Near

It's not too late to enter Focus On Leadership's 1993 Unsung Heroes awards.

But time's running out.

Awards will be given in 10 categories on March 19 at FDY in these categories:

- Youth (individuals under 18 who go beyond their best to create a desire in other youth to excel);

- Religion (an example to all that believe in one's conversation, charity and spiritual matters in faith and purity);

- Politics (individual seeking to be involved in the science of government and to use it to bridge gaps between government and the communities it serves);

- Education (using education to become a part of the development of minds, capabilities or character of others);

- Arts (person or organization that seeks support, preservation and promotion of black art forms);

- Personal achievement (Person who dares to dream by turning adversity into admiration);

- Community service (unselfish volunteer efforts to meet black community needs);

- Media (individual or individuals who show blacks in a positive light and present proactive news);

- Human service (individual or organization who seeks to promote the health, education and welfare of mankind in black communities);

- Business/entrepreneur (person or persons in business for at least three years who promotes excellence and provides a positive impact through community service.)

Deadline for nominations is Feb. 13. For more information, call Angela Jeter at 535-5941.

JCSU Gets A Capital Grant

Johnson C. Smith University has received a \$250,000 gift to its capital campaign from a Charlotte law firm.

Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson P.A. gave the school

an unrestricted gift as part of JCSU's campaign.

"We are ecstatic about this gift from our friends at Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson," JCSU President Robert Albright said.

"We are extremely grateful that the firm's partners have shown their support for JCSU and have become part of the larger community in helping make Johnson C. Smith one of the nation's strongest small liberal arts institutions."

Russell Robinson, a senior partner at the firm, said Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson was proud to contribute to Smith's academic programs.

"We regard this campaign as special," he said.



Albright



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

Charlotte City Council member Hoyle Martin on homosexuality: "I have problems with people who define themselves by their sexual preference."

IN THE CLOSET: Homosexuals And Black Charlotte

Second of two parts.

By Winfred B. Cross
THE CHARLOTTE POST

How should the black community deal with homosexuality?

That depends on which segment of the community you ask. Some blacks say gays should be ignored while others say they should be excluded from society. Some even say they deserve laws that protect their rights, much like black people fought for in the '60s.

A local therapist who did not want her named used said the community is like most others in dealing with

things it doesn't understand.

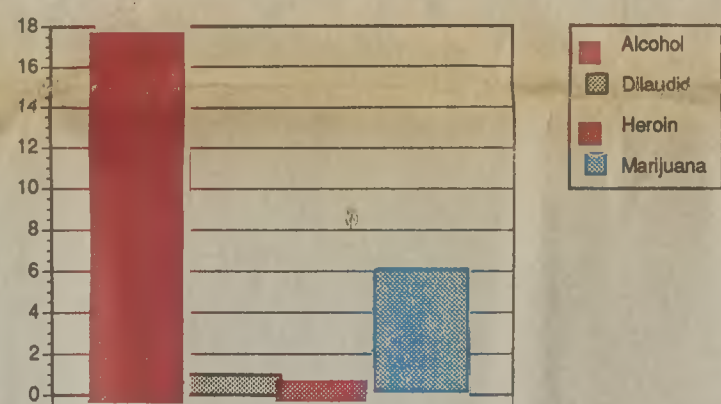
"Anyone who's perceived to be different in behavior or belief is generally isolated by the community and is viewed as a threat even if there is no basis for the fear," she said. "A typical reaction is to try to avoid the behavior instead of trying to understand or accept the behavior. What we should be striving for is acceptance of humanity and within that framework there is a multitude of differences."

City Council member Hoyle Martin doesn't want to accept homosexuality. He wishes they would all go away.

"I have problems with people who define themselves by See OPINIONS On Page 3A

Drugs Of Choice

PERCENTAGE OF DISTRICT 2 RESIDENTS'
SUBSTANCE USE WITHOUT DOCTORS.
PRESCRIPTION IN PAST YEAR



Source: MECKLENBURG COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

Some Money For The Fight

Grant To Help Combat Drug Abuse In District 2

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

After a year of trying, Mecklenburg County finally has its money to fight drug and alcohol abuse.

The Robert Woods Johnson Foundation approved a five-year, \$3 million grant to Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Fighting Back program. The money will go to fighting substance abuse in 27 communities in Mecklenburg District 2 on the west side of the county.

"They picked a great city to start the program in," said Charlotte Mayor Richard Vinroot, one of the co-chairs of the Fighting Back task force. "We will succeed, I predict. We're in this together to bring our community back to the place we want it to be."

Getting the money wasn't easy. In 1990, the county applied for and received a \$197,386 planning and development grant to initiate the program in west Charlotte. The next year, the foundation shocked program backers by denying the county ad-

ditional funding, citing a lack of community support.

After bringing on political and business leaders to work with neighborhood activists, Mecklenburg applied for another grant last year, this time winning approval. The county will match the foundation's money with \$1.5 million and in-kind services worth an additional \$1.5 million over five years. Next year, the foundation will review Mecklenburg's progress with the project and could award another \$2 million if See FIGHTING On Page 2A

School District Representation Backers Vow To Fight On

By Cassandra Wynn
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A proposal to have Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board members elected by districts will get resurrected in several weeks, according to its proponents. It's only a matter of time before district representation replaces the



Lassiter

current at-large system, say board members Arthur Griffin and James Lassiter.

In a 7-2 vote, a proposal to appoint a committee to

study district representation was defeated by the school board "The board has not placed priority on the issue," said Lassiter, who supported district representation in his campaign for election to the board.

Lassiter was asked by School Board Chairman George Battle to receive comment and bring back to the



Griffin

board a report on the issue.

However, even Lassiter's assignment to make a report did not soothe the ire of those who favor

district representation.

"I'm very disappointed in the action of the majority of the board," said Mecklenburg County Commissioner Bob Walton. "They shouldn't have taken the vote. It gives the wrong signal. A 7-2 majority gives a bad impression."

Griffin, who made the pro- See BACKERS On Page 3A

Justice Remembered At Alma Mater

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Members of the Howard University School of Law faculty are planning a memorial service for late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the most distinguished alumnus in the 124 history of the institution, according to Professor J. Clay Smith Jr., former dean of the school.

Other alumni from around the nation are expected to participate in the university memorial being organized this week, Smith announced as hundreds of unidentified citizens, officials, former colleagues and members of various bar associations joined thousands of mourners participating in final

rites for the Justice in the Great Hall of the Supreme Court and the Washington National Cathedral last weekend. He died Jan. 24 and private burial services were held at Arlington National Cemetery.

President Bill Clinton and vice-president Al Gore led the nation in paying tribute to the outstanding jurist who helped transform the country as an NAACP attorney and laid the legal groundwork for the civil rights movement which spread throughout the world. Members of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity conducted a candlelight ceremony in honor of their "Brother."

But, it was the children and everyday working people he helped the most who stood in line outside the Supreme

Court in the January cold weather for hours to pay their last respect at his flag-draped coffin. Retired Supreme Court attendant Hansford Harrison appeared to sum up the attitude of most of the staff. "All I can say is he was a nice guy. He was great. When he was on the bench it was all serious business, but when he was off, he was one of us, chatting and joking about our families..."

Professor Smith has written a personal tribute to Justice Marshall on behalf of the scored of Howard Law School graduates and hundreds of black lawyers who dedicated their careers to achieving full equality for African Americans instead of pursuing more financially rewarding careers in corporate See MARSHALL On Page 2A

Science Bowl Champions



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

Seung Kun Kim, Tino Wallace, Wilbur Evans and Prashanth Chintananapalli of Albemarle Road Junior High celebrate their victory in the Science Bowl competition at Johnson C. Smith University. Hoechst-Celanese, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and JCSU sponsored the competition.

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