

Race Between Gardner, Cannon In District 2

Continued From Page 1A

was wrong. I came back to the Democratic Party, where I believe benefits for African American people will come from."

Both candidates identified crime and economic development as key issues for the district, which is located on the westside and includes Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and the Charlotte Coliseum. Both touted community policing, for example.

Cannon said he will reveal his plans as the campaign

progresses.

Gardner said the West Boulevard area needs attention.

"We need to get someone interested in (the West Boulevard) area, even if we give them tax breaks in terms of enterprise zones," he said. "We need to clean up some of the blight in that area."

A race against Cannon should be very interesting, Gardner predicts. "It is going to be youth and inexperience against someone who has been active in the Charlotte community a number of years."

"We are dealing with a young

man (Cannon) who is 26 years old, who's first time registering was last year and who still lives with his mother," Gardner said. "The Democratic Party didn't know who he was. There is such a thing as paying your dues."

Cannon said his youth doesn't mean he cannot serve well on City Council.

"What I bring is something we had years ago in another council member who was running at my age: a new look, a different voice, innovative ideas and attentive ears to everyone's concerns

within my district," Cannon said. "Age should not be considered a factor if the person has the capability of getting the job done."

"Once I came back to Charlotte, I wanted to give something back to the community in which I was reared," Cannon said. "I got involved in the community. I went to community meetings. I made presentations before City Council on behalf of the community."

If no other candidate emerges, Gardner and Cannon will face off in a Sept. 21 winner-take-all primary.

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South Africa, Continent Struggles Toward The Future

By William Reed
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

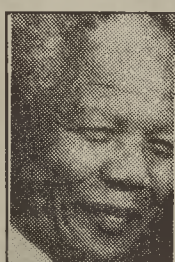
The majority of African Americans are more familiar with issues in South Africa and the international image of that country's African National Congress (ANC) leader, Nelson Mandela, than with other lands and people in Africa.

As Mandela was making his U.S. fundraising tour during the summer of 1993, less than three years since his imprisonment, that country is now in transition toward democratic elections, which are scheduled for April 27, 1994. In contrast to the democratic direction of South Africa many other parts of Africa controlled by blacks still engage in strife, warfare and human rights violations.

In Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, the military ruler of the past eight years, Ibrahim Babangida, annulled the June 12 elections citing "irregularities and bad conduct" on the part of presidential candidates. Although the majority of Nigeria's 200 million citizens were anticipating democratic elections for their country, following a six-year transition program, Babangida has continued to hold on to power despite the broad public displeasure with his actions. Chief Bashorun Moshood K.O. Abiola, winner in the June results from 14 of Nigeria's 30 states and the apparent nationwide presidential winner, said: "It is clear that a president-elect has emerged and Nigerians have chosen

the man whom they want to lead them over the next four years under a democratic government." The State Department showed its own displeasure with Babangida by expelling Nigeria's military attache from Washington and giving him seven days to depart the country and the embassy. Thirty-seven members of the Congressional Black Caucus sent a letter to Secretary of State Warren Christopher saying that the annulment of Nigeria's election "must not be allowed to stand." The Campaign for Democracy, an influential coalition of 42 human rights and grassroots social organizations, is urging Nigerians to stay away from work and stage demonstrations to pressure Babangida. "People fear the worst could happen now that Abiola has been denied his victory," said Emoka Obi, a hotel worker in Lagos, the country's commercial capital.

In the West African country of Liberia, factions that have been warring for 3 1/2 years reached an agreement in July on a peace plan that, hopefully will include: a cease fire, an interim government and free elections. The accord was reached by representatives of Amos Sawyer, Liberia's interim president; Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia; the country's armed forces; and the United Liberation Movement for Democracy. Over 150,000 people have been killed and 750,000 forced to flee the country since Taylor's faction began the fighting in 1989 with a revolt to overthrow then-president Samuel Doe. The



Mandela

National Patriotic Front of Liberia has controlled much of Liberia outside the capital and continued to fight against Sawyer's interim government after Doe's assassination and against West African military force sent in by neighboring countries to impose peace inside Liberia. The concern is that Taylor has reneged on at least 20 previous peace accords.

In South Africa, hundreds of blacks are dying each week. Although the bulk of the killings being committed are by blacks on blacks, the

alarms increased when hundreds of heavily-armed white extremists recently stormed high-level political talks in Johannesburg assaulted participants and sprayed obscene slogans on meeting room walls. More than 26 political organizations have been involved in the talks, but seven have walked out.

The 7 million strong Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, led by Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, and the Afrikaner-based Conservative Party have voiced strong opposition to the current talks. The white extremists used an armored truck to ram into the conference center and Koos Staine, one of the protestors said, "We'd rather die than live under any ANC government."

LIFT Program Gives Students Work And Educational Experience

Continued From Page 1A

This is LIFT's first year. The program is funded by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. The system provided a grant of \$119,000 to operate the program designed to improve the employability of economically-deprived students.

LIFT serves as a component to Joint Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Title 11-B Summer Youth Employment and Training Program. The City of Charlotte Employment and Training Division is responsible for determining the economic eligibility of students involved in the LIFT program.

There are 125 students involved in the program this year. Students were chosen during the school year by crisis prevention counselors who determined they would benefit with this type of program. They were placed in one of the three different sites Harding High School, Randolph Junior High School or West Mecklenburg High School.

Students start their day by assembling in what they call home room. While there they pledge allegiance to the flag, then they take 30 seconds of quiet time to meditate, which them affirm that they are somebody.

Demont Wingate, 15, a rising ninth-grader, says the affirmations allows him the right to "be sure of himself."

After affirming their worth, students are off to labs, where they are taught basic word processing, mathematics, note taking skills and how to answer the phone professionally.

After three hours of school the students are off to work. LIFT also helps students financially. They are paid \$4.25 an hour, the minimum wage, for time spent in school and again for the work they do at their jobs.

Demont, an employee of Goodwill Industries in Charlotte, admits that at first he was very reluctant to go to school during the summer months. This is nothing new for Lucile Norton, a teacher of communication skills and editor of LIFT's new magazine. She says "Too many (students) think they know it all."

LIFT students will graduate from the program in ceremonies Friday at 9 a.m. at West Mecklenburg.

Partnership For Loans

Continued From Page 1A



Jacob

the pilot cities will have the opportunity to appeal the decision to the review board, which will consist of Urban League members. If the new review board disagrees with the bank's prior decision, the applicant's loan application will then be resubmitted for a second look.

Applications that are again denied will be offered an opportunity by the Urban League to enroll in the Comprehensive Credit Project. McColl says that "The Urban League's credit counseling will help applicants better understand the borrowing process and strengthen their credit."

The review board will consist of seven members: the local Urban League affiliate president, three community representatives and three bank underwriters. John Jacob, president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League, will be in charge of the appeals board.

NationsBank plans to invest \$1.4 million into the venture. Jacob says "this will help equalized the playing field."

"Our partnership is a model for other lending institutions." There is hope that other banks will follow NationsBank's example. Jacob spoke of this as "creating a new market for other banks.

He says "No bank is going to sit around allowing one bank to receive 100 percent of a new market. Other banks will have to (compete)."

Jacob reminds consumers that the bank makes money by making loans. He says the Urban League just wants to "demonstrate that making loans to the community is profitable."



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