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50 Cents

COLUMN

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

March Participants



Foster

The 30th anniversary of the March On Washington had a Carolinas flavor. Groups from both states descended on the nation's capitol last week to demand jobs, justice and peace. Charlotte organizations such as the NAACP and N.C. National Educators Association (NEA) sent representatives to Washington. Hiawatha Foster, NEA's District 6 director, said the march rekindles a passionate crusade for justice.

"We the members of NEA feel that as educators, we must do all we can to make (it) become a reality," she said.

Mecklenburg Advisory Boards

Mecklenburg County is looking for people to appoint to advisory boards.

The county will appoint citizens to AIDS prevention; Community Housing Development; Domestic Violence Citizens Committee; Human Services Council; Juvenile Services Board; Lake Norman Marine Commission; Lake Wylie Marine Commission; Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee; Waste Management Advisory Board and Project Hope Advisory Committee.

Applications for the Sept. 20 appointments are due in the Office of the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners by Sept. 10. Applications can be picked up at the Government Center at 600 E. Fourth St. or call 336-2559.

'Kaffir Boy' Author In S.C.

The author of the critically-acclaimed "Kaffir Boy" will speak in Rock Hill.

Mark Mathabane, author of "Kaffir Boy," "Kaffir Boy in America" and "Love in Black and White" will be the guest speaker for the York County Political Black Caucus' annual fund raising dinner Sept. 11 at York Comprehensive High School. A reception will be held at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m.

For more information, call (803) 684-2336 or (803) 366-3275.

...In Other Political News

The Charlotte Women's Political Caucus will present a candidates' forum at 7 p.m. Sept. 8 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 1001 Queens Rd. Candidates for mayor and City Council will participate. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Liz Johnson at 334-1139 or 542-9873.

The event is sponsored by several groups, including the Black Women's Caucus.

4 Legendary Civil Rights Lawyer Changes Gears At N.C. Central

CHAMBERS' CHALLENGE

By Winfred B. Cross
THE CHARLOTTE POST

It's 5:30 p.m. and Julius Chambers doesn't have a lot of time to talk.

Registration is beginning and parents have been clogging the school's switchboard with complaints about North Carolina Central University's financial aid office.

"I know we had an appointment but this really isn't the time to talk. I'm sure you understand," Chambers says quietly, with a hint of frustration in his voice. "Things like this certainly aren't planned, but you have to handle them as they happen."

Chambers is as diplomatic as the brilliant litigator he is, so he stops to talk anyway. As the newly-appointed chancellor of his alma mater, Chambers knows he's going to have a lot of irons in the fire all at once. He'd like to put this particular fire out before he talks, however.

Chambers doesn't say what the problem is exactly, but he says it's not a crisis - just a problem.

"I think an institution like

this can establish procedures that will alleviate the kinds of problems that have frustrated chancellors for a lot of years," Chambers said. "I don't think we'll have this problem of this magnitude in the future. And I'm sure we can do a better job in the way we deal with people."

Chambers feels the school can do a better job in the way it deals with a lot of problems. Like most schools - especially historically black schools - Central has to tackle problems with financial aid, scholarship funding, repairing the physical plant and maintaining the school's academic credentials.

Those are lofty goals that will be difficult to accomplish, especially in financially hard times. But Chambers - the first NCCU alumnus to hold the chancellor spot - is confident.

"I approach about everything I do as if I'm preparing a case. . . There is a crying need for all of our youths to receive an education. In today's market that means a college education as well as a graduate or professional degree. . . You marshal your re-



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Chambers in front of NCCU's administration building. He began chancellorship in January.

sources to demonstrate the problem. You make your case to acquire the resources to address the problem."

One of the most important resources to acquire is money. The school's scholarship fund is in dire need of short-

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Did Spray Cause Robinson's Death?

By Cassandra Wynn
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A report from the state's chief medical examiner's office stating the death of a 24-year-old black Concord man was caused by an allergic reaction to pepper spray has prompted a renewed outcry for action to punish the police involved.

A group of community leaders - including Concord and state NAACP officials -

said they will seek to have police involved removed from the force.

"We will move ahead to seek action for a decertification proceeding for the police officers," said Kelly Alexander Jr., president of the North Carolina State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "Strong evidence supports decertification."

Alexander said: "If pepper Mace is non-lethal, then you

have to ask whether or not the officers went ape. If they violated training, they bear some responsibility. It raises the question of deliberate indifference to medical needs."

Angelo Robinson was arrested at the Waffle House in Concord on U.S. 29 North in the early morning hours of July 11. He and a crowd of young blacks had come from a Concord night club to the Waffle House. After a verbal exchange with police who were at the site, Robinson

was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. According to police, as Robinson was being apprehended, police sprayed him with the pepper Mace.

Witnesses said that several police aggressively sprayed Robinson and did not heed his pleas to stop because he had asthma.

Angered by the death, blacks in Concord's Logan community burned one

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PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

City Gets Grant

Charlotte Housing Authority Director Harrison Shannon (at podium) announces a \$33,877,985 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to revitalize Earle Village.

The revitalization should take five years. The current number of subsidized family units will be reduced from 311 to 170. A 68-unit, three-story elderly-only building will be added as well as a new community service building. Also present were 12th Congressional District Rep. Mel Watt (far left), Charlotte Mayor Richard Vinroot and city council members.

S.C. DSS Says:

Law Could Hurt Black Adoptions

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Some blacks complain that a new law aimed at keeping convicted criminals and child abusers away from foster children unfairly punishes black families.

The law bars people from serving as foster parents if they or any adult in their home have been convicted of crimes like kidnapping, rape, assault with intent to kill, prostitution or indecent exposure. Those people the state Department of Social Services says have a history of abuse or neglect are also barred, though a conviction is not necessary.

Of the 25 families losing foster-care licenses as a result of the law, 20 are black, according to DSS. Of the 48 children involved, 43 are black. State foster homes are now licenses under a new law designed to make foster homes safer for children.

The Rev. J.H. Cokley, president of One Church, One Child of South Carolina, an organization that recruits black adoptive families, called the law "another obstacle in reclaiming the black family."

The law, which took effect July 1, punishes blacks for cultural differences and will hinder recruitment of foster care in the black community, Cokley said.

Black children make up nearly two-thirds, of the 4,484 children in foster care. DSS officials said Monday they did not know the race of the 2,000 foster families.

Twenty-three of the families have appealed to the department to keep their licenses. The cases will be decided within 90 days and they will keep their foster children until a decision is made, said Ramona Foley, who directs foster care programs for DSS.

Legislators who supported the law said it would raise standards and help foster care deaths. They cited the state's liability when a child is hurt or dies in a foster home.

But DSS opposed the law, saying it was too rigid and would hurt some youngsters who had bonded with their foster families.

Cokley said a teen-ager who committed a crime in 1967 received a suspended sentence, built a new life and 26 years later was told by DSS that he must give up his foster children because of the conviction.

"That says our state does not believe in rehabilitation," Cokley said.

Blacks are disproportionately affected by the law because of inequities in the criminal justice system and cultural differences in the way whites and blacks discipline children, Cokley said.

