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Beatrice White and Lillie Montgomery, sisters who have just celebrated their 94th and 90th birthdays, have lived according to one motto: "Just live right." It must be working: They're still quite active in their community and don't anticipate slowing down anytime soon.

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Watch night, a tradition in black churches for years, is a special time. While ushering in a new year, worshippers take time out to give thanks for the year that's ending.

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NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR

The Rev. James Barnett

Champion of Stop The Killing Crusade

By Cassandra Wynn
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Like him or not, Rev. James Barnett has become the voice of any attempt to curb crime in Charlotte's black communities.

He is heard more than any other lamenting the fact that about 80 percent of the murder victims are black. By Wednesday, the murder count was a record 122 for the year.

But his criticism of black-on-black crime as well as black leadership has not given some folks any reason to use terms of endearment about him, especially among black leadership.

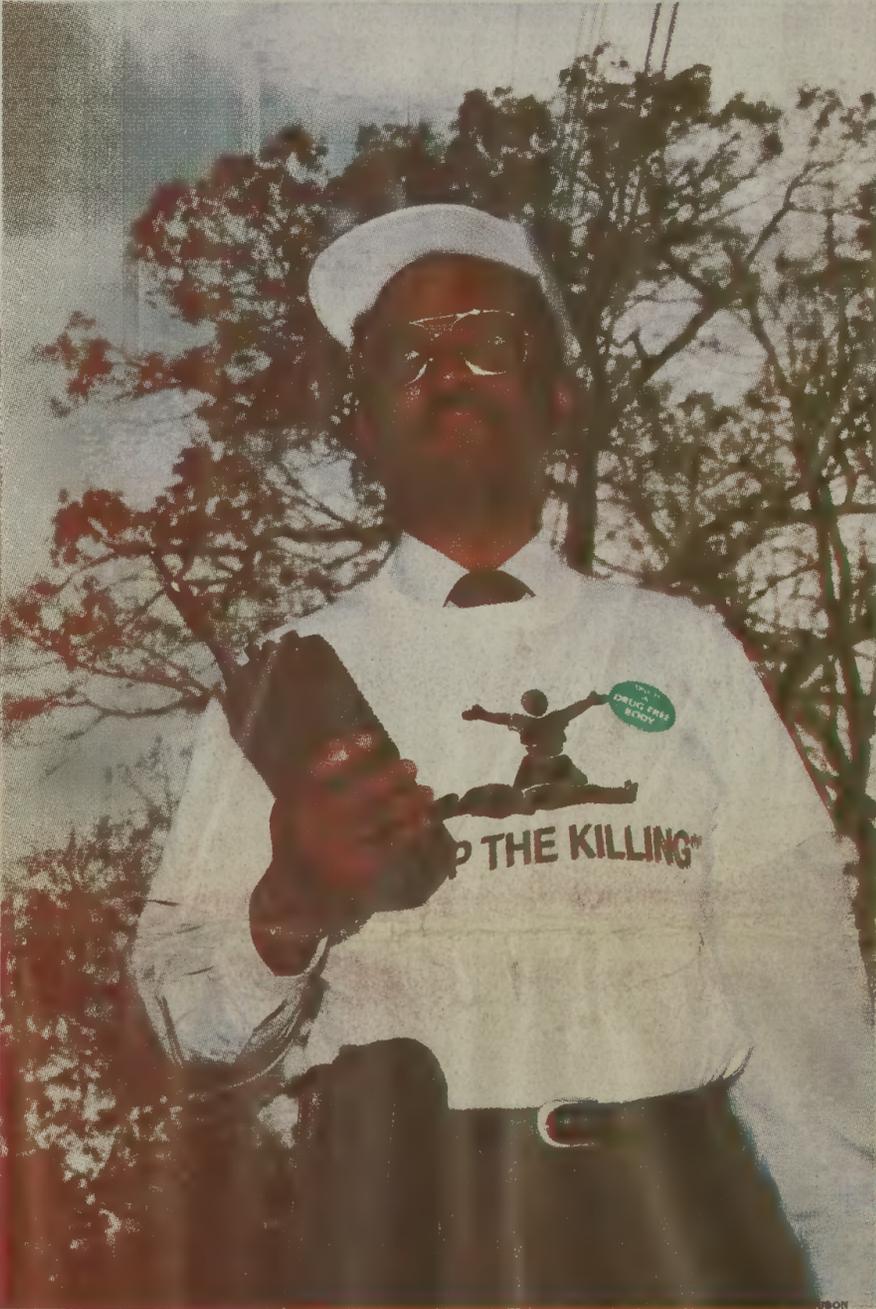
Consistently on the scene with his drug patrols in crime-ridden neighborhoods, anti-crime candlelight vigils, fliers, letters-to-the-editor, press conferences, appeals to Charlotte City Council and Mecklenburg County Commissioners, Barnett won't go away.

Always out front

He is no Johnny-come-lately to activism. However, for all the protests Barnett launched or participated in, he has not garnered what he feels he has earned - respect among black leadership. Yet in many ways, he is where he wants to be - in the streets.

"My longing has always been to be out there helping people the street," said the 48-year-old Barnett. "I am an activist out there steadily." For about 25 years, he has been a lone warrior of sorts in battle.

Before organizing the Crusade, Barnett had made six visits to Nicaragua with a purpose of seeing how the



The Rev. James Barnett has been an outspoken advocate for reducing violent crime among African Americans, although his confrontational style isn't endearing to some critics.

Black doctors launch plan to improve health by year 2000

By William Reed
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

As the nation and African Americans wait for the Clinton health plan to take shape, black physicians are initiating their own.

The National Medical Association (NMA) has a program that is being implemented now to make sure blacks are healthier by the year 2000. In 1985, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) reported 60,000 minority Americans die annually from diseases which can be prevented or cured. Now, the NMA, in conjunction with DHHS, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institutes of Health, have designed a community health coalition project in 15 cities across the country to educate African Americans on the risk factors which cause sickness and premature death.

"The community health coalition project is designed to educate African Americans on the risk factors which

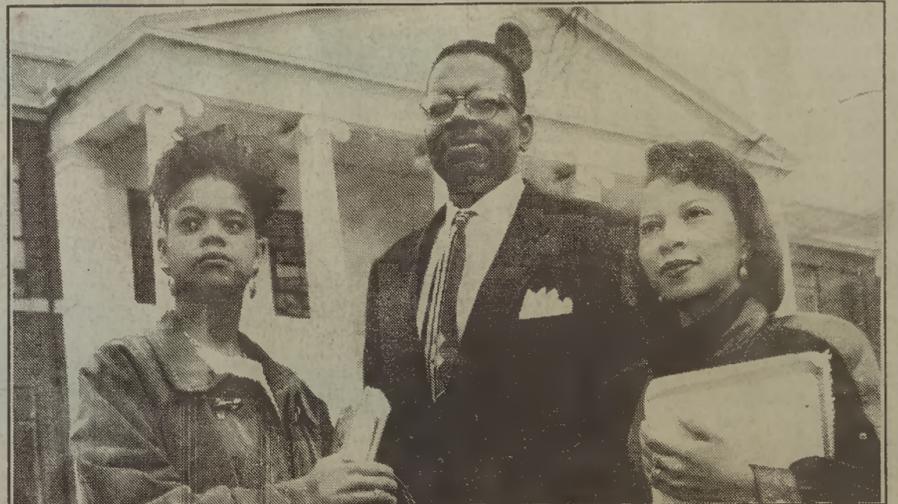
cause sickness and premature death so that the necessary precautions can be taken to extend and improve the quality of life in the African American community by the year 2000," said Dr. Richard Butcher, immediate past president of the NMA.

He also reports that in regards to health equity, America's blacks and whites are far from equal. Blacks have the highest cancer rate of any U.S. group. African Americans die an average of five years earlier than whites. Blacks suffer from hypertension 33 percent more than whites. And, blacks and Hispanics represent 22 percent of all people with diabetes. Blacks die from strokes almost three times as often as whites.

The NMA reports that most of the reasons for these health problems among blacks is because of behavior, such as tobacco consumption, obesity and improper diet. NMA doctors contend that the prescription for better health for blacks is to teach prevention.

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A CAROLINA CONNECTION



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Teshika Pharr, Livingstone College President Bernard Franklin and Melissa McCray (left to right) have benefitted from the United Negro College Fund's impact on the Salisbury school.

Livingstone College 'Has a lot to offer'

By John Minter
POST CORRESPONDENT

Melissa McCray thought she would spend her life working in the textile mills around Salisbury.

While her brothers and sisters made the honor roll in high school, she struggled for C's. Deep down inside she wanted to teach, to help children like herself who seemed to take a little longer to catch on.

But McCray was one of seven children and her parents were not able to send a daughter without a scholarship to college.

Thanks to some loving in-laws and a United Negro College Fund-supported college, Livingstone College in Salisbury, McCray, 28, is well on her way to getting her wish.

"Livingstone College has a lot to offer," said McCray, the mother of two children. "By being small, it helps those who feel they can't

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1993: Year of change

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

People of African descent made plenty of news in 1993.

The following list reflects the top 10 news stories and issues that appeared in African American-oriented newspapers during the period between Oct. 23 and Nov. 23.

The issues most frequently reported appearing recently in black newspapers' news stories, features, and commentaries were:

- Big city election results: Nov. 2 was marked by significant wins and losses among black candidates. Black mayors no longer control leading cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles.

- New Jersey gubernatorial election controversy involving pay-off of black ministers to discourage African American voter turnout.

- The signing of NAFTA - North American Free Trade Agreement - and its potential economic impact on African Americans. The win for President Clinton and NAFTA supporters came despite the majority of Congressional Black Caucus members voted against this legislation.

- Urban, and black-on-black crime dominated pages of newspapers across the nation. President Clinton gives a speech at the Tennessee church where Martin Luther King Jr. last spoke. Clinton addresses problem of black-on-black crime and gave views on what can be done to solve this problem.

- Clifton Wharton's resignation from the number three position at the U.S. State Department. The African American left his diplomatic post due to pressure being applied at top levels of the State Department. Wharton's departure labeled by blacks as his being the administration's "scapegoat."

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