2A

## Intimidation rears its head

MELODYE MICERE STEWART In the spirit of Ma'at

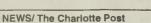
During the summer uprisings of the '60s, the world saw violence against African Americans that it had not seen since the days of "Red Summer" in 1919.

During that time, thousands were arrested, shot, beaten and some, murdered. The fear and intimidation of white supremacy was best symbolized by the burning of black churches. During the past 12 months, 31 black churches have been violated - burned and torched - and others threatened. The Clinton Administration has promised to "do all it can" to solve this latest manifestation of the still vexing scrounge of racism, but, the challenge of changing our collective fate in America is up to us.

To understand why the black church has often been the target of white violence, one must look at history. The black church was the first institution created by Africans in America. Understanding who they were, they incorporated the name "African" into their dominations, e.g., African Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Church. The awareness of their Africanness became a very real source of strength As a result, these churches became strongholds of resistance, race education and critical societal agitation. It is this legacy of struggle which the churches of the civil rights era inherited.

Black houses of worship throughout the South and North participated in liberation struggle activities which made them targets of horrific fire bombings. Remember the death of four little black girls in Birmingham in 1963? As we are still caught in "crisis management," in terms of our collective action/reaction to events, the question is, whose children must be sacrificed in the next church firebombing of 1996 before we get off our collective hindparts to actively struggle on our own behalf? Harsh economic times have been the historical fuel of aggressive racial violence

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Frances Moore (left) and Lois Love work the soil on a Lillies of the Valley project. The Lillies is one of five African American garden clubs in Charlotte.

## **Flower club** tests its mettle on petals

By John Minter THE CHARLOTTE POST

Francis Moore wasn't always an ace gardener.

But now she's a green thumb, nurturing her skills as a member of a garden club that knows the meaning of petal power.

"There has been a tremendous change in all of us, Moore, a member of the Lillies of the Valley Garden Club, said. "I couldn't grow anything when I got into the club. I had a brown thumb. A lot of us did. We can see the difference over the years."

The Lillies of the Valley are eight women, aged 40 to 80 years old, who love growing things. The club's flower is the Lavender Orchid. It's motto: "Nothing Without Labor."

That's how they came to spend a Saturday afternoon outside the First Ward Shopping Center, planting flowers in front of Simmons Restaurant.

"We take on a project each year," said club secretary Frances Moore. "Simmons is a project. We did a beauty shop

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HE WILL ALSO REMEMBER THIS DAY AS ONE OF THE SMARTEST FINANCIAL DECISIONS HE EVER MADE ABOUT HIS HOME.

Long after the music has stopped and the like discovering a savings account you never knew you had. And right now, you can get last guest has left, as a parent, you'll remember \$250 cash back on a this day as the time that fixed rate, fixed term you made a rational loan. Making the decision about your monthly payment on a home. The day you real-\$15,000 loan as little as ized that your house \$199. In addition, you'll could provide the money you need when you need continue to reap the tax benefits that owning a it. For home improvehome can provide. Stop ments, education or even weddings. Which by any branch or call 5250 CASH BAC

## focuses on homelessness 'aper

## **Continued from page 1A**

While at the shelter, Manual got involved in a creative writing class taught by Maria Macon under the sponsorship Mecklenburg County's parks and recreation department

"That opened up different avenues for me," Manual said. "I had written briefly before, but nothing was published.

"At the shelter, I saw so many intelligent people, with such great sense, but for whatever reason - drug abuse, lack of self-esteem, laziness they were homeless

"I decided that once I left the shelter I would do something to assist the homeless commu-

Manual's idea of a homeless street paper is borrowed from similar projects around the world, including major efforts in Chicago and Seattle.

The idea is to educate the community about homelessness, while providing an outspeak out about themselves

wide range of issues, Manual said

NAACP convention and letting the homeless and financially oppressed of Charlotte, gettting them to join in and feel a part to boost their selfesteem

There will be an article about different recreational programs of the Mecklenburg County offers and an article on different housing options.

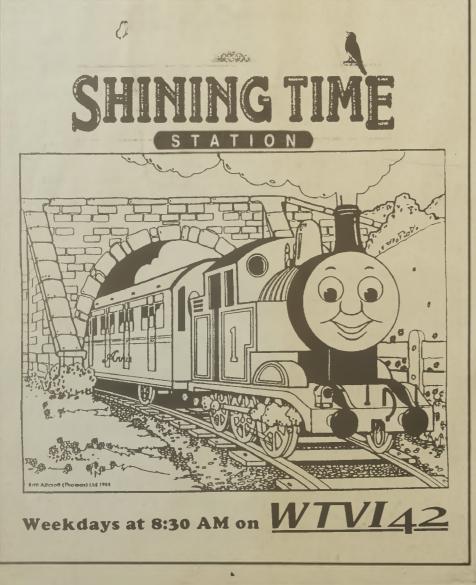
"We have decided to target the Latin American market. The middle two pages will be in Spanish and written by the Latin American Coalition of Charlotte.

Manual plans to print 7,500 copies of the inaugural issue, some of which will be distributed free to help boost sales later

Subscriptions are available and advertisers are being

every two weeks. "These papers are growing across the world," Manual said. "They are international now because homelessness is an epidemic. This will be the

first homeless newspaper in North Carolina. "I hope by the fall to expand to Winston-Salem and from there to other cities in North Carolina and South Carolina.



let for homeless people to

and their problems. The first issue will cover a

"We will be talking about the

sider a home equity loan from Wachovia. It's

is why you should con-

1-800-WACHOVIA

(1-800-972-4684). What memories are made of

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