

The Charlotte Post

VOLUME 22 NO. 1

THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19, 1996

75 CENTS

THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

SERVING CABARRUS, ROWAN AND YORK COUNTIES



PHOTO/SUE ANN JOHNSON

Nation Of Islam members Marcus X, Antoine Muhammad, Dawud Shareif and James X patrol Cummings Avenue Sunday.

NOI starts community patrols

By Jeri Young
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Nation of Islam prides itself on its image. Well-groomed African American men, the Fruit of Islam, in trademark bow ties making a difference in their community. It is this image, as well as doc-

umented NOI successes in some of the nation's toughest housing developments, that has prompted a unique westside coalition.

The NOI has embarked on a large scale initiative with Fighting Back, westside property owners, the House of Prayer and the Westside Coalition to put an end to the area's negative image.

"What we are doing," said FOI captain and NOI Security president Reginald Muhammad, "is taking back our neighborhood."

Muhammad is leading FOI sweeps into westside neighborhoods in an attempt to curtail drug traffic and loitering.

Each member of the Nation goes through special training as part of their indoctrination. The

training, which includes aggressive physical training and conditioning, makes FOI members suitable for the role of security guard, Muhammad says.

FOI members, who patrol without weapons, have made vast improvements in neighborhoods across the nation, particularly in the Ocean Park development. See NOI on page 2A

Different standard for Libya?

Contributions returned to black N.C. businessman

By Jeri Young
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Fayetteville businessman Marion "Rex" Harris is baffled by the flap over his efforts to help the Nation Of Islam secure a \$1 billion grant from Libya.



Hayes

Campaign contributions to Gov. Jim Hunt and Republican challenger Robin Hayes of Concord have been returned, the result of his efforts as intermediary between NOI leader Louis Farrakhan and Libyan despot Moammar Gadhafi. The Hunt campaign was attacked for accepting \$500 from Harris when Harris' activities were made public.

"I was called by a representative of Hunt's campaign," Harris said. "I told him to send it back."

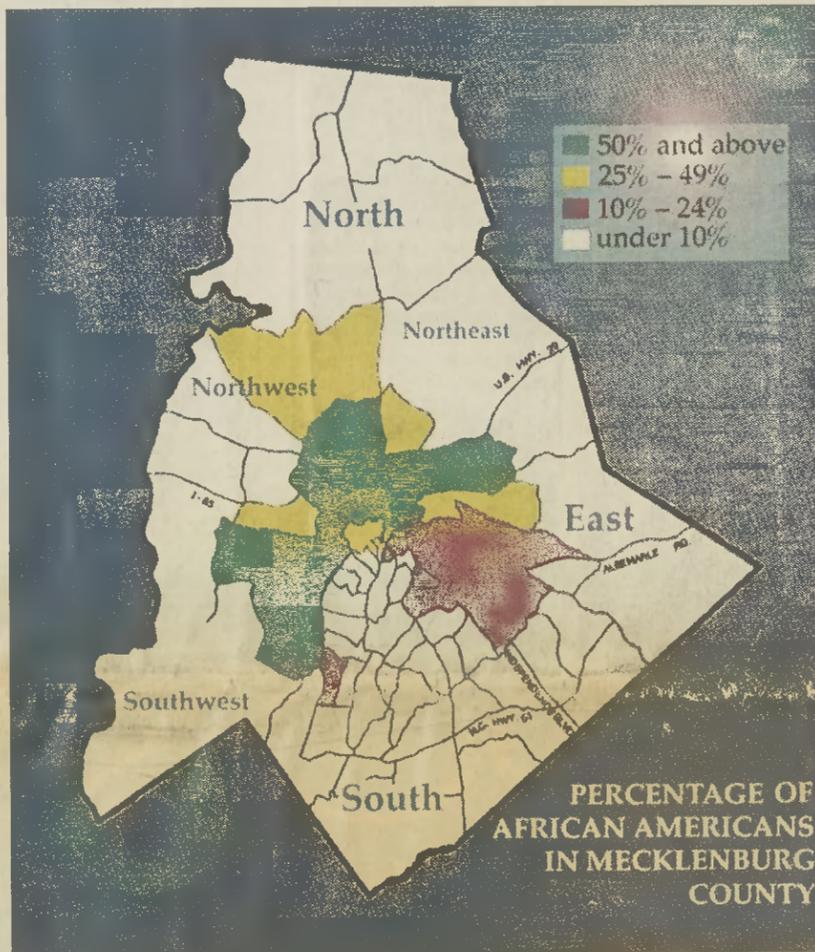
Hayes returned Harris check for \$100 along with a letter explaining why his money wasn't needed.

According to Harris, he received a letter soliciting \$100 donations for the Republican Party. He had his secretary call N.C. Republican headquarters, where he was given a number to make a donation to Hayes.

"I didn't think he or his campaign would be bright enough to catch it," Harris said. "As soon as the check went through, I would have requested him to send it back."

"If he received a letter, it probably said to send the contribution to the Raleigh Republican Party," said Hayes spokesperson Andrew Duke.

See HARRIS on page 2A



PERCENTAGE OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY

ILLUSTRATION/W. MICHAEL HARRIS

Black Power

Demographics shifting; will priorities?

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

One doesn't have to look far to see what's happening with Charlotte's African American population in Charlotte.

A lot of it is wrapped up in the person of Ike Heard Jr.

Heard, as most folks know, chairs the Mecklenburg County Planning Commission and is executive director of a northwest Charlotte revital-

ization effort.

He grew up off Beatties Ford Road in the McCrorey Heights community. His parents still live there, as active as ever in the politics and community affairs of the northwest Charlotte neighborhood.

But Heard lives in southeast Charlotte, in the Olde Georgetown neighborhood near South Mecklenburg High School.

He moved there about 18 years ago from Hidden Valley.

Heard's migration matches the outward spread of Mecklenburg's African American population from its pre-civil rights movement westside concentration to nearly every corner of the county, particularly the northwest, southwest and east.

See BLACKS on page 3A

African Americans in Mecklenburg County Population



Black: 134,468
White: 364,651
Other: 12,314

Income



Median household income: \$22,148
Median household income (overall): \$33,830.

Employment



Worked in 1989: 73,353
Worked more than 35 or more hours per week: 59,272
Worked 50-52 weeks: 40,823

Adult education



Less than grade 5: 2,927
Grade 5-8: 5,585
Grade 9-12 (no degree): 16,672
High school diploma: 20,668
Some college: 15,022
Associate degree (occupational): 2,994
Associate degree (academic): 1,791
Bachelor's degree: 7,215
Graduate or professional degree: 2,632

SOURCE: 1990 U.S. CENSUS

Station opponents to meet

Trash facility angers neighbors

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Representatives of 11 African American neighborhoods fighting a proposed transfer station on Hoskins Road will meet tonight with residents fighting a rock quarry near their community at Mountain Island Lake.

The meeting will be held at Cooks Memorial Presbyterian Church on Mount Holly-Huntersville Road at 7 p.m.

"We are going to see how we can collaborate and have more input to the decisions that affect the health, safety and beautification of our communities," said T.B. Hayes, of the University Park North community.

The transfer station would be about 200 yards from homes on Plumstead Street in University Park North on a site westside communities thought would be offices.

Mecklenburg County commissioners on Tuesday asked the planning commission to consider a moratorium on new landfills, quarries and transfer stations pending changes in rules that do not require neighbors of such activities to be notified of their planned construction.

The transfer station announcement surprised the neighborhoods and added fuel to the debate about when and how communities should be notified about certain kinds of industrial developments in their areas - even those not requiring rezonings for approval.

"This is an issue of environmental health and economic justice," said Barbara Atwater, co-coordinator of the Northwest Combined Neighborhoods Association. Atwater is president of the University Park North neighborhood association.

"We feel we are being dumped on," Atwater said.

Retired coach's legacy goes beyond the athletic field

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Nearly 20 years after hanging up his whistle, Eddie McGirt is still synonymous with Johnson C. Smith University.

In the 1940s, he was an all-CIAA fullback for the Golden Bulls. In the '50s, '60s and '70s, he built the program into a consistent winner, retiring in 1977 with a 118-73-3 record. This year, his name graces the Eddie McGirt/First Union Classic to be played Saturday between JCSU and Elizabeth City State University. A modest man, McGirt is flattered that he's thought of that way.

"It's an honor," he said. "I'm really not a glory-seeker. If the school thinks enough of me to

name it after me, it's OK."

Lots of people connected with Smith football over the years wouldn't have it any other way. McGirt was part motivator, part teacher, and all business. And his players loved it. They still return to campus or call to talk catch up on the latest events or reminisce about past glories. In addition to his football accomplishments, McGirt led JCSU's basketball team to the 1961 CIAA visitation championship as well as heading the health and physical education department and serving as athletics director.

"We think it's fitting to name the classic after someone who has given so much to Johnson C. Smith University," JCSU athletics director and men's basketball coach Steve Joyner said.

"Eddie McGirt is a legendary figure as far as Johnson C. Smith University is concerned. It goes beyond the playing field."

East Mecklenburg High School football coach Bill Dulin agrees. With only one year of high school football experience, Dulin had to learn the sport from scratch at JCSU. McGirt and his staff took time to mold the raw youngster into an accomplished offensive lineman good enough to be drafted by the Dallas Cowboys. Today, Dulin uses those experiences to develop youngsters into better players and students.

"When I enrolled at Johnson C. Smith, I was a project," he said. "Their patience with me is what I'm drawing from in deal-

See McGIRT on page 6A



PHOTO/SUE ANN JOHNSON

Eddie McGirt's legacy at Johnson C. Smith University stems from excellence on and off the athletic field.

Inside

- Editorials 4A-5A
- Strictly Business 6A
- Lifestyles 8A
- Religion 10A
- Healthy Body 14A
- A&E 1B
- Regional News 6B
- Sports 9B
- Classified 13B
- Auto Showcase 14B

To subscribe, call (704) 376-0496 or FAX (704) 342-2160.
© 1996 The Charlotte Post Publishing Company.

Comments? Our e-mail address is: charpost@clt.mindspring.com
World Wide Web page address: http://www.thepost.mindspring.com