

# The Charlotte Post

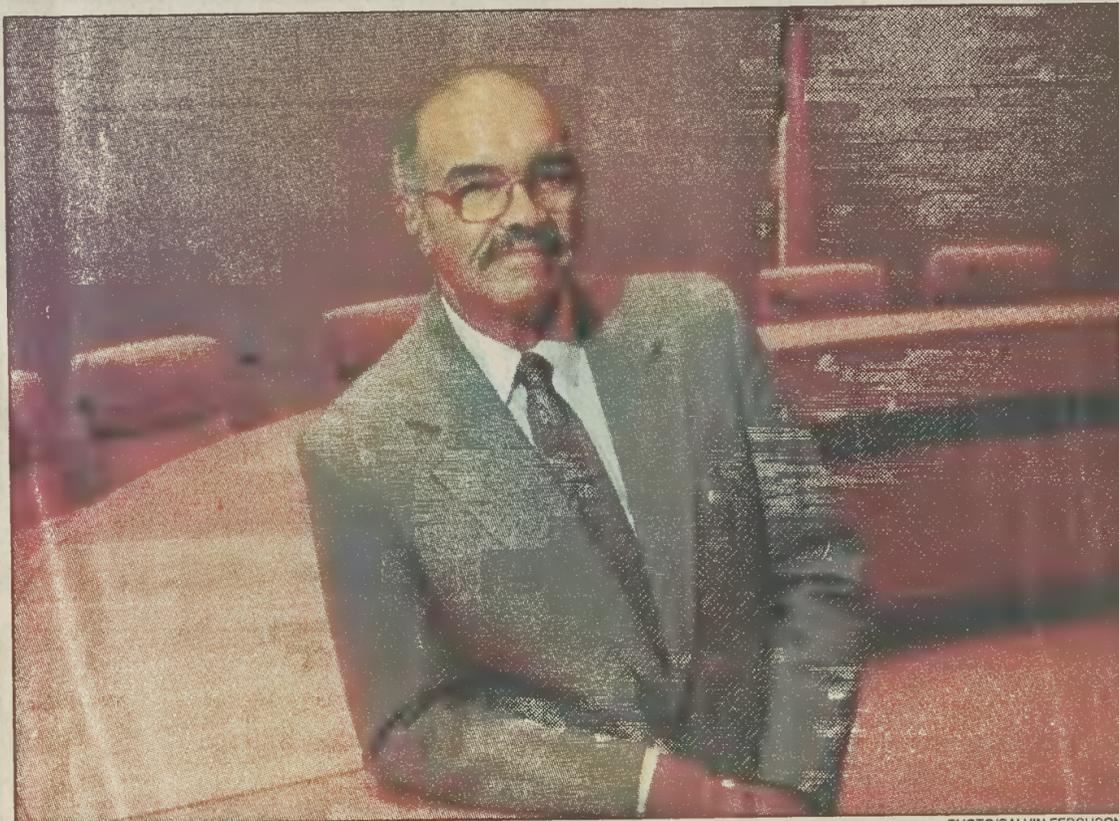
VOLUME 22 NO. 12

THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5, 1996

75 CENTS

THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

ALSO SERVING CABARRUS, CHESTER, ROWAN AND YORK COUNTIES



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Mecklenburg County commissioner Hoyle Martin said there are differences between his new office and his former one as a member of Charlotte City Council. Martin, who was sworn in as District 2's representative Monday, has already jumped into the debate over county control of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

## Trading places

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Hoyle Martin's return to local government, this time on the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, is off to a rocky start.

Martin, who served three terms on Charlotte City Council and ran for mayor last year, was elected to the county board in November, replacing Jim Richardson. Martin joins Darrell Williams as the only African Americans on the nine-member board, which now has a Democratic majority.

### Martin has new role as commissioner

There are differences between being a county commissioner and city council member, Martin said.

"The difference is that we have different issues," he said. "We (commissioners) deal with soft issues that deal with more direct people needs, like social services. We have to be prepared to make adjustments depending on welfare reform. There are the school issues. We are getting 3,000 more students a year and we are losing 25 percent of our best teachers

each year. Even though we don't make (school) policy, we have got to provide the funding for their needs."

It was the school system which sparked the opening debate in what could be a rocky commissioners term.

Newcomer Bill James wanted commissioners to get involved in requiring neighborhood schools and holding tighter rein over the system. That's unrealistic, Martin says.

"It is not uncommon when

people are elected to public office and have no experience to make ridiculous statements, Martin said. "It takes five votes on the board to do anything. We don't have any business trying to manage the school board. It is not our job, even under law to go in there and manage schools and set policy. When Bill James says what he is going to do he is blowing off at the mouth."

"There's a definite split," Martin said. "Bill James, Joel Carter and George Higgins are out in left field or right

See MARTIN on page 2A

## Four options for pupil reassignment

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools officials, after heated opposition from south Charlotte residents, were planning to revise pupil reassignment proposals by today.

At a meeting with the school board on Tuesday, Supt. Eric Smith said he would present a fourth assignment plan to the school board today.

"I think you are going to see a lot of little shifts," school board member George Dunlap said.

"Plan 4 will be based on No. 3," Dunlap said. "It will be the modified version of Plan 3. Most people who voiced opinions liked Plan 3."

"West Charlotte (High School parents) didn't like Plan 3. They liked Plan 2, which left West Charlotte intact. The new plan, with the revisions, would be more like Plan 2 for West Charlotte."

That plan would account for complaints from white families who objected to their children being reassigned from Providence High School to Olympic and some in the Matthews area who wanted their children to remain in Matthews.

Blacks had accepted the proposals, despite some adjustments to their attendance zones because West Charlotte would remain at least 50 percent African American.

Under the original proposals, the new Education Village high school near UNC Charlotte would open with a black population of 40 to 46 percent, depending on which proposal is approved. The new southeast high school would have a black population of 36 to 43 percent.

The opening of two new high schools meant some reassignments

See PUPIL on page 2A

## NAACP results don't offer many surprises

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Results of the local NAACP elections weren't surprising. Neither was the challenge to the returns filed five days later.

Rev. Conrad Pridgen, pastor of Greater Bethel AME Church was unopposed for president. As were the three vice presidential candidates and the candidate for treasurer.

Eighty-one members voted in unofficial election returns, choosing 24 executive board members from among 32 candidates.

James Harrill, Kimberly McGuine, Anna Hood, Valerie Woodard and Hoyle Martin.

Vice presidents who were unopposed included Mary Clarke, Geneal Frazier Gregory and Melvin B. Lowery.

John Davis was reelected secretary, beating Elaine Grier, and David Howard was elected treasurer.

Pridgen, noting that he does not officially become president until Jan. 1 and that the elections are being challenged, reserved comment on his future plans for the organization.

"I'm basically in a prayer posture...seeking guidance from God about what we would do," he said. "I am praying for unity for the branch at this point. I'm praying for unity and direction. I'm praying for a lot of wisdom from God."

"I do know one of first things I would want to do if we are allowed to take office is meet with the local pastors. We cer-

See NAACP on page 3A

## Marshall cooperated with FBI

### Civil rights legend gave feds vital information

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The late Thurgood Marshall, the first black member of the Supreme Court and a towering civil rights leader, began giving the FBI information about the movement in the 1950s despite

his outspoken criticism of the bureau, USA Today reported Monday.

Marshall passed along information about a dissident NAACP leader in North Carolina and about other civil rights leaders who were advocating violence in the state, a

June 4, 1959, memo from the FBI's New York office indicates.

Marshall, onetime head of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, also gave the FBI advance warning about an upcoming NAACP convention vote on a resolution critical of the Justice Department, accord-

ing to a 1956 memo from a 1,300-page file the FBI kept on him.

The file became available for release under the Freedom of Information Act after Marshall, who served on the court from 1967 to 1991, died in 1993 at age 84. The FBI took three years to review the file before

See MARSHALL on page 3A

## Racist label doesn't fit, Farrakhan says

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINSTON-SALEM - Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan says it's unfair to portray him as a racist.

"I'm not a hater of white people," Farrakhan said last week before a speech at Winston-Salem State University. "You look at my skin color, you can tell that there's some white blood in my family."

"I am not anti-Semitic. I do not hate Jewish people. I have a profound respect for the Jewish people."

The religious leader has been criticized as a racist by people who are afraid of him, Farrakhan said.

"I'm not a hater of white people."

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan

Farrakhan attended the university in the 1950s, when it was known as Winston-Salem Teachers' College, and left in his senior year to begin a career as a singer and classical violinist.

He spoke to a crowd of 1,800 people during a more than two hour appearance.

Farrakhan said he remembered when he was a young man traveling through North Carolina and stopped to visit a

courthouse. He needed a bathroom and "had to go down into the basement, to a toilet with no door on it..."

"I came upstairs burning with rage," Farrakhan said. "I was not born to take that crap. I was born to destroy it forever from the face of the Earth."

Farrakhan became the Nation of Islam's chief spokesman before Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965.



FILE PHOTO

Louis Farrakhan, shown at the Million Man March, returned to Winston-Salem State University last week.

### Inside

- Editorials 4A-5A
- Strictly Business 8A
- Lifestyles 10A
- Religion 13A
- Kids Page 17A
- Sports 1B
- A&E 4B
- Regional News 8B
- Classified 10B
- Auto Showcase 13B

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