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75 CENTS

THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

ALSO SERVING CABARRUS, CHESTER, ROWAN AND YORK COUNTIES



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

The Rev. Ben Chavis, announced plans for Black Monday during a news conference Tuesday.

An uneasy coalition

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Plans for Black Monday moved forward despite continued opposition from some African Americans.

National African American Leadership Summit head Ben Chavis met with several black leaders Tuesday to discuss his call for the day-long demonstration and boycott Jan. 27 and later outlined a modified list of suggested actions.

Black Monday has opposition

"I am encouraged that some who spoke in opposition to Black Monday are now leaning toward supporting Black Monday," Chavis said Tuesday. "We are revising our mission statement to be more inclusive of all elements of the African American community who will be at work or at school that day.

"They can participate in the workplace or classroom to show

their support."

Chavis said those who could not stay out of work or school should wear buttons or black arm bands to show support for the boycott, called as a response to the shooting death of James Willie Cooper by a white police officer.

A mass rally will be held on the night of the Black Monday so those who had to attend

school or work can participate, Chavis said. African Americans are still asked to avoid spending money in white-owned businesses. Churches will be asked to open their sanctuaries and fellowship halls for teach-ins and worship services.

The day-long demonstration is not meant to undermine or conflict with other community-based action, including raising money for video cameras in police cars or garnering support

See BLACK on page 2A

Drive for cop video underway

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A group of African Americans is hoping to persuade Charlotte City Council to support the installation of video cameras in police cars.

The Mobile Video Recorders Campaign, spearheaded by former city council member Ron Leeper, has launched a campaign to raise \$100,000 for video equipment. The money would buy cameras for 25 cars, which Leeper said he hopes will be put in areas in areas with a greater likelihood they will be needed.

"There is a broad base of support throughout the city for installing video cameras in police cars as a way to reduce unanswered questions that lead to mistrust," Leeper said. "Budget constraints within the police department should not keep this effort from moving forward."

The cameras activate when the siren is activated, recording activity in front of the vehicle for later use.

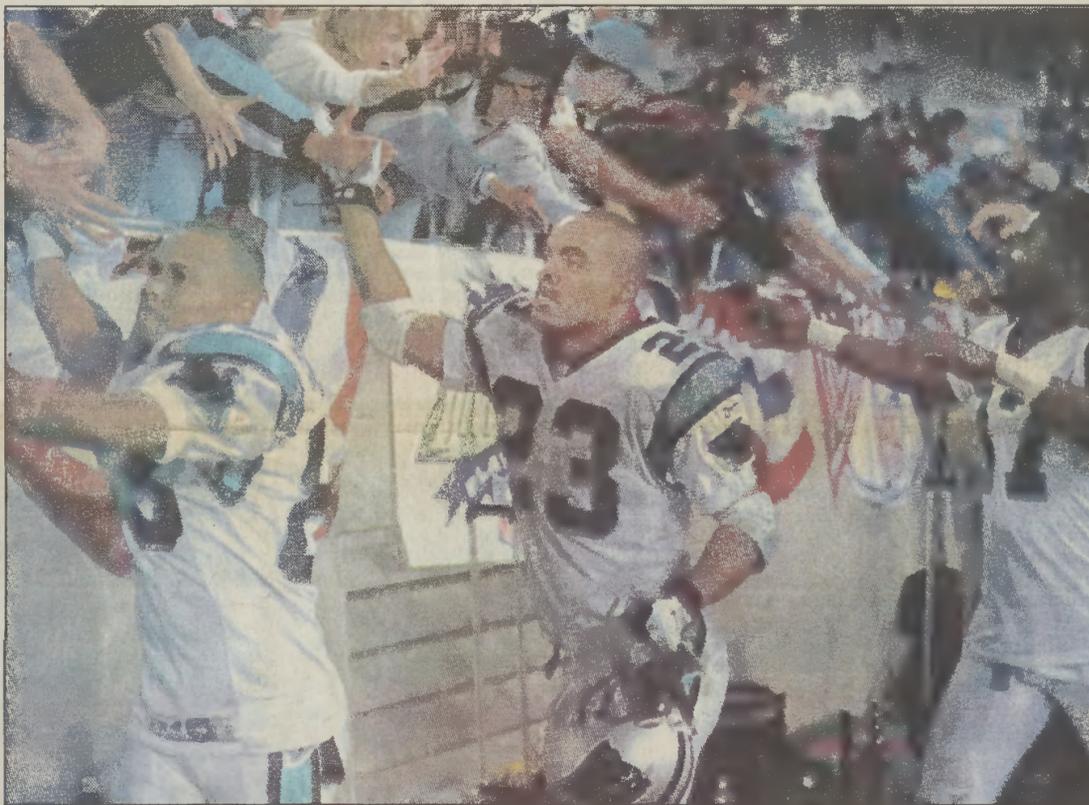
At a press conference last week, the group announced it had raised \$25,000. Organizers said they will ask businesses and churches in the black community to raise an additional \$75,000 in the next 30 days.

The citizens group, in its release, said it is "asking for assurances from the police department and the Charlotte City Council that this money be used to immediately install video cameras in cars patrolling areas with a high likelihood of police intervention."

They also want the city to establish policies to ensure the system's integrity.

See CAMERAS on page 2A

A fantastic finish



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Carolina Panthers Mark Carrier, Anthony Johnson and Muhsin Muhammad acknowledge fans Sunday after Carolina's 26-17 win over the Dallas Cowboys at Ericsson Stadium. The Panthers play the Green Bay Packers Sunday for the National Football Conference championship. More coverage in Sports, page 1B.

Panthers claw toward unlikely date

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE PRESS

How 'bout them Panthers! Unless you've been out of the country (or just don't care about football), the Carolina Panthers earned a trip to Green Bay, Wis., Sunday to

play in the National Football Conference championship game against the Packers. Carolina advanced after dispatching the Dallas Cowboys 26-17 in front of an Ericsson Stadium record crowd of 72,808. The arena seats 72,685.

Carolina throttled the Cowboys, who were trying to advance to their fourth Super Bowl in five seasons despite a series of player suspensions and criminal allegations. Although the Panthers were underdogs, they didn't play like it, feeding off the home

crowd to whip "America's Team." After dispatching Dallas, Panthers players took an impromptu victory lap around the field, slapping hands with giddy fans who savored what's arguably the most important in Charlotte See PANTHERS on page 2A

Marlow hearing starts

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte police official began an internal hearing this week on possible disciplinary action against the officer who shot and killed an unarmed black motorist in November.

"We are hoping to have a decision this week, certainly no later than first of next week," said police spokesman Keith Bridges.

James Willie Cooper, 19, was shot and killed by Officer Michael Marlow, who joined the police force two years ago. Cooper's four-year-old daughter was in the car when the shooting occurred in east Charlotte, off The Plaza.

The shooting enraged the black community and has led to several protests and efforts to defuse tensions. One group is raising money to put video cameras in police cars and a grassroots effort, spearheaded by the Rev. Ben Chavis, has called for a Black Monday boycott on Jan. 27.

Cooper was the second unarmed motorist killed by Charlotte police in three years. In 1993, Windy Gail Thompson was shot by Officer Mark Farmer, who remains on the force.

District Attorney Peter Gilchrist declined to prosecute either Farmer or Marlow.

Bridges said the hearing into the Cooper shooting began Monday before a chain of command review board, which will determine if Marlow followed departmental policy and procedures. The review board includes the officers who supervised Marlow - his sergeant, captain, major, deputy chief and the internal affairs major.

Also on the hearing board is a civilian member of the community relations committee, William "Butch" Simmons of the

See SHOOTING on page 2A

First Night delight



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Courtney Love, Kami Davis, Candace Jennings and Shelby Lewis of Sista Productions performed at Spirit Square as part of the annual First Night Charlotte celebration.

Farrakhan meets with Gadhafi

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO, Egypt - Louis Farrakhan talked and prayed with Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi on Monday, hugging him in front of television cameras in what Libya said was a show of Muslim solidarity against U.S. sanctions.

State-run Libyan television showed the two men embracing warmly upon Farrakhan's arrival at Gadhafi's office, then sitting down for a chat.

It was the Nation of Islam leader's third trip to Libya in a year. Farrakhan came to discuss "issues of concern for Islam and Muslims and the causes of freedom worldwide," Libyan television said in a broadcast monitored in Cairo.

Farrakhan's Nation of Islam is

a movement among black Americans that Farrakhan says is guided by the Koran, though it is not considered a true Muslim sect by others who practice Islam.

Libya's state-run JANA news agency said Farrakhan was touring a number of countries "to expose American injustices over Islamic countries."

These injustices, it said, included the U.N. sanctions imposed on Libya in 1992 to try to force Gadhafi to surrender two Libyans wanted in connection with the bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland. The 1988 bombing killed 270 people.

Farrakhan also urged Muslims worldwide to ally themselves politically.

Inside

- Editorials 4A-5A
- Strictly Business 6A
- Lifestyles 8A
- Religion 10A
- Sports 10B
- A&E 4B
- Regional News 8B
- Classified 10B
- Auto Showcase 11B

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