

10B

REGIONAL

Salisbury police cruise with video

By Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY — A video revolution has come to the Salisbury Police Department.

Late last year, officers started riding with some new equipment — small cameras and monitors nestled in patrol

cars. According to Salisbury Police Captain David Belk, the cameras are proving to be a handy crime-fighting tool.

"We started asking for them about five years ago," he said. "Other cities were doing it and officers were carrying their own mini-recorders. We use it

for police and for the public's protection."

Although there are only four cameras and three color monitors in use now, Belk said eight patrol cars are equipped to handle the technology. The cameras are designed to fit just below the rear-view mirror. The monitors are placed

by the radio while a VCR records the necessary audiovisuals from the trunk.

Produced by New Jersey-based Mobile-Vision, the cameras have popped up in stations and patrol cars from California to the Carolinas to Canada.

According to Mobile-Vision's

marketing director, Megan Holleberg, there are some specific reasons why the company chose to make the instruments for law enforcement officials.

"The company markets the cameras as a help in getting more guilty pleas and support for officer testimony," she said.

In operating the cameras and

monitors, officers can either rely on its technology to automatically run the machines or do it manually.

The camera automatically activates when the car's siren is turned on. The camera will run automatically until the officer shuts the system off.

See CAMERAS on page 11B

MLK
day for
kidsSalisbury goes
all-out MondayBy Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a celebration for local youth Monday to commemorate the birth of Martin Luther King Jr.

The day of activities, called Kid's Day Out, will be held at the Miller Center Monday from 1-5:30 p.m.

There will be a number of fun-filled activities designed for kids who represent various elementary and middle schools in the area to enjoy.

The event, which is free to the public, has been set apart only for those children from kindergarten to eighth grade.

Debria Pemberton, a recreation aid at the Miller Center, says that the programs were designed with specific purposes in mind which originally stem from incorporating something that will give kids positive things to do on holidays.

"It's just something for them to do that is positive and away from street life," she said. "It will hopefully keep them off the street and in a safe surrounding while most of their parents are at their jobs."

Officials are calling for as many participants as possible to fellowship with other kids during the celebration of King's birthday.

To make sure the day is filled with games and attention-getters, recreation aides have organized tournaments in several sporting events.

There will be pool, basketball and board games. In addition, for creative youngsters, there

See MLK on page 11B

S.C. conference
addresses concerns of
young black malesBy Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A Clover, S.C.-based organization is gearing up for a conference to help black youth face life's challenges.

Brothers United For Change will sponsor its third annual Black Male Conference Jan. 24-26 at Clover Middle School. The event is expected to host more than 500 African American youth from North and South Carolina. The conference's aim is to give youngsters a healthy outlook and empowerment as well as discuss social ills, such as drug abuse, AIDS and crime, that plague African American fami-

lies. Statistics back up BUC's concerns. African American males represent 66 percent of South Carolina's prison population while representing 13.9 percent of the state's general population. Thirty-four percent of black males in grades 8-12 dropped out of school in 1995, or one-third of black males scheduled to graduate. The leading causes of death among African American males, who have the lowest life expectancy of any other segment of the population, is homicide and AIDS.

The conference, which is open to the public, starts

See BLACK on page 11B

Mentoring program for youth

By Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY — A Rowan County minister was recently selected by the Salisbury YMCA to head a new mentoring program for kids 6-15 years of age.

Rev. Charles Robert Street, outreach director of the Adopt-A-Youth program, says the new organization program is needed.

"It's time we reclaim our youth from the trifling lifestyles that can be found in the streets," he said. "A program of this magnitude can accomplish many positive things in the lives of our children."

Street, pastor of Smith Grove AME Zion Church, believes the program's aim is to reconstruct the mindsets of

YMCA emphasis on prevention

Salisbury children.

"Once we capture the minds of these youngsters we can once again get them interested in school, give them an optimistic attitude towards life, thereby instituting a strong sense of self-esteem," he said.

Sandy Flowers, associate director of the Salisbury YMCA, said Street is a good fit for the program.

"We think he's going to be super at this job. He has a strong background," she said, "and he's worked with other YMCAs. He's just perfect for the position. We couldn't be happier."

"Our goal is to provide a caring role model for youth. There are a lot of kids we're trying to reach. I really feel like there is

a definite need in Rowan County for this service. It just seems like the right thing to do."

Rowan-Salisbury school officials and the YMCA will help identify children who may need mentors. The school system plans to serve as many children as possible though the kids who reach the program first will be those with designated priority.

With the emphasis on prevention instead of intervention, human service agents voted to focus on boosting mentoring programs for youth during the State of the Child Conference held last May.

"We're trying to reach these

See MENTOR on page 11B

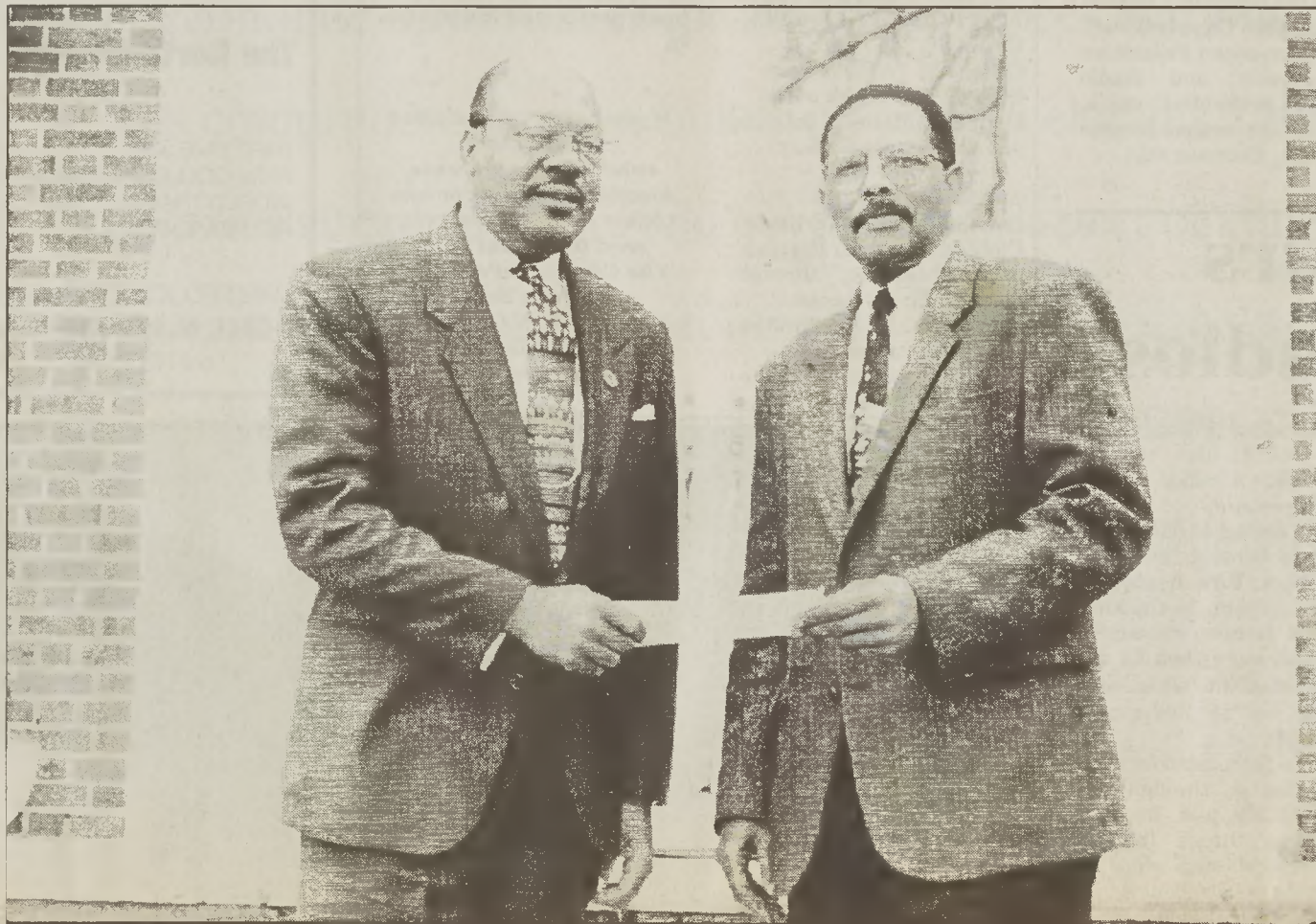


PHOTO: BARBER-SCOTIA COLLEGE

Barber-Scotia College President Sammie Potts (left) accepts a check from Philip Morris Cabarrus Manufacturing Manager Greg Cummings to help retire the school's debt.

Barber-Scotia gets a gift

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Good news is finding a home at Barber-Scotia College.

Philip Morris USA donated \$110,000 to the Concord school last week. Company officials made the presentation to Barber-Scotia President Sammie Potts on the eve of the college's removal from probation status by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Nearly all of the money — \$100,000 — will go to the Revitalization Project, which includes the elimination of the deficit created between 1992-94 and expanding the school's academic offerings.

"This contribution will assist the college towards meeting the goal of fully eradicating its

\$1.8 million deficit by the end of the fiscal year," Potts said. The gift is "a great boost to Barber-Scotia's image building as the local community witnesses Philip Morris' support of various programs of the institution. Philip Morris continues to be one of our major local contributors. Our relationship continues to be an excellent partnership."

Barber-Scotia's turnaround comes on the heels of a tumultuous three-year period in which the school teetered on the brink of bankruptcy. The school has whittled down a debt that approached \$3 million, recruited Potts as president and stabilized enrollment, which convinced SACS to upgrade Barber-Scotia's standing.

In addition to the grant, Philip Morris contributed \$5,000 to The College Fund/UNCF, which has a goal of \$67,823 and employees pledged \$2,930, to be doubled with the company's matching gift program. The program, which ends March 31, has raised \$41,710 for UNCF.

"Philip Morris strongly believes in giving back to the community by supporting educational and cultural programs that enhance the quality of life," said Cabarrus Manufacturing Manager Greg Cummings. "We're proud to contribute to the renaissance of Barber-Scotia. And we sincerely hope our gesture will have an impact on current and future generations of students."

A list of
homecoming
activities

The inauguration of Barber-Scotia College President Sammie Potts will highlight homecoming activities next week.

The week's theme is "A New Era of Distinction and features Spirit Day, basketball games and alumni dances. A schedule of events follows.

For more information, call 789-2944.

See BSC on page 11B

Going
back to
schoolBy Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY — Training ministers to serve their congregations and communities was the focus of a recent conference.

The Institute of Church Administration and Management met at Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury to address the problem of untrained ministers.

More than 50 ministers from Tennessee to Virginia were informed about the various intricacies of the ministry during the Jan. 6-10 conference.

ICAM, based in Atlanta on the campus of Interdenominational Theological Center, was designed to react to the changing needs of the black church universally. Its sole priority is to improve the skills of ministers by maximizing the financial means of the institution (or church) as it continues to serve the black community and supply viable human resources more effectively.

Albert J.D. Aymer, Dean of Hood Theological Seminary, said ministers should receive as much training for service as possible.

"The ICAM workshop is a must in my opinion," he said. "It was simply superb."

The Advisory Board of the ICAM includes members ranging from bishops from denominations such as the Christian Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal, AME Zion and the Church of God in Christ, to presidents of Allen University and Interdenominational Theological Seminary.

On hand for the institute in Salisbury was the executive director of the staff, Calvin Pressley and assistant director Lisa Rhodes.

Rhodes, who taught church planning, instructed students to follow the basic tenets of the philosophy of learning while participating in the program.

"These tenets must be followed to succeed in ministry," she said. "One must be motivated, involved, holistic, retentive, unique, and have the ability to transfer information into similar situations faced in life."

Although ICAM charges individuals a hefty fee for instruction, ministers continue to come from far and wide to receive training.

Since 1989, ICAM has served 500 religious leaders, five different theological institutions (ITC, Howard University, Virginia Union University, Hood Theological Seminary, and Union Baptist Theological Seminary), and has put outstanding seminary students into its Executive Internship Program.

The Rev. Charles Tillett, one of the ministers who attended the Institute, said the knowledge is good.

"It was extremely enlightening and thought-provoking," he said.