

Metro Express grows

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20,000 pieces per week within a few months, which will mean 15 to 20 additional jobs."

The Raleigh-Durham area is also part of Metro's expansion with the acquisition of Carolina Desktop Delivery Service, which gives the company established relationships with several institutions. Duke University and Medical Center,



Bell

Carolina Power & Light and Northern Telecom are customers. Metro Express will continue to provide warehouse-to-desktop deliveries as well as delivery services for manufacturing and wholesaling companies in the area. The company's goal is to build its delivery base among consumers throughout the region. Metro Express serves North and South Carolina, Virginia and Georgia.

"Our aim in the years ahead is to provide the high level of service we've been known for within the growing supply chain management arena," Greene said. "Supply chain deliveries

move resources and supplies to manufacturing operations, finished goods to packaging and distribution operations, packaged products to wholesalers and from wholesalers to retail establishments. In short, we're structured to provide the transportation linkages between every point along the supply chain that runs from raw materials to the consumer."



Gardin

Northwest moves ahead

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trying to bring cohesiveness to all the groups in the area. We are trying to become the broker so there is no duplication...so we can get the biggest bang for the buck."

James Ross chairs the Northwest Enterprise Community's board of directors, which also includes Lawrence Tolliver of the Charlotte Chamber, representatives of uptown banks and neighborhood activists such as Maxine Martin and Louise Sellers.

"We are interested in small business people," Johnson said. "We want to make sure there is

adequate space available for small business persons. The space available is often too big for small businesses. We hope to come up with a new design."

Johnson grew up in Concord and lived in Charlotte for 34 years, teaching school here in the '60s before opening several businesses.

His experience has taught him not only what to do, but what not to do, he said.

"That's one of the things we are excited about. There are things out there in the road people don't teach you about," he said. "We hope to share them with people striving to be suc-

cessful."

The Enterprise Community center will also help entrepreneurs secure financing from other sources and may one day have its own microlending program in-house, Johnson said.

"That would allow us to make small loans to businesses that may need short-term loans and may not qualify through traditional lending institutions," he said.

"There are a lot of reasons why black guys many not have A-One credit. That doesn't mean they are bad people. They may not qualify for traditional loans. Maybe we can help them."

Texaco works on tattered image

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\$300 million debt-offering last summer by the Tennessee Valley Authority - the first cor-

porate offering led by a minority-owned firm.

"Against that backdrop I think Texaco weighed us," said David Ourlicht, a senior vice president

with Blaylock. "Our capital, distribution and execution capabilities held up against everybody."

Diversity abroad

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higher-ups unless asked for their opinions, she said.

"If you aren't aware of that, you'll miss that diversity of thought," said Bull, who's learned during 2 1/2 years in Taipei to solicit opinions from all corners of the room.

American companies have been wrestling with questions of workplace diversity for years, from the efficacy of affirmative action quotas (special programs in the employment or education of blacks) to how best to use the women, ethnic groups and others now increasingly being hired.

Most major corporations now have one, two or more people devoted to diversity work, although more remains to be done, as recent headlines about Texaco Inc. attest. The oil company recently settled an employee discrimination case amid a furor over allegations of racism.

Even some companies without public relations fires to douse say that for now their U.S. diversity efforts remain a top priority.

Eastman Kodak Co.'s overseas divisions have been studying diversity, and seminars have been held in Europe on gender issues and on attracting more varied customers.

Faith and finances

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influence. In addition, when we give, we in turn receive a blessing equal to or greater than our gift. Stewardship over our finances is a constant theme in the Bible, and closer examination reveals principles that you can apply to your financial life.

Insurance

Insurance deals with restitution, which literally means "to restore." In the area of finances, this normally refers to replacing a material possession. In the books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy there are verses that deal with things as diverse

as payment for theft to your responsibility for borrowed goods.

There also is the subject of leaving an inheritance for your children. This is dealt with in the book of Proverbs. Not only does the Bible advise that we leave money to our children, but it goes further to imply that some of the inheritance should be given while the parent is still alive in order to teach the children how to manage it.

Charles Ross is Host of the nationally syndicated radio program, "Your Personal Finance," and author of "Your CommonSense Guide to Personal Financial Planning."

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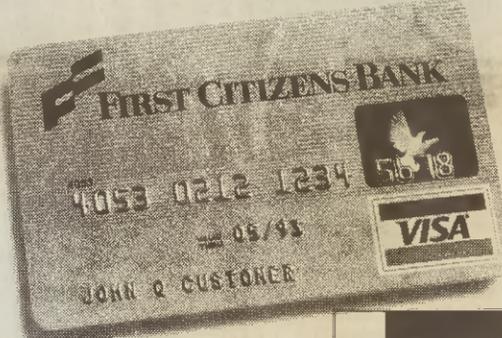
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