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Court Action

Fired Pastor Challenges Church

In the past few weeks, the congregation at Martin Street Baptist Church has allegedly split. Some members want the Rev. David Forbes out of the pulpit. The rest want him to stay.

Forbes, meanwhile, is taking matters into his own hands.

Although he was fired Feb. 1 by one segment of the congregation, who according to church policy has the authority to fire him, Forbes has filed a temporary restraining order to prevent the church from removing him and to recoup money in exchange for the emotional strain he says he is being put under.

The order, filed last week in Wake Superior Court, prevents the church and trustees named in the order from removing him from office.

It further states that Forbes may continue his regular duties as pastor of Martin Street Baptist Church. A hearing is scheduled for Feb. 15th in Wake County court to hear the merits of Forbes' complaint against the church.

In his order, Forbes is asking for more than \$30,000 from church officers, including \$10,000 for intentionally inflicting serious emotional distress. He also asked the court to pay his attorney's fees.

The order also prohibits the 15 church officers from removing Forbes from office, cutting off his \$44,000 per year salary, taking away his church-leased Lincoln Town car, evicting him from the parsonage and "harassing, intimidating, assaulting" or interfering with him.

Neither Forbes nor other members of the church would respond to The CAROLINIAN's attempts to interview for the record. The restraining order, however, is the latest in a series of conflicts at the church.

Some members of the congregation want Forbes out because they say he's trying to take over the finances

of the church and run the church in the manner of dictatorship. Other members say Forbes has become the social conscience of the church and is not being allowed to perform the duties he was assigned to perform.

Last week, Church officials mailed Forbes a severance package in compensation for his being fired. Church officials decided to give Forbes four months' pay, including all the benefits, as well as Social Security and retirement.

Officials also allowed Forbes to continue living in the parsonage for four months and said they would give him four months to find another job.

Forbes was ordered to vacate his office on those orders.

Forbes' court order was his answer to their severance package.

The church policy on firing a pastor is as follows:

Should the pastor of the church desire to terminate the pastoral relationship, the party desiring such should give to the other a written notice of at least thirty days. In case the church desires termination of the pastor, this must be at the request of two-thirds vote of active members attending a special or called business meeting for this purpose. The church

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REV. DAVID FORBES

Gantt Kicks Off College Campaign, Taking On Helms

From CAROLINIAN STAFF REPORTS
In the few weeks since Harvey Gantt declared his run for the U.S. Senate, he realizes his biggest barrier will be communicating his message to the public.

"We represent a new kind of vision," Gantt said. "We're not traditional. We have to get that message out," said Gantt, who stopped by The CAROLINIAN last week.

Gantt, a democrat was in Raleigh to kick off his college campaign in an effort to talk to young people he hopes can support him during his climb to the North Carolina senate seat.

Gantt said it's time to get Republican Senator Jesse Helms out of the state senate and get new, fresh leadership in North Carolina.

During his visit to Shaw University, N.C. State and other area colleges, Gantt is hoping to further his message about what changes are needed from North Carolina's senator.

"We need someone who is going to seriously deal with the drug problem, someone who is going to clean up the environment. People are uptight about Jesse Helms, about his funding for the arts

While in Raleigh, Gantt met at the home of Ed Worth, getting the support of some of Raleigh's leadership to aid in his campaign. Among people he met with were: Rep. Daniel T. Blue and activist Bruce Lightner, Barlow Herget, Edwin Worth, Raleigh city councilman Ralph Campbell, Jr., attorney and community worker Geoffrey Simmons, Charles J. Worth, Esther Hall, Brad Miller, Scott Stevens, Rev. Jim Scar-

borough, E. B. & Juanita Palmer, Ruby Greene, Bonnie Massey, John P. Greene, James H. Brown, Jr. Willie A. Best, Rees Jenkins, Sonia Barnes.



HARVEY GANTT

In his college campaign, Gantt is looking for young people who can help with voter registration and also absentee balloting he said.

Gantt served two and a half terms as a member of the Charlotte City Council and one term as Mayor Pro Tem. He was

(See HARVEY GANTT, P. 2)

Electronic Eye

New "House Arrest" Plan Works

May Ease Crowding In Prison

Citing an 83 percent rate of successful completions during more than 2½ years of operation, state Correction Secretary Aaron Johnson has written Superior Court judges and district attorneys in 14 counties asking them to take greater advantage of the state's Electronic House Arrest program.

At the same time, Chairman Lou Colombo has said that the state Parole Commission will be expanding its use of the alternative punishment program in an effort to ease prison overcrowding.

EHA uses computer technology to monitor convicted offenders who are given a "last chance" to stay out of prison. Through the use of a tamper-proof transmitter strapped to an offender's ankle and linked by telephone lines to a central computer, probation and parole officers are able to monitor an individual's movements and determine whether he or she is in compliance with the order of the court or the Parole Commission. The program is designed for the non-violent offender who, without this program, would otherwise be sent to prison.

The program was initially launched on a pilot basis in Forsyth County in July 1987 and in Wake County in October 1988. It was expanded last year to a total of 14 counties with a capacity to supervise 1,400 offenders at any given time. As of Jan. 26, 641 program slots had been filled.

According to John Pateavouras, director of the Division of Adult Probation and Parole, the expansion of the program is on schedule. "Because of the length of the

(See HOUSE ARREST, P. 2)



FAMILIES FOR EARTHQUAKES—"Quake", an amusing and informative board game, is part of the "Big Bird Get Ready for Earthquakes" activity kit available to help children and their families prepare for earthquakes from the creators of "Sesame Street" in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Local Groups Get \$50,000 Grant Funding For Economic Planning

The board of directors of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center announced today that thirteen of the state's community development corporations will receive grants totalling \$600,000 to boost local economic

development activities. The funds were appropriated during the 1989 session of the N.C. General Assembly and are being administered by the Rural Center and a 14-member minority economic development advisory committee.

Billy Ray Hall, president of the Rural Center, said that most of the community development corporations will be expanding on development projects begun last year, when the first set of minority economic

development funds were made available by the General Assembly.

"We've had a chance this past year to see how a relatively small state investment in these organizations can produce big results in local economic activity," said Hall. Funds will be used primarily for development of housing finance and construction projects; development or re-development of commercial districts; and support for business in-

(See LOCAL GROUPS, P. 2)

Willie Horton Image

Too Much "Hype" About Black Men

BY JOHN W. FLEMING
Special To The CAROLINIAN
The Willie Horton image continues to haunt the African-American community. Much of the news concerning us, especially black males, during the

decade of the '80s has been depressing, demeaning and disillusioning.

It is time for us to stop accentuating the negative so much and give equal time to the positive. If there is

anything that our young people need, it is role models. Thus, I present the amazing human interest story of Attorney Willie E. Gary, chairman of the Shaw University Board of

Trustees.

Gary graduated from Shaw University in 1971, and from the law school of North Carolina Central University in 1974. Returning to his home area of Martin County, Fla., he hung out his shingle and began his practice in the town of Stuart.

Today, approximately 16 years after that humble beginning as a lawyer, he is the senior partner in the law firm of Gary, Williams and Parenti with an established national reputation. This firm operates from well-manned offices in Stuart and Fort Pierce, Fla.

Employing some 50 people who cover the spectrum of law practice—legal assistants, private investigators, trial lawyers, a business manager, and a host of secretaries—this firm handles sundry cases, but has become known for the mind-boggling victories it has won in personal injury cases. Clients have been awarded huge sums of money by the court or through negotiation with those being sued.

Even though he is a friendly man, a man who has helped many people, and a man who is kind and considerate in dealing with his employees, he commands respect from all.

One lady, a legal secretary who came out of retirement to work for the firm, declared that she would not work for anyone else but Gary. Com-

(See TOO MUCH, P. 2)



FIRST BLACK CONGRESS—As part of the continuing goal to preserve African-American culture, The CAROLINIAN will begin its special focus on our history beginning Feb. hold positions in the United States Congress. "The first 18. This picture represents early African-Americans who hold positions in the United States Congress.

colored senator and representatives in the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States" included Robert C. DeLarge of South Carolina, Jefferson H. Long of Georgia, H. R. Rouse of Mississippi, Benjamin S. Turner of Alabama, Josiah T. Walls of Florida, Joseph H. Rainey and R. Brown Elliott, both of South Carolina.



NEW PROGRAM—The Friends Committee will hold a prayer service on drugs and AIDS on Feb. 16th at 7 p.m. at St. Ambrose Church. Pregnant women with AIDS have become the latest concern, said Dr. Adora Adimora of the state department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources. (Photo by Talib Sahir-Calloway)