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Families, Churches Involved

Crusade Against Racial Violence Forming

BY W. MASON, JR.
Staff Writer

They are the family members of a loved one who was beaten to death or otherwise killed by a police officer or state trooper.

They are the friends of a youth who was shot to death by a law enforcement officer who relatives say was quick to react before applying the law.

They are citizens, neighborhood residents who for years have watched racial violence consume their neighborhood.

All of them are part of a new crusade in this country against racist violence that goes unpunished and for many citizens, unnoticed.

The friends and family of those killed by law officers are taking matters into their own hands, no longer waiting for justice to be served on them, but instead are going out into the streets and demanding it.

"We had to start doing something on our own," said James Webb, cousin of Sidney Bowen, the ex-mayor of Bolton, who was shot and beaten to death by a white Highway Patrol officer last month.

"It was obvious from people in our neighborhood that we weren't going to get anything done down there. We had to start to do something."

Webb and other relatives of the Bowen family attended a press con-

ference in Raleigh this week by the North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence, an organization which they hope will bring state attention to racial tension in the state.

Relatives of Bolton already are discussing how to join others across the state whose relatives have also been killed by what they call racist violence by law enforcement officers, hoping to form a national front.

The NCARRV is trying to get attention from state legislators before the problem in North Carolina gets out of control.

"This is an appeal to the administration," said Christina Davis-McCoy, NCARRV director. "We've

outlined some remedies that need to be considered."

The remedies include:
• Federal intervention to determine if individual cases may be part of a pattern.

• A citizen review panel established by the N.C. General Assembly to monitor law enforcement practices involving firearms.

• Civilian review boards for cities such as Raleigh in an effort to closely monitor police conduct.

• A new firearms policy that would outline when a firearm is to be used during administering the law.

• A record of how many people are killed or shot at by officers and racial

or ethnic identity of the person who is shot.

The recommendations come amid a number of shooting deaths of African-Americans here and across the country.

There have been four fatal shootings of suspects by troopers in North Carolina in the last year.

The most recent was the March 31 shooting of 31-year-old John Henry Ellison, Jr., who was shot three times by a trooper. Officials say Ellison resisted arrest and then made a grab for the trooper's pistol. Relatives there called the shooting an inappropriate use of deadly force.

Recently, about 200 people march-

ed in Greensboro to call for a new investigation into the killing of Bowen. That march was the third since March 15, when a Columbus County grand jury declined to return an indictment against Alfred Morris, a Highway Patrol trooper who shot Bowen six times.

Shootings that occurred across the nation within the last year are already in the courts, including the trial of two men charged with killing Yusef Hawkins, a black youth who was killed while in the all-white Bensonhurst, N.Y., area looking for a used car.

McCoy hopes the state and federal

(See VIOLENCE, P. 2)

NEWS BRIEFS

MINORITY BUSINESSES

The N.C. Department of Transportation has established a Joint Minority Business Enterprise Steering Committee with the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs, the Associated General Contractors, the N.C. Association of Minority Businesses, Inc., and the United Minority Contractors of North Carolina. The Steering Committee will serve as an advisory group to NCDOT for implementation of effective minority business participation in the department's programs.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Human Resources Department of the City of Raleigh, in conjunction with the North Carolina Human Relations Council, will host the National Association of Human Rights Workers/International Association of Human Rights Agencies Southern Regional Conference on April 19-22.

DEAN HONORED

Joe Dean, secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, received a 1990 Achievement Award from the North Carolina Victims Assistance Network on April 11.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Gov. James G. Martin has proclaimed the week of April 22-28 Appreciation Week for County Department of Social Services Workers in North Carolina.

YOUTH GRANTS

Youth groups looking for cash to fund community projects may be in luck. A total of \$4,500 per year is available to North Carolina organizations composed of young people, ages 13-18, who want to implement programs to benefit their peers. The min-

(See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)

Mandela Brings Change, Growth To S. Africa

BY DANIEL MAROLEN
NNPA News Service

Nelson Mandela's two-month performance since his release from 27½ years' imprisonment on Feb. 11 is superb. In that brief period, he has changed the political air in South Africa and generated much hope for an early resolution of the country's racial problem.

Despite formidable odds and hurdles in his path, he hasn't been daunted by recent events. He represents both the old and younger generations of ANC thought. And, since his release, he has fired his audiences with new hope for change. He sticks unflinchingly to his commitment to a negotiated settlement, and tries hard to end the 300-year-old white domination (1652-1900) which has held his people under subjugation and oppression.

Mandela's success stems from his belief in the efficacy of the concept of majority rule and non-racialism. Besides, he is imbued with a clarity of vision and purpose which enables him to plan for the new South Africa which most people desire. Thus, while he fights to end the failed system of apartheid, he also strives to unify his fellow black people to stop fighting and killing each other and, instead, he cautioned those engaged in the UDP vs. Inkatha faction

(See NELSON MANDELA, P. 3)

BODY FOUND IN CHAVIS PARK

Alcohol Said To Be Cause

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports

A dead body was found in the Chavis Park area near the 800 block of Holmes Street last Friday, but police said the victim died as a result of alcoholism.

Michael Joe Bray, 32, 704-A McMakin St., was found dead in the park near a parking lot, said police Sgt. John Beasley.

Bray's body was found about 7:45 p.m. after police got an anonymous call, Beasley said. He was taken to Wake Medical Center.

A Raleigh medical examiner ruled the death as a result of alcoholism or alcohol-related, Beasley said.

He did not give the blood alcohol content of the victim in the report, he said.

Bray's mother, Juanita Bray, who had the same address as her son, said he had been in and out of a Veterans Administration hospital for alcoholism.

According to police records, Bray was employed at C.C. Concrete Co. in Raleigh, but had not been to work during the past week.

Police said they did not think Bray was the victim of any wrongdoing, since his body did not show any signs of medical trauma, as someone would who had been beaten or injured as the result of a fight.

In other news, Wake County sheriff's deputies arrested about 10 people on drug-related or drunken driving charges before midnight Fri-

(See CRIME, P. 2)



DROP-OUT PROGRAM—Delta Carousel's Certificate of Appreciation is presented to Cyd Buck, children's project director for the Preventive School Drop-out Program at Heritage Park by Geraldine Burroughs, member of Delta

Sigma Theta Sorority. Ms. Buck was an integral "partner" of the Delta Carousel Program this year as she transported the children from Heritage Park to the monthly activities of the Delta Carousel. (Photo by Chris Hinton)

Economic Redevelopment: Is It A Reality Or Just A Big Hoax?

WILSON—Is revitalization and economic development a reality or a hoax? Was the City Council of Wilson aware of a study that is underway by Simmons and Simmons of Greensboro, when they made the decision to invest \$90,000 of a \$600,000 anticipated grant request for Community Development Block Grant funds during a meeting of the city council on April 5?

Many of the citizens who attended

the city council meeting that day witnessed "one of the most incredible exercises ever fomented against a group of powerless organizations," said the Wilson Coalition for Justice.

"There were four African-American organizations that were paraded before the council in their feeble attempt to obtain what the city had described as local option funds available under the Community Development Block Grant guidelines.

"It was indeed a spectacle to see the frustration and to witness the inability of some of our most respected citizens to have any direct influence on the final decision that was rendered by the Wilson City Council. That decision was totally contrary to the information provided by a paid staff employee of the city who advised those present during the public hearing that the use of optional funds under the CDBG program could only be used for brick-and-mortar projects and not any projects that impacted human services," the community-based organization said in a prepared release.

(See DILEMMA, P. 2)

Harvey Gantt Wants His Run For Senate To Be More Than History

BY PAUL NOWELL
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE (AP)—Harvey Gantt wants his run for the U.S. Senate to be more than another chapter in the history of North Carolina.

"It's not important to me to be the state's first black senator," he said. "It is important for Jesse Helms to be challenged by someone who understands the problems of the people of North Carolina."

Gantt made history before, as one first black student at Clemson University during the early days of the civil rights movement in 1963. Later, he became Charlotte's first black mayor.

Now Gantt wants to become the first black in North Carolina to win a major statewide office. If he succeeds, Gantt would become the second black member of the U.S. Senate in this century.

Gantt faces five other Democrats in the May 8 primary. If he wins there, he gets a crack at Helms, a three-term Republican incumbent with a large war chest and international name recognition.

Gantt, a 44-year-old architect with a master's degree from MIT, served two terms as mayor of North Carolina's largest city, which is 75 percent white and usually votes Republican. Before that, Gantt served on the city council.

Gantt is also a frequent lecturer at colleges and universities. He has designed a number of buildings across North Carolina, including the Winston Lake YMCA in Winston-Salem, the Campus Hills Recreation Center in Durham and student housing at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

In 1987, Gantt's political fortunes were turned upside down when he lost to Republican Sue Myrick by less than 1,000 votes in the mayoral race.

"That was the worst moment I've had in politics," he said. "But he learned something about politics."

"We lost the race because we didn't put enough effort forward," he said. "Right now, the number one goal is to win the primary. We'll take nothing for granted."

(See HARVEY GANTT, P. 2)

Residents Fight For The Mail

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports

Members of the Nottingham Woods Homeowners Association have invited members of the local print and broadcast media to watch an event that may be a first in the area for the U.S. Postal Service.

Residents there want members of the media to come to the subdivision May 1 and see if and where the postman delivers the mail.

Mail delivery there has been the source of controversy within the past few weeks.

Residents of the subdivision say

"The service here at Nottingham Woods is atrocious."

—Kurt Birk
Managing Partner
Nottingham Property Associates

that because they get their mail in a cluster mailbox placed far away from their homes, it is inconvenient and causes them problems.

So they decided to get individual mailboxes and place them in front of their homes, which is the setup in similar neighborhoods.

But they ran into a problem. Postal officials say it would be too costly for them to change the way they deliver mail in the subdivision.

David Medlin, area manager for the postal service, whose office is located on New Bern Avenue, said in a letter, "Wanda Rhodes, our representative, got approval from James Smith who at that time represented Nottingham Woods and was given a choice of the type of

(See POSTAL SERVICE, P. 2)



HELPING MALE YOUTH—The fifth annual Miltaire Leadership Training and Scholarship program was held recently at Shaw University. Warren Bannet, senior at Entee High School presented William Rainbow, Bonus co-ordinator, a plaque expressing gratitude for his special interest and devotion to male youth.

(See story page 2).