

THE CAROLINIAN

RALEIGH, N.C.,
THURSDAY,
VOL. 49, NO. 44
APRIL 26, 1990

N.C.'s Semi-Weekly

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Protection Or Harassment

Out Of Drug War Project Phoenix Is Born

BY W. MASON, JR.
Staff Writer

Residents and neighbors in the city's public housing projects can see it probably more clearly than anyone.

From their windows, they see police officers stopping young black men on the street, asking for identification or information about someone else.

They see people, mostly black men, sprawled up against brick walls, frisked from one end of their body to another by a Raleigh police officer looking for drugs.

They see cars pulled over, sometimes at night but mostly in the daytime, by a Raleigh police officer who suspects the driver of either carrying drugs or going to get some.

But mostly they see, and feel, the presence of policemen, dozens of them, patrolling the streets, talking to residents on front stoops or riding horses or bicycles around the streets.

The city's crackdown on drug pushers at the city's housing projects can be summed up in the words Project Phoenix, part of a city and state effort to clean up drugs and crime in

the city's housing projects.

The effort, which began last October, has drawn a mixed reaction. Some residents complain the increased enforcement has translated into harassment and abuse and others say the city is only responding to what they call an unsavory element in their neighborhood.

"The people who say they are being harassed are the same people who shouldn't be on the streets anyway," said one woman who asked not to be identified.

According to her and other

residents, drug pushers and drug users have taken over their neighborhood, preventing young children from playing in the streets and making it unsafe for people to walk to a corner grocery store and invite friends and neighbors to visit.

In recent years, residents pressed the city to develop a program to provide more protection and activities to residents in public housing, who are fighting their own drug war.

From that, Project Phoenix was born, supported by the city's black leaders who said the city should do

something to curb drugs in their district.

Black leaders applauded the efforts by the city officials to provide more protection, activities and programs for those residents.

Project Phoenix, which received about \$334,500 from city and state coffers, is aimed at bringing activities to Walnut Terrace, Dandridge Downs, Chavis Heights and Halifax Court.

Raleigh Housing Authority, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and the city's Department of Human Resources all joined in to aid the pro-

ject. New street lights were erected, sports activities were planned and residents were able to share in some of the recreation offered by the city.

Some residents, as evidenced by their confusion over what is happening in their neighborhood, missed some of the objectives of the program.

Part of the success of Project Phoenix is measured in how many arrests are made in and around public housing projects. In addition, it is also measured in how many people (See PROJECT PHOENIX, P. 2)

Two Arrested Sheriff's Deputy, Woman Shot

Attack Occurred At Store

Police arrested two men last Saturday in connection with the shooting Friday of a Wake Sheriff's deputy and a woman outside a convenience store.

Darin Lamont Gillian, who police said was from Brooklyn, N.Y., was arrested and charged with secret assault and assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious bodily harm. He was in Wake County Jail Sunday in lieu of a \$50,000 secured cash bond.

He was scheduled to appear this week in Wake County District Court.

Also arrested was Rayford Walton of Route 7, Apex. He was charged with being an accessory to the shooting.

According to warrants, Walton hid Gillian and his shotgun in his home after the shooting. Walton was released on \$800 bond and was also scheduled to appear this week in Wake County District Court.

Wake Sheriff's Sgt. V.L. Price was struck in the face with shotgun pellets about 10 p.m. Friday when he and Deputy C.G. Kirkman responded to a trespassing call at the Food Mart at Holly Springs and Sunset Lake roads in southwestern Wake County. A man with a shotgun fired at the officers three times from a wooded area (See ATTACK, P. 2)



CAMPBELL (left)—executive vice chairman of the NAACP's 1988 corporate campaign was (left) William D. Smithburg, chairman and chief executive officer of the Quaker Oats Company. In the center is Dr. Benjamin L. Weeks, executive director, NAACP, and to the right, Stephen M. Wolf, last year's campaign chairman and CEO of United Airlines.

NAACP Calls For Investigating Charges Of "Police Aggression"

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports
Unfair treatment of African-Americans is attracting the attention of black leaders in Raleigh and across the state who say the needs of African-Americans must be assessed.

The Raleigh-Apex Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has requested that Mayor Avery Upchurch help resolve a matter relating to the Women's Center of Raleigh.

Mary L. Peeler, executive director of the North Carolina State Conference of Branches of the NAACP, and Gerald Richardson, president of the Stanley County Branch, have released a letter submitted to attorney General Richard Thornburgh, requesting an immediate investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice into allegations of police brutality, harassment and intimidation of African-Americans.

The Rev. H.B. Pickett, president of the Raleigh-Apex Branch, in a letter to Mayor Upchurch, councilmembers Ralph Campbell, Jr., Frank L. Turner, Ann Franklin, Julian Ford, Mary Watson Nooe, J. Barlow Hargett and Mary C. Cates, said, "The Women's Center is not assessing needs, designing strategies, nor organizing programs that would be beneficial to women of color."

"At a time in which there is a great

need for 'women of color' to have various options open to them, it is ironic that an agency organized to help women would ignore a very large segment of the community, thus denying an option open to them," Pickett said.

"Therefore, the Raleigh-Apex Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People strongly request that the City of Raleigh initiate an investigation of the Women's Center since it receives funding from the City of Raleigh. A question that needs to be answered is, 'Why are women of color being left out of the Women's Center activities?'"

In the letter to Thornburgh, Ms. Peeler said the alleged violations occurred during a raid by Albemarle City Police, Stanly County Police, Alcohol Law Enforcement officers, Locust Police, the N.C. State Highway Patrol and the Union-Stanly-Anson Task Force at "The Shack" in Norwood on March 31.

The letter also conveys the concern of the NAACP regarding the increasing number of reports of police aggression against African-Americans. "The primary responsibility of law enforcement officers is to protect the citizens they serve. Law enforcement officers are not judge and jury and must not be allowed to try, sentence and administer punishment when

making arrests or dealing with citizens in general," said Peeler.

Peeler reiterated the North Carolina NAACP's commitment to the training of community-based leaders all across North Carolina to effectively monitor the actions of (See NAACP REQUESTS, P. 2)

Bush Creating "Kinder, Gentler" African-American Relationship?

By CHESTER A. HIGGINS, SR.
NNPA News Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Has President George Bush shaken the anti-black image of his predecessor, Ronald Reagan?

This, despite the fact Bush's presidential campaign was charged with racism, scaring the daylight out of white voters by using ads featuring Willie Horton—to win the presidency. Horton is a black convicted murderer/rapist who while on leave from a Massachusetts prison allegedly committed a similar crime. This successful campaign was reportedly the brainchild of Reagan's close associate and present chairman of the Republican National Committee, Lee Atwater. But few knowledgeable observers believe it was launched without Bush's discreet acquiescence.

Just 14 months into his own presidency, however, the former vice president seems to have created a "kinder, gentler" relationship with African-Americans that had been glaringly absent from the White House during the somber Reagan years.

For example, Bush has opened up the White House to black leaders and celebrities. These include the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the NAACP, black educators, from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education; the Urban League, a visiting assortment of African and Caribbean political leaders, and others. All seem to have been extended if not an open invitation, a friendly welcome mat to visit, a courtesy not witnessed here in

many a dark year. At the recent glittering, grand anniversary dinner of the prestigious Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a black think-tank that recently added the "economic" component to its name, the president, in an expansive mood, said he expects to see a black occupying the 1000 Pennsylvania Avenue address in his lifetime. Some cynic attending the affair muttered, "Maybe in the next 100 years."

Undaunted, the president crowed about the high number of African-Americans he has already named to high positions in his administration—42. Chase Untermeyer, director of presidential personnel, told CNS, however, the president's black nominees so far number 47, not 42. "And these, unlike some in other ad- (See GEORGE BUSH, P. 2)

NEWS BRIEFS

JOBS EVENT

On Thursday, May 10, the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, the Wake County Public School System and the Wake County Education Foundation will sponsor Workforce '90, a time for area employers to interview more than 300 graduating seniors. The event will be held at the N.C. State University Faculty Club.

NEW MCDONALD'S OPENS

The new McDonald's restaurant located at Hwy. 56 and I-85 in Creedmoor will formally open to the public on Thursday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m.

SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST SPEAKS

Allister Sparks, who was editor of the influential Rand Daily Mail before it was shut down by the South African government, will be in Durham next week for a book signing session and a public talk.

BLACK ELECTORATE

William V. Bell, chairman of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, was elected president of the North Carolina Association of Black Elected Officials at the organization's annual meeting. The group met recently at the North Carolina Central University Criminal Justice Building.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS DRUGS

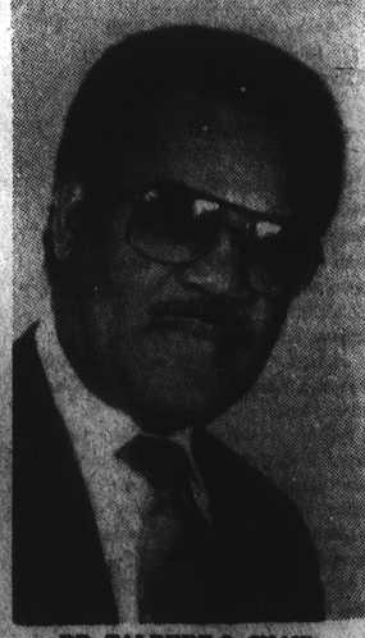
Mayors and police chiefs responsible for the nation's street-level drug war met in (See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)

C.A.P.E. Honoring Dr. Shaw

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports
The High Point Center for Alternative Programs of Education will honor Dr. Talbert O. Shaw, president of Shaw University, for the outstanding contributions he is making to the university and the Baptist community of North Carolina.

W.E. Banks, coordinator of the CAPE program and pastor of First Baptist Church in Thomasville, said the seniors' banquet, an annual affair in High Point, brings relatives and friends from the area to witness the achievement of these students.

Banks said, "This program is specifically designed for adults who (See DR. TALBERT SHAW, P. 2)



DR. TALBERT O. SHAW

Dr. Weaver Promotes Divinity School As Convocation Speaker

Dr. Frank Weaver, retired educator and pastor of Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Raleigh, will deliver the annual address at the commencement convocation, Shaw Divinity School, to be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 28, in the Shaw Divinity School Chapel, located on Rush Street near Old Garner Road in Southeast Raleigh. The public is invited.

"We are excited that Dr. Weaver will be able to share the commencement convocation with us," stated Dr. Talbert O. Shaw and Dr. Franklin Wiggins in their joint statement, calling Weaver a preacher's preacher, an able educational administrator, a master teacher among the ablest of the black pastors in North Carolina. They also cited him as a responsive citizen and social activist.

The joint announcement stated that Dr. Weaver "has been a moving force in efforts to promote the continuing progressive development of the Shaw Divinity School in this area and statewide." They referred to Weaver as a seasoned advocate of quality theological education and credit him with helping develop strategies to make (See DR. FRANK WEAVER, P. 2)



DR. FRANK WEAVER