

CHURCHES

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being crowded in by parking space. "The fact is, we stand to have a large capacity parking lot to the south of us, directly to the east of us and potentially to the north of us. All are planned to be multi-story construction. Picture this effect in your mind for a moment to feel the impact," Wimberley said in her letter.

"Even if the current 2,800 square feet of our property proposed for acquisition is released, we are left with an aesthetic impact, that we believe is adverse. We must survive in this closed environment," she said.

Although the churches are in historic areas of the city, the council said the parking deck could legally be built as long as it remained within the guidelines of structures within that district.

Although the churches have two more weeks to review the decisions and plans by the city, a new site for the parking deck is not expected to be approved and both churches will have to work within the city's specifications.

The parking deck issue, however, is only a small segment of the city's proposed redevelopment plan that in some areas of the city will force businesses to vacate and possibly force some people to leave their homes.

Because of a lagging economy, the city is trying to pump new money in and rebuild downtown into a viable district.

Because of such massive efforts at change, it is likely that some people will not benefit from all the city's plans and the city council should at least vote on decisions and then handle the fallout that will follow, Upchurch said.

In the case of the churches, however, the city is battling religion, which attracted a full City Council chamber and which could result in public dismay.

"Although some member of the council seem to feel that they better understand what is 'good for First Baptist,' we must assure you that we feel capable of determining that ourselves. We have been stewards of this church for many years and take that responsibility seriously. We must view your action not in the broadness of concept but in the specificity of reality. We must live with what you do long after you tire of public service or move to some other point of ambition," Wimberley said.

WOMAN ATTACKED

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about five motorists for DWI and cited several others for minor traffic violations.

He said it was likely that troopers would conduct similar patrols in Holy Springs in the future.

In another drug-related development, police arrested 15 students on drug and theft charges following a three-month undercover operation in four Wake County high schools.

Two other students were arrested Tuesday and police said they expected to arrest five more people.

The operation produced 34 alleged felonies and three misdemeanor charges. Most of the charges were related to drug sales and possession, but some involved crimes such as larceny, police said.

PROJECT PHOENIX

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City officials, who say the program so far has been successful, are planning to expand the program to other areas of the city.

In the six months since the program has been in operation, 182 people have been arrested and charged with drug crimes and 27 residents have been evicted from their homes.

The success of the program is measured by how many arrests are made and in how many people are evicted from their homes for drug use, city officials said.

Another part of the program is to provide community activities for the city's public housing residents and to clean up the area by installing new street lights and other efforts at revitalization.

Residents, however, who have lived with the project, are expected to review the city's plan and talk about whether they think the project is effective and what else the city can be doing to meet their needs.

Residents have complained that although the city is providing more protection and getting some of the drug dealers out of public housing, city police are also harassing innocent people, stopping residents for no reason and in some cases charging people without reason.

Some residents complained that Project Phoenix is part of a national antidrug campaign that is increasingly becoming a war on blacks.

Law enforcement officials across the state have admitted that blacks are unfairly targeted in the nation's drug war because they are easily accessible and arrestable.

They say that most of the country's drug activity takes place in the corporate boardroom or in high levels of government, but that those in high places have protection and methods of hiding their activity.

REV. MORRISON

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stitution, and authorized an official financial audit. The membership grew from 600 to approximately 700 in three years.

Since 1982 this church has also changed significantly under the Morrison pastorate. Among these changes are the paving of the parking area, installation of an inside baptismal pool, and establishment of a Parents/Youth United Club to create a stronger bond between the adults and children of the church as well as to initiate the nurture spiritual growth in the church.

The church is currently involved in a building program to raise funds for a new church facility.

While Morrison served as president of the Suffolk Branch of the NAACP, the organization won an award for being the fastest-growing membership in the state of Virginia.

Morrison recommended to the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ that the Bachelor of Theology degree offered at the Union Christian Bible Institute be approved as a viable alternative for the ministerial students seeking ordination. The recommendation was approved in 1970.

Morrison is married to the former Mary Booker Smith; father of two children, Patricia Morrison Sneed of Rougemont and James Reginald Morrison, now serving in the U.S. Marine Corps stationed at Cherry Point; two grandchildren, Shyrow and Asher Sneed of Rougemont.

As a veteran of World War II, he attained the rank of sergeant and earned the sharpshooter's medal, four battle stars, and an honorable discharge.



possesses sound fiscal management; and the public at large for their support, along with United Way.

Weston B. Butler was the other honoree who received the YMCA's highest award.

More than 200 supporters attended this year's annual meeting.

Keynote Wallace O. Green, president of the Able Manufacturing and Able Supply Co., Inc., provided an address to the community at large, the business community and the conscience of those present. Green was the 1989 honoree of the Board of Directors Personal Achievement Award.

Another highlight of the awards banquet was the WAUG-TV 68/750 AM Raleigh Soul Choice Awards. Honorees included Robert H. Mathes and Hilda Pinnix-Ragland, both YMCA Board members and successful supporters of the YMCA Back-A-Child Campaign, and Dorothy B. Smith, YMCA receptionist.

Laodicea United Church of Christ New Spirit Gospel Choir rendered a selection for the evening, under the direction of Ms. Motres Y. Pridgeon.

YMCA Board member Jimmy Coleman received the Meritour Award, culminating his term on the YMCA Board of Directors.

Candidates for public office who attended included Hal Crowder, Betty Wiser, Abe Jones and Hal Perry.

Awards presented and the honorees included:

Religious Award—Rev. George C. Hawkins.

Education Award—Ann Hunt-Smith.

Personal Achievement Award—Benjamin S. Ruffin.

Human Service Award—Frank and Augusta Turner.

Public Service Award—Sheriff John H. Baker, Jr.

Minority Business Award—Reginald C. Hayes, Sr.

Outstanding Organization Award—Wake Opportunities, Inc.

Corporate Citizens Award—Harris Wholesale, Inc.; the Garner News.

Outstanding Family—the Fred and Roberta Debnam family.

Community Service Award—Strengthening the Black Family, Inc.

Political Service Award—the Hon. David C. Price, Fourth District representative, N.C. House of Representatives.

Volunteer Service Award—Ulysses J. Milliken.

Youth Award—Ms. Edwinda D. Jordan; Eddie L. Smith.

Meritorious Service Award—Jimmy Coleman.

Chairman-elect for 1990—J.D. Lewis, Jr.

The meeting was videotaped by WAUG-TV 68/750 AM for rebroadcast at a later date.

ENDORSEMENTS

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generation removed from the so-called 'lower economic classes,' I know that these are the best of times.

When I see BMWs and TRWs and Mercedes-Benzes and all the other evidence of affluence, I know that these are the best of times.

"But I also know that these are the worst of times and that we have to be concerned about the growing racism that we see in our society again; concerned about the divisiveness that seems to be cropping up, that sets people against people and hinders this great country from becoming one society," Gantt concluded.

NEWS BRIEFS

(Continued from page 1)

ment. The session will be held at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business and will be followed by a cocktail reception from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Washington Duke Hotel and Golf Club.

BANKING

Thomas K. Hearn, Jr., of Winston-Salem and F. Kenneth Iverson of Charlotte have been elected to three-year terms on the board of directors of First Wachovia Corp. The action was taken at the corporation's annual shareholders' meeting in Greensboro on April 27.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The Wake County Board of Commission is announcing the 1990 Volunteer Awards Program. Nominations are being accepted for outstanding individuals, youths, senior citizens, volunteer groups, organizations or business volunteers who have made significant contributions of time and effort to the community. From all those nominated four nominees will be selected to represent Wake County in the annual Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremony.

CREDIT UNION

North Carolina Secretary of Economic and Community Development James T. Broyhill has selected William C. Deal, Jr. to be the administrator of the Credit Union Division for the state. Deal will begin his new post on May 1.

NEW MOTEL

Motel 6, the nation's largest chain of company-operated economy motels, has just opened a 116-unit motel in Raleigh. Motel 6 now operates 534 motels in 42 states from coast to coast. This is its 12th property in North Carolina.

Barry Attacks Candidates For Mayor's Office

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)—Mayor Marion Barry attacked several mayoral candidates and reminded them and the voters that he remained a force in District of Columbia politics.

Barry, appearing at his first candidate forum Thursday night, said the city has been treated to three categories of candidates.

"A couple of them have been very positive—they've got a positive campaign," the mayor said.

But, he added, "Most of them have been Barry-bashing, or Washington-bashing, and some of them have cried," a reference to Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy, D-D.C., who has fought back tears at some of his appearances since announcing his candidacy for the Democratic mayoral nomination.

"Once they get through Barry-bashing, Washington-bashing and crying," Barry said, "do they have a vision? Do they have creativity? Do they have stamina? Do they know what it takes? Do they care about our city? And can they lead us in a new direction?"

Barry was greeted by dozens of supporters chanting "four more years" when he arrived at the forum sponsored by a union representing 7,000 municipal workers. Barry is awaiting trial on eight cocaine possession and perjury charges. He spent seven weeks at two clinics for substance abuse treatment following his Jan. 18 arrest.

Council Chairman David Clarke and candidate Sharon Pratt Dixon blamed Barry for what he called Washington's poor image on Capitol Hill and around the country.

"I respect your spirit and your spunk," Dixon said. "But in the best of times, there is a time and a season for everything and everyone and your season has come and gone."

Dixon and Barry supporters immediately reacted with shouts and boos.

Clarke, glancing at Barry, said the mayor has embarrassed the city.

Clarke was nearly drowned out by boos and catcalls, but he shouted back, "I don't care how loud you yell, I don't care how loud you yell."

Former Police Chief Maurice Turner, running as a Republican, said the forum would be his last until after the September primary.

VICTORIOUS

We all like to be victorious in our endeavors because defeat often has an enduring negative effect on us. We usually start out with high expectations. Somewhere along the way, we sometimes lose heart and give up. We must remind ourselves that every worthwhile accomplishment, big or little, has its stages of drudgery and triumph; a beginning, a struggle and a victory.

As we stick to the task and keep our high expectations, we shall be victorious.

Unity

WRITER'S CONTEST

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This year's program celebrated the work of five black writers, winners of the statewide 1989 Black Writers Competition, and features workshops on writing and publishing by professional black writers.

The local workshop was coordinated by Alicia Alexander who also conducted the workshop, "Getting Started: Ideas for Beginning Writers." Other workshops on poetry and how to get published were conducted by Earl Braggs of Wilmington and Lenard Moore of Raleigh.

Following the workshops, Ms. Wilson read from her contest entry, "Boiled Whites and Dress Ties." She describes this work of fiction as a love story about the relationship between a corporate executive and a fellow employee. She declined to describe it any further, saying, "If I say any more, I will give away too much of the plot and you won't have to read it."

She added that she has included this story in the first volume of her collected works which will be published soon.

Wilson, an education specialist, retired from IBM three years ago and is currently pursuing an acting career. She is an active member of the Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church in Bunn and is chairperson of their community outreach program, Friends of Gethsemane. She is also a substitute teacher in Franklin County.

Prior to IBM moving her to North Carolina to teach at Bennett College in 1982, this native of Coatsville, Pa., taught math, English and reading in the Philadelphia public schools. She had also been a caseworker with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Assistance.

For 10 years, she was the producer and hostess of a weekly radio program, "Rhythms in Black," over WSPK-FM, Beacon, N.Y. Through her radio program she organized the Concerned Black Women, a group dedicated to providing entertainment and correspondence programs to the residents of the 15 correctional facilities which were among her listening audience.

She began writing several years ago but except for one poem, had never gone public before entering this competition. She said, "Winning this contest has inspired me to dedicate more of my time to writing. Doing research and reporting facts for a newspaper article is one thing but writing from the mind and my own life experiences is much more fulfilling."

Other workshops are being held in Durham, Winston-Salem, Charlotte and Fayetteville throughout the month of April. They are free and open to the public. For information about this program, or about any of the network's activities, write to P.O. Box 954, Carrboro 27510 or call (919) 967-9540.

Jacki is interested in networking with other writers and is planning a Writer's Retreat in June. She may be contacted at Box 95 Lake Royale, Louisburg, 27549, or at (919) 478-5300.

ACADEMIC HONORS—Ray Danner, philanthropist and founder of Shoney's restaurants described Shaw University as "one of the great educational institutions in our nation." Danner addressed more than 400 Shaw students during academic awards ceremony at the university recently.

SHAW HONORS

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Chiefs of Staff, as examples of "the kind of commitment and dedication that American society is built on."

Speaking to President Talbert O. Shaw who had introduced Danner as a true Horatio Alger himself, Danner said, "Shaw University is making a tremendous contribution by being a role model itself for black youth." To the students, he said, "You may have a long way to go, but don't stall out."

Ray Maintains Innocence In King Murder, Blames The Court System

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. (AP)—James Earl Ray, imprisoned for two decades for the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King, says if paroled he would leave the country.

"The first thing I would do is leave the country," he told the Oak Ridge newspaper in an interview published this week. "I wanted to get out of the country in 1968."

On March 9, 1969, Ray pleaded guilty to the April 4, 1968 murder of the civil rights leader in Memphis. By entering the plea, he avoided a possible death penalty. Instead, he was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

But Ray, who is being held at the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary in Peros, about 25 miles west of Knoxville, could be eligible for parole in eight years.

He said in an interview Monday that he hopes one day to leave prison and lead a quiet, simple life away from public attention.

"I am not a drug addict and I don't smoke, don't use alcohol, so it wouldn't take too much to support me," Ray said.

Prison has taken its toll on the 61-year-old Ray, who occupies his time working in the prison laundry.

Annual Spring Gospel Music Held May 6th

The annual Spring Gospel Festival sponsored by WLEE Radio personality and gospel singer Bro. James Thomas will be held at the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium.

This big gospel extravaganza will feature Rev. Howard (Slim) Hunt and the Supreme Angels from Milwaukee, Wis.; Rev. F. C. Barnes & Company of Rocky Mount; Willie Banks and the Messengers of Jackson, Miss.; the Swanee Quintet of Augusta, Ga.; Mildred Clark and the Melodyaires, of Columbus, Ohio; the Burden Lifters of Richmond, Va.; the Hi-Way OC's of Chicago, Ill.; the Gospel Pearlettes and the Capitol City Five.

The May 6 festival will begin at 1:30 p.m. with doors opening at 12:30 p.m.

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