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Critical To Success

Blacks May See Little Downtown Growth

BY W. MASON, JR.
Staff Writer

The city's plan to boost commerce and industry into downtown may have a small effect on black businesses because many provide services that may not attract new customers.

"Many of the businesses we have in downtown are dentists, barbers and other services," said dentist Charles Laywood, who has operated his office on Hargett Street for the last 20 years.

"It will have some impact, but I

don't think it's going to be big," he said.

The same concern about the low impact on black businesses was echoed by other downtown merchants who said they welcome new commerce into the downtown area but question what real impact it will have on them.

City officials, hoping to compete with satellite shopping centers and suburban malls that are sprouting throughout the Triangle, are hoping that by bringing more business and

growth to the downtown area, more people will keep their dollars in Raleigh.

Already, the City Market area, which used to be a thriving marketplace for blacks, has been transformed by a number of specialty shops, restaurants and social outlets.

City officials are targeting multi-level office buildings and unique businesses that would attract mallgoers to downtown.

The city's plan, however, has also had a negative impact on blacks in

downtown and Southeast Raleigh.

Helping Hand Mission, which provides food, clothing and assistance to low-income residents, already was told it will have to vacate its building to make room for new housing targeted for Martin Street.

Other businesses are targeted that do not comply with the city's image of a vital downtown and they may be forced to move out.

Downtown merchants, however, don't feel threatened about what the city plans to do, although First Baptist Church is fighting to keep its

place.

"I've been here for two years," said James Robertson, who has operated Robertson's Opticians on Hargett Street for the past five years.

"I don't feel threatened at all. There was a black print shop and a dress shop up that street a few years ago and they have gone. I don't understand why the others left, but I have a good relationship with the people here.

"When I first got here, I was only

getting blacks. Now I'm getting blacks and whites. I think the spirit of a new downtown is there."

Robertson admitted, however, that his business falls in line with the city's plan while others may not.

"If [city officials] see that the business is not going to enhance... they may try to move those people."

Even if downtown redevelopment was completed, may black merchants would find that their clientele would grow only slightly.

(See DOWNTOWN, P. 2)

Woman Shot

MAN CHARGED IN STORE ROBBERY

Others May Be Involved

Sheriff's officials charged a Durham man with murder in the shotgun slaying of a Person County convenience store clerk.

The man, Mohammed Jemel Thompson, 17, 1126 Hoover Road, also was charged with armed robbery and conspiracy to commit armed robbery police said. Thompson was being held in jail. He is charged in the Feb. 27 shooting of Sherri Lynn King, 24, who was operating the King Bee Mini Mart Car Wash on US 501 when she was shot, local officials said. The store, which is four miles south of Roxboro, is owned by Ms. King's family, sheriff's officials said.

The woman was shot in the left side of her chest and told officials that two black men had been involved in the robbery. Officials said they were seeking another suspect in the case.

Officials said Thompson's arrest grew out of investigations into a series of armed robberies in Durham.

Detectives for the Durham police department said they will continue to investigate.

(See CRIME, P. 2)



BUSINESSES HELPING TO COMBAT SCHOOL DROP-OUTS—Dave Lane, Operations Manager of Southern Bell, presents a \$2,000.00 check to Ms. Jessie Copeland, Chairperson of Inter-Project Council Inc., and Program Director Ms. Cyl Buck. The funds were donated to Heritage Park's Preventive School Dropout Program. Mr. Lane also played an integral role in having a computer donated by Northern Telecom to the program.

"Ice," Weapons Seized As Project, Marijuana Watch Begins Operation

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports

Illegal drug trafficking is taking on new dimensions in North Carolina and officials are saying that drug dealers are dangerous people willing to go to any lengths to make money peddling their product.

Joe Dean, secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, and Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner launched the nation's first "Marijuana Watch" program last week in North Carolina. Gardner serves as chairman of the North Carolina Drug Cabinet.

The "Operation Marijuana Watch" plan is targeted at marijuana, North Carolina's number one cash crop. North Carolina ranks third in the nation in marijuana production, with more than \$1.5 billion worth grown each year in the state.

Dean also recently praised an alert Highway Patrol Trooper, T.L. Caldwell, for intercepting a major drug operation during a routine traffic stop that resulted in the first con-

fiscation of "ice" in North Carolina. Further investigation uncovered plans for a laboratory to manufacture "ice," a highly addictive form of the drug methamphetamine.

"This first confiscation of 'ice' in North Carolina is proof that illegal drug trafficking is increasing in our state," Dean said. "Furthermore, the weapons seized in the arrest are evidence that drug dealers are dangerous people willing to go to any length to make money peddling their deadly product."

On April 13, Trooper Caldwell stopped a pickup truck on I-85 in Guilford County because its occupants were not wearing seatbelts. The truck also had no license plate and the three occupants made threatening moves toward the officer during questioning. The trooper used his trained police dog "Lobo" to control the suspects until backup arrived.

During the search of the vehicle, the trooper found 18 grams of methamphetamine, 14 grams of hallucinogenic mushrooms, four handguns with two silencers, a fully automatic 9mm machine gun, one hand grenade, ammunition, various explosive materials, fake ID papers, more than \$10,000 in cash and evidence that pointed to the setup of a drug lab.

An investigation by the State and Federal Bureaus of Investigation and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms turned up a small storage building filled with chemicals, laboratory equipment, more guns, ammunition and explosives and equipment to produce fake identification.

All three suspects are in jail under \$1 million bond each. One of them, David Lee Rusher, has been convicted of operating "ice" labs in other

(See MARIJUANA, P. 2)

Harvey Gantt Vs. Jesse Helms

Primary Candidates Prepare For Vote

Candidates in the May primary election are hoping their individual messages were clear as voters flock to the polls to fill in their ballots.

Voters most likely will be attracted to the polls because of the U. S. Senate race between Republican Jesse Helms and the long list of Democratic hopefuls who aim to beat him.

Democratic voters will choose among 13th judicial district attorney Mike Easley, former Charlotte mayor Harvey Gantt, Bo Thomas of Hendersonville among others.

Gantt has been putting television advertisements before the voters recently in a last ditch effort to get his message of improving the working class and upgrading education before the voters.

Mike Easley campaigned on the heels of a grand jury he convened that cleared a white N. C. state trooper of fatally shooting Sidney Bowen, a former mayor of Bolton, during an altercation on Bowen's front lawn.

Although both have campaigned against Helms' conservative style, Bo Thomas has campaigned himself as a servant of the people whose record should stand above the others.

The Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association has made their

endorsement of the candidates.

For the Democratic primary, they are: Harvey Gantt, U. S. Senate; David Price, fourth congressional district; Eugene Phillips, judge for the court of appeals; Ann B. Salisbury, district court judge; Brad Miller, 61st state house district; Bob Hensley, 64th state house district; and county commissioners Hal C.

Perry, Stewart Adcock, Abe Jones, and Jack Nichols.

For the Republican primary, they are: George Wimbish, U. S. Senate; Robert Smith and Hill Carrow for 14th district, state senate; and George Batten, 64th state house district.

Gantt has said that he plans to be more than a black senator. He has

campaigning on the issues of providing more jobs and improving life for the working class, a class which comprises a large number of blacks.

He is concerned about the plight of poor people, whether they are black, white or hispanic.

The candidates hope a last minute (See ELECTIONS, P. 2)

Enloe High, Harvard Grad Vying For Seat On County Commission

On Tuesday, May 8, Enloe High School and Harvard University graduate, Raleigh attorney Abe Jones, will be on the ballot in the Democratic Party contest for the District 3 seat on the Wake Board of County Commissioners. District 3 includes western Wake County and Northwest Raleigh. All Wake County voters can vote in this contest.

Jones is seeking office because of his strong commitment to public service. "Local government has more impact on our lives than any other level of government," he said. "As a Wake County Commissioner I will work hard to improve our schools, support law enforcement and public safety, and see that there is better delivery of human services."

After graduating from Enloe, Jones attended Harvard University (See ABE JONES, P. 2)



ABE JONES

INSIDE AFRICA

BY DANIEL MAROLEN

Last week, Dr. Nelson Mandela and his pretty famous wife, Winnie Mandela—both indomitable anti-apartheid champions and pillars of ANC's resistance—took a jaunt from Johannesburg to address a 72,000-strong multiracial audience at London's famous Wembley Stadium, leaving behind a South Africa in racial turmoil and in the grips of an unprecedented upsurge of racial animosity and bigotry.

The mammoth gathering of men and women from every nook of the British Isles and all parts of the world (See INSIDE AFRICA, P. 2)

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR—Ms. Barbara Speed, a resident of Meadow Ridge, was named volunteer of the year by Raleigh Housing Authority during its annual Volunteer Recognition Awards Banquet. A total of 46 public housing residents were recognized for their outstanding contributions. Ms. Speed has served as president of the Meadow Ridge Resident Council for five years.