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Task Force Not In Place NAACP Impatient With Mall Officials



REV. H. B. PICKETT

From CARO... NAACP officials are growing impatient with Crabtree Valley Mall executives.

Mall officials promised to establish a task force to monitor race relations at the mall following a boycott of African-American youths who complained of harassment.

But NAACP officials say the task force has not been set up and say delaying the task force may push the NAACP to take legal action.

Officials from Crabtree Valley Mall and leaders in the African-American community met last December at Martin Street Baptist Church in response to the dispute over the

mall's treatment of blacks. As part of a series leading up to the boycott of the mall, African-American youths and their parents began to picket due to allegedly unfair and unjust treatment by mall employees.

Members of the Concerned Citizens for Equality and youths led the protest against the mall after mall official John B. Grimaldi asked Michael P. Halperin and Raleigh's Capital Area Transit to eliminate bus service from downtown to the mall between the hours of 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Merchants complained that African-American

teenagers were using offensive language, committing acts of vandalism and harassing shoppers. Many African-Americans visiting and shopping at the mall complained of discrimination and harassment by security personnel.

"Nothing has changed at the mall," a young man who asked that his name not be used told THE CAROLINIAN last week. "The discrimination and harassment. Black people are still having problems there."

The Raleigh-Apex Chapter of the NAACP has issued a statement concerning the mall controversy after the Rev. Henry Pickett, president,

met with Samuel Longiotti at Plaza Associates on May 3 to discuss concerns.

The NAACP statement read, in part:

"The Dec. 24 statement of the owners and managers of Crabtree Valley Mall was a positive step toward resolving the conflict as it relates to the mall. However, the good will gained by this step is being eroded on the one hand by the owners and managers' perceived slowness in appointing the multiracial task force."

"In the release on Dec. 24, 1989, the owners and managers of the Crabtree Valley Mall stated 'that Crabtree

Valley Mall has retained an independent consultant to form a multiracial task force for the purpose of developing programs for race relations, human relations and youth relations with the mall."

"The Raleigh-Apex Branch NAACP has since learned, not via any representatives from the mall, that an independent consultant has not been retained by Crabtree Valley Mall, thus the task force after five months since the statement was released, is still not in place."

"The Raleigh-Apex Branch (See NAACP, P. 2)

Gap Exists In Money For Schools

The gap in local school spending between North Carolina's wealthy counties and its poor counties continues to widen, according to a study released last week by the Public School Forum.

Wake County leads the latest spending report with \$1,792 per student average while students in the state's poorest county get only \$339 each.

Since 1986, the difference in local school spending has widened by \$519 per student.

"Highlights of this study confirm our suspicion that some kind of action may be needed to correct this disparity," said John Dornan, president of the Public School Forum which is co-sponsoring the study along with the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center.

"Nearly half of the school children in North Carolina live in rural areas," Dornan added. "If the economic future of our state is linked to the success of these children, then we must do a better job providing them equal access to a good education."

This is the first of several reports to be developed as part of the forum's Rural School Initiative which is looking at inequities in North Carolina's public schools. The study also will examine the quality of education in North Carolina and the impact of state and federally mandated programs upon local spending.

Titled "Actual Effort," the study compares actual local dollar spending totals, for both current school operations and capital spending, in all 100 North (See SCHOOL SPENDING, P. 2)

Teenager Snared In Robberies

Police Bring 23 Charges

Police charged a Raleigh teenager with breaking into 20 offices during the past month and taking about \$6,000 in cash and other property.

The teenager, Marcus Jermaine Gill, 17, of 6133 St. Giles St., was charged with 23 counts of breaking and entering and larceny and three counts of safe-cracking, in connection with a string of break-ins at offices and businesses in the Oak Park area.

The youth is being held in Wake County Jail on \$25,000 bond.

Police arrested the youth after responding to a burglar alarm at the York Elementary School about 1 a.m. In a search of Gill's home, where he lives with his mother, property was discovered which had been reported stolen from numerous offices and businesses.

Police said the property, which included briefcases, videocassette recorders and pen-and-pencil sets, had been reported recovered.

In other news, police are still on the trail of a robbery suspect.

Police suspect one man in the unsuccessful attempt to rob a discount beauty store and in the robbery of a Garner shoe store.

Officials from the Raleigh Police Department and Garner Police gave the same description of a man suspected of robbing one store and trying to rob the other.

The two store are within a half-mile of each other.

Raleigh police described the man as black, in his early 30s, about 5'4" (See TEENAGER, P. 2)



PROTESTING HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES—Amtrak, in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, began operation of a new inter-city passenger train, The Carolinian, from Charlotte-Raleigh-New York last week. During the inauguration where Gov. James Martin appeared to send off the train, protesters made their opinions known on the subject of hazardous waste sites in North Carolina. (Photo by Talib Sahir-Calloway)

New Center To Focus On Goals

The Center for Leadership, Development and Research has been established in Washington, D.C. The four organizers and officers of the center are Dr. Prezell R. Robinson, chairman of the board and vice president for program development; Dr. Charles A. Lyons, Jr., president; Dr. Mabel P. Phifer, vice president for development and research; and Dr. Wilbert Greenfield, vice president for finance and corporate secretary.

The center represents a major effort to create an organizational framework and to serve as a catalyst to bring together organizations and people to impact on human resource development, education and training,

and the shaping of public policy in the interest of black Americans.

The four principals bring to the organization a wealth of expertise and experience that will be utilized in the programs of the center. Dr. Robinson is president of St. Augustine's College, Raleigh. Dr. Lyons is immediate past chancellor and professor of political science at Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville. Dr. Phifer is serving as director of the Black College Satellite Network in Washington, D.C. Dr. Greenfield is immediate past president of Virginia State University, Petersburg, Va., and senior consultant for the National Association for

Equal Opportunity in Higher Education in Washington, D.C.

The founders of the center recognize that it is exceedingly critical that new and creative ways be devised to develop a viable and ongoing human resource system among black Americans which is on a par with white Americans. "This is essential to the attainment of equality of opportunity, social justice and equity envisioned by the Constitution of the United States," according to the founders.

The center is established as a private, non-profit public policy, research, education and leadership organization that will also seek greater involvement in and greater impact on public policy for blacks.

A broad range of programs will be established to enhance opportunities for research and publication to increase the research output of black scholars, faculty, and staff of historically black colleges and (See LEADERSHIP, P. 2)

INSIDE AFRICA

BY LARRY A. STILL
WASHINGTON, D.C.—As recently released African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela met with South African President Frederick de Klerk in Cape Town, South Africa, to begin discussions of negotiations for a desegregated nation, ANC and African-American representatives urged continued sanctions and demonstrations against the all-white Afrikaner government.

Speaking at the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in the U.S. capital, Stanley Mabizela, ANC deputy director, said Mandela and black African leaders are demanding the release of at least 300 more political prisoners, the lifting of State of Emergency apartheid laws against

Rev. Jesse Jackson has called for mass U.S. demonstrations against President George Bush's opposition to sanctions against South Africa as he emphasized black Americans' linkage to African liberation.

black citizens and recognition of all ANC party officials before serious negotiations begin by July 1. "We're still talking about talking," Mabizela told a press conference at the church in reference to the Cape Town meetings.

Lindiwe Mabuza, the ANC representative in Washington and United Nations observer, has joined Mabizela in touring the United States to rally continued support among all African-Americans, religious groups and other organizations, as well as U.S. officials, before Mabizela returns to ANC headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia.

Meanwhile, Rev. Jesse Jackson called for mass U.S. demonstrations (See INSIDE AFRICA, P. 2)

Growing National Problem

Blacks Overrepresented In Prisons

BY JOHN POWELL
Special To THE CAROLINIAN
Today more than one million people are confined in the prisons and jails of the United States, making our prison population among the highest in the world. Hundreds are on death row awaiting execution by gas, electrocution or other means. Criminal sentences here are much longer than those in western Europe and Canada, and the United States is the only

Western nation that still imposes the death penalty.

To complete the story, another shocking fact must be added to the above: By every conceivable measure and at every step of the process—from the initial stop by the police through arrest, conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, and even execution—the sanctions of our criminal justice system fall with huge disproportionality on people of color,

particularly African-Americans.

Black people comprise only about 12 percent of the U.S. population. Yet, nationwide, 46 percent of those incarcerated in prisons and jails are black, as are 41 percent of those on death row. In many states, the situation is even worse. African-Americans make up fully 50 percent of the prison population in New York, 70 percent in Louisiana, and 72 percent in Maryland. On death row,

black people are 61 percent of those awaiting execution in Illinois, and 73 percent in Maryland. Placed in an international context, incarceration rates for African-Americans are comparable to those for blacks in apartheid South Africa.

Here's another compelling statistic: This February, the Sentencing Project in Washington, D.C., released a report titled "Young Black Men and the Criminal Justice System: A Growing National Problem." That study found that on any given day, almost one in four black men in the age group 20-29 is either in prison or jail, on probation or on parole. Since this figure is for any given day, it actually understates the problem. In any given year, the numbers of young African-American men who come under the control of the criminal justice system are obviously even higher.

Few times in history have a people lost virtually an entire generation to incarceration. The effects of this wholesale criminalization of African-American youth on the family life, economy, and culture of black America are already manifest and will no doubt be felt for years to come.

Why are African-American people, so long underrepresented in business, government, education and other areas, so overrepresented in our prisons? Without question, individual racism plays a large part. At every point where decisions are made in the criminal justice system—from police officers (still overwhelmingly white) deciding to stop and frisk a person to (See BLACKS, P. 2)



SUPPORTING THE SHERIFF—Mr. and Mrs. Carl Trice of Fuquay-Varina and the committee to elect Wake Sheriff John Baker held a dinner and reception recently. The committee also held a "Meet the Sheriff Day" at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Richardson on Saturday in Fuquay. (Photo by Jim McDowell)

National Tourism Week Promoting Travel, Vacation

This week, Raleigh joins hundreds of cities across the nation in recognizing the importance of the travel and tourism industry during National Tourism Week, May 13-18. Currently North Carolina's third-largest industry, tourism expenditures were more than \$564 million in 1989 and employed more than 18,500 workers.

In 1989, travel in the United States supported nearly six million jobs. The travel, convention and tourism business is the nation's third largest retail industry and second largest employer. It is the first, second or third largest industry in 39 of the 50 states.

The industry will be honored at a breakfast Thursday, May 17, featuring Dick Trammell, director of the North Carolina Division of Travel and Tourism. The Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau's "Eye-Opener Breakfast" will be held from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Mission Valley Inn. The cost is \$6. Call 824-5900 for details.

In 1989, tourism was the third-largest industry in the state and tourism expenditures were about \$7 billion.

- RALEIGH ACTIVITIES
1. Mayor Avery Upchurch will proclaim "Raleigh Tourism Week" May 13-18 at the May 15 City Council meeting.
 2. An eye-opener breakfast will be held Thursday, May 17, at Mission Valley Inn with Dick Trammell as guest speaker. Special guests will be representatives of the tourism industry including cab drivers, travel agents, hotels, attractions, and transportation representatives.
 3. Special Raleigh Salutes Awards will be presented at the eye-opener breakfast to individuals and/or organizations who have helped increase convention and visitor business in Raleigh.
 4. A direct-mail campaign to tour operators will be mailed during this week.
 5. Articles, features, public service announcements, and interviews will be scheduled with a variety of media.