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Local Organizations Take Part

Ben Chavis Discusses Review Board

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports
For the first time in recent memory, several Raleigh and Wake County organizations will come together to discuss issues of mutual concern.

The Community Unity Forum will be held Sunday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Davis Street Presbyterian Church in Raleigh. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., executive director of the national Commission for Racial Justice, United Church of Christ, will deliver the unity keynote speech.

Dr. Chavis, who was just in the state last week to deliver the eulogy for the late civil rights leader, Judge

Floyd B. McKissick, Sr., stated in an interview with The CAROLINIAN, "I eagerly accepted this invitation to come to Raleigh to speak in the spirit of African-American unity. Raleigh has long been a bedrock of political activity and noted for its social and civic organizations who do good work. It's refreshing to see them come together to exchange dialogue."

The Rev. Leon White of Wake Forest will be the presiding officer for the forum. Bruce E. Lightner, Raleigh civic worker, was instrumental in planning the event. Lightner stated, "For a long time

there has been a consensus that we need to share our concerns and aspirations. This unity forum is hoped to be the starting point for organizations and area citizens to exchange in constructive and mutually beneficial dialogue."

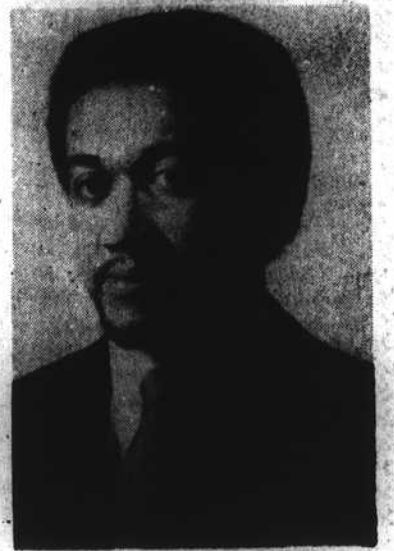
Although any issue of public concern will be discussed during the forum, the central issue will be the proposed creation of a Citizen's Police Review Board. According to organizers, new and vital information regarding how other communities across the nation are dealing with review boards will be revealed. Participating in the program will

be Rev. Mahan Siler, pastor, Pullen Memorial Baptist Church; Rev. James Brown, pastor, Davis Street Presbyterian Church; Ms. Ann Thompson, Episcopal Peace Fellowship; Ms. Theresa Baraham-Peebles, president, Concerned Citizens for Education Equity; Ms. Margaret Rose Murray, president, Business Building Society of Wake; the Hon. Ralph Campbell, Jr., Raleigh mayor pro-tem; Frank Roberts, host, WLE "Let's Talk;" Gordon Dillahunt, Black Workers for Justice; Ms. Sonia Barnes, president, Raleigh-Wake Citizen's Association; Ms. Mary E. Perry, president,

Wendell-Wake NAACP; Rev. David A. Dolby, president, Raleigh Ministerial Alliance; Dr. Gus Witherspoon, Pan-Hellenic Council; Rev. H.B. Pickett, Jr., president, Raleigh-Apex NAACP; James F. White, president, South Central Wake NAACP; Hon. Dan Blue, speaker, N.C. House of Representatives; and Ms. Dora Dillahunt and Nizam Thompson of the Raleigh Youth Brigade. Cash Michaels of WLE radio will moderate the forum.

Rev. White stated, "This unity forum will not cater to any one

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REV. BENJAMIN CHAVIS

Program Aids Move From Child To Adulthood

BY MARIE FAUBERT
Special To The CAROLINIAN

Every stage of human development from conception to adulthood has its own particular set of tasks in order for the person to move from an earlier stage to a later stage of human development. One of the most important tasks for the adolescent is to begin to answer the questions: "Who Am I?" "From where have I come?" and "Where do I want to go?"

For African-American adolescents the launching of the answering of these questions can be problematic. Although the family, church and community facilitate the adolescent's grappling with the answers to these basic human questions, often the school struggles to assist African-American students in their inquiry. The institutional culture of the school is usually that of the dominant culture. Frequently, the African-American adolescent does not have the right mix of challenge and support there to begin the task of discovering answers to these basic human questions.

Dr. Don C. Locke, head of the Counselor Education Department of North Carolina State University, and Fuquay-Varina and Wake Forest-Rolesville high schools are working together to assist African-American students to reflect on these questions constructively. Phyllis McLeod, counselor at Fuquay-Varina High School; Myra Smith, counselor at Wake Forest-Rolesville High School; and Alfred Bryant and Marie Faubert, graduate assistants in the Counselor Education Department at NCSU, are acting with Dr. Locke to develop the project called Getting on the Right Track, which is funded by BellSouth Foundation.

The purpose of the Getting on the

(See RIGHT TRACK, P. 2)

Local Educators Find

ACT Is An Answer

Enhances Black Child's Self-Concept

BY DAVID SAWYER
Staff Writer

One of the most important investments in society has always been the education of children for the future. In today's world, more than ever, education plays a most vital role. It is this combination of the investment between children and education that the African-American society must depend to continue to develop and prosper. The Academic Counseling and Training Sessions (ACTS) during the 1990-91 awards reception focused on that vital role.

The Wake County PTA Council Academic Counseling and Training Sessions held its reception on May 3 at Cary Senior High School, following the theme as well as group motto, "Do Your Best."

The Mistress of Ceremonies for the program was Phyllis McLeod with special music by Joi Mickens, Michelle Roberts, and Cori Donaldson.

A beautiful selection, "Underneath My Wings" was also performed by Lita Jones and soloist Amber Corne and Maria Marbet.

Federick Young, Lenwood Long, Ebony Pittman, Chris Steadman, E. Pulley, Kim Newsome, Deidre Hop and Lamont Christmas, representing the seven ACTS groups delivered the greetings.

The youth speakers were introduced by Russell McCauley and Aaron McLeod and included to messages worthy of standing ovations from Ayodele Carroo and Rachelle Holmes.

The guest speaker for the event was the Honorable Angela Roberts, the first black female judge in Richmond, Va., who discussed leaders of the future and the direction of ACTS, described as "doing the right thing to build a foundation for

(See ACT PROGRAM, P. 10)



MOTHERS MARCH—Ms. Bobette DeLisser was recently crowned the Raleigh-Apex NAACP Mother of the Year. Pictured above are (left to right) Allyson K. Duncan; Rev. H. B. Pickett, Raleigh-Apex Branch President; Mrs. Bobette DeLisser (1991 Mother); Mrs. Lucille Thorpe (1990

Mother); Mrs. Minnie Flagg (1989 Mother); and Ms. Kendra Johnson (Mothers March Chairman). The Mothers March is an aspect of the Freedom Fund efforts. It is held locally prior to the statewide competition. This year the statewide Mothers March was held at the Raleigh Civic Center.

NAACP Urges Census Bureau to Adjust Figures On African-American Population

The final census figures are out and municipalities nationwide are assessing the impact of the results on their fiscal well being and for African-Americans a bleak future in public employment is in the picture, unless the bureau adjusts figures for the undercount.

An editorial in the Daytona Times said "they have found a scapegoat in the most recent census to carry out what they have always been more than eager to do, i.e. reduce the number of Black and low-income workers on hand."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has called on the bureau to adjust its 1990 census figures, in light of the bureau's "post-enumeration survey," which revealed that roughly two million African-Americans were undercounted.

"We believe a little lesson in simple economics is quite in order at this time. When unemployment increases, the purchasing power of residents decreases and a recession follows like night follows day," the Daytona Times stated.

"The Black community feels victimized by the incessant injury inflicted on it by public officials by way of arbitrary termination of employment, refusal to invest tangibly in the community and the attitude of 'fiddling while Rome burned,' like Rome's Emperor Nero.

Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP in urging the bureau to adjust the figures said the undercount of blacks is disproportionate when compared to other groups.

"The NAACP is especially concerned with the undercounting of all persons in the United States. We deplore all attempts to exclude accurate census figures for African-Americans. We are calling on the Bureau of Census to adjust its figures to more accurately reflect the composition of every group in this country. The Bureau's recent survey of the 1990 census revealed that some six million persons were undercounted, Hooks said.

"The undercount of blacks is disproportionate when compared to other groups. If the government, with full knowledge of the inaccuracy, fails to adjust its figures, blacks will be harmed in every sphere of life.

"The census is one of the fundamental instruments for allocating power in this country. It determines the apportionment of representatives, the allocation of electoral college votes in presidential elections, and the distribution among states and localities of billions of dollars in federal funds for housing, education, transportation, environmental protection, and other services.

"It is, therefore, evident that failure to adjust the existing figures will impair the quality of life for blacks throughout this country.

"From the outset, the NAACP has been urging the Bureau not just to

(See CENSUS UNDERCOUNT, P. 2)

NEWS BRIEFS

WALNUT TERRACE IMPROVED

The Housing Authority of the City of Raleigh awarded a contract to J&M Landscaping of Raleigh for the storm drainage repairs and improvements at Walnut Terrace Apartments. The contract was for \$45,000. The work is part of a grant of \$5.5 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for exterior and interior renovations at Walnut Terrace Apartments. The work will consist of installing French drains under the building's eaves at 300 apartments, cleaning existing storm drain lines from the buildings to the street, and cleaning and/or repairing existing storm drain lines.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Fourth District Rep. David Price urged a congressional campaign finance reform task force to tighten federal laws governing political campaigns. "Campaign finance reform is far too important an issue to get bogged down in partisan politics," he said. "This is the year to write a law that will encourage grassroots participation in politics and restore confidence in the integrity and openness of our electoral system."

(See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)

Commission On Black Males To Combat Ills Of Unemployment, Crime

BY LARRY A. STILL
NNPA News Service

A national commission of political, business, educational and civic leaders established "to seek permanent solutions to the problems of young black males..." has pledged to take immediate action at a conference scheduled May 22-24 in Washington, D.C.

Speaking at the opening board meeting of the 21st Century Commission on African-American Males, honorary co-chairman, Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, outlined proposals for bipartisan public and private cooperation after the co-chair, Sen. Terry Sanford (D-N.C.), emphasized that the annual cost of maintaining black inmates is \$15,000 per prisoner compared to \$8,700 per capita income for black workers. "That disparity is a national embarrassment," said Sanford.

"The disproportionately high level of black male unemployment is related to almost every other burden of the black male. We need to look at unemployment in a fresh way in order to generate positive change," Sanford told the new commission. "I want to see jail rates go down and job

rates go up."

The commission, Gov. Wilder said, should focus on economics, workforce preparation, education, health care and social problems, beginning with the coming conference on "Exploding Myths, Analyzing Strategies, An Agenda for African-American Males." Panelists will include federal and state policymakers, as well as noted scholars, civic leaders and representatives of various organizations making recommendations in 12 workshop sessions.

Participants at the recent Capitol Hill board meeting included working co-chairmen Arthur Fletcher, chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and John E. Jacob, National Urban League president; Sen. Richard Shelby (D-Ala.); Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke; James Joseph, president, National Council of Foundations; Dr. Spencer Holland, Morgan State University; LeBaron Taylor, vice president Sony Music Entertainment, Inc.; Rep. Major Owens (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Don Ritzke (D-Mich.), chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee which held a hearing on

the black male crisis.

Dr. Douglas Glasgow, a commission scholar, and Gregg Watson, Xerox Corp. executive, were identified as coordinators of research for the conference recommendations to be distributed to foundations, corporations, elected officials, community agencies and general organizations.

"If we and all American citizens commit ourselves to addressing the plight of today's black males the black male of tomorrow will be committed to his education, to his family and to his career... rather than to a correctional facility or an early grave," Wilder told the session. But, working co-chairmen Fletcher and Jacob bluntly told commission members at the public session that they will seek direct action to correct past mistakes instead of merely ceremonial hearings and conferences.

Repeating his constant recommendation for a multibillion-dollar Urban Marshall Plan to revitalize deteriorating inner-city areas, Jacob later said the NUL will outline

(See BLACK MALES, P. 2)

Leaders To Strengthen African Ties

BY WILLIAM REED
Special To The CAROLINIAN

It is time for people of color to carry our own so that more of our color can carry on now and into the future. If my brother is in trouble, so am I and it is up to me to help him while I help myself. As the world becomes more of a "global village" and we reach across the waters to help our kith and kin in the Motherland, shouldn't we be more informed and intelligent in our actions to help the people of color in Africa?

Recently more than 500 African-American civil rights, business and political leaders went back to Africa to hold a three-day conference aimed at strengthening ties between America and the African continent. Billed as the "first-ever African-American/African Summit," the assembly in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, was designed to help build a more powerful lobby for African interests among policy and decision-makers in the United States. The summit's organizer, civil rights leader Rev. Leon Sullivan, accused America and the West of ignoring the problems of Africa and called on black Americans and Africans to re-cement ties of race and heritage and to assume greater responsibility for Africa's development.

Sullivan, author of the Sullivan Principles for fair employment guidelines for U.S. companies in South Africa, believes that more of us can carry on if we develop better ways to carry our own. But he knows that American ignorance about Africa hinders our ties and hampers our outreach toward African development efforts. Unlike the white community's linkages to Eastern Europe, people of color know little

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about actual conditions, leaders or wishes of the people of color in Africa.

The average black American's knowledge and contacts into Africa doesn't extend much beyond the apartheid issue in South Africa. And in this case our knowledge and actions prompts an illustration by using the story about the man fighting the bear. If in our naivete what we've done to help in South Africa is similar to the assistance we would give the man fighting the bear, he would say, "Help the bear." Few of us know that there are more than 40 countries in Africa, and it is evident that most African-Americans don't know that black South Africans have the highest per-capita annual incomes on the continent.

As we assume "greater responsibility for Africa's development," and "build a more powerful lobby" for African interests

(See AFRICAN SUMMIT, P. 2)