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Shaw Players Places

Commission Study Uncovers Racist Attitude

BY CASH MICHAELS
Contributing Writer

The alleged beating of a 16-year-old African-American teenager by Crabtree Valley Mall security was the direct result of an unwritten mall policy that black youth "break the rules or cause more trouble than other groups and therefore must be treated differently," according to a

city task force report released Wednesday.

The report, submitted to the City of Raleigh's Human Resources/Human Relations Advisory Commission, also alleges that Crabtree's security chief "tolerates racial, sexist and ethnic jokes" and that "disparate treatment, if not outright discrimination, is practiced in han-

dling all personnel on the [Crabtree] police force."

The report emanates from an investigation by Raleigh's Human Resources Department and a special Crabtree task force of the commission, into an incident involving 16-year-old Lorenzo McCoy at Crabtree Mall on Jan. 25.

As first and exclusively reported

by The CAROLINIAN six weeks ago, McCoy charged that he and two other teenage friends were told to leave the mall by Chief of Security John Wilson for allegedly loitering. After a verbal exchange, McCoy and his friends claim they were leaving when Chief Wilson radioed for security backup, then ran from behind the youths to block their exit. Wilson

then redirected them toward a hallway that McCoy described as "dark and narrow."

When McCoy refused to use that exit, and tried to proceed toward the way he came in, he claims the chief grabbed him and a struggle ensued. It was then that another security guard separated the two and hit McCoy across the face with his fist.

McCoy claims he was also subsequently kicked.

McCoy and one of the other youths were handcuffed and taken downstairs to a security office, where he claims more verbal and racial abuse occurred. He was eventually charged with assault on a govern-

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NAACP And Community React To Crabtree Report Here

Community reaction to the Raleigh Human Relations Commission report on Crabtree Valley Mall's security force has been swift and strong, with several calls for the dropping of all charges against 16-year-old Lorenzo McCoy. Many of the people and organizational representatives that The CAROLINIAN spoke with expressed satisfaction that there was now hard evidence of alleged racism on the mall's part.

"I find the report by the Human Relations Task Force very disturbing, and a clear, unbiased review of the events, actions and attitudes prevalent [when the incident took place]," said Bruce Lightner, community activist and member of the Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association. "It further seems evident that Crabtree does not intend to live up to the accord it reached in August 1991 to settle the first controversy

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Superintendent Candidate Asks 'Freedom Schools'

BY CASH MICHAELS
Staff Writer

He is the first African-American in North Carolina history to run for the state's top education post, state schools superintendent. But to 37-year-old Vernon Robinson, that is not why he wants to win.

And the prospect of dethroning yet another prominent Democrat in the person of incumbent Bobby Etheridge, while enticing, still isn't enough for this up-and-coming star in the Republican Party ranks.

Proving that expensive bureaucracy can be cut, local school system autonomy enhanced, and parents' right to choose the schools of their choice are the reasons why this assistant professor at Winston-Salem State University wants the title "State School Superintendent" to come before his name.

And Vernon Robinson feels that it is in the African-American community's particular interest that he get elected.

"Public schools have failed low-income children and have treated them as disposable," Robinson told The CAROLINIAN last week as he officially announced his candidacy. That is why he feels radical educational reform is necessary, and part of that reform means schools of choice for black parents.



VERNON ROBINSON

attend private schools.

Robinson has called on black churches statewide to consider the recreation of "Freedom Schools," a reference to many of the church-based schools for the children of slaves after the Civil War. Robinson says this is the "second period of American slavery" because the current public school system has created "welfare state" conditions in the African-American community.

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"I support empowering parents to choose the public school that best meets their children's educational needs. Choice ensures that everyone in a particular school shares a common vision," he says. Allowing parental choice would, according to Robinson, expose bad schools to competitive market forces, making them get better or close down. Low-income parents should get tuition grants to allow their children to

Robinson says black churches can fund "freedom schools" through federal funds offered through the U.S. Education Department's G.I. Bill, with additional funds from the state.

"I want to save educational opportunity in public schools, but to do that, we must change these schools and hold them responsible to every parent, regardless of income," said Robinson.

At the first major debate between Robinson, incumbent Etheridge, and Democratic challenger C. Owen Phillips, superintendent of the High Point City Schools, Robinson pushed for parental choice and more local control. He said he would greatly reduce the number of administrators currently employed by the state, establish "world-class standards" so that North Carolina students can be competitive with their foreign counterparts, and put the best possible teachers in the classrooms, indicating that "the best" didn't necessarily mean that they would need teaching degrees.

"This election will be a referendum on whether the parents and other taxpayers in North Carolina believe in higher spending, higher taxes on a smaller family budget to improve schools, or whether they support the real education reform package I have outlined. That's the choice for 1992," said Robinson.

Needham Broughton High Student Wins \$40,000 Morehead Scholarship

CHAPEL HILL—Maurice Antonio Smith, a senior at Needham B. Broughton High School, has won a 1992 Morehead Award to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Smith, the son of Frederick and Bettie Smith of 1009 Wellstone Circle, Apex, is president of Top Teens of America, Inc., a member of the varsity basketball team and a participant in Governor's School West in mathematics.

The \$40,000 scholarship pays all expenses for four years of undergraduate study at UNC-CH and for a four-part summer enrichment program. The John Motley Morehead Foundation also pays a tuition differential for out-of-state scholars. The award is renewable annually.

Criteria for the award include academic achievement, leadership, moral force of character and physical vigor. Recipients are determined by merit and achievement, not by

financial need.

The summer enrichment program complements each scholar's classwork with opportunities for hands-on leadership and problem-solving experiences. The program's internships focus on four areas: outdoor leadership, public service, private enterprise, and travel and study abroad.

Trustees of the John Motley Morehead Foundation in Chapel Hill have awarded scholarships to 50 high-school seniors in North Carolina and 16 other states for study beginning next fall.

Morehead Scholar selection followed a screening process that began in September 1991 and concluded in Chapel Hill Feb. 22-25.

"These students exemplify the qualities we seek in a Morehead Scholar," said Charles E. Lovelace, Jr., executive director of the Morehead Foundation. "Their outstanding scholastic record and involvement in extracurricular activities

Enloe & Two Durham Schools To "Superquest"

RESEARCH TRIANGLE

PARK—Two teams of students and teachers from Enloe High School in Raleigh, a team from Jordan High in Durham, and a team from Durham High have accepted a challenge that will stretch the groups' imaginations, build stronger math and science skills and give the teams a whole new perspective on how science can be done.

That's NC SuperQuest—an exciting competition sponsored by the N.C. Supercomputing Center at MCNC. Designed to reward students and teachers for work on projects of their choice, it also teaches them computational science—"doing" science on a computer.

To enter NC SuperQuest, the students and their teacher-coaches from Enloe High submitted one initial idea titled "Future Traffic Within the Solar System," and another initial idea titled "Postponement of Population Takeover of Support Systems."

Durham's Jordan High School students are working a project titled "A Study of Structural Integrity Through a Seismic Disturbance."

And Durham High School students, entering the competition for the second time in a row, submitted an abstract for a project titled "Projecting the Effects of Human Interference on the Duke Forest Ecosystem."

Other teams from public and private high schools across the state submitted abstracts with ideas for computational problems that range from the jet stream to weather modeling, from pollution control to earthquakes, from space stations to cell growth, and more.

"Those teams will work hard, but they will enjoy it," says NC SuperQuest Manager Kris Allsberry. "And just as important, the students who participate in NC SuperQuest are learning computational skills they will be able to use in school now and in many areas of education or science they may choose later on."

For teachers, this is a chance to rediscover their excitement about teaching math and science as they put supercomputing to work in the classroom.

Now the teams are working to refine their initial ideas into proposal forms for judging. On April 1, a panel of independent judges will

select preliminary winners from four separate geographic regions of North Carolina and one at-large team.

In June, these five preliminary winning teams will spend two weeks at NCSC for the NC SuperQuest Summer Institute. During that time, the students will learn more about supercomputing with hands-on experience, lectures and demon-

(See SUPERQUEST, P. 2)

CRIME BEAT

Editor's Note: This column, a fixture of The CAROLINIAN in years past, has returned to our pages in hopes of deterring crime in our community. The information contained herein is taken from public arrest records and does not necessarily mean those mentioned are guilty of crimes.

FACES ASSAULT CHARGES

Myra Denise Dula of 1780 Proctor St. has been charged with simple assault on 46-year-old Tesse Rogers Horton. The 31-year-old Ms. Dula allegedly assaulted Ms. Horton in the parking lot of the Proctor Street address on Monday at 2:30 p.m. No injuries were reported.

STUDENTS ARRESTED

Ms. Clarissa Marie Sanders of 114 Dabney Hall and Dawn Ramona Hebert of 1315 Oakwood Avenue have been arrested and charged with larceny and larceny and obstruction, respectively. The duo was allegedly caught shoplifting at a retail store at 4217 Six Forks Road at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday. \$240 worth of merchandise was reported stolen.

NABBED FOR POSSESSION

Lamont Travis Jones of 2616 Steward Drive reportedly broke the narcotic drug law by possessing .2 grams of crack cocaine Saturday in the parking lot of the 300 block of Dacian Road. The incident reportedly happened between 12:15 and

(See CRIME BEAT, P. 2)

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARDS

Johnny Blaylock, founder of the "Friends Committee Against the Spread of Drugs and AIDS," and Beth McCallister, a healthcare specialist who has worked tirelessly to help persons living with AIDS, were among citizens honored at the Raleigh Human Resources/Human Relations Advisory Commission Awards Luncheon held at St. Augustine's College last Wednesday. The awards were given to citizens who have made extraordinary contributions to the community. Blaylock, whose organization will be opening an AIDS hospice house on South Bloodworth Street, gave his award to his daughter, in hopes that she will "pass it on to her children one day."

HELMS CAMPAIGN CHARGED

The U.S. Justice Department filed suit against the 1990 re-election campaign of Republican U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms and the N.C. Republican Party last Wednesday for the mailing of 125,000 postcards that allegedly intimidated black voters in several predominantly black precincts. Many believe that the intent of the postcards, which erroneously told black voters that they were not eligible to vote and would be prosecuted if they did, was to undermine the candidacy of Democratic Senate challenger Harvey Gantt, an African-American.

Rather than fight the suit, the Helms re-election committee filed a consent decree at the same time in U.S. District Court, denying the

(See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)



MAURICE A. SMITH