

Concern Lingers On Equal Court Treatment

BY ELAINE R. JONES
NNPA Commentary
There is little wonder why a recent survey showed that 89 percent of African-Americans believe they cannot get fair and equal treatment in the criminal justice system.

This statistic, revealed in a Washington Post-ABC poll conducted after the Rodney King ver-

dict, is borne out by a decade characterized by the dismantling of laws which have protected the civil rights of African-Americans and other people of color.

Nowhere is this trend more evident than in the federal judiciary—an institution that since the 1940s had begun to challenge discrimination, playing a major role in upholding and interpreting civil

rights statutes. Today the federal courts are being stacked with an unprecedented number of appointees of Presidents Reagan and Bush who have demonstrated little sensitivity to the legal wrongs inflicted on the African-American community. The nominees overwhelmingly are white, male, usually not more than 45 years of age, conservative and

possess little prior judicial experience. Since 1981, nearly 500 nominees have been confirmed to a judiciary that is comprised of approximately 800 judgeships.

This changing face is being etched not solely by Republican lawmakers playing politics. The nominees are being considered, and in most cases, confirmed, by a Senate which has been Democrat-

ically controlled since 1986. The new face of the federal courts and the threat to equal justice are graphically illustrated by two nominees who were recently given hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee: Edward Earl Carnes and Francis A. Keating II. It is expected that Carnes' nomination will be voted on by the full Senate imminently.

In both instances major civil rights organizations have staunchly opposed the nominations, providing a wealth of evidence showing gross and flagrant disregard for civil rights laws. Keating, the general counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, was nomi-

(See COURT, P. 2)

Chambers New NCCU Chancellor

CHAPEL HILL (AP)—Former Charlotte lawyer Julius Chambers, a national civil rights attorney, last week was named chancellor of North Carolina Central University in Durham.

C.D. Spangler Jr., president of the University of North Carolina system, recommended Chambers for the post. The UNC Board of Governors approved it by a unanimous voice vote.

Chambers, 55, now directs the New York-based NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

"Julius Chambers' life has been one of commitment to equality for all Americans," Spangler said. "Nothing pleases me more than bringing home our most talented North Carolinians... I feel North Carolina Central University needs Julius Chambers. He is a quiet and effective leader."

Chambers replaces Tyroneza Richmond, who left in December. He will start Jan. 1. Donna Benson has been serving interim chancellor.

Born in Mount Gilead in Montgomery County, Chambers received his undergraduate degree from North Carolina Central and graduated at the top of his class in 1962 from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law.

Before leaving in 1984 to head the legal defense fund, Chambers practiced law in Charlotte as senior partner of North Carolina's

(See NCCU, P. 2)

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Black Voters Hold Key To Success

12-African Americans Could Claim Congress Seats

BY LARRY STILL
Capitol News Service
At least 12 new African-American members of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. could be elected in the 1992 national balloting in November as a result of congressional redistricting procedures, according to a recently released report of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

All of the new districts are in eight Southern states and Maryland, in addition to about 100 new majority-black state legislative districts created in these areas. "This year is expected to be a watershed for black legislators at both state and federal levels," says David Bositis, senior research associate for JCPES.

Candidates Carol Mosely Braun's U.S. Senate race in Illinois and Ralph Campbell's campaign for state auditor in North Carolina will generate much enthusiasm in all African-American communities since their victories would represent political firsts, says Bositis.

Also, a large number of black and white women candidates are making major appeals to black voters, in addition to Southern white Democratic Senate incumbents in Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina, Bositis adds.

The report, "Blacks and the Democratic National Convention," was prepared to assist current delegates and participants in carrying out their responsibilities and in analyzing black political behavior. The center has prepared similar volumes for Democratic and Republican convention participants since 1972, said Eddie Williams, JCPES president.

The new "Southern Strategy" of

(See HOLD KEY, P. 2)

Need To Raise Expectations For N.C. Education Theme For '90s

Every decade seems to have a theme in public education, whether it's the back-to-basics movements of the 1980s or the experimental environment of the 1970s. For the 1990s, the theme is expectations.

Expectations, and the need to raise them in North Carolina and the United States, is a theme that ties together everything from curriculum revisions to testing to limits on what can be considered as part of the instructional day.

"Unless North Carolinians expect more from their schools, their young people and their teachers, other attempts to reform schools will not succeed," said State Superintendent Bob Etheridge. "The top priority in a young person's life should be education, and I believe we should have high expectations that all students will apply themselves and perform at their highest potential. Often, you get what you expect, and North Carolinians should expect more from students and schools."

Raising expectations is not an easy task. It requires educating parents, teachers and others and, sometimes, overcoming assump-



DAY TO REMEMBER—Mrs. Jessie Copeland, shown (right) receiving embrace from Joann Taylor after an Appreciation Dinner in her honor given by the Inter-Project Council of the Raleigh Housing Authority. "We love her," said Taylor, a tenant at (RHA) Mayview Apartments. Mrs. Copeland has encouraged me so many ways...shrining recipes, singing hymns...just like another mother," Ms. Taylor concluded. Mrs. Copeland was showered with flowers, a money tree and other gifts.

Earlier Saturday, the Friends Committee Against Drugs and AIDS, Inc. during their Annual Family Reunion Day in Chavis Heights awarded Mrs. Copeland with a plaque for her leadership in trying to rid the community of drugs. "I'm a little tired, but I seem to gain strength when helping others," said Mrs. Copeland, head of the Tenants Association in Chavis Heights and recent retiree from Raleigh Housing Authority Board. (Photo by James Giles)

Community Reinvestment Group To Monitor NationsBank Program

BY CASH MICHAELS
Staff Writer

On the same day that the nation's fourth largest bank outlined a new program to help underserved, poor and minority communities in the Triangle area, a coalition group says it will continue to monitor if those areas are truly being served.

During a breakfast meeting with area community leaders at the Sheraton Imperial in Research Triangle Park Tuesday, officials with NationsBank outlined the goals of their "community invest-

ment program," where \$10 billion dollars over a 10-year period will be committed to provide low and moderate income households and businesses special credit, lending and depository services.

The targets of the NationsBank program are consumers with incomes less than 80 percent of the market median income, who live in low to moderate income areas; small businesses located in low to moderate income areas with annual sales of \$10 million annually or less; loans to non-profit organi-

zations, etc. Officials say that in North Carolina, NationsBank has already made substantial gains in assisting previously underserved customers with special residential mortgage products, small business lending, public/private partnerships and \$870,000 in purchases from minority businesses.

"At NationsBank, we have a deeply held dedication to both the concept and the reality of investing in all communities we serve. Simply put, our prosperity is tied directly to everyone's prosperity," said Catherine Bessant, community investment executive.

The announcement of NationsBank's commitment to was applauded with guarded enthusiasm by a watchdog organization.

"Today we herald a new era in community reinvestment," said Irvin Henderson, president of the Community Reinvestment Association of North Carolina. "CRANC" as it's more commonly known, is a coalition of more than thirty member organizations that work to ensure fair access to credit and financial services for low and moderate income individuals and communities.

Though he acknowledged NationsBank's announcement, Henderson cautioned that their, and the efforts of other banks across North Carolina must be constantly monitored to insure that they are doing what they say they are.

"We were recently told that the community reinvestment is the greatest growth area for consultants in the financial services industry," said Henderson. "Banks in North Carolina are annually spending hundreds of thousands of dollars for advice on how to comply with the federal Community Reinvestment Act

"Megabanks like NationsBank

(See 90s THEME, P. 2)

(See MONITORS, P. 2)

Racism Said Costly To U.S. Industry

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP)—Racism is costing America money.

Bigotry subtracts from economic growth in the often-recited toll of welfare and unemployment, in the high cost of crime that demands more police and prisons, in the tariff exacted by what often seems to be self-destructive ghetto violence.

Worse, racism deprives the nation of energy, know-how, drive and dollars.

"There are a lot of things that suggest that racism is the most insidious phenomenon causing a drag on the American economy," said Edward D. Irons, dean of business at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta and a consultant to federal and international agencies on banking and economic development.

"Unless we get a handle on racism, foreign competitors are going to eat our lunch," Irons said.

Imagine the Los Angeles riots laying waste to America day after day. Or wipe out the communications industry. That's roughly how much the U.S. economy misses out by not providing more opportunities for the nation's 30 million blacks, according to Billy J. Tidwell, a social scientist at the National Urban League in Washington.

It's a steep price, by Tidwell's reckoning: \$93 billion—close to 2 percent of the Gross National Product—could be pumped into the U.S. economy every year if the per capita income of blacks was on a par with whites.

Calculated per household, that comes to \$1,000 each year. Consider it a hidden fee.

Tidwell did the arithmetic for a 1990 report on racism's bottom line, but his figures hold steady, he said.

"Not enough people... put it into

(See COSTLY, P. 2)

NEWS BRIEFS

YEAR-ROUND EDUCATION

The Board of Education and Wake County Public School System administration in a letter to parents this week said that no decision has been made about expanding year-round education in Wake County. The letter also stated that no decisions have been made or will be made without discussions with the community.

MLK BOULEVARD

The City of Raleigh cut the ribbon on the newest section of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard during a special ceremony on Aug. 5 adjacent to the memorial gardens, located at the intersection of Rock Quarry Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The new five-lane road runs from Blount Street to Rock Quarry Road.

FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL

The W.B. Lewis Gospel Choir is planning for a flurry of activities this weekend at First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, 1515 Crosslink Road. The festival and flea market will be designed for the whole family and includes food, games, prizes and singing from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Aug. 8.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

The U.S. House has approved funding recommended by Rep. David Price for environmental protection research at the

(See NEWS BRIEFS, 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.

ALLEGED CATFISH THIEF

Thirty-four-year-old Reginald Bullock of 2116 Avent Ferry Road was charged with unlawful concealment. Police say that Bullock allegedly concealed 4.49 pounds of catfish in a supermarket at 5522 Western Blvd.

ASSAULT WITH A KNIFE

Maggie W. McDade, 65, of 205-A Seawall Avenue, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to do serious injury. Police say Ms. McDade allegedly stabbed 35-year-old David Melvin McDade of the same address. The victim was treated at Wake Medical Center for the stab wound.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Thirty-one-year-old Raymond Leo Barfield of Rt. 1, Box 283, Linden, was charged with damage to property. Police say Barfield allegedly damaged the wood door and frame to the home of Gail Talmage Lindsey of Wake Forest Road. The damage was estimated at \$100.

STOLEN VEHICLE

Gordon Earl McDiarmid, 33, of "Anywhere" in Greensboro, was charged with embezzlement and larceny of a vehicle. Police say the suspect was found with a 1985 Buick 2-door valued at \$5,000 and items from the car valued at \$2,000. Police say the vehicle belongs to Sylvia Morgan of Wakefield Drive in Greensboro. The car was found in an apartment complex on Hargrove Road.

ASSAULT ON FEMALE

Thirty-eight-year-old Floyd Norfleet of 309 E. Lenoir St. was charged with assaulting a woman of the same address. Police say the alleged assault occurred at the corner of Bloodworth and South streets. The woman had injuries on her face and lips.