

Anger And Racism

Actor Lou Gossett says offers did not come after he won an Oscar in "An Officer and a Gentleman." He blames anger and racism and a personal bout with depression.
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Negro League Years

Jackie Robinson became famous as an outstanding player, but many members of the Negro League remain unknown as vital makers of baseball history.
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In 1938 Walter White, a committed lobbyist, was appointed national secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the nation's oldest civil rights organization. His tenure would last 24 years in the organization founded by W. E. B. DuBois and supporters in 1909.

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RALEIGH
VOL. 51, NO. 77
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1992

N.C.'s Semi-Weekly
DEDICATED TO THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST

SINGLE COPY **25¢**
IN RALEIGH
ELSEWHERE **30¢**

Tues, Aug. 18, 1992

Blacks Say Expensive Civic Center Would Have Few Community Benefits

BY CASH MICHAELS
Staff Writer

There is excitement in the air around Raleigh City Hall. The prospect of building a new \$95 million dollar civic and convention center downtown means finally putting the capitol city on the map when it comes to attracting first class large conferences, and the tens of millions of dollars that come with them annually. All citizens have to do is approve a high ticket bond referendum, and the bidding can begin.

But then travel a few blocks into

southeast Raleigh, where there is frustration, not excitement, permeating the atmosphere. There is little industry, few jobs, and minimum meaningful growth for the indigenous population there, compared to the rest of the city.

In Raleigh's black community, the air crackles with anything but excitement when you ask the average southeast resident about supporting the new multi-million dollar city project. But while it may only be a few blocks away, to many black citizens, it might as well be worlds apart.

So when the City Council formally approved a resolution to place a bond referendum to cover the cost of construction on the November 3rd ballot last Wednesday, not only African-Americans, but tax weary white citizens, were disturbed that another expensive public project was looming in the wings, with little or no perceived benefits.

"Again, the African-American voter is asked to dine at a dinner table at which he is served an empty plate. In the past, we were served a menu of broken prom-

ises," said Melvin Whitley, representing the Raleigh East Community organization. Whitley was one of a majority of citizens, black and white, who went before the city council at last Wednesday's public hearing, opposing the bond issue.

"We continue to leave the tax supported table with a bitter taste and an empty stomach..." Whitley concluded. "It is not enough to be called a diner and set a table with others whose plates are filled with prosperity and a sense of security, while the southeast Raleigh com-

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HAPPY TO BE ALIVE—As he and his mother left Wake Medical Center last Friday, 8-year-old Dwayne Benjamin Powell of Newark, N.J. tells reporters that he's doing O.K. after being shot in the lower hip on St. Augustine's College's campus. Powell's mother, Mrs. Jessie Howell, sent her son to Raleigh to get away from crime in Newark. She said she was happy to now take Dwayne home. (Photo by Cash Michaels)

New Jersey Youth Heads Home After Shooting At Game

BY CASH MICHAELS
Staff Writer

Being shot and then being made a big fuss over by strangers and the media wasn't exactly what 8-year-old Dwayne Benjamin Powell had in mind for his summer vacation away from his native Newark, N.J. The young boy's puzzled look on his face when he was discharged from Wake Medical Center last Friday was the unintended result of an argument over a basketball game.

America's Southern Black Face

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The Emmett Till murder trial. The Montgomery bus boycott. Martin Luther King Jr.'s rise to national prominence. It's all there in Ernest Withers' rusting file cabinets.

Stacks of aging photos and negatives put a face on America's search for black civil rights in the 1950s and '60s.

It's all there because Withers was there. And he had his camera with him.

Withers, 69, has photographed black Southern life for more than 40 years, and his files hold thousands upon thousands of pictures and negatives.

There are happy couples at their weddings. Smiling children at parades. A dead teen-ager's brutalized body. Smug white men acquitted of murder.

"I have been the recorder of history and feel good about that," Withers said at the modest studio where he still plies the craft he began learning as a teen-ager with

(See BLACK FACE, P. 2)



OPPOSITION—Former city councilman and state senator John W. Winters (Pictured at Podium) and the Wake County Taxpayer's Association said no to a new \$95 million convention center in downtown Raleigh Wednesday night. The city council voted unanimously to put the bond issue before the voters in the Nov. 3rd general election. If approved, design and construction will begin in spring 1993. (Photo by James Giles)

Black Voter Support To Decide \$95 Million Civic Center Issue

BY CASH MICHAELS
Staff Writer

You may not feel it now, but by Election Day in November there will be no doubt; Raleigh's African-American citizen will be expected to not only support, but provide the margin of victory for the \$95 million bond referendum to build a new, and controversial civic and convention center. The question is...will they do it?

A confluence of factors already put into place may give city administrators and civic supporters better than a 50/50 chance to succeed, and it's all based on a simple, but tried and true philosophy! Get out the black vote, and you'll win!

Factor #1—Even before the Raleigh City Council decided to approve putting the bond referendum before the people, it had been

determined that November 3rd, Election Day, would be the date to do it. Why? Because this year, it is also a presidential election day, and history has shown that more voters come out during a presidential election than for statewide or local contests. The referendum thus gets the benefit of a built-in maximum voter turn-out. But this is even more the case in terms of the black community, for unless people become totally disillusioned by November, the black vote is expected to turn out. And if it keeps to historical form, the black vote this election day may provide the margin for victory once again for something or someone that has been promised to be advantageous for them.

Factor #2—History is on the side of bond referendum propo-

nents. Whenever one has been placed before the African-American community, it has been supported. Why? Because of the promise of more jobs, or better schools, or better opportunities. Part of the approved resolution called for a 7 1/2 to 10 percent "minority/woman owned business participation" in all phases of the project, specifically in the design, construction and contract concessions. District C City Councilman Ralph Campbell Jr. pushed hard for this addition to the resolution, and told the CAROLINIAN that he feels it would guarantee the African-American community would benefit from the project.

So if history is a guide, pushing the benefits hard and strong in the black community, combined with an election day voter well, passage of the \$95 million dollar bond referendum should be a lead pipe cinch, particularly if the black vote provides the margin in a close, heated general campaign.

But if the bond referendum fails in the black community, it will be because many African-Americans have taken stock of history, found the benefits of their community lacking, and are in no mood to endorse a gravy train for anybody else.

Melvin Whitley, head of the Raleigh East Community Organization, told the City Council at the Aug. 12th public hearing that black voters have been supporting bond referendums and other fiscal initiatives in Raleigh for the last 30 years, only to be later victimized by a "menu of broken promises." Those broken promises included greater use of the Memorial Auditorium for the community if it supported the restoration effort, greater use of the civic center for

(See BLACK VOTERS, P. 2)

Federal Charges King Beating

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was charged with federal offenses for violating Mr. King's civil rights in Simi Valley, Ca.,

the officers were found not guilty on April 29 by a predominantly white jury of all charges except one against a single officer, Lawrence Powell. Here, the jury was deadlocked and Powell faces retrial on Oct. 19 for excessive use of force.

The acquittals touched off violence in Los Angeles that left more than 45 people dead and damage estimated at \$800 million.

Specifically the federal indictment charges the three officers who beat King during an arrest in March 1991, with violating his Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable arrest.

It accuses their sergeant of depriving King of his 14th Amendment due process rights by failing to restrain the officers. Each of the officers faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted.

In his statement, Dr. Hooks said: "Justice was not served in Simi Valley last April. Our hope for justice now lies in the federal court where the officers involved have been indicted under civil rights statutes.

"In the past we have experienced numerous occasions where, when local systems of justice faltered, there was recourse to the federal courts.

"We are hopeful that in this flagrant incident of police abuse that those whose faith in the judicial system was shaken by the incomprehensible verdicts rendered earlier, will find reason to once again believe in that system."

The U. S. Justice Department began a Federal civil rights investigation after the beating of Mr. King on March 3, 1991, that was videotaped by an amateur cameraman and widely shown on television.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

U. S. Rep. David Price will hold three community meetings in Raleigh beginning August 24 at Enloe High School at 7:30 p.m.; August 31 at Sanderson High School at 7:30 p.m. and September 3 at Athens Drive High School at 7:30 p.m.

YEAR ROUND EDUCATION

The issue of year-round education is not on the Wake County Board of Education agenda for the August 17 meeting. The board on that date will consider items which will be heard at the facilities, legislative, personnel, policy and program committee meetings this month. Year-round education is not on the agenda for any of those committee meetings.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Support group for six weeks covers variety topics from fatigue to anger, self-esteem to intimacy beginning August 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Women's Center, 128 E. Hargett Street.

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ues man who got his break 37
ak they deserve during a cross-
Musicians can call the national
e is \$15,000 competition in Grand