



Councilman Jeffrey Johnson views the site of a planned shopping center in his ward. PHOTO BY JACK VAN ANTWERP

*The man who dared
challenge George Forbes*

Jeffrey Johnson

BY CONNIE SCHULTZ GARD

Critics of Jeffrey Johnson describe him as brash, arrogant, young and independent.

Johnson's most fervent supporters also describe him as brash, arrogant, young and independent.

The difference is this: His detractors cite those traits as the reasons he will never advance his career beyond the Ward 8 City Council seat he currently holds, while loyalists name them as just a few of the reasons he not only will unseat the seemingly undefeatable County Commissioner Virgil Brown in November, but is destined to become one of the most dynamic, successful black leaders in this country.

Before last December, many knew the outspoken Johnson as the councilman who succeeded in forcing a local radio station to remove billboard advertisements that he regarded as racist. Others identified Johnson as the driving force behind the establishment of a sex-crimes unit in the police department. Still others noticed Johnson after he demanded that police promotions be delayed because, he said, not enough minorities were on the force.

But after Dec. 3, 1987 most would know Jeffrey Johnson as the man at whom Council President George Forbes, in a fit of rage, threw a chair.

It is a distinction that Johnson said he could live without. "Do you know how many chair jokes I've heard in the last few weeks?" he asked with a grimace. "It's not what I want people to remember about me."

But Johnson doesn't deny that the chair-throwing incident hurled him onto the front pages of newspapers and gained so much publicity that it led at least one councilman, Michael D. Polensek, D-11, to admit, "I wish George had thrown that chair at me."

Suddenly observers who never noticed him before were paying attention to Johnson, and

Connie Schultz Gard is a Cleveland Heights free-lance writer.

many were asking, "Who is this man who could get George Forbes to lose total control? Who is Jeff Johnson?"

It was not the first time Johnson and Forbes had disagreed, and some councilmen said privately that they were only surprised that the blow-up hadn't happened sooner. Johnson and Forbes had been sparring openly for months over such issues as the 911 emergency telephone system and procedural handling of the one-man police car issue. When it looked as though Forbes would table indefinitely the funding for a shopping plaza in Ward 8, Johnson once again took the offensive, accusing Forbes of "not being man enough" to discuss with him why he was holding up the \$800,000 grant. Shortly after that, at a meeting of black councilmen at Vel's Party Center, Johnson was ducking a flying chair and Forbes was dodging the outrage of opponents and supporters alike.

Later Forbes allowed the funding for the shopping plaza to go through and apologized privately to Johnson, as well as to Johnson's father, David, who went to City Hall and demanded to speak with Forbes. "I knew him when he was in law school and just starting out in politics. He was the same way as my son is now," said the senior Johnson. "There was no way he was going to try to hold back my son for standing up for what he believes in."

"Throwing that chair at Jeff was the 'shot heard 'round the world,'" said Polensek, an outspoken critic of Forbes. "It marked the beginning of a new political day in this town. People have become freer to express themselves, they are taking clearer stands and positions."

It is Johnson's relationship — or lack of one — with the council president that has created the most controversy for him during his tenure as councilman. It is a problem Johnson says he'd rather not have, but that was inevitable because "we both have egos," and Forbes expects "complete loyalty from all black council-

men. That means he expects them to agree, which translates into following his program. I don't owe him blind loyalty. The only thing I owe George Forbes is respect."

Johnson was in kindergarten the year Forbes won his council seat. "He's a historical figure. When I first entered in council (in 1984) he was 'Mr. Forbes' to me. As time passed, he soon became 'George.'"

After two years had passed, Johnson said he began to relax and feel more comfortable with his role as councilman. "Natural differences began to surface between George and me," he said. "I feel it's important to stand up to him. You can't come across as a patsy to George Forbes. Talking to him is like talking to a brick wall, and you have to be tough."

According to Johnson, he and Forbes do not speak to each other privately, a situation that has existed for more than a year. "Our silence is not anger," he said. "We just have nothing to say to each other."

Forbes declined all requests for interviews. Controversy surrounded even the birth of Johnson, who was to be named after his father, David Jeffrey. At the last minute, his father says with a chuckle, Johnson's mother got mad at her husband, and so reversed the order of the names. Thus, Jeffrey David Johnson was born on April 10, 1958.

Johnson grew up in then racially-mixed Collinwood on Darley Avenue, where he was the youngest of five children. He had two half-sisters, Joyce and Diane, from his father's two previous marriages, as well as two sisters, Caprice and Dana. Johnson dislikes differentiating between the sisters. "It is a distinction you make, not I," he said, frowning. "We were raised to believe we were all family, period."

Johnson said he was surrounded by strong women throughout his childhood. His maternal great-grandmother, Mae Morton, lived in the apartment above them in the two-family home. Around the corner in Glenville his paternal grandmother, Juanita Lewis, lived in the corner brick duplex where Johnson and his father live

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now (his parents divorced in 1975). Johnson said he spent equal time at each household, and that he learned the importance of strength and character from his grandmothers as well as his mother, who worked nights as a postal clerk from the time he was 18 months old.

Both Johnson's parents worked for the post office (his mother still does), and his father also was a private policeman. They both worked, they say, because it was a priority for every child to go to college. "Education is the road to success and self-sufficiency," said his father. "It was the best way we could show them we loved them."

Bette Morton Johnson is candid when discussing her son. Laughing, she said, "I told Jeffrey, 'Don't even try to tell me what to say to a reporter. When you were little, you were bad!'" She then adds, "I don't mean he was a juvenile delinquent. He was just mischievous. I was always having to go to his school to talk to the principal because Jeffrey had pulled someone's hair, sung out loud in class or teased another kid, and when I'd ask him why, he'd say, 'I was bored, Mama.'"

David Johnson's memories of his son revolve around his desire for him to be a fine athlete. Having lost his father when he was an infant, Johnson vowed to have a strong influence on his son. "I always thought that, if I'd had a father to believe in me and push me, I'd have been a great athlete," he said. "I wanted to give him what I never had. I wanted that boy to be a big 6-foot-9 football player. I guess I wanted it as much for myself as for him."

But, as a child, Johnson was small for his age. "I was afraid he was going to be a runt,"

said his mother. "He was very shy, always hiding behind my skirts."

As if being small weren't bad enough, his sister, Dana, proved to be the family athlete. "Dana could run faster and jump higher than Jeffrey," said his father. "She was a real motivator for him."

To compensate for his small stature, Johnson worked hard at athletics. "I'd run with him, enter him into Little League and football, and he'd work harder than any other kid out there," said his father. "He was driven."

By the time he got to Collinwood High School, sports had become Johnson's life. "I wanted to be a jock, that's all I wanted," he said. Joseph Hewitt, a fellow member of the basketball team at Collinwood, remembers a determined Johnson. "He didn't have a lot of natural talent, so he had to work very hard. He was better at football than basketball, so he played on the court like he played football — he scraped and scratched. He had a real scrappiness about him that made him a good athlete."

Johnson graduated from high school, much to the relief of his mother, who felt he put too much emphasis on sports and had too little time left for academics. Entering John Carroll University the following fall, Johnson won the freshman Most Valuable Player award as a defensive back on the football team. He was discontented with suburban football, though, and transferred to Kent State University, where he played football for two seasons.

Johnson describes his college experience at KSU as a turning point in his life. He said that playing football at Kent made him realize that, at 5-foot-10, a career in professional sports



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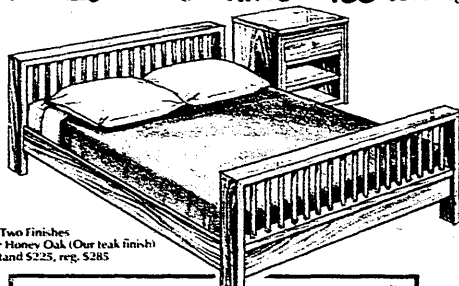
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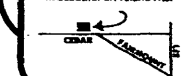
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would elude him. His mother describes it another way: "He got hit a couple of times by some of those big farm boys on the field and said, 'That's it. This isn't for me.'"

Even though his father attended every athletic event in which his son participated, he was not disappointed when Johnson left football. "I had come to realize that Jeffrey had to find his own way, and that there were a lot of places for a boy with that kind of drive and self-confidence." He wanted his son to be a lawyer.

But Johnson had plans of his own, and at that time law did not appeal to him. He decided to major in communications, focused more on academics and started to become politically active on campus.

By his junior year, Johnson was elected president of Black United Students (BUS), an organization representing the 11% black population enrolled at the university. In 1980, he was the first black elected homecoming king.

Controversy followed Johnson in college. As a student leader, Johnson accused the KSU athletic department of racist practices, and organized a protest march at the Parents Day football game. Challenged by the student newspaper and administrators to identify specific incidents, Johnson instead spoke of "overall attitudes" and "patterns and practices," and was criticized by some who said he lacked substance.

As the author of a biweekly column "The Black Perspective," written for the campus newspaper, Johnson began to address controversial issues in a public forum. His column generated so much racist hate mail that a special column was written by the editor in defense of Johnson's right to publish his views.

The college writings of Johnson reveal an early willingness to confront and challenge. In one column written in 1980, he responds to those who would criticize his combative approach. "Should our goals be compromised because they may step on a few toes, or because what we want has never been done before?" he wrote. "I don't think so, as long as these goals are morally based and sincerely felt."

Continuing, he challenged his readers: "If you haven't found anything worth dying for, if what you wish to accomplish negates in any way the help and assistance toward others, then, my friend, you are not fit to live."

With a lengthy list of honors and awards tucked under his arm, Johnson was the most honored black student at commencement.

The following fall Johnson entered Cornell University on a fellowship to study city planning and urban policy, but in the meantime he had met then-Councilman Michael White, D-8, and "the political bug bit me." He yearned to come home and begin work on what he listed on his employment resume as his career objective: "Public policy position in state and local government."

Johnson left Cornell after one semester to return to Cleveland. He worked for White "learning everything I could about Cleveland politics" and pursued a law degree and a masters degree in political science at Case Western Reserve University. Finally, his father would see him become a lawyer.

When White was elected state senator, he appointed Johnson to fill his vacant council seat. Former Councilman John Zayac recalls that White was "very proud" of Johnson. "I remember him saying, 'Wait until you meet this guy. You're really going to like him.'"

The same week Johnson was appointed to the council seat, he graduated from law school. Sixty days later he had to run for election in his own right and won by nearly a two-to-one margin. He was reelected in 1986.

In the past Johnson has been quoted describing White as his mentor, comments Johnson now denies making. "I have no mentors and I am no one's protege," he said. "But," he added, "if you want to know more about me, you need to talk to Michael."

It was an apparently surprised Johnson days later when he was informed that White refused to be interviewed about his relationship with him. In a telephone interview White was asked, "How did you first meet Jeffrey Johnson?" "I don't want to talk about it," he responded. "I have no comment." He then terminated the interview.

"You're kidding," said Johnson, who could not explain why White would refuse to discuss their relationship. "I still respect Michael," he said. "I will support him for mayor." (It is no secret that White aspires to become mayor of Cleveland and has been taking councilmen to lunch to seek their support.)

Two days later, White and Johnson shared the speakers' platform at a Martin Luther King ceremony at Morning Star Baptist Church in Glenville. White spoke passionately of the need for blacks to remain united, and then made a thinly-veiled reference to Johnson when he attacked those blacks who "claim they go to the beat of a different drummer," (Johnson has used that expression to describe his New Politics philosophy), who wear "designer suits" and have left behind their less fortunate neighbors. The message was not lost on Johnson. He looked at the floor, smiling. Later he admitted that White "might have been" referring to him.

Johnson supporters say publicly that White and Johnson have merely drifted apart. Privately, sources say jealousy has tainted their relationship; that White feels his own once bright future in Cleveland politics has been eclipsed by the rising star, Jeffrey Johnson. "If you want people to forget about you, go down to Columbus," said one.

Mike Polensek is less generous. He said that when he was a councilman, White was known as "George Forbes' pit bull. If Forbes was mad at someone, Mike went after him. When Johnson came in, everyone first thought he was another Mike White, only taller and better looking. When Jeff started standing up to Forbes, White took it personally, too."

"It's a sad commentary on our political system," said Zayac. "There are only a few spots for bright young black leaders."

While in many ways Johnson resembles the outspoken young man of his college days, there are ways in which he has changed. Gone are his tall Afro and goatee. He now wears his hair closely cropped and styled, and

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JOHNSON

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sports a conservatively trimmed moustache. He is about 10 pounds thinner, too, and works out in a gym three times a week to keep his 170-pound frame trim.

He enjoys the accoutrements of political success, yet at the same time seems uncomfortable with them. He notes that Ebony has twice named him one of the country's 30 future black leaders, and then says, "I hope you'd don't think I'm vain." He admits he wears designer suits, but says, "You go to my ward on any Sunday morning and you'll see hundreds of people dressed just as fine. I have to look good all week. It's my job." He appears embarrassed when he says he has a car phone in his sporty black 1987 Dodge Daytona (the license plates read: "Vote 2"), but explains, "I must be accessible at all times." Leaning over his desk, he smiles and adds, "and since I've got my phone, two or three other councilmen have, too."

He is not one worry about which way the political wind is blowing. He takes a stand based on his own sense of timing and, according to some, is not interested in feeling out the opinions of others before he brings an issue to the table.

"Either he doesn't know protocol, or he doesn't care to adhere to it," said Councilman Kenneth Johnson, D-4, an ally of Forbes. Another colleague disputes his image as an independent politician. "If he were really independent, he would have voted to oust George Forbes," said Raymond Pianska, D-17. "But he backed down."

Jay Westbrook, D-18, says that what may be perceived by some as Johnson's arrogance is "just a healthy dose of impatience." Says Councilwoman Helen C. Smith, D-14, "There are lots of egos around here, a lot of paranoia."

Preston Terry, D-5, says much of the criticism of Johnson reflects jealousy in the ranks. "We've had our disagreements, but Jeff is a man who believes strongly in speaking up for the people in his ward and on issues affecting Cleveland. He doesn't attack personalities. He's an issues man." Councilman Dale Miller, D-20, agrees, adding that "people need to know that Jeff Johnson is outspoken even when George Forbes is not around."

Many are pointing to the passage last month of the Fair Housing Act as an example of Johnson's ability to listen and compromise. Johnson and Polensek appeared deadlocked on the issue of solicitation bans, which was holding up the bill's passage, when they met privately and hammered out wording "we both could live with," said Polensek. "I used to think Jeff was all show and no go. There were those who thought we couldn't even be in the same room together without

having a fist fight. We're both high-strung and outspoken, but we put our differences aside. Jeff showed everyone that he could compromise, he could listen to another side."

It is clear that Johnson has grown accustomed to being described as arrogant. His response is swift and measured. "There are two types of arrogance. One is where you look down your nose at others, and the other simply means you have self-confidence. I don't look down at anyone, but I certainly believe in myself. If that is your definition of arrogant, then, yes, I'm arrogant."

His campaign manager Alan Shatteen agrees. "All of us who are successful and strong in life are described as arrogant. I think it comes with the territory."

Shatteen, who at 41 owns his own company, Prime Outdoor, has managed the successful judicial campaigns of Stephanie Jones Tubbs and Fred Coleman, and is one of four persons whom Johnson identifies as his advisers. Included in this group are William Patmon, 41, director of the Glenville Development Corp.; Dominic Ozane, 34, owner of Ozane Construction Co.; and Jacquie Nightingale, 39, an accountant for the City of Cleveland and campaign manager for Johnson in 1986. All are older than Johnson, and none, he says, are afraid to criticize him.

"If you surround yourself with yes-men, eventually you're going to go down," he said. "They always tell me what they think. I don't always take their advice, but I always listen."

Patmon said with Johnson, "What you see is what you get. This guy is who he seems to be. He's up-front and there are no secrets."

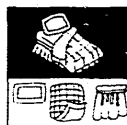
Of the four, Ozane is the least political. He will be 40% owner (investor Herbert Levin will own 60%) of the new shopping plaza his company plans to build in Johnson's ward, and says that it was his trust in Johnson that convinced him to take a chance with the project. "Jeff is the guy you call if your car breaks down on the highway at 4 in the morning. He will be there for you."

All of them share a respect for Johnson and subscribe to his "New Politics" philosophy. "We (blacks) have traveled 10 miles of the 100 miles we must go," said Patmon. "We have to integrate ourselves into the system, and Jeff can help us do that. He is going to be a great leader."

A different Jeffrey Johnson sits down in his second floor den. Clad in a polo shirt, slacks and Nike sports socks, he plopped onto a worn but plump sofa and becomes an obviously familiar part of the cluttered room. A dozen or more stacks of magazines are piled on the floor, and the small room is further diminished by mountains of books and papers. The walls

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with family photographs, diplomas and honorary citations. Quotations clipped from newspapers and magazines are scattered on tabletops.

The den is as open and revealing as its occupant is reserved and guarded. A visitor might feel intrusive, as if she were peering into Johnson's head rather than entering the room in which, since his law school days, he has sought refuge from the world.

Tossing a pillow in the air, fidgeting with a nearby scissors, Johnson talked about growing older. He will turn 30 in April, an event he considers a milestone. "Turning 30 is bringing home to me that I will be going through a door and it will shut behind me forever. The 20s have been very good to me, but it is time to take on more responsibilities."

Asked whether those responsibilities include marriage, Johnson said, "I've devoted all of my time to my job. If I'm not downtown or in my ward, I'm working on my commissioner's campaign or studying at the library. It consumes just about all of my time, and that doesn't leave a lot of time for a wife and family."

But then Johnson became somber, and for the first time during the series of interviews he appeared vulnerable. "You know, I think you have to be in love to get married." He hesitated, fingering the scissors and looking down at his lap, and then added, "I haven't been in love since high school." Explaining what happened to that relationship, he laughed at what appeared to be the ultimate irony in his life. "You know how people always criticize me for being too serious and up-tight? She thought I was too interested in having fun. I wasn't serious enough."

Johnson said his high school girlfriend went off to Brandeis on a full scholarship and that he'd heard she was married now and living in the Heights area. They are not in touch. "That wouldn't be a good idea. You never forget someone like that." He admitted that he was curious as to whether sometimes she reads about him in the newspapers. "Yeah, I wonder. After all, I'm 'so serious' these days."

Johnson is dating, but he would not reveal any names. Frowning, he said, "You don't have to know everything."

Asked whether he was where he'd planned to be as he left his 20s, Johnson responded with characteristic certainty, "I'm ahead of schedule."

Just before George Forbes threw a chair at Johnson, he called him a "mulatto punk," a remark many, including Johnson, feel was intended to suggest that he did not take enough pride in being black. Johnson appears irritated when he discusses the remark. "Yes, I know, I'm light-skinned. I have hazel eyes, too. That doesn't make me any less a black man, and if George thought he was attacking some insecurity in me, he was wrong."

Johnson's mother took the comment personally. "He wasn't just attacking my son, he was attacking my family. We're all fair-skinned. George is from the South — he should have known better."

It is one of the ironies confronting Johnson, the candidate. Councilman Terry says that Johnson "feels he has to identify too strongly with his blackness sometimes." Michael White and George Forbes suggest that he is not concerned enough with black issues. It is a confusion about his image that Johnson says he does not understand. "I will always represent my people, no matter what office I hold."

Johnson says that he has been encouraged by some council members to tolerate racism in their own ranks, an admonishment he rejects. He cites a recent meeting of council members held at the home of Mercedes Cotner to "patch things up between black and white members" as an example of how deeply the racial problem runs.

Johnson said that Councilman Joseph Cannon, D-16, discussed the existence of 12 Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority units in his ward and then said, "One black in my ward is one black too many." Johnson said he responded, "Excuse me?" and that Cannon yelled at him, "Don't sit on your muscle."

"I got really mad at that point," said Johnson, who took the remark to mean that Cannon could not accept being challenged by him. "I said, 'I'm going to sit on my muscle any time someone makes that kind of racist statement.'" Johnson said that Terry and Polensek told him to "cool it" and "calm down." "They said, 'Oh, you know Joe. He's old, you aren't going to change his mind. Just let it go.' But I won't let it go. I will never tolerate that attitude from someone just because he's old."

Cannon denies making the comment, claiming he said, "We have a lot of blacks in our ward and we get along fine." Terry and

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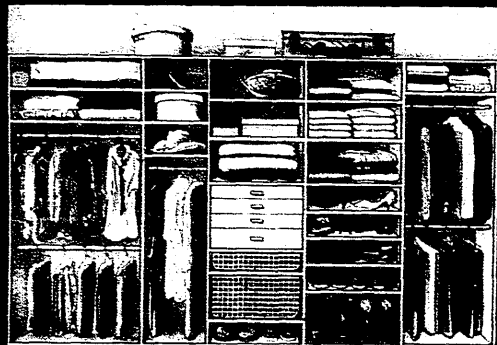
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George Forbes

"... a mulatto punk"



Virgil Brown

"... he will learn"



Michael White

"... no comment"

Councilwoman Fannie Lewis, D-7, confirm Johnson's account. After a reporter's call, Cannon reportedly called other white councilmen, pleading with them to verify his account. Three councilmen, James Rokakis, D-15, Jay Westbrook, and Edward Rybka, D-12, each volunteered a different account of Cannon's comments. Rokakis quoted Cannon saying, "I have 12 CMHA houses in my ward and that means 12 black families, and to some people in my ward, that's 12 black families too many." Westbrook said that while he didn't remember the exact wording, he knew Cannon did not intend to sound racist. Rybka said he was sitting next to Cannon and that the entire exchange never occurred. Polensek said Cannon was merely talking about CMHA housing in general and that those tenants were white in Cannon's ward. Kenneth Johnson said he couldn't remember the exact wording, but he knew it wasn't Cannon's recounting of the incident. One councilman, upon hearing Cannon's account, laughed and said, "I don't want to get involved, but I suggest you call a few other councilmen."

Johnson said this Keystone Cops-like series of denials and interpretations is symptomatic of the problem at City Hall, and is why he won't back down on black issues.

Johnson has no qualms about admitting that, while he is planning to run for county commissioner, he has no intention of staying there forever. "I will serve one full term, certainly, but after that, who knows? You have to have goals, you have to believe in yourself. I could be governor if I wanted to be."

Despite these lofty ambitions, he must first run an effective primary campaign for commissioner, and there is no certainty that he will have the support of his party.

In early January Cuyahoga County Democratic Chairman John Coyne said that, while it is important to get blacks elected countywide, he would not identify it as a top agenda item for the party. "We have many priorities," he said. Two weeks later Coyne announced he was encouraging State Rep. Ron Mottl to run against Johnson in the June primary.

Coyne's attitude is one with which County Commissioner Mary Boyle takes issue. "Getting a black elected to a key county administrative position should be our party's No. 1 priority." Her fellow Democratic commissioner, Timothy Hagan, who said he will sup-

port Johnson, said that while "we should grab any opportunity to endorse a black countywide," the Democratic party "is not much stronger than the League of Women Voters. The party can't elect you like in the old days."

No black Democrat has been elected to a countywide non-judicial office. Virgil Brown, a black Republican, has held the position of county commissioner since 1979, and is described by many as unbeatable.

The obvious question is, can Jeffrey Johnson beat Brown? More specifically, can the councilman from Glenville win votes in such virtually all-white suburbs as Parma and South Euclid, for it is clear that Johnson cannot win a county office without white support.

Councilman Earle Turner, D-2, who ran unsuccessfully for county recorder in 1984, disagrees and stresses the importance of party support in every suburb. "It's not enough that the party leader in a community supports Jeff. He has to get out among the white voters and tell them *why* he is supporting Jeff Johnson. That is the only way he will get elected."

One person who worked with Johnson in the prosecutor's office for two years would agree with Turner, and says that Johnson's problem in the white suburbs is one of perception. Brad Weiss, who trained Johnson to be a mediator in the prosecutor's office and now runs his own mediation firm in Beachwood, says that many whites see Johnson as "someone who is playing racial politics. I worked with Jeff day in and day out in a place that is like an emergency room. You really get to know a person when you observe him in a crisis situation, and I know he doesn't have a racist bone in his body. But he needs to get that message out to white voters. They have to meet him."

Johnson has never had to rely on white voters to win an election. His northeast inner-city ward of 27,000 people is 95% black. Twenty percent of the households are single-parent families. He estimates that 20-25% are on welfare. It is a community that still bears scars of the riots and racial unrest of 20 years ago, although it is experiencing a "renaissance," according to the Rev. Earl Preston Jr., pastor at Morning Star Baptist Church. "There is a lot of growth and development going on here," said Preston. "The people here are filled with

pride for their community."

Eighty percent of the houses in Johnson's ward are owner-occupied, and a drive through reveals that many of these homeowners take pride in their property. Small yards are fenced and neatly trimmed. In early January several doors and windows still wore holiday lights and banners encouraging us to have a Merry Christmas. One can hardly pass two blocks without spotting a church.

"Many of the neediest people in my ward are the ones that Virgil Brown has ignored," said Johnson as he drove through the streets of Glenville. The major problem in Greater Cleveland, he adds, is less a problem of race and more a problem of class. "Some of the poorest people in this ward are white." Johnson has described Brown as a "blend-in-the-wall politician."

Until now, Brown had refrained from commenting on Johnson's candidacy, but he bristled at Johnson's suggestion that he has ignored the needs of the disadvantaged. "He is so blatantly wrong."

Brown said he resented Johnson's grouping him with the "old guard," whom Johnson describes as older politicians who "engage in back-room deal-making and personal agenda pursuits." "I am not a deal-maker," said Brown. "Jeffrey Johnson is a young man in a hurry. He can't attack me on something valid, so he's going to stoop to these kind of attacks."

Brown, 67, added that "not everyone over 40 is ready for the ash heap. When I'm ready to step down, I won't need a Jeffrey Johnson to tell me."

Then Brown offered some advice for his young rival: "As he lives, he will learn, if he keeps his eyes and ears open and his mouth shut."

"No way," responded Johnson. "I will not keep my mouth shut when those suffering the most are ignored."

Hagan agrees. "I think Jeff's right on the money. His community has not benefited from the status quo. We need to shake up the political system and begin including those who have been excluded from the benefits of county government."

Political observers say that good ideas alone won't be enough to unseat Virgil Brown. "I see Virgil everywhere," said Councilman David McGuirk, D-21. "If I go to a

Continued on Page 20

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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PUZZLE ON PAGE 20

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picnic on the West Side, there's Virgil shaking hands." Even one of Johnson's closest advisers, Ozane, hedges when asked if he'll support his friend in the race. "I guess I will because he's my friend. But my parents will vote for Virgil."

Secretary of State Sherrod Brown has said he will support Johnson's bid and notes that "I was a maverick in my own career. I wasn't yet 30 when I beat Virgil Brown for Secretary of State." Brown said that he beat the Republican by 1% among black voters in Cleveland, and lost to him by less than 2% among suburban blacks. "It's tougher when you're young and black, but it can be done."

Everyone agrees that without the money to fund television advertising Johnson's dream will remain just that — a dream. Johnson estimates that he will need \$300,000 to run an effective campaign. Campaign manager Shattene puts the figure at \$400,000 to \$500,000. Cautions Boyle, "If you don't have the money to get your face known, you have no campaign."

John Zayac says it is a television campaign that will unseat Brown. "Jeff is the most telegenic person I know," said Zayac, who already has contributed \$2,000 to Johnson's campaign and has vowed extensive fund-raising efforts on his behalf. "If people get to see and hear Jeff Johnson, they will vote for Jeff Johnson."

Johnson denies having any liabilities, but admits that some, including the editorial leadership at the black newspaper, The Call and Post, say he is going too soon for a position instead of "waiting his turn." Johnson's response: "If you wait for your turn, your turn never comes."

Earle Turner, who has represented his ward for 13 years, agrees. "I waited and waited because they said I should wait for my turn," and now at 34 I'm an old man in City Council. I think Jeff should go for it." Dennis Kucinich, who was the youngest mayor of Cleveland and is now running for Congress, said Johnson "is definitely ready. I say go for it."

Former high school classmate Joseph Hewitt has a favorite story about Johnson. Both played on Collinwood's basketball team, which one night in their senior year was two points down in the final seconds of a game against East High. The ball was tossed to Johnson who, being one of the shortest on the team, relied more on might than height, "like a football player in basketball shorts," said Hewitt.

Johnson stood "at least" 25 feet from the hoop, Hewitt said, and throwing the ball, he scored the tying points that sent their team into an overtime victory. "I mean he threw that ball, like a football," laughed Hewitt. "Jeff may not always play by the same set of rules, but he scores the points."

There are many who would say that, as in his high school days, Johnson doesn't always play by the same set of rules, but he scores the points. Others would say it depends on who is keeping score.

PUZZLE

SOLUTION ON PAGE 17

By Alfio

Micci

ACROSS

- 1 Wheel spokes
6 Greek isle
11 Recognize as qualified
19 Long narratives
20 Hear of
21 Golden horse
22 Frazzled symphony conductor's state?
25 Stated beforehand
26 Actor Waterston
27 Weaver's need
28 Tapered at both ends
30 Der — (Adenauer)
31 What "veni" means
33 Prepares for initiation
34 Berlin brew
35 Autos
37 — of robins...
38 Presidential title, for short
39 Neither Dem. or Rep.
42 Loose overcoat
43 Encore!
44 Suppressed
46 Skier's lift
47 Guest or Frost
48 Pitcher
50 Sweeper
51 Car model
52 The Witch of —
54 Came to a stop
56 Incompetent tree surgeon's state?
58 Robert De —
60 Thos. Edison, for one
61 Celtic priest
62 Work unit
63 Where trustees sit: Abbr.
66 Lazy banker's state?
69 Color
70 Defendants, in law
71 Lorna of fiction
72 Sass
73 Perry's creator
75 Novice sailor's state?
77 Eat
79 Ford name
83 Arizona college town
84 Intense
86 Unthinking
88 Pianist Von Alphenheim

- 89 Listing
90 Freckles, in Madrid
91 Svce. pilot type
92 Stately home
94 Moon vehicle
95 Greek malignant spirit
96 Do to do?
98 Nasty tennis player's state?
99 Bjorn of the courts
101 Thrashed
102 Sound in the night
103 Leningrad's river
104 Author Orwell
106 Bestow lavishly
107 Louis XIV, for one
110 Incompetent trainmen's state?
112 Stupid cryptographer's state?
115 Lending a hand

DOWN

- 1 Burgundies
2 Samoan port
3 Sent away
4 Govt. agency
5 Set apart
6 Skelton role
7 — the fields we go...
8 Wickerwork materials
9 Stand motionless
10 Slow dress-maker's state?
11 Abbreviated date
12 Kind of package
13 Diminutive suffix
14 Greek vernacular
15 Zola
16 Finished eulogist's state?
17 Arrow poison
18 Bushy clump
23 "Weep — my lady..."
24 Miller Sebastian's family
29 These, in Taxco
32 Dixie export
33 Balding man's concern
34 Container
35 Cheat
36 Carolina campus
38 Electronic devices
40 Linen
41 Shellfish harvester
43 Arthur or Lillie
45 Goes on the road

- 46 In addition
49 Anyone
50 Slanted
51 Spoil
53 Rebus
55 Explosive
57 Oil cask
59 Disturbance
61 Subversive winemaker's state?
63 Savage
64 Err at bridge
65 Club dissidents state?
67 Sanskrit or Hindi
68 "6 Rms — Vu"
74 Blue pencil welder
76 Simian
77 Inattentive bridge player's state?
78 Former Mideast initials
80 Drooling
81 Villa d' —
82 Song, in the Highlands
85 — da Gama
87 Hair rinses
90 Cribbage piece
91 Defrauds
93 On a slant
95 Venomous snakes
97 Rome's Castello Sant' —
98 Takes advantage of
100 Like Humpty Dumpty
103 Mount where Moses died
104 Col.'s boss
105 Tense
106 Obsolete Hollywood Code
108 Wine prefix
109 Golden calf, for one
110 Beaver creation
111 Ignited
113 Sweat size
114 Egg — yong

