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RADIO, CABLE MOGUL A FEATURE OF SUMMIT

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Charlotte's third annual Minority Economic Summit on Aug. 12 will feature Percy Sutton, founder and chairman emeritus of Inner City Broadcasting Corp. in New York City.

Sutton will talk about his experiences as the head of Inner City, which owns and operates radio stations and cable television companies such as KSJL radio in San Antonio and Queens Inner Unity Cable System in New York.

The summit, organized by Trend Magazine, a Charlotte entertainment guide, will be hosted by TV talk-show host Rolanda Watts. Her program, "The Rolanda Show," is broadcast in Charlotte on WCNC (Channel 36) at 3 p.m. weekdays.

The summit also will include workshops conducted by the U.S. Small Business Administration, NationsBanc Small Business Investment Co. and First Citizens Bank.

Organizer Juan Whipple, publisher of Trend Magazine, said he expects 350 to 500 people to attend the event, to be held at the Adam's Mark hotel.

Advance tickets for the summit cost \$35. Tickets for the workshops and the luncheon can be purchased separately. Tickets can also be purchased the day of the event at the Adam's Mark. For more information, call 561-2268. - Tawn Nhan

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USAir stores most jets

Another sign of the times at USAir: It has more airplanes out of use and parked in storage lots than any other carrier, according to Federal Express Aviation Services.

According to the report, carried in the trade newspaper Aviation Daily, USAir has 38 jets in storage. American Airlines is next with 35, followed by United Airlines with 20 and Lufthansa with 17.

Eighteen of USAir's stored jets are BAe-146s that USAir acquired virtually new in its 1987 purchase of Pacific Southwest Airlines but parked three years ago.

USAir, like other carriers, has found it difficult to sell or lease excess planes in a glutted used-aircraft market.

A total of 716 aircraft are in storage, most of them older planes owned by leasing and finance companies, Fedex reported. - Bernie Kohn

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Wall Street supplement

The Wall Street Journal is planting the flag in Charlotte.

On Aug. 23, First Union Corp. speech writer and former Observer executive business editor Ken Gepfert will join the nation's leading financial daily as a reporter covering the Carolinas.

Gepfert will work for a new editorial and advertising product being launched this fall. The supplement will be inserted into about 125,000 editions of The Wall Street Journal in the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama and produced in Atlanta. The newspaper already produces a similar supplement in Texas and plans to launch another in Florida.

"It was a challenge that was too exciting to pass up," Gepfert said. "I guess, as they say, the printer's ink is still in my veins."

Gepfert said he'll cover all Carolinas business except banking. He'll stay in Charlotte and operate as a one-person bureau.

Gepfert started with The Observer in 1982, overseeing its business coverage. In 1987, he became an assistant managing editor. In 1989, he joined First Union as chief speech writer and editorial services manager. - James Greiff

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First Union award

First Union Corp.'s 1993 annual report has been picked as the best in the banking industry in the 1994 Nicholson Awards competition, held by the National Association of Investors Corp. The association represents investor clubs and individual investors.

The award recognizes the report that is most effective in helping investors understand a company's financial performance. - James Greiff

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Fla. firm needs truckers

A Florida trucking company is looking to hire more than 50 drivers at its Carolinas terminals to keep up with business.

"We're turning down freight on a daily basis because we don't have enough drivers," said Larry Sutton, driver manager at Ploof Truck Lines' terminal in Salisbury. "We're taking applications every day."

Ploof, based in Jacksonville, Fla., needs 20 drivers and two mechanics in Salisbury.

"That will be a beginning," Sutton said. "We intend to build this terminal to be one of the largest in the system."

In Wilmington, Ploof is looking for about 12 drivers. The company also needs 20 to 25 drivers at its terminal in Holly Hill, S.C., about 50 miles northwest of Charleston.

Applicants must have at least one year of driving experience. Wages range from \$300 a week for local drivers to \$650 a week for long-haul drivers in the company's 32-state service territory. - Stella M. Eisele

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