What You See Is, Is What You Get, What You Read Is What You Know & Save - Eastern North Carolina's Minority Voice

GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 27834

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24-WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1988-THE 'M' VOICE

African - Americans and George Bush By BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS. been devastating economically munity will become cynical and have in the recent past. The con-

cial and ethnic citizens of the future. Will the Bush administration be similar to the Reagan administration? Will tion continue to have constructhis nation in a better direction. tive engagement with the racist years?

have to be pursued by African-thing. American leadership forthrightly. The last eight years have in the African-American com- work together more than we

as well as politically for the In the wake of Vice President African American community. George Bush's victory in the Much of the progress of the Presidential election, millions of struggle for racial justice and African-Americans be any equality has eroded during the past decade. There are more United States are pondering the people who are living in poverty today than in 1968. President Reagan was successful in mortgaging the long term future of the incidents of overt racial the nation with a national debt violence continue to increase? exceeding a trillion dollars. Will the ranks of the poor and George Bush has won the electthe homeless continue to in- ion but he also inherited an uncrease? Will a Bush administra- precedented challenge to lead

If more of the disenfranchised apartheid regime of South and marginalized of this society Africa? And will the future for would have voted then the out-African Americans be any come of the election could have brighter during the next four been different. But crying about the outcome of the presidential The answer to these questions election will not change any-

sioned about the future. If there is to be progress in this society toward the empowerment of racially oppressed communities, then a national "Grass Roots and economic exploitation must organize and must mobilized around a national agenda that calls for effective social change. In the absence of effective community organizing, the future of the nation will be left to the whims of the next presi-

along with the church, organized labor, students and to regroup into a viable and There is a danger that many strategic alliance. We must all

hopeless. This is no time for this stituencies that we represent community to become disillu- deserve a united voice and action toward reversing the conservative trends of this society.

In addition much of the Third World waits to see if the United States will change its foreign Freedom Movement" needs to policies particularly in Africa be revitalized. Those who are and in Central America. The victimized because of racism truth is, however, American foreign policy is directly related to domestic policy. Thus, we must see the necessity to reorganize a national progressive movement that has the capacity not only to effect the national agenda during the next four years of a Bush administration, but also to effect the world community The civil rights community in the interest of justice and freedom. The character of the future relationship between other concerned interests need George Bush and African Americans should only be determined by how well the struggle for jus-



THINKING OF GIVING . . . Wednesday night at J.H. Rose High School the minority affairs committee presented their first annual Thanksgiving dinner. Shown above is Reggie Taylor, Chairman of the Green Machine; Latrice McLawhorn, Miss Minority Affairs; and Edward Moore, President of the Minority Affairs Club. Shown is the guest speaker of the evening representing the City of Greenville, Jesse Harris, Human Relations Director. Above caption shows students, Rev. Shorty Wilkes and Teacher Robert Stringfield. Congratulations from The "M" Voice.

(Photo by Jim Rouse)

"Thank God it's not over yet"

BY ARLEE GRIFFIN, JR

An article entitled, "Thank God It's Over" by C.A. Dawson which appeared in a recent edition of the "M" Voice contained some views and opinions that need further examination in light of our plight in the black community. In his account of election day activities at Greenville's Precinct #3, the writer castigated community leaders for their effort to get black candidates elected to public offices. While every registered voter does have the constitutional right to vote according to the dictates of his or her own conscience, no person has the right to mislead or influence others for their own personal gain. What Mr. Dawson failed to report was that candidates who have not been sensitive to the

needs of the black community and who have not represented the black community in the past continue to exploit us by paying certain blacks to pass out their literature in only predominantly black precincts on election day, thereby misleading black voters. This practice is nothing less than a new version of the old tactic of divide and conquer which has been used so effectively against us from the days of slavery to the present. The black community simply cannot afford to be betrayed and sold out for "twenty pieces of silver" by a few people in pursuit of personal gain. As Edward Burke said in 1728, "the only thing necessary for this evil to triumph is for good people to

Therefore community leaders who are concerned about finding

solutions to our paramount problems of unemployment and underemployment, inadequate housing, drugs, economic and political disenfranchisement, etc., must volunteer their time, talent and treasure to get candidates elected who will provide the black community with its fair share of the public goods and resources. We must save our community from those who sell their "birthright and ours for a pot of stew." We must protect our people from the "vultures" who swarm around in our neighborhoods on election day looking to land on the uninformed and innocent. When we don't save and protect our people from these oppressors, all of us lose because we share a similar plight regardless of profession or place of residence.

Our plight also demands that we look beyond political party labels, as others do so well according to recent state and national elections, and vote for candidates who will make concrete commitments to our community. No other group of people in this country is so badly blinded and violently victimized by party labels as we are. In times like these let us put aside parties and their promises of the past that have left us in social, political and economic oppression. Let us secure commitments from candidates that will usher in a new day of liberation for us and justice for all. Let us hold these elected officials accountable for their records of representation and delivery of resources to the black community.

(Continued on page 3)

Happy Thanksgiving

CU Clinic Keys In On Performers' Ailments

By E. Ramona Brown ECU MEDICAL SCHOOL

Two East Carolina University School of Medicine physicians have keyed in on a new medical specialty that identifies and treats specific occupational health problems of instrumentalists, dancers, vocalists

and other performers. The ECU Outpatient Clinic for the Medical Problems of Performing Artists is the first clinic of its kind in the Southeast, said Dr. Nicholas Patrone, who co-directs the clinic with Dr. Richard Hoppmann.

Over the last five years, similar clinics have been based in the country's larger cultural centers such as

Boston and Chicago.
Patrone and Hoppmann, both rheumatologists, provide rehabilitative treatment and preventive education to professional and amateur performers each Friday. Their patients also include youths training in the performing arts.

"Just as athletes' problems are being treated through sports medicine, the same is beginning to happen for the performing artists," said

"Performers have suffered quietly for several years with a number of medical problems related to their occupation and the environments in which they perform," said Hopp-mann. "Many have refused to acknowledge them for fear of an end to their careers." When performers did seek help, they often encountered doctors who were unsympathetic or who did not understand their problems. Hoppmann said. He added that some performers were advised to switch or give up their particular

musical activity as a remedy for their problem.

Both Patrone and Hoppmann are instrumentalists. Patrone, a member of the ECU symphony, is a violinist and violist, and Hoppmann

is a saxophonist and percussionist. Among common occupational-related health problems of performers to be treated at the clinic are asthma and allergies, musculoskeletal injuries, hearing deficits, nerve entrapment, bursitis, tendonitis and motor palsy.

The ECU clinic will take a multidisciplinary approach to assisting patients with their problems, said Patrone. He explained that a patient will initially be examined by either him or Hoppmann. The exam will be similar to an ordinary medical check-up except the patient will be asked to perform and

provide an extensive medical history and description of practice habits. Depending upon the condition, the patient may be referred to one of the medical school's other subspecialists for further diagnosis.

All patient visits are by appointment or referral.

According to Hoppmann, observa-tion of a performer's technique and habits can help physicians assess possible causes of medical problems such as muscle overuse or strain. He added that consultation with student performers' teachers is also helpful in evaluating the problem.

"The exam is designed to detect whether performance habits and environments may be contributing to or aggravating the problem," he said. "This is an area where preventive approaches may be recom-mended as a first line of therapy."

Hoppmann said while the focus of the clinic will be on medical treatment, it will also involve preventive medicine education. Through the ECU School of Music, the physicians have sponsored a lecture series on common health problems of perfor-

"We feel that since we have a well-known school of music that is supportive of improving the health of performers, the disciplines of medicine and music can come together to help artists overcome some of the problems they have traditionally suffered," said Hopp-

"The clinic through its seminars has made our faculty aware of how they can better manage and prevent some of these existing problems,' said Dr. Bradford Foley, a saxophonist and assistant dean in the school of music.





JULIE IS BACK . . . Sister Julie Hobbs, owner of Jabo's Beauty Salon is shown at her place of business as she poses for our cameras. Sister Hobbs invites you to come on by for the curls, perms, and everything. Hang in there Julie.

(Photo by Jim Rouse)

There's a killer on the loose in almost every community

BY C.A. DAWSON, FREE LANCE REPORTER

There is a killer on the loose. This killer has probably committed more murders than all persons on death row in the United States combined.

This killer has been spotted in almost every community in the nation. This killer is able to be in all these communities at the same time. How is this possible?

The authorities have an exact description of this murderer yet they are unable to destroy it. This killer is CRACK.

Recently in a community in the western area of Greenville a mother and several members of her family were raking their yard. While raking on one side of the house, her four year old granddaughter picked up a small object and proceeded to put it in her mouth.

Her quick thinking grandmother snatched the small object from her.

This object was a crack vial. After raking for several more minutes the grandmother raked up over 50 more crack vials in this one area of leaves.

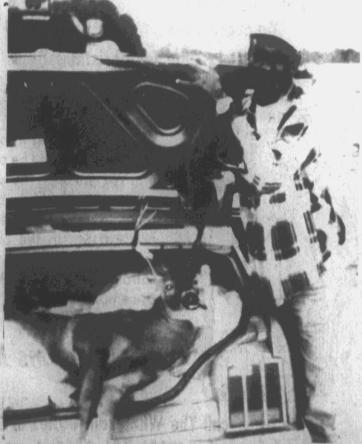
Suppose the granddaughter had succeeded in swallowing the vial. An innocent four year old little girl could have become seriously ill because of some fool's carelessness.

It is bad for someone to use or sell crack. It is worse when its used or sold in areas with a high

population of young children.
This killer destroys the mind, body and soul.

To the families that have children, keep an eye on them. Those of you with older children, talk to them. Those of you that know people who sell crack stay away from them. If you know so-meone who is hooked on crack, help them.

NOTE: Did you begin reading this article because of the title "KILLER ON THE LOOSE". If so, good. I'll continue to use cat-chy titles in the future.



TOP PRIZE . . . Brother James McIntrye is shown above with his top prize for his freezer for the holidays as he displays the eight point deer he shot during a hunting trip with others. Brother James is also an expert painter and his daughter is running for the Miss North Carolina State Pageant. He and his wife are members of Mount Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville.

Joe Clark loses N. J. race to foot-in-mouth-disease

By JESSE H. WALKER oh Clark, the baseball bet and bullhorn-toting principal in Paterson, N.J.'s Eastaide High School, was defeated by Descrat Leroy Jones in a heat

race for freeholder in Essex County due, according to one newspaper, to "foot-in-mouth

a reaffirmation of their strength in Essex County's 3rd Freeholder District, which consists of Maplewood, South Orange, East Orange, and parts of Irvington. The Democrate



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WE CARRY

said Clark lost because the Republicans could not rein him

"I think that was one of his roblems that they couldn't be said Thomas Barrett, in Jones' campaign. "Apparently, he was capable of say

errett noted how Clark e out in favor of the death ity for drug dealers, even ng for executions to be broadcast on the "Live at Five" evening TV news show.

That became a running joke: 'Alive at five and dead at six," said Barrett.

The decidedly mild-mannered Jones finished with 17,901 votes, or 58.8 percent. Clark garnered 12,545 votes, or 41.2

"Defeat is not bitter unse you swallow it, and I'm not about to swallow it," Clark said after conceding. The nationallyknown principal, who lives in South Orange, said he made a "gallant try. If I can't do it, I

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guees it can't be done," he said. This was his first try at elective office and Clark said it might be his last. "I only take on situations I consider to be impossible, that's why I took

He attributed the loss to "the Democratic lock and hold on the Black vote. It's a diabolical situation that at some point must be corrected."

But Jones said the voters "recognized substance over hype." The Democrat said Clark reduced the race to "name-calling and unnecessary negative rhetoric," Clark said called his opponent a "weakling, neophyte and tyro." He also called him a "nerd."

"I don't like it. We just wouldn't get involved in that. We tried to exercise a professional campaign, and I'm proud to have been part of it," said

Clark, as usual, went his way during the campaign, speaking his own mind - in his own way.

He spoke about how he liked his school administration. He used the war on drugs as his rest concern and, taking his trademark bullhorn and baseball bat on campaign swings through the district, he told voters he would fight to rid community "miscreants."

Clark has said public execu-tions should be considered as a deterrence for drug dealers.

Clark attributed his defeat to the democratic machine that has dominated 3rd District politics for decades. Noting the 10-1 edge the Democrats had in registered voters in parts of the district, Clark called his bid for the freeholders seat "a herculean task."

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Democratic Party has no real purpose

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By LENORA FULANI The results of (the Nov. 8) election establish several very important things. First, that the Republican party — now the ideologically dominant party in the United States of America — is a party of the Far Right. George Bush's decisive victory was won with a clear focus on the traditional issues of political reaction patriotism, crime and militarism. The Bush-Quayle vote should dispel any and all myths that Ronald Reagan won the Oval Office due to personal popularity. Not at all! Reagan, Bush, Quayle and most reactionary elements of the Republican Party have taken control of that party and of the

White House. Efection results on the state and local level underscore this point, but none so dramatically as the defeat of the liberal Republican Senator Lowell Weicker of Connecticut by a conservative Democrat. The day of the moderate and liberal Republican is over. The drive begun by Far Right Republicans in 1964 to take over

the party is complete.
As frightening as the Republican victory is the state of the Democratic Party. It emerges from this year's election as a political force which serves no particular purpose. It is not far right enough to challenge Republicans for their niche. But most significantly it has failed to act as a party of opposition to the reactionary ideology embodied in Bush-Quayle Republicanisms. It refused to project a progressive challenge to the far right, turning its back on Reverend Jesse Jackson and the seven and one half million people who voted for him, running a center-right ticket instead. That ticket went down to defeat, exposing once and for all that the Democrats do not and will not play the role of the op-

position party.

There is only one national party in American politics which can and will play that role. That is the party on whose line I ran for the Presidency — the New Alliance Party. Though still small, it is making the statement that there must be an opposition party to challenge the formidable strength and reactionary ideology of the Far Right. It now has organizations in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Its program and its black-led Rainbow politics challenge political reaction in the American mainstream. in American politics which can and

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Thank God it's not over yet

THE 'M' VOICE-THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24-WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1988-

Yes, Election Day, 1988 as dismal and disappointing as it was is over, but thank God our quest for political empowerment in Pitt County is not over, yet. In the words of the Apostle Paul, "We are pressed on every side by

troubles, but not crushed and

broken. We are often perplexed

because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going." (II Cor. 4:8-9, Liv-ing Bible). We shall return and we shall overcome!

By HAROLD L. JAMISON

They are young white racist punks who look and act like characters out of the movie Road Warrior. They have been around for a while in the United States but started adapting the Nazi regalia and music of the fascist gangs of skinheads that emerged in Britan in the late 60's and early 70's.

Now the Skinheads, as they are called, are being recruited and mobilized by Tom Metzger's (former Grand Dragon of the California Ku Klux Klan) fascist White Aryan Resistance (WAR) and, in growing numbers, are linked to virtually every recent important hate movement rally, march and conference in the nation.

In the past six months the number of states in which Skinhead activity has been reported has grown from 12 to 21. According to the Anti-Defamation League and the Workers Van-

"Metzger, Jr. is the one who verbally attacked Roy Innis and the others on the recent Geraldo Rivera show and was choked by Innis," Thurston pointed out. "He is here organizing in and around the Philadelphia area, and apparently is coming to New York."

Skinhead attacks have occurred all over the nation and increasing. In San Jose, CA., 12 Skinheads recently surrounded a 54-year-old Black schoolteacher threatening to lynch her if she didn't pay a "Nigger tax" to walk the streets.

In November 1987, Skinheads threw a teen through a San Anselmo, CA., plateglass window when he tried to stop them from putting up an anti-Semetic poster; Skinheads in San Francisco, CA., assaulted a gay couple after shouting; "faggots are killing us all with AIDS."

When a gay couple came to the defense of two elderly Black

heads and Klan to call off their planned white pride rally Nov. 5. We must counter them. The Skinheads are the young stormtroopers of a growing fascist movement in this country."

"These Skinheads who are attacking our people all over the country have to know that we here in New York know how to do some attacking too," stated Community Activist and December 12th Movement Leader Sonny Carson. "And we're not going to continue to be placed in a position where we have to ask the police and the courts to assist us in getting

The "M" Voice

JIM ROUSE Georgia Rouse **Business Manage**

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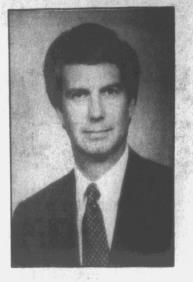
er thought coming; because

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Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue serving the people of the Ninth District in the North Carolina General Assembly.

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EQUAL JUSTICE - J. Richard Munro, chairman and CEO Time Inc. (2-1); receives National Equal Justice Award for contributions to human equality and justice at a recent NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund 1988 National Equal Justice Award Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria. Making the presentation, NAACP Board Chairman William T. Coleman, Jr. (C) is joined by Mistress of Ceremonies, songstress Melba Moore; Funds director and counsel Julius L. Chambers (r) and John A. Murphy, Pres. Philip Morris Co. (Allen Morgan Photo)

guard, three to four years ago they just paraded around in those ugly costumes and got drunk and passed out.

But today, they dance to the beat of rock groups called "White Pride" and "Final Solution" and live on intimidation, brutality and most sadistic violence. They are armed with chains, pipes, baseball bats, iron knuckles and increasingly with guns. They pick on, provoke, beat and terrorize Blacks, gays, Asians, Hispanics and anybody else who gets in their way. Quite a few are up on charges or wanted for murder.

t my self on the back a little bit for organizing them," Metgzer reportedly stated in June. "We've been able to be an influence and fine tune their perceptions. We're filling a void in their lives."

Skinhead activity has been steadily inching its way closer and closer to New York. Although there is no formal Skinhead organization in the immediate area, of the four Skinheads arrested in the recent beating of a New Jersey family in a New York train station, three were from Philadelphia and one from New Jersey.

According to Linda Thurston, an organizer for the New York based Partisan Defense Committee (PDC), (Organizers of an anti-KKK demonstration in Philadelphia, Nov. 5), the son of Metzger, Tom Metzger, Jr., is starting to mobilize locally.

women, they were beaten with skateboards and chains; In Spokane, WA., two Skinheads, aged 16 and 24, were charged with attempted first degree murder and malicious racial harassment in a knife attack on a Black truck driver; recently in Santa Clara, CA, a 19-year old Skinhead fatally stabbed a white man who had brought a Black man to a party; and in Milwaukee, WI, two Skinheads, 18 and 19, were arrested in a shooting directed at a car containing five teens.

In Portland, OR., recently civil rights groups were livid with anger over the beating déath of an Ethiopian by white supremacist Skinheads.

Closer to home, in Allentown, PA., on Oct. 11, Whitehall Township police arrested four suspects in an attack by Skinheads that left three teens hospitalized with knife wounds; and just two weeks ago, five Skinheads were rebuffed by demonstrators at a Philadelphia anti-KKK rally organized by

"We believe the Skinhead3, KKK and Nazis can be stopped by mobilizing the power of the labor movement, the community and other intended victims of fascist terror," said Thurston. "The effectiveness of this strategy was dramatically demonstrated just a few weeks ago in Philadelphia when the Black/labor mobilization initiated by PDC forced the Skin-



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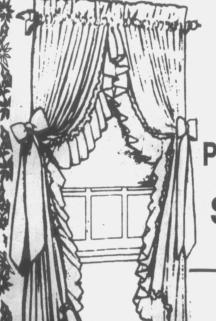


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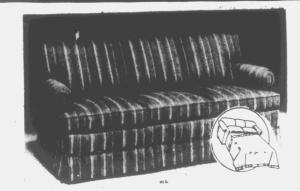
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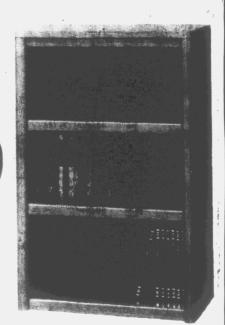
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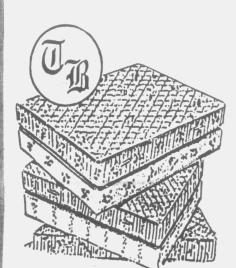


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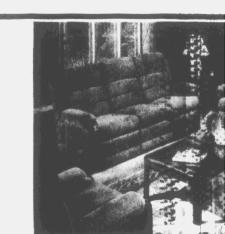
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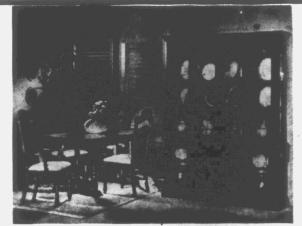
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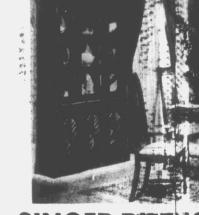
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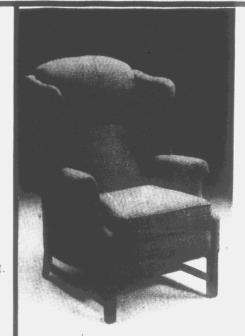
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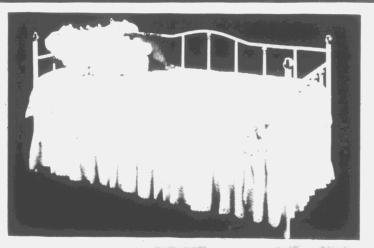
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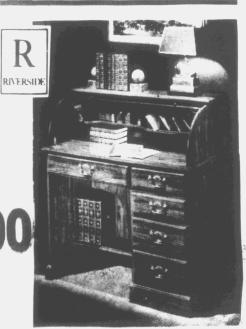
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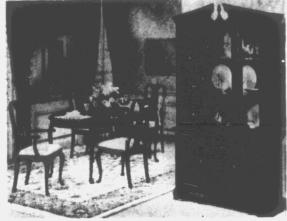
ROLL-TOP

DESK





cm chair and 3 side chairs



(AS SHOWN)



Includes lighted china cabinet, table, 2 arm chairs and 4 side chairs.

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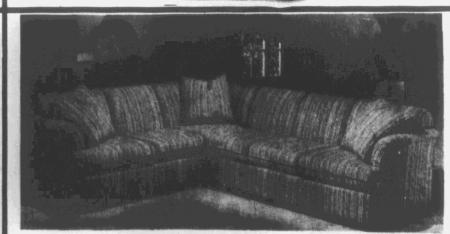


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COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS Reverent sympathy is express-ed to the Rebie Wilson Crandol

James Ebron, Jr. was named 'Man-of-the-Year' by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in their Annual Achievement Day held at York Memorial Church. Likewise, D.D. Garrett was honored as the first black to be elected to the Board of Pitt County Commissioners.

Sycamore Hill Baptist Church honors its Senior Citizens with a dinner in the Fellowship Hall immediately after service Sunday, December 4. A video of senior citizens highlights the occasion.

SAY IT WITH LOVE

Words are more than a few letters pieced together to form a concept. They are our primary source of communication. Words can comfort or unnerve, praise or scold, encourage or belittle. They are powerful tools to be used with care and with the awareness that words make a difference. Words are most positive and fulfilling when spoken with love.

With love as a basis, words often help you bring positive change into the life of another person. When you speak with love, you serve a much-needed dish of praise, encouragement, gratitude, apology, or forgiveness to a possibly hungry listener. "Our words can cut or help, harass or heal, injure or inspire...Each time we speak we deliver our own state of the heart

William Arthur Ward, author

WORDS DIFFERENCE

God gave us speech to communicate for the good of all. To speak with love is to plant 'flower seeds' within. Negative words beget 'weed seeds'. Here are some phrases that are music

to the ear and spirit. Good work! Let me help you. I forgive you.
Congratulations! I'm sorry. You
can do it! We're proud of you!
Thank you. I love you.
Love is the foundation

of...Praise.

HURTFUL WORDS

Mental health experts agree that verbal abuse, although "invisible", is an assault on the mind and spirit of the victim, affecting others in a negative manner.
Words can be as painful as being struck physically. Words spoken with anger, guilt or resentment cut deeply and quickly, with lasting effects. Parents, especially, should consider the words they use with children. Criticisms, put-downs, insultseven when supposedly delivers "in fun"—can hurt feelings, bruise agos, and stunt the growth of a healthy self-image. Paul in-

structs us, "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may import grace to those who hear". (Eph. 4:29). If your words do not build up and encourage, it is better to

say nothing at all.

Xenophon (360 B,C.) was right when he said, "The sweetest of all sounds is praise". We all want to hear another person sincerely commend our worth. Praise reminds us that we are important. It is nourishment for a healthy self. Genuine praise is cherished, needed, welcome and remembered. ENCOURAGMENT

How often have you felt discouraged, and all it took to get your motivation to gear was the enthusiastic encouragement of a friend? When you encouraged

(Continued on page 7)

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Mrs. Beatrice Mave (Continued from page 6)

others, you build. Sometimes, people become discouraged simply because they lack the sup-port of family and friends. Be telling them, "you can do it" or "I give you credit for trying so hard, don't give up", you fuel their perseverance and help them fulfill their potential. Encouragemnt is a welcome display of support and love that says, "I believe in you!"

Children have a special need for encouragement. Parents can express support by assisting with homework or offering a ride to some after-school activity. In every task a child undertakes, there lies an opportunity for parents to offer encouragement.

In a study to determine how best to motivate employees, Don Donning of Phillips Petroleum Co. found "our people just

wanted to be recognized for the job they do. The good old-fashioned 'pat on the back' did more to satisfy needs than anything". "Encourage one another, and build another up". 1 Thess. 5:11

GRATITUDE

"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all", Cicero said centuries ago. The words still ring true. Saying 'thank you' indicates a deepening of personal growth and maturity. Thankful appreciation tells the recipient, "I acknowledge your kindness. My life is important and improved to your efforts, and I treasure them". How often we fail to express our thanks to family. friends, fellow workers, and even to God himself, who "gives to all men life and breath and everything". (Acts 17:25)

"Gratitude is a nice touch of beauty added last of all to the countenance, giving a classic beauty, an angelic loveliness to the character.

APOLOGY

When we say "I'm sorry", we attempt to undo a wrong we have committed. It is a way to admit to another, "I make mistakes. Please forgive me". An apology lets others know you care about their feelings and their opinion. It tells them that they count in your life, and that you value the relationship. To say "I'm sorry" requires humility, a quality Christ Himself stressed on many occasions. Once He said, "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted". (Luke 18:14).

Humbling yourself before another is a sign of tremendous

THE 'M' VOICE-THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24-WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1980-7 trust and love. A sincere apolog rarely goes unforgiven. "Humility (is) that low, sweet root from which all heavenly virtues shoot"

Thomas Moore

FORGIVENESS

To forgive is to give up resentment; to cease to feel resentment against on account of a wrong committed. To say "I forgive you" is to free yourself from the

shackles of holding a grudge that weighs on the mind and burdens the soul. Telling someone you forgive them does not condone the wrong, nor is it weak. One must be strong to forgive. Look to Christ, who is the expert on the art of forgiving, for the necessary strength and patience. Consider the words of Paul, "As the Lord

has forgiven you, so you also must forgive". (Col. 3:13) TRAITS OF AN IDEAL TEACHER

Tact, earnestness, adaptability, character, humility, endourance, and realiability
TALK, TALKING

"Two good tips: Always say less than you think, and remember that how you say it often means more than what you

say".
"Do more than talk, say

"People who talk much say

Talk straight to your children about sex

By MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

If we adults really want to help prevent teen pregnancy, we have to stop talking out of both sides of our mouths about sex. Teenagers are bright, perceptive people and they know when they are getting mixed signals from adults. Here are just a few

· We tell our girls to be chaste and our boys to score. Girls generally feel more hesitation about early sex than guys do. But the red light we are flashing at girls all too often fails to stop them from having sex before they are ready, and instead stops them from making sure they have birth control before they do. And the green light we flash at boys makes it very unlikely that they will delay sexual activity. Teens of both sexes need a yellow light: a strong caution from adults about the risks and consequences of too-early sexual activity.

· We tell our teens one thing and do another. Teens have not cornered the market on irresponsible behavior. Often, adult men in their early twenties are the fathers of teenage girls's babies. Adults have helped to spread sexually-transmitted diseases. Adult men by the millions have walked away from their child support responsibilities. We adults have to clean up our act bfore we can speak with authori-

> DECEMBER 1

ty to our children.

· We bemoan the teen pregnancy problem but deny that our own children could be having sex. Most black adults will admit that our community, like our nation as a whole, has a serious teen pregnancy problem But too often, we fail to face up to that problem when it confronts us in our own homes. Many parents avoid discussing sex or birth control with their children in the mistaken fear that this will "encourage" their children to have sex. They look the other way even when they see clear signs that their children have become sexually active. Denying to ourselves and others that our children may be having sex — as 86 percent of all black teenage boys and 59 percent of all black teenage girls do by age 18 — will not help our young people avoid the negative consequences of too-early pregnancy and parenthood. But initiating honest, open, twoway communication can.

For almost all of us, sex is a difficult and uncomfortable subject. But we cannot be effective fighters against teen pregnancy and parenthood until we learn to talk straight to our sons and our daughters.

Marian Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund.

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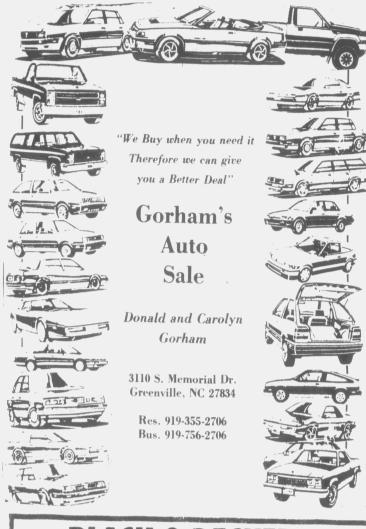
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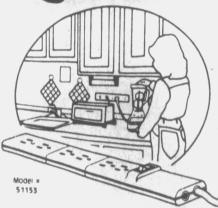
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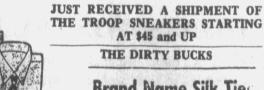
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