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EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1987

WEEK OF MARCH 10 - MARCH 17, 1995

Black leaders outraged at assault on Wilder

Witnesses have backed former Virginia Governor Doug Wilder's version of how he was allegedly attacked by a white RDU security guard Tuesday morning.

"The guard was pretty explosive," Scott Mettler, an eyewitness, told a local television station.

The incident was enough to outrage African-American leaders.

"It's appalling to think someone would do this here," an angry Rev. H.B. Pickett told The CAROLINIAN. "I hope he files a lawsuit, to bring out in the open the covert racism present in this area."

Rev. Pickett added, "The fact that this black person use to be a governor, didn't matter."

Two prominent African-Americans serve on the RDU Airport Authority: the chairman, F.V. "Pete" Allison, chairman of Mutual Community Savings Bank in Durham; and Joseph M. Sansom, president of Mechanics and Farmers Bank.

Sansom, a Raleigh native, told the Carolinian that the incident was "unfortunate," the dismissal of the guard involved seemed "justified," and that it was apparent that the guard "did not act in accordance with the way that he was supposed to."

Globe Airport Security Services, Inc. issued a statement late Tuesday,

confirming that one of its employees was involved in an "incident" with Wilder. But it declined to reveal his name or any other information about him "so as to not jeopardize the investigation."

Wilder was reportedly assaulted early Tuesday morning after he was stopped going through a security checkpoint at Raleigh-Durham International Airport's Terminal A. He was heading back to Richmond, Va. after a speaking engagement at Duke University the night before.

Wilder, a former presidential candidate who also hosts a Richmond, Va. radio talk show on WRVA-AM, told his audience Tuesday morning that after his suspenders set off the metal detector buzzer, a security guard shoved him back, saying that he would have to be checked with a handheld scanner.

Wilder says after he "secured his belongings," he reached to read the guard's name on his shirt tag.

"I turned around to see what his name badge was, because I was going to suggest to the supervisor that no one should even talk to someone that way. When he saw me doing that he said, 'Don't try to see who I am, I don't like you.'"

"He then grabbed me by the throat, and just shoved me back

up against the wall again," Wilder claimed.

Ken Hite, who was waiting in the same area for a flight out, told a local television station that the security guard was not provoked.

"But it was definitely a body slam against the wall," he recalled. Airport employees pulled the guard back as he allegedly went at Wilder a second time, who was uninjured. The officer was later terminated and ordered off the grounds.

After he got back to Virginia, Wilder told reporters that the guard actually admitted to the assault in front of him.

"He said 'I choked him, I choked him. He was looking at my badge.' Then Wilder chuckled, adding, "It's bizarre."

"You don't do that, whether it's the governor or anybody," RDU spokesman Rick Martinez told The Carolinian. "I don't care what the provocation was." Martinez added that even though an investigation was still underway, a letter of "regret" for the incident would be forwarded to Wilder.

Another airport spokesman, Teresa Damiano, told The Carolinian that Globe Security had been contracted by US Air, not the airport itself.



MS. YOLANDA KING, daughter of the late Martin Luther King, Jr. visited the campus of East Carolina University in Greenville. She is shown chatting with Ms. Charetta Walls.

68 House members sign bill to end N.C. sales tax on food

By Ruth Sheehan

In the frenzy of tax cuts at the legislature, a majority of state House members have taken a bold stand, calling for repeal of the sales tax on food - a move that would save the average family of four in North Carolina more than \$300 a year.

Even with 67 co-sponsors, though, Rep. Toby Fitch's repeal bill is more likely to appear in future campaign commercials than on the House floor for a vote.

The measure, which would cost \$460 million in lost revenue this year and even more in subsequent years, was introduced Wednesday by Fitch, a Democrat from Wilson. It would exempt food from the state's 6 percent sales tax beginning July 1. In addition to Fitch, it was signed by 39 Democrats and 28 Republicans.

"We send a devastating message to our working people when we tax the necessities of life," Fitch said. "No one can choose not to eat. People can choose not to go to the movies or buy beer or cigarettes, but they cannot choose not to buy groceries for their children."

"This is the year for tax relief, and this is the fairest tax cut of all."

The sales tax was first applied to food in 1961, ostensibly as a temporary measure; it is considered one of the state's most regressive taxes. According to the N.C. Budget and Tax Center, a family that makes \$12,400 a year spends 16.6 percent of its income on food, while a family with a \$100,000 income spends 3.8 percent of its income on food.

In recent years, Fitch and oth-

ers, including former Republican Gov. Jim Martin, have pushed to make food exempt from the tax. Their efforts have failed, in large measure, because of the high cost of repeal.

Gov. Jim Hunt, in releasing his budget last month, said the state cannot afford to eliminate the food tax if it wants to provide a break on individual income taxes, cut the corporate income tax rate and repeal the intangibles tax on stocks and bonds.

On Monday, Republican House leaders said they had reached the same conclusion.

Speaker Harold Brubaker and Majority Leader Leo Daughtry said they will stick to the GOP promise to cut personal income taxes; the House, in fact, has already approved such a cut to the tune of about \$235 million. In addition, they promised repeal of the intangibles tax (\$127 Million), which would benefit the state's wealthiest residents and businesses, and a deep cut in the corporate income tax rate beginning in 1996.

"That's about all we can do," Brubaker said.

The speaker said the Republican agenda may include repeal of the food tax in 1997. But for now, he said, talk of eliminating the tax is just so much wishful thinking. He predicted that Fitch's bill will not make it out of committee.

Even some of Fitch's most zealous co-sponsors-Republicans and Democrats-equivocated when asked at a new conference how far they would go to see the repeal approved.

Signing on as a co-sponsor of a bill is one thing. Voting against the party leadership or against some

other tax cut is quite another.

Under House rules, if a committee chairman keeps a piece of legislation bottled up, 61 members can sign a discharge petition to get the bill onto the floor. But the few Republicans who showed up for the food tax news conference said they could not promise to sign such a petition.

"I'll consider that when that happens," said GOP Rep. Arlene Pulley of Raleigh.

Similarly, while Fitch said he is willing to vote against a corporate income tax cut and against repeal of the intangibles tax to free up enough money for food tax repeal, some other Democrats were less strident.

"It's a little foolish down here to say what you'll vote for or against without listening to the debate," said House Minority Leader Jim Black of Charlotte.

All of the House members at the news conference voted last month in favor of the personal income tax cut. If enacted, it would increase the personal exemption deduction and provide a \$50 tax credit for each dependent child; an average family of four would save about \$240 a year in taxes.

An informal survey of shoppers Wednesday at a Kroger supermarket in North Raleigh found a stronger preference for removal of the food tax. Kim Hanchette, for example, would have saved \$9.50 on her \$168.76 grocery purchase without the tax. She thought about it for a second and calculated that repeal would save her, on average, about \$6 a week.

"Yeah," she said. "It really does add up."



"GOLDEN EAGLE AWARDS" were presented for lifetime achievement to long-time African-American businesses by the cosmetologists. Among the recipients were (L-R) Dr. Wiley Hines, Pitt County Commissioner Farney Moore, and retired entrepreneur Charles Shiver. (below) Ms. Lela Hines, proud mother of Dr. Wiley Hines, friend, attorney Emma Levy, and James Hines, join the host of well-wishers.

A tribute to Daniel T. Blue, Jr. Committee

The members of the Tribute to Daniel T. Blue, Jr. Committee are pleased to announce its plans to honor the former speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives for his outstanding leadership and service to the state.

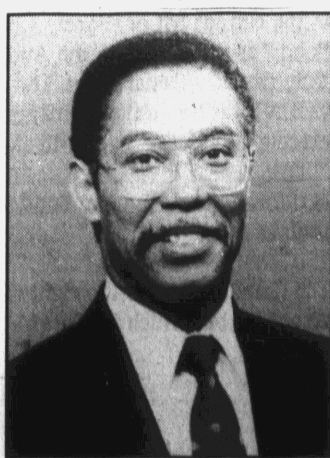
Friends and associates of Representative Blue will gather for a reception and banquet to be held on Saturday, March 18, at the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center. A reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the dinner is set for 7:00 p.m.

A number of public dignitaries and elected officials will be present to roast Representative Blue with

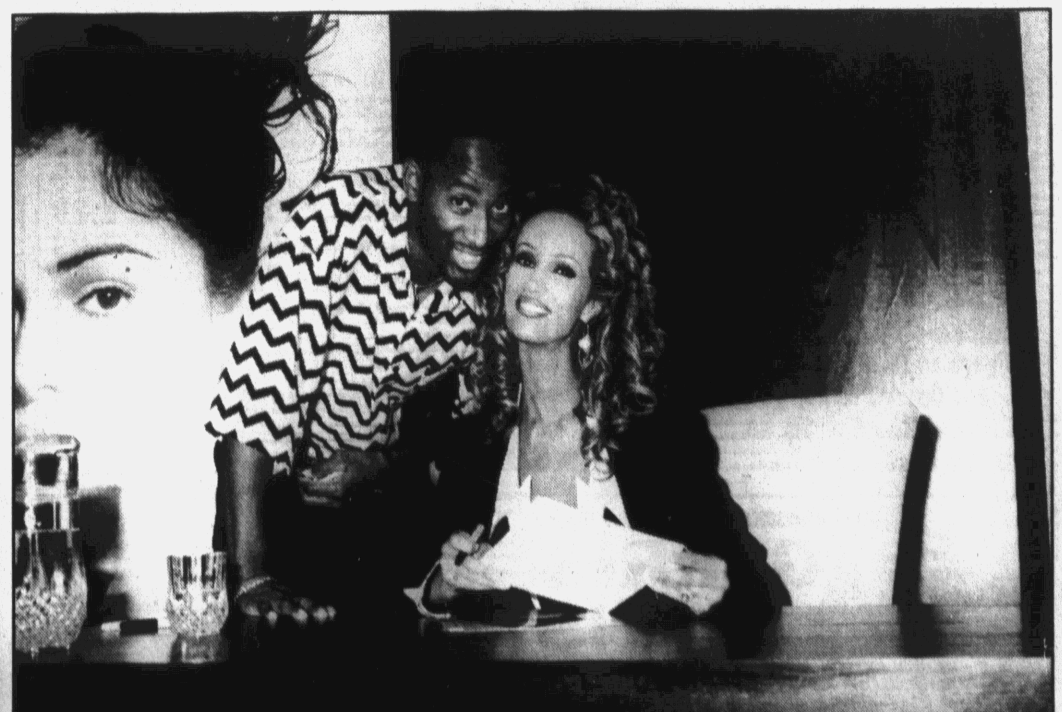
words of kindness and accolades. Scheduled to make presentations are Lieutenant Governor Dennis Wicker; former Senator Terry Sanford; Julius Chambers, Chancellor of NC Central University; Representative Howard Hunter, Chairman of the NC Legislative Black Caucus; Rev. Joy Johnson, former legislator; NCAE President-elect Rose Marie Lowery-Townsend; and Wake county Sheriff John Baker.

Proceeds from the banquet will be donated to the North Carolina Central University Foundation, Inc. and the endowed Daniel Terry

(continued on page 2)



DANIEL T. BLUE, JR.



CALVIN JONES, GENERAL MANGER of radio station WOOW, poses for the camera at an autograph-signing session with noted fashion model, Imani. Way to go, C.J.!!

Tyson's life more than just boxing, he is seeking to become a better man

By Jaime C. Harris

After hearing that James "Buster" Douglas, the former heavyweight faker - who got lucky one night in Japan and defeated an uninspired Mike Tyson - is making a comeback, with the sole intention of one day fighting Tyson in a rematch that absolutely no one wants to see, it makes one wonder if anyone is looking at the big picture.

For almost all of his adult life, ever since it became clear to all those bloodsucking sharks affiliated with boxing that the man known as Iron Mike was a ticket to fortune and fame - or even more fortunes for those who had already raked in goo-gobs of loot exploiting

punch drunk pugilists - Tyson has been looked upon as a commodity, a walking slot machine who has always spit out coins ad infinitum for those who were privileged enough to play him.

And now that his release from the Indiana Youth Detention Center is only a few weeks away or sooner, the jockeying the the opportunity to buy a limited number of tickets in the Mike Tyson Lottery has begun.

It is the usual cast of characters, boxing promoters and managers who claim to have Tyson's best interest at heart, but who in reality are vying to become the major players on the boxing scene. And who if afforded a piece of the action

stand to make hundreds of millions of dollars off of a young man who is sure to be the biggest draw in the history of boxing.

As it stands, Don King says he is still the man. Who's to say he's not? Tyson has not given any indication - at least publicly - that he plans to drop King as his promoter. Team Tyson still appears to be Rory Holloway, John Horne and Don King. But if you listen to unconfirmed reports coming out of every corner of the boxing world, Mike Tyson will drop King like a bad habit the moment he steps outside those rusty prison gates.

Promoters the likes of Butch Lewis, Murad Muhammad and anyone else who may have said hello to Mike Tyson in passing are camping out, waiting for the chance to piggyback their way to the top of the first game. For he

who controls the heavyweight champion of the world - especially one as marketable as Tyson will be, once he cleans up this heavyweight mess - holds boxing in the palm of his hand.

It is safe to assume that despite all the rhetoric these P.T. Barnum impersonators are spewing about caring for Tyson's well being, all they really care about is their bank account. The almighty dollar. It would be noble if they had his best interest at heart. Truly concerned about his erudition while incarcerated. But the nature of the beast prohibits it from doing what maybe morally correct and dismisses righteousness for a more pressing doctrine known to us all as capitalism.

Tyson has made an attempt to learn more about himself and his people. He seeks to become a bet-

ter person, to become more educated and knowledgeable. He has reportedly studied African-American authors. He has embraced the teachings of Islam and its principles. Many naysayers question his sincerity. But who are they to judge? It is so easy to harp on someone else's own hardships remain undisclosed.

Mike Tyson deserves a chance

outside of the ring to prove he has indeed matured. His time spent in prison has been a long period of introspection. Let's hope as his release draws near that he has learned to spot a wolf in sheep's clothing and will be wise enough to distinguish between those who truly care about him as a human being and those who simply see him as a cash cow.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOTHER. Celebrating 100 years of blessed life!!!

Aycock Birthplace greets the spring with an open house

The Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace State Historic Site invites everyone to visit the site as they welcome spring with an open house and various activities on Wednesday, March 22 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Admission is free!

As one of the events held in conjunction with the Saturday, March 25 Fremont Daffodil Festival, the

Aycock Birthplace's open house will provide visitors with a sense of 19th century farm life. Dressed in the traditional clothing of the day, the site staff and volunteers will demonstrate typical chores. In the historic home's kitchen, a woman will demonstrate butter churning, while in the parlor a quilter will start piecing a quilt top. Out in the barn, another historic interpreter will operate a sheller and grinder to show how corn was taken off the cob and made into grits or meal.

Children will delight in the opportunity to trying their hand at playing with 19th century toys. In the authentic, one-room school house a "school marm" will teach visitors about schools of this period. And no one will want to leave until they have had a chance to take the free horse and wagon ride.

Special guests at the Aycock Birthplace during the open house will be the first grade classes from Fremont, Northeast and North-west elementary schools.

The Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace features the mid-19th century boyhood home of North Carolina's "Education Governor." Also on the 16 acre site are the restored outbuildings and barns, a one-room school house and a visitor center featuring exhibits about Governor Aycock's life, including an audiovisual program.

Aycock Birthplace, an agency of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, is located nine miles north of Goldsboro, 1/2 mile off US 117 on Governor Aycock Road. For more information please call 919-242-5581.

Due to the backlog of applicants, Section 8 (Existing/Mod Rehab/Voucher) program applications will no longer be taken, effective April 1, 1995, at 8:00 am. A Notice of commencement of taking applications will be advertised when the need arises.

Executive Director
Greenville Housing Authority

Pitt County Waste Handling Facility Contract II, Building

Sealed proposal will be received by the Pitt County Engineering Department in the Conference Room, Pitt County Development Services Building at 1717 West Fifth Street, Greenville, North Carolina 27834, on March 22, 1995, until 2:00 PM, local time. A prebid conference will be held at the above address at 2:00 PM on March 15, 1995

Separate bids for Pitt County Waste Handling Facility, Section I, Building, and Section II, Electrical will be opened and read immediately after the time specified above. Bids may be submitted for either section or both sections.

Contract Documents are available in the office of the County Engineer, Pitt county Develop Services Building at 1717 West Fifth Street, Greenville, North Carolina 27834, during normal working hours.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a 5% bid security. This security may be in cash, certified check or bid bond issued by Surety licensed to conduct business in North Carolina and named in the current list of "Surety Companies Acceptable on Federal Bonds" as published by the Audit Staff Bureau of Accountants, U.S., Treasury Department. The deposit may be retained by the COUNTY as liquidated damages if the successful bidder fails to execute the contract within 10 days after notice of award.

Performance and Payment Bond shall be required for 100% of the contract amount.

The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to accept any bid which appears to be in its best interest.

County of Pitt
 Wilton R. Duke, Chairman
 Pitt County Board of Commissioners

From Page 1

Blue

Blue Chair in Political Science established by the C.D. Spangler, Jr. Foundation, Inc. in honor of Representative Blue, a 1970 graduate of NCCU.

The co-chairpersons of this event are Ms. Barbara Allen of Raleigh, NC and Mr. Ben Ruffin of Winston-Salem.

For more information, contact the NCCU Foundation Office at 919-560-6151 or Southeast Raleigh CDC at 919-834-8101.

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TEDI BEAR project to hold open house

The East Carolina University School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics will hold an open house for its TEDI BEAR Project Thursday, March 16, from 3 to 6 p.m. The event will take place at the project's new location, 504-B Dexter Street in Greenville.

The TEDI BEAR Project, a part of the Child Abuse Program in the medical school's Department of Pediatrics, was awarded \$170,000 by the Governor's Crime Commission this past summer. It is a community project that reaches out to evaluate and treat abused children in eastern North Carolina. TEDI BEAR stands for Tender, Evaluation, Diagnosis and Intervention for Better Abuse Response.

The two-year grant is designated for salaries and is augmented by \$50,000 from monies donated during the 1993 Children's Miracle Network Telethon.

Dr. Edwin Sumpter, director of the Child Abuse Program and professor of pediatrics with the medical school, said the grant money has enabled the TEDI BEAR Project to expand its staff and relocate to the new facility, where abused children ranging in age from newborn to 17 years can receive an interagency approach to their evaluation, treatment and protection.

The 1,600-square-foot building that houses the project was donated rent-free for three years by a concerned citizen, Sumpter said. Volunteers will perform various clerical tasks.

The facility was designed to be a child-friendly place where abused children can go to be evaluated and treated eight hours a day, five days a week. It will be available to law enforcement, social service agencies and medical personnel.

"We want to reduce the trauma to the child," said Marcia Edwards, a social worker who is a member of the TEDI BEAR Team. Sumpter said it's not unusual for an abused child to undergo from six to 12 interviews in some not-so-warm-and-friendly places, like the busy hospital emergency department or law enforcement office. The new facility was created with these children in mind.

Two interview rooms, one for younger children and one for older children, have mirrors which al-

low a child to be interviewed by a trained professional while others observe without disrupting the interview. The facility allows for the child's interview, physical examination and treatment to occur in one place. Members of the TEDI BEAR Team say it is important for these events to take place outside a clinical or law enforcement setting.

The TEDI BEAR Team involves the cooperation of the District Attorney's office, Guardian ad Litem Program, Pitt County Sheriff's Department, Greenville Police Department, Pitt County Mental Health, Pitt County Department of Social Services, Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the ECU School of Medicine. Representatives from these agencies

comprise a board of directors. Other local law enforcement agencies are expected to be involved.

"We have had terrific community support for this project," said Sumpter. The local Home Builder's Association along with numerous other businesses and individuals donated materials and time to the renovation of the facility. "We hope this will be a first step toward development of a community child advocacy center," Sumpter added.

The TEDI BEAR Team is already seeking funding to prepare for the time when the grant expires. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Child Advocacy Center through The Medical Foundation of East Carolina University at 816-2238.

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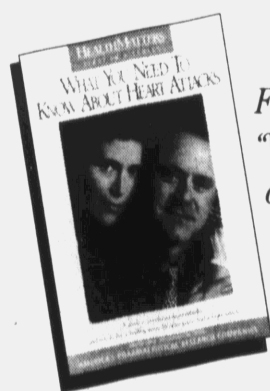
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Washington Gallery hosts watercolor exhibition

The Watercolor Society of North Carolina's Spring Exhibition is on view at the Beaufort County Arts Council and Civic Center in Washington from March 19-April 28. Sixty-five paintings by artists from across the state were selected by juror Christopher Schink for the exhibition. The public is invited to view the show weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. For more information, please call the Beaufort County Arts Council weekdays at 919-946-2504.

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2	2	2	1	1	
Residence					
With Parents	Rent Furnished	Rent Unfurnished	Own Mortgage	Own Clear	
1	2	3	4	5	
Years at Present Address					
Under 2 yrs.	2-4 yrs.	5-8 yrs.	9-14 yrs.	15 yrs. or more	
1	2	3	4	5	
Gross Monthly Income					
\$1,000-1,500	\$1,501-2,000	\$2,001-2,500	\$2,501-3,500	Over \$3,500	
3	4	5	6	7	
Years With Present Employer					
Under 2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	4-6 yrs.	7-10 yrs.	Over 10 yrs.	
1	3	4	5	6	
Years With Previous Employer					
Under 1 yr.	1-3 yrs.	4-6 yrs.	7-10 yrs.	Over 10 yrs.	
0	1	2	4	5	
Monthly Income Remaining (After monthly obligations)					
Less than 10%	10% to 24%	25% to 32%	33% to 49%	Over 50%	
1	2	3	4	5	
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African American Challenge to IRS

Millions of Black Americans whose ancestors were slaves may no longer have to pay federal income taxes if Dr. Robert L. Brock has his way.

Brock, a veteran Black activist, who is based in the nation's capital and lives within a stone's throw of the Internal Revenue Service's Commissioner's office, is the main mover behind an unusual (but he says "thoroughly documented") lawsuit filed against the IRS in a federal district court in Los Angeles.

On February 27 Brock's, and possibly yours and mine, case went before Judge John G. Davies, who is the same judge who handed down the sentences in the civil rights lawsuit against the officers who beat Rodney King.

Brock had urged Black men and women on the West Coast to come to the Roybal Federal Building, in L.A., to make the Black presence felt while this case is being argued. Brock, and many associates were on hand to explain how the case affects African Americans individually. According to Dr. Brock, there is much in his legal portfolio that will enable him to win the case. "Under slavery, Blacks were property. Then when the White rulers of America outlawed slavery and decided to make us citizens overnight, they did it without our consent. They told us we were now citizens—whether we liked it or not," says Brock. His contention makes plenty of sense to African Americans who feel that they definitely give more to the government than they get back. "By making us citizens they enslaved us once again by putting the burden of the income tax upon us. The former slaves never had the chance to say whether or not they really wanted to be American citizens and pay taxes. The White-run government decided for them," states Brock.

Each year African Americans pay out over \$12 billion in taxes to the various governments in their cities, counties, states and, of course, the federal government. Many of us would feel better about

our substantial pay out if we felt comfortable that our concerns, wishes and desires were really being taken into account by the government establishment, and our so-called "representatives." "We are asking the IRS to prove that Blacks of slave descent really are citizens and subject to income taxation. Unlike the average American immigrant (Whether Asians or Mexican, or even a Black from modern-day Africa), African Americans whose ancestors were slaves never actually forced it upon them," states Brock.

Rather than continuing to play the "Victim" and constantly beg at government's doors for assistance, as many so-called Black leaders want us to be, in order to further feather their own "affirmative action" pockets, Brock is calling for a settlement to remove us from the government's dole completely. "When our ancestors were kidnapped in Africa, brought across the sea and then sold as slaves, these were acts of violent warfare upon our people. We still bear the scars of this African Slave Holocaust today. We are paying with

our tax dollars for the privilege of being chained to an oppressive federal income tax upon the fruits of our labor. This too is slavery," states the 70-year-old Brock.

"Numerous times they cite this as being 'frivolous', but believe me, this is not just more Black 'victim' complaints, as the IRS wants people to think," added Brock. "Our case is thoroughly documented with decades of legal research behind it. This is not a frivolous lawsuit as even the Courts have admitted by allowing our case to continue this far, requiring the De-

fendant (IRS) to answer," says Brock with a mischievous twinkle in his eye.

"We have the man on the spot. If the IRS wants 30 million men and women living in America, of African Slave Heritage, to continue paying taxes every April 15th, all we are asking is that agency answer and prove to us that the government made us citizens in a legal way, to begin with," states Brock. "I hope all African Americans will give us the moral support and activism toward what will save numerous members of our race

billions of dollars. We need their daily prayers, and, of course, financial contributions, in this endeavor. This is a costly effort and every penny toward our legal fund, and progress, is vital," adds Dr. Brock.

According to Brock's Self Determination Committee, people who may want to send donations, and/or requests for membership or free petitions to be distributed in their local areas, should write, or call the Self-Determination Committee, P.O. Box 15288, Washington D.C. 20003.

Blue Angels to perform

MCAS Cherry Point, NC—The Blue Angels, the US Navy Flight Demonstration Team, will take center stage here April 8, 1995 in this year's Air Show and Open House.

Scheduled attractions include ground displays of vintage and modern aircraft, as well as displays of modern military equipment.

Offering an interesting change of pace will be the breathtaking performance of the precision women skydivers team The Misty Blues.

The latest Marine Corps project aircraft, the MV-22 Osprey, will be showing its value to the Corps' by executing an unconstrained flight performance. The Osprey is a revolutionary, state-of-the-art tilt-rotor, vertical short-takeoff and landing airplane.

"Shock Wave," is the world speed record holder for trucks in the quarter mile. Powered by jet engines, this 7,000 pound semi-truck has obtained 256 mph in just 6.36 seconds, and has been clocked at faster than 300 mph.

The air show and open house will be a full day of free and exciting events taking place continually. Gates will be open from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, and concessions will operate daily.

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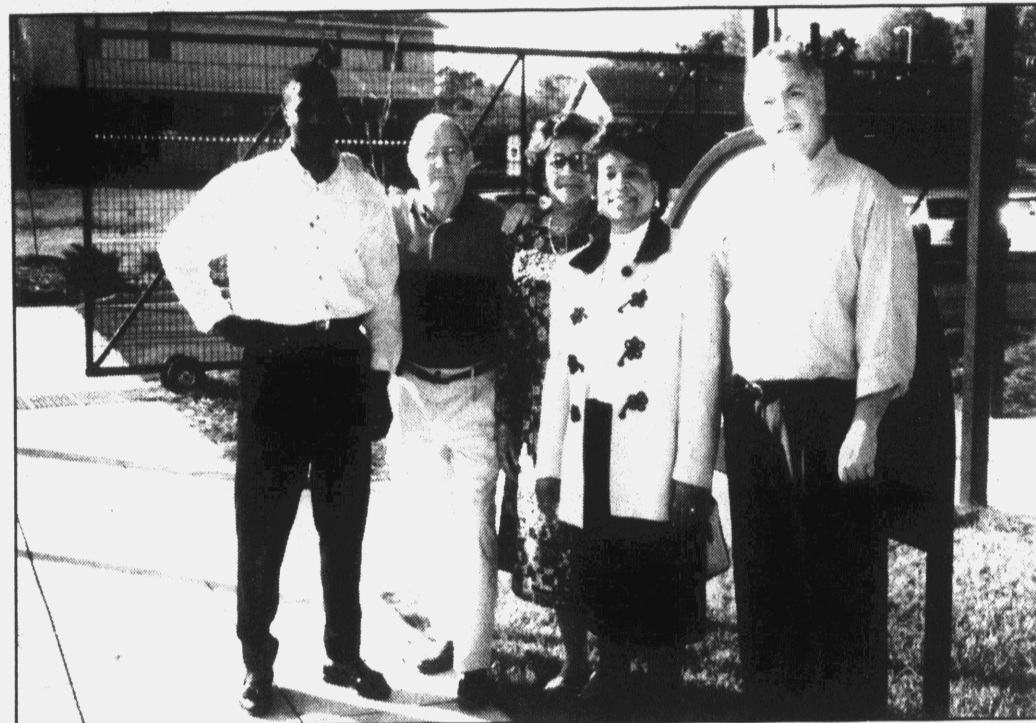
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GREENVILLE MAYOR PRO TEM, RUFUS HUGGINS, was among those who attended a recent seminar hosted by congresswoman Eva Clayton. Our photographer caught up with Mr. Huggins and N.C. State Senator, the honorable Frank Ballance (c) who were encouraging the recipient of a \$400,000.00 Small business grant.



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH CITIZENS in the district is still her priority. Congresswoman Clayton stopped at the Greenville Housing Authority to listen to concerns and needs of the agency.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

CITY OF GREENVILLE PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTICE is given that the Planning and Community Development Department of the City of Greenville will, until the 23rd day of March, 1995, receive sealed bids at the Community Building, 306 South Greene Street, Greenville, North Carolina, for the rehabilitation of dwelling units located in the West Greenville and the East Meadowbrook Neighborhoods, Greenville, Pitt County, North Carolina. These projects will be funded in part by the HUD Community Development Block Grant Program.

Bid packets were available on March 13, 1995. Instructions for submitting bids and complete specifications will be available at the Community Building, 306 South Greene Street, Greenville, North Carolina during regular office hours.

Bid proposals will be opened and read promptly at 10:00 a.m., EST, on the 23rd day of March, 1995, at the Community Building, 306 South Greene Street, Greenville, North Carolina. The City of Greenville reserves the right to waive any irregularities in bidding and the right to reject any or all bids submitted. Minorities and female-owned businesses are encouraged to participate.

For further details, contact the Planning and Community Development Department of the City of Greenville at (919) 830-4505 or (919) 830-4503.

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We're caught in the gridlock

The 104th Congress has been in session for nearly a month. In that time it has enacted a handful of democracy reforms aimed at demonstrating that there is a willingness on the part of both Democrats and Republicans to make elected officials more accountable to the public. Now Congress and the president are focusing on "issues." These include welfare reform, the federal budget, the Mexican bailout, and the minimum wage. But the political situation in this country is such that governmental approaches and solutions to these issues are not effective.

Take the issue of health care. A local hospital may establish a special clinic to provide nutritional counseling to pregnant mothers. This program might be enormously effective. But there is no evidence that such programs can be generalized throughout the health care system. Look at what happened in

the last session of Congress when the president attempted to initiate health care reform. Even the most modest attempt to reform the health care system became so highly politicized—caught in the crossfire between the American Medical Association, the pharmaceutical companies, the health care union bureaucracy and the political action committees—that nothing could be done to transform the medical industry. Not to mention that the entire dialogue never addressed the *quality* of health care. The declining quality of hospital and medical care for ordinary Americans—infants, people with AIDS, cancer patients, people with diabetes and heart disease, our elderly—is a national tragedy. But the bipartisan government is unable to do anything about it.

There has been a lot of discussion about political gridlock, about how partisan concerns and competition have made Congress and the state legislatures unable to take initiative and create workable social and economic policy. This is certainly true. But when the political pundits expound on the pitfalls of gridlock, they leave out of the equation that it is our lives, our children, our homes, our jobs, our quality of life which are caught in that gridlock. We pay taxes to support a government bureaucracy that does not work for us. We are the first generation of Americans who cannot promise our children that they will do better than we have done. We have friends and family members who are caught in the net of drug and

alcohol abuse. We are the victims of violent crime. Many children in this country still go to bed hungry. Where are the solutions to these problems?

We have to face the reality that these solutions cannot be produced by our government under the current arrangement. Government is too politicized; politics is too corrupt; and the American people—of all races, and religions and income levels—do not have a voice, do not have the power to redirect this country. Until we deal with that central fact of our political life, we can deal with nothing else.

In my opinion, what is needed in America is the total deconstruction and reconstruction of the political arrangement. That's what the people who voted this past November 8 were saying. That's what the more than 25 million people in 22 states who have so far supported term limits were saying. That's what the 20 million Americans who voted for Ross Perot in 1992 were saying. There are no governmental solutions. There are only political solutions.

I'm talking about the full democratization of the American political process. An integral part of such a transformation has to be the creation of a new third party in America, a new *kind* of party which brings together the over-taxed in America's suburbs and the underserved in our inner cities and rural communities to lead a political restructuring of American democracy. Then and only then, will we be able to find solutions to the problems we face.

Christopher Schink to present "History of Watercolors"

A slide and lecture presentation by artist Christopher Schink is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Civic Center. Schink, a renowned watercolor artist and instructor from California, juried the Watercolor Society of North Carolina's exhibition currently on view at the Civic Center. The public is invited to attend the program and to view the exhibition. For more information, please call the Beaufort County Arts Council at 946-2504.

Black Facts

By: Okeora Keoba

Did you know
Althea Gibson was the first black woman to win the Wimbledon Singles title?

Dred Scott sued for his freedom in March 1847?

Scott Joplin is recognized as the "King of Ragtime"?

The first black child born in America was born in 1621?

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