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JULY 16 - JULY 23, 1997

D.D. Garrett honored for service

Celebration held during Eppes weekend

Like many communities all across America, Pitt County was the scene of festivities for the Fourth of July; add to that...the Annual Greenville Industrial-Eppes Alumni Celebration and you are up-to-date on two-thirds of the historic affairs in Greenville dur-

ing the big July 4th weekend. The other major celebration during this time was the recognition of 50 years in business for the D D Garrett Agency. More than 100 people gathered at the Hilton Hotel to honor the founder, D.D. Garrett, at a banquet hosted on behalf of

York Memorial AME Zion Church and the Garrett family.

The Rev. Charles M. Dickens was the keynote speaker of the affair which was the "brainchild" of Mr. Garrett's niece, Allegra Gross, and his nephew, Randy Dupree. Those in attendance were a cross-section of friends and long-time associations who could easily

identify with and attest to the many accolades and reflections that were shared by several presenters which included: Mr. Gaston Monk, President of the Pitt County Chapter of the NAACP; Mr. Leslie Cox, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of York Memorial; Mr. John Faulk, Williamston Commissioner; Mr. Garrett's sons, D.D. Jr., and Michael; and Greenville Mayor Nancy Jenkins, who presented the senior Mr. Garrett with a key to the City. A monetary gift from the State NAACP Chapter was presented by Sylvia Barnhill, NC NAACP Secretary; and Greenville City Council member, Mildred Council, spoke on behalf of the Governor's Sickle Cell Commission of which Mr. Garrett is a member.

Songstress Debra Wilkins (formerly Debra Leathers) treated the family-like audience with renditions including "The Wing Beneath My Wings."

Never at a loss for words, Mr. Garrett shared intimate emotions based on his reflections of gaining an education and starting a business 50 years ago and living to see the benefits a half-century later. In doing so, he challenged young people to take full advantage on today's opportunities and credited the grace of God for providing him with the will and the strength to pursue success in the face of uninspiring circumstances.



Garrett stands with Greenville City Council member Mildred Council and NC NAACP Secretary Sylvia Barnhill.



D.D. Garrett, (sitting center) posed with friends and family during the celebration.

Pitt native is mentoring to the masses

From Falkland to UNC-Chapel Hill, Johnson can connect with anyone

At first blush, James Johnson Jr. looks like the typical college business professor, equally at home spouting off about the globalization of Southeast Asian economies in the executive board room as he is spouting off about the globalization of Southeast Asian economies in the lecture hall. Tall, together, polished and gleaming, he's a lifelong academic-with a wife, one dog, no children, three diplomas, a triple appointment at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a well-cut checked wool suit and a fondness for flights of speechmaking laced with fancy-shmancy academic jargon.

But then there's the fact that some of his best friends at work are the nightjanitors and that talk of economic globalization can easily surrender to talk of Michael's jammin' during Game Five. then there's the fact that he is at home on a Durham hard court shooting baskets as midnight, and that he's still called "Junior" by everyone in Falkland, his 500 person Pitt County hometown (where, by the way, he still has the same Wachovia account he opened when he was 6-years-old).

Switching hats as easily as he can switch his diction is a skill honed over 17 years of hobnobbing with university bigwigs and, before that, of 18 years growing up in a small, rural, Eastern North Carolina town cleaning tobacco barns. It's a skill that the business, geography and sociology professor wants to teach students from economically distressed neighborhoods in Durham. And it's one of the skills that led Durham businessman and philan-

thropist Frank Kenan and former UNC President William Friday to Johnson when they wanted to set up a program to help Durham's disadvantaged students.

So-gooder sociologists and social workers have long trotted out plans to empower the inner city students. What sets Johnson's plan apart from other academic acceleration and remediation recipes is that his comes from his own experience, stirred first by his years as a student at N.C. Central University, the University of Wisconsin at Madison and Michigan State University, then seasoned by his academic research while a professor at the University of California-Los Angeles and UNC. The program is called the Durham Scholars Program, and a discussion of its how's and why's can easily be a discussion of Johnson's own how's and why's and what's.

He didn't have a telephone in the home where he grew up, but the town of Falkland is so small, says Johnson, that when you did something wrong in one part of the county it got back to your folks in the other part of the county before you got home- even before you stepped off at the bus stop in town. It was fear, he says-fear of failing, fear of disappointing mom and dad- that spurred him to do well in school, to do well at his first jobs. He helped his uncle, a janitor at the local elementary school and in the summers. Later, he worked on tobacco farms.

"All my idle time was used up," says Johnson. At N.C. Central, he studied geogra-

See JOHNSON On Page 11

Some city taxicabs fail biannual inspections

Nine of 27 cabs come up short by city standards

By Dawn Bryan
The Daily Reflector

A third of the 27 Greenville taxicabs inspected Wednesday didn't pass the biannual inspection.

Cracked windshields, bald tires, no air conditioning and an improper horn prompted Cpl. E.M. Haddock with the Greenville Police Department to fail nine of the cabs he inspected in the Police Department parking lot.

They were the first inspections since City Council adopted the revised taxicab ordinance in April.

Drivers have to keep logs of the trips and charges, owners have to prove more liability insurance and drivers have to have zone maps and rates posted.

Police Attorney Blair Carr and Taxicab Association Attorney Leslie Robinson agreed on the new standards.

"That's what they wanted," Haddock said. "The only thing I did was try to enforce them."

It took about five minutes for Haddock to inspect each cab, checking lights, turn signals, brakes and air conditioning.

About 20 percent of the cabs had maps and fares posted. The others were told they needed to do so.

"This is kind of new to them," Haddock said. "That's why we didn't turn them down just because it wasn't in there."

All cab companies showed the required insurance certificates. Haddock only failed cabs for public safety violations.

Conditions—a cracked windshield, for example—that would pass state standards now can flunk

See TAXI On Page 11



James Johnson Jr. worked himself up from Falkland. Now with his Durham Scholars Program, he hopes to lead others to success.

Dr. Joseph Lowery to retire from SCLC

In February, 1957, Martin Luther King, Jr., Ralph D. Abernathy, Sr. and Joseph E. Lowery, as well as other Southern clergymen, took the initiative to forge ahead with equal and civil rights and human rights for Black throughout America.

Thus was born the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), with the aim of promoting Christian principles, direct action programs ending discrimination and promoting voter registration and political education awareness. "We always knew, from the start, that our road wouldn't be easy,"

Lowery recalled recently while in Washington, D.C. to address the annual Calvin W. Rolark Memorial Luncheon of the United Black Fund. "But we also knew that one day, we were going to win the battle."

For the past 40 years, Lowery has been in the forefront of that battle—from leading the advisement of Texaco to settle with African American plaintiffs filing racial discrimination lawsuits and amending its business practices to include minorities in all facets of their operation in 1996—to marching arm-in-arm with King, Abernathy, Fred Shuttlesworth and others, in the quest to achieve civil rights for all Americans. Twenty of those years were spent as SCLC national president (1977-1997), 10 years as SCLC's first board chairman and another 10 years as the organization's executive vice president.

Lowery's genesis as a national leader started in the 1950s, when



Dr. Joseph Lowery discussing his retirement.

he led the civil rights movement in his native Alabama. He was one of four ministers sued by state officials for \$3 million and his property was seized to satisfy judgments rendered by the courts (later, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed the decision).

In 1990, Lowery, a Methodist minister conducted a workshop human relations for former members of the KKK who had attacked a civil rights march in Decatur, Alabama, in 1979. The Klan members were ordered to attend the class by a federal judge as part of the settlement of a suit against the racist group because of its attacks, which left three young marchers wounded by gunshots. Several Klan members also served jail sen-

tences. Dr. Lowery has also played a leading role on the international

NAACP lobbies for more minority help

NCAAP President asks for full-funding

Budget negotiators should keep full funding for welfare-to-work programs, use welfare money only for its intended purpose and help historically black colleges more, leaders of the NAACP said Wednesday.

"Our state's business community is still saying to us we must develop our human resource potential," Skip Alston, president of the state NAACP association, said at a news conference.

"We must not penalize grand mothers who are now caring for more of our children," he said. "Our children are innocent."

Alston and other speakers at the rally were critical of sections in both the House and Senate budget proposals that are now being negotiated.

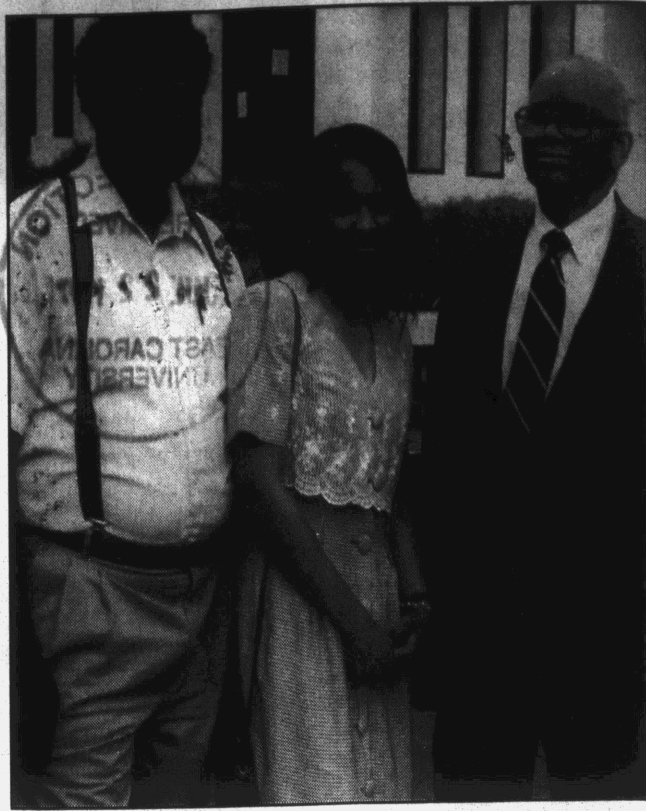
The group criticized a sweeping welfare reform package in the House budget that would make counties responsible for deciding who gets welfare benefits and how much those benefits will be.

But they also criticized a Senate provision, which Gov. Jim Hunt included in his budget recommendations, that would divert federal welfare funds to free up state

scene, leading attacks against U.S. businesses having contracts with South Africa. In early 1977, Lowery and the SCLC demonstrated against the Atlanta-based Southern Company, urging it to cancel a 10 year contract to purchase 10 million tons of coal from South Africa. In 1984, he and his wife, Evelyn, were arrested at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C., while taking part in anti-apartheid protests, along with other prominent African American activists.

Meanwhile, the long dedicated efforts of the Lowery, widely known as the "dean" of the civil rights movements, will be recognized during SCLC's annual national convention, which is set for July 27 to 30 in Atlanta, Georgia. "It is my hope that this organization is able to take our country into the next millennium," said Lowery, who is not saying what he will be doing after retirement.

Black Tax Proposal



Shown above pictured from left to right is: Mr. Bennie Roundtree of the Pitt County SCLC, Ms. Carolyn Worsley, and renowned activist Dr. Robert Brock from Los Angeles, CA. Dr. Brock was in Greenville recently to discuss a case that was in federal court a week ago, talking about that blacks should not be allowed to pay taxes being that we are descendants of slaves.

Dr. Brock's ideas on Black tax relief

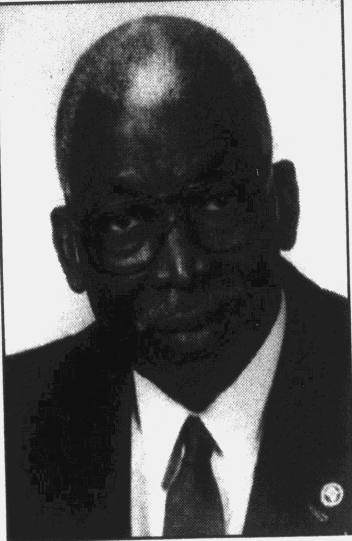
The laws of nature, law of self-preservation, and International Law are here the applicable laws, since the United States cannot be sued for slavery, since it allowed negro slavery by its law and Constitution, but then, how can the United States use its Constitution to tax Blacks of slaves' descent? Are we to say the United States is immune from slavery charges?

—Dr. Robert Brock, Self Determination Committee

Under the guidance of Dr. Brock, the Petitioner Leonard Ashton, descendant of slaves, on behalf of himself of himself and 49 million slaves' descendants, made oral disclaimer of the U.S. Constitution and all of its laws, statutes, rules and regulations. A maxim of law is that silence means consent, barring the Statue of Limitation. Since there is no opportunity for dis-

claimer at the time when the 14th Amendment forced citizenship upon the slaves, that disclaimer Limitation, Dr. Brock filed a complaint in U.S. District Court, Los Angeles Central District, on December 10, 1965 to stop the Statue of Limitation on slavery, thereby gaining time to exhaust the legal remedies and gradually inform the slave descendants of the legal issues. After Mr. Ashton delivered the disclaimer in Court Dr. Brock was able to argue that since the Plaintiff disclaimed the Constitution on the grounds that nonmutuality ever at any time existed between the United States and Plaintiff, it is the duty and law of the United States to overcome this disclaimer by proof of mutuality or consent, showing that the Plaintiffs are by mutual law subject to paying taxes as free people.

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- 47,500 - 550 County Ac, 5 Rms, 3 BR., 2 Bath, Cement Blk, Grifton, N.C.
- 47,800 - 1231 Davenport St., 5 rms, 3 BR., 1 bath, Brick., Rented 325.00.
- 41,500 - 304 Rountree Dr., 2 BR., 1 Bath, Brick, Cent. Heat Carport Lot 93 x 130, Greenville.

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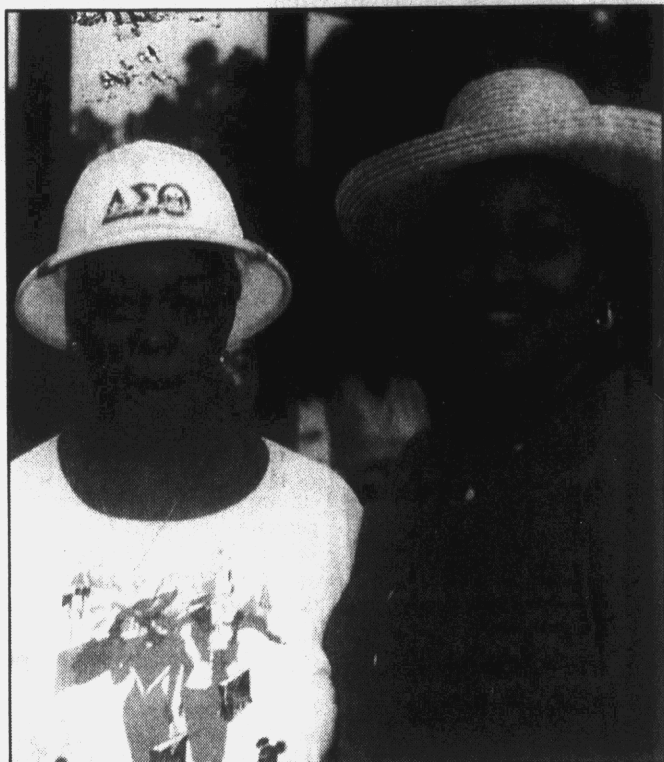
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1997 Eppes Alumni Reunion



The 1997 Eppes Alumni Reunion took place on the weekend of the Fourth of July and families from all over were on hand to celebrate and relax and just enjoy their former classmates and families.

Top photo from left to right; Ms. Sheryl Merritt, Ms. Chante' Merritt and Mrs. Rosa Harris.

Left - Ms. Mavis Williams and Ms. Edna Adams

Bottom - A group of Eppes Alumnis gathered for our photographer to take a group picture.



S. Lee Street Gets \$25K Reynolds Grant

The South Lee Street Neighborhood Improvement, Incorporated has received a \$25,000 grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc. for new housing as a part of the project.

This grant is designed to help initiate new housing development in the South Lee Street revitalization area. SLSNI will have to seek monies to actually build the homes and all potential home owners must go through housing counsel-

ing offered by SLSNI.

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has awarded grants totaling \$240 million to recipients in all of North Carolina's 100 counties. Recently the Foundation focus has been on strengthening Public Elementary and Secondary Education, preserving the environment, stimulating community economic development, and issues that impact minorities and women.

"SLSNI is very proud to be a

grant recipient of Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, this money gives much needed support to our new housing program. It also shows that SLSNI is moving in the right direction" Sherrian Brown, Executive Director said.

NAACP's Melvin Alston says Republicans Pro 'Racist State'

By Cash Michaels
The Wilmington Journal

State Republican legislative proposals that would give, counties local control over welfare programs and deny historically black colleges and universities additional funding, are further indications of "a very racist state" that must be stopped, state NAACP Conference President Melvin "Skip" Alston tells The Wilmington Journal and The Carolinian (Raleigh). "North Carolina, is the horror of (Sen.) Jesse Helms, and the Republicans cater to (that) mentality, (so) we have a very racist state," Alston said in a telephone interview from Greensboro Monday night.

"Anytime the Republicans are in the majority, they're going to do whatever they can to set back the record for African-Americans. That's a given all across the state and all across the country.

"We black leaders, especially the NAACP, have to be willing and able to speak out against it. We might not be able to stop them from doing it, but we'll let'em know that we don't like it."

Citizens should realize the urgent nature of these issues in the General Assembly, Alston adds, and they should call or write their lawmakers, supporting the NAACP's efforts.

At the top of Alston's list is the defeat of the House GOP's plan to transfer welfare program management and decision making to the 100 county governments statewide. That means there would no longer be a set standard for welfare eligibility or benefits in the state.

Proponents, life Rep. Cherie Berry (R-Catawba), the plan's sponsor say it's time for a "bottom-up" overhaul of the welfare system and local officials know the needs of their communities better than bureaucrats from Raleigh or Washington.

"I believe deep in my heart and my gut that we have what it takes in North Carolina at the county level to make welfare reform work," she told a State Democratic budget committee hearing last week.

Several county social services directors and advocates for the poor, who also spoke at that hearing, however, made the case that decentralizing state welfare would add a monstrous bureaucracy to county government, put battered women and their children at risk, and generally cause "chaos."

"(This is) one of the worst bills imaginable," Shirley McClain, executive director of the N.C. Hunger Network, told the committee. "(It) would be disastrous and create chaos in the state."

However, the measure is now part of the state House's proposed

budget, and the Democratic-led Senate, which passed its own, less contentious plan, now has to find common ground.

Because many of the county commission boards across the state are now dominated by conservative Republicans, Alston says, the prospect of those counties having tighter welfare restrictions, and weaker benefits than their more moderate counterparts is likely.

He should know. Alston is a county commissioner in Guilford County, which is dominated by conservatives, as is neighboring Davidson County, and even here in Wake County.

"You look at those counties, and you're going to have very lackadaisical feelings about even administering welfare," he told The Carolinian. "That's going to be unfortunate for the people that's dependent on it."

The ultimate fear Alston and other opponents of the GOP welfare reform plan have is constant movement of needy people from more restrictive areas of the state, to counties that have better social services programs, thus putting an "unnecessary burden" on their resources.

In fact, it's the perfect way for conservatively governed counties to drastically minimize their welfare population, Alston and others say.

"We feel that the state should have a uniform system so that (all) counties will have to operate in a certain manner...and won't allow the children to suffer."

Alston is also upset about the GOP-led House's refusal to appropriate part of \$21 million in additional funding to the state's five HBCUs, saying that an audit - it commissioned showed schools like North Carolina Central University and Winston-Salem State University had been "overfunded" in recent years.

African-American lawmakers like Reps. Dan Blue (D-Wake) and H.M. "Mickey" Michaux (D-Durham) went rhetorically ballistic, with Blue saying, "You'd have to have just fallen off the back of a turnip truck to believe that," and Michaux maintaining that the UNC System's black schools have historically been underfunded, and charging Republicans with deliberately limiting the scope of their audit.

Unlike top research institutions like N.C. State University or UNC at Chapel Hill, there is evidence of buildings crumbling on the campuses of UNC's HBCUs, outdated equipment still in use, and some facilities don't even have air conditioning, like NCCU's McDougald gymnasium they pointed out.

"For (House Republicans) to say there's no need, that's totally unacceptable," Alston said. "Because there's always a need for funds in any school, especially HBCUs. That's the only way they're going to be able to expand their programs, their buildings and classrooms."

Limiting HBCU funding means limiting their growth and ability to compete with predominately white colleges for top black students, Alston warned, which is inherently unfair.

The new state president, who officially took over May 31 after serving as interim for more than a year, says the NAACP will be addressing more statewide issues in the future that affect the black community.

Alston says he is pleased with 1st weekend's membership radiothon which attracted thousands more to the fold, and he's excited about planning for a statewide black leadership summit being touted for early next year.

"This is only the beginning" Alston added.

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Unforgettable memories of July 4th were disturbing

By Trey Bankhead

The Fourth of July took on a whole new meaning for me this year: Hell on Earth.

Don't get me wrong: The fireworks were beautiful, and the music uplifting. Unfortunately, my memories of that night will be forever scarred by the human cruelty that erupted. The Fourth of July is supposed to mean that we are celebrating our independence from tyranny. Freedom from Great Britain, freedom from slavery. Instead, my wife and I watched as a new generation of tyrants made their power known. Except these tyrants were not some king in a far-off land. They weren't slave-traders, come to steal our children. They were our own people, our children, our future.

While my wife and I sat, watching the fireworks in Greenville's Town Commons, my wife turned her head and asked, over the explosions of the rocket's red glare, "What's that?" I turned my head and looked: A large group of boys, nearly old enough to be called men, racing through the crowd. I just shook my head, thinking that they were just kids out being obnoxious. We went back to watching the fireworks, but my wife thought she heard someone say something about a fight.

Fifteen minutes later, the fireworks had ended, and we had fought our way through the sea of humanity back to our car. It hadn't done us a lot of good, because no one was letting us out into the flow of traffic! Instead, we were trapped against the curb. Meanwhile, we were treated to the voices of the people in the car next to us, also stuck in traffic: "Move the f*** out of the f***ing way, motherf*****! Just mow the f*****s down!"

Sh*t, I'm f***ing tired of waiting for this f***ing traffic! I looked at my wife, she looked at me, and both of us had the same disgusted look on our faces. Just then, a little boy walking by asked his mother, "Mommy, what did that man say?" The poor mother looked down at her child and lied to protect him: "Nothing.... he didn't say anything."

After that, we heard some weird noise that cried over the sound of traffic. We turned off the music in the car, and listened: It sounded like someone, or maybe more than one person, screaming at the top of their lungs. There weren't any words, but it sounded like...well, nothing I'd ever heard before, outside of the movies. But this was real life, and there was a quality in that scream that no moviemaker could imitate. My wife looked at a police officer who was standing on the corner, talking, and asked me, "Doesn't he hear that? How can he not hear that?"

Maybe two or three minutes later, two boys, both of them Black, ran past, and they were running hard. A few seconds later, they were followed by a group about six boys, all of them Black, one of which wore dreadlocks and had no shirt on.

The police officer at the corner noticed, and but didn't move. The screaming was still going on, so he might have been finally hearing it. Right about then,

Guest COMMENTARY

the screaming stopped, and the group of six boys came back, now running the opposite direction. The officer started to follow them, but he was stopped by another man who pulled him, virtually dragged him, toward where the screaming had come from.

They left our sight, and my wife and I looked at each other, wondering just what was going on.

Maybe three minutes later, the officer came back, escorting one of the earlier pair of boys to the corner. The boy, maybe thirteen or fourteen years old, had his shirt off and was holding it wadded up into his side. The shirt, formerly white, was turning dark with blood. He moved it aside for a second and looked down. His underwear, which he wore pretty high up, was soaked through, and a dark stain was turning the blue of his jeans black. He put the shirt back just as he walked by our car, and we heard the officer asking him to sit down and wait for the ambulance that was on its way. The boy kept saying, "No, I can't sit down. No, I've got to find my little brother."

The ambulance, which I actually saw maybe one minute later, took nearly ten minutes to get through traffic. It had to fight its way through an onslaught of cars whose drivers refused to move out of its way.

The police officer from earlier passed our car again, and we heard the dispatcher over his radio: They were looking for a Black male, wearing dreadlocks, no shirt.

Finally, traffic began to let up. We were actually able to make it out of downtown Greenville, and, eventually, home. Still, the night held two more instances of unpleasantness. First, a car that we were behind kept weaving, making me wonder if the driver was drunk.

The second unpleasant surprise came when we got home. I fired up the computer and started writing this article immediately, but I took a ten minute break to watch the top stories on the news. I kept flipping channels, looking for the story which I had just watched play out vividly before me. It never came on. My wife said, disgustedly, "They're not going to show it. It's just another Black boy to them, so they don't care."

It's nearly 11:30 now (on July 4th), and I'm about to go to bed. I'm wondering if I'll be able to sleep tonight. I wonder if that boy ever found his little brother. And, if he did, what condition was he in?

I wonder if the driver of that car in front of us has hit anyone? Or, for that matter, why none of the cars that could have moved out of the way of the ambulance, didn't?

Mostly, I wonder about so-called human nature, which has given me such vividly unforgettable memories this Fourth of July. Still, my wife left me with this final thought: She called a friend when we got home, needing to talk to someone about all this. Her friend said, "The Klan has said that they don't have to lynch us anymore. We're killing ourselves and doing their job for them." It bothers me that, after tonight, I agree with her.



BETTY SHABAZZ

WIFE, MOTHER, GRAND-MOTHER, FRIEND, ACTIVIST, EDUCATOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND TRAGICALLY, LIKE HER BELOVED MALCOLM, A VICTIM.

SHE WILL BE SORELY MISSED.

WALT KARR

A good government job?

By George Wilson

For many African Americans there was a time when a "good government job" meant a reasonably comfortable ride on the "road to success." The trip was fairly smooth until some of us wanted promotions in various government agencies. This desire to climb the ladder was met with a concerted effort on the part of some to remove the ladder's rung.

Congressman Albert Wynn (D-MD) is joined by members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and others in launching a crusade to end the racial discrimination in the federal workforce. Without question, Wynn represents more federal employees than any other member of Congress with over 72,000 federal government employees residing in his district.

When asked about the notion that African Americans just want a "good government job," Wynn indicated that just having the job is not enough. "People move forward. They want to move up into management. They are not just satisfied with a good government job," Wynn observed.

From CAPITAL HILL

If one needs proof that "Jim Crow" is alive and quite well in the federal workforce, consider several points: First, senior management positions in the government are sorely lacking of "minority" participation. Senior management positions are those at the levels of GS 13, 14 and 15 and Senior Executive Service.

Secondly, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) reports that all minorities comprise just 13 percent of all GS 15s. For example, the Department of Agriculture has 1,159 GS 15 employees with just 38 African Americans holding those positions. Incidentally, the EEOC currently has a 100,000 case backlog in discrimination cases.

Third, the Department of Agri-

culture has over 1,400 complaints pending. And, fourth, the Interior Department has 774 complaints and the Department of Transportation has 663 complaints. These agencies show a real disdain for African American employees and seem to be sending a clear signal that "if you work here, it's going to be a bumpy ride."

Finally, the Library of Congress employs approximately 2,000 African Americans who have been locked in a bitter struggle with the Library's management over hiring and promotion practices. Things got so bad that African American employees filed a class action lawsuit against the Library.

On the surface, it appeared that the African American employees won the lawsuit. However, the Library of Congress has virtually ignored a court order to stop discriminating. In fact, the employees have filed another suit challenging the way that the Library selects employees. One of the ways of selecting employees is the interview. It appears that at the Library of Congress, the art of interviewing has been taken to another level.

Black teen crime must be slowed

By Marian Wright Edelman

A mid public hysteria about "rising" juvenile crime rates and politicians' pleas for harsher penalties against young law breakers, New York Supreme Court Justice Gloria Dabiri is starting to heat a different response to crime.

"I think more and more police officers and prosecutors are understanding that it will take more than punishment to address youth crime," says Judge Dabiri, a member of the Black Community Crusade for Children's (BCCC) Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Leadership Council.

"I spoke to the National Prosecutors Association recently, and the title of the meeting was Combating Juvenile Crime Through Prevention. It's nice to see the district attorneys of major cities and others beginning to understand that it's part of the job to address this issue before our children end up in court."

Still the government's response to juvenile crime tends to be "too punitive," Judge Dabiri notes, reflecting on much of the legislation floating around Congress. "We know the kinds of things that place kids at risk, but we aren't addressing them. We know children need adult supervision, and that we need to address truancy, abuse, and neglect. We know that we need more after-school programs that build relationships between kids and adults."

Judge Dabiri is right. Too many politicians focus on the immediate political reward for "getting tough" with young offenders. They ignore the long-term societal benefits from investing in way to keep young people out of trouble, and turn them back into productive citizens when they do enter the court system.

Now, Congress is under pressure to pass another "tough on crime" bill targeting young people. One piece of that bill already has passed in the House, the Juvenile Crime Control Act, which provides

Other VOICES

\$500 million a year for states to punish young offenders, provides for trying more children in adult courts, and devotes not a penny to prevention. Also awaiting passage is a second House bill that threatens to undermine the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, which is the primary grant the federal government allocates to states to run juvenile courts, with such existing conditions as states must protect truants and runaways from unjustified incarceration, and juvenile delinquents from incarceration with adults.

On the Senate side, yet another bill includes certain harmful provisions similar to the two House bills. All three pieces of legislation fail to invest adequately in prevention and emphasize trying children as adults and imprisoning children with adults. A comprehensive bill based to some degree on all three measures, is expected by midsummer.

Something is wrong with the values of a nation that would rather spend \$30,000 to lock our children up after they get into trouble and won't spend \$3,000 to give them a Head Start. And, something is wrong with us if we do not fight the criminalization of our youths and their need for positive alternatives to the streets: jobs, after-school programs, and recreation.

Violence is a real threat in today's society and we should be concerned about it. Children are among the most likely of all age groups to be the victims of violence. And one out of every two children murdered in America is a Black child, even though Black children make up only 15 percent

of the juvenile population.

But we need to make sure that our concern over crime doesn't force us to forget that these are still our Children. They are ten times more likely to be victims of violent crime than to be arrested for a violent crime.

Also, while violent crime by youths is still too high, it dropped 2.9 per cent between 1994 and 1995, the first decline in a decade. Homicide by youth fell 15.2 percent between 1994 and 1995.

It wastes more energy, and more money, to come up with stricter punishments than it does to join forces on the measures we know reduce crime and broaden opportunities for young people. We know that most juvenile crime is committed between 3 pm. and 6 pm. which highlights the importance of having more adult mentors and after-school safe havens. We know that better educated youths are less likely to commit violent crimes, which stresses the need for better schools and more talented teachers. We know that even troubled youths will seek out role models, which emphasizes the importance of keeping them out of prisons and away from hardened adult criminals, and instead keeping them in schools and rehabilitation programs where they can learn from adults worth emulating. And we know that the increase in violent juvenile crime has been driven by the easy availability of guns, which stresses the importance of urging our political leaders to pass legislation to make handguns less accessible to our children.

These are the kinds of things we have to do if we are serious about reducing crime. We must add our voices to the list of individuals who are calling for real solutions and reject the claims of those who think the answer lies in building more prisons and sentencing children and youths to longer terms.

Note: Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, call (202) 628-8787 for more information.

Writer clarifies filing information for elections

Dear Editor, I would like to clarify some of the information in your July 9 article, "Who's in Third" (which ran in the Daily Reflector), concerning information candidates can't obtain since filing has begun. First, the article failed to point out that our hard working election workers are not to blame for the necessary information being unavailable. The problem, according to the Election Board, is that the vital information needed from the city was not released until just a few business days before filing began. This happened even though the city council had passed the plan back in February.

There is a natural disadvantage at challenging an incumbent. Basic information of knowing how many registered voters there are in ones district, what age they are, what party affiliation they belong to etc... is a must for making an informed decision to run. Unfortunately, outdated census data cannot provide these essential facts.

Whether the city or the city council did this intentionally through neglect is irrelevant all candidates

or ones considering being candidates are at an inexcusable disadvantage. I fell this is an example of how our city council needs a change. I have decided to go ahead and file because I care about Greenville and want to make this sort of positive change.

I would like to encourage anyone else out there who had considered running, to file, and not be discouraged by this unfortunate mishandling of the redistricting process. We need leaders who will work to insure that the democratic process will function properly in the future.

Sincerely, Arielle Morris Candidate for City Councilwoman, District 5

Everyone thanked for encouragement for office bid

To the Editor, I would like to thank all of the people that have encouraged me to run for city council seat three this year. I do feel that the need and desire for change and improvement is even stronger in our district than it was two years ago when we came within a few votes of winning our campaign. Unfortunately, my job and continued

service to the NC Senate Committee, in combination with my volunteer activities, will not allow me enough time to mount a strong run for office this year. I am still firmly committed to our community and working to bring the younger generation of voters into the Democratic process on all levels.

Together we have come a long way over the last two years. We have learned that there are many leaders in the NC Senate, State House, County Commission and our community that truly welcome the participation of the younger generation in campaigns and political process. Unfortunately, there is still a lot of work to be done to show that just because someone is younger, poor, a student, a renter, and or single, that they are not second class citizens. The discrimination and stereotyping continues and so does our struggle.

I would like to encourage your readership to pay attention to the issues and campaigns that are starting up for this Fall. And I do hope that many more qualified and caring candidates will emerge that are willing to sacrifice their time and mental well-being to run for office. Whether a voter prefers the incumbent or a message of change, the most important thing is that we have choices and that we participate.

Bill Gheen

- Use Your "M" Voice -
Write Us About The
Issues You're
Concerned About

Health Watch

Hospitals that gobbled up physician practices feeling ill

Every year since 1994, U.S. hospitals have bought about 5,000 doctors' primary care practices, spending an average of \$100,000 a physician. You might call it the \$500 million-a-year debacle.

The intention is to turn the hospitals into "integrated delivery systems" capable of handling anything from inpatient surgery to outpatient office visits for sore throats. The idea has attracted dozens of not-for-profit academic medical centers, including famous teaching hospitals in Boston, St. Louis and Philadelphia, and publicly traded hospital chains such as Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corp. and Tenet Healthcare Corp. But a lot of these purchases are working out badly.

David Steinberg, a Chicago-based health-care consultant at APM Inc., says many hospitals are incurring operating losses from their practice acquisitions. The main reasons: unexpectedly high expenses and slumps in doctors' productivity. "We keep getting calls from hospital executives, saying: 'Um, we've got a little problem with our employed physicians,'" he

Mr. Steinberg says. "Most of the hospitals are taking a financial bath." A recent 17-hospital survey by Coopers & Lybrand found that, on average, hospitals were incurring annual losses of \$97,000 per acquired physician. "It's not an optimal strategy," says Frank Houser, head of Columbia/HCA's physician-service unit. "It's a defensive move."

Dr. Houser says he is still trying to devise a reliable accounting system to track the 1,500 doctors' practices that Columbia owns. But he is pretty sure that as a group they are in the red. He doesn't dispute analysts' estimates that annual

on those practices could be \$25 million or more. Columbia would much rather form alliances with independent physicians, Dr. Houser says—an approach that in the past has involved selling minority stakes in hospitals to doctors, who continue to own and manage their practices. However, Columbia has bought many hospitals that had already acquired some physicians' practices.

In principle, hospitals should be

willing to tolerate sizable operating losses from doctors' office practices if those physicians start steering more sick patients to the hospitals. In practice, that isn't happening nearly as much as hospitals want because many patients or their insurers have their own ideas about which hospital to use.

Patient preferences are likely to be especially strong if an acquiring hospital has bought physician practices well outside its usual referral area. "People here will travel an hour to see a Cardinals' baseball game, but they won't travel 20 minutes out of their way for cardiac surgery," says Samuel Nussbaum, executive vice president for medical affairs and systems integration at BJC Health System in St. Louis. Dr. Nussbaum is optimistic that his hospital group's purchase of 230 primary-care practices eventually will pay off, but he cautions: "It will take time."

Part of the problem for hospitals involves the way they pay acquired doctors. Traditionally, physicians bill for each visit, test or procedure, providing a powerful incentive to work efficiently and keep

long hours. But when hospitals acquire physicians' practices, they tend to offer flat salaries or income guarantees—tempting some doctors to work less. Hospital executives report initial drops of 4% to 15% in acquired physicians' productivity, as measured by numbers of patient visits per month.

Hospitals are limited in the financial incentives they can use to motivate doctors. Something as blunt as extra pay for increased hospital admissions will almost certainly run afoul of federal anti-kickback statutes. Consultants such as Robert McDonald, head of Coopers & Lybrand's health-care practice, are trying to devise different incentive plans tied to medical-quality measures. Meantime, BJC's Dr. Nussbaum and other hospitals' acquisition experts say productivity slumps can be stopped and reversed if physicians are carefully monitored and made aware of the problem. Columbia/HCA's Dr. Houser says his hospital chain doesn't even track the number of hospital admissions by its acquired physicians. "We're concerned about it looking as if the only reason that

we buy practices is for the admissions," Dr. Houser says. "That isn't why we buy them."

Since March, federal authorities have been probing Columbia/HCA, seeking to determine whether any of its business practices violate federal laws or regulations. Columbia's ties to physicians are among the areas that have attracted questions from investigators. Asked why Columbia continues to buy physician practices in some rural areas, Dr. Houser says: "We want to gain market share and attract more covered lives" (insurance-industry jargon for employees participating in a particular health plan).

Some hospitals that have acquired practices have upgraded pension and health benefits for physicians' office employees and have put in better computer systems that eventually could translate into increased medical efficiency. In the short run, however, such costs have caused operating losses to swell.

One of the costliest practice-acquisition markets has been the greater Philadelphia area, which

is jammed full of hospitals competing for market share. Since 1993, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania has acquired more than 250 primary care practices, in hopes of gaining market clout. More recently, competitors, such as Temple University, have adopted similar strategies, too.

"Every physician practice that goes on the market has five or six bidders for it," complains Todd Sagan, head of practice acquisitions at Temple. He would like to buy practices at about 40% of doctors' gross annual revenue, or about \$80,000 for a practice with revenue of \$200,000 a year. But he finds that practices sell at as much as 150% of annual revenue.

Dr. Sagan says his hospital's acquisitions are in the red, adding that he would be surprised if anyone in the Philadelphia area is earning much from their purchases to date. "Most of the deals are being driven by a worry that if we don't do it, someone else will," he says. "The feeling is: 'I may suffer from doing acquisitions, but at least I'll stay in the game. If I don't do them, I may not survive.'"

New attack on Medicare program worries many seniors

US House version of bill is deemed fair, but Senate version scares some

By Robert P. Hey and Elliot Carlson

A dramatic fight is shaping up in Congress over Medicare. How it comes out will have a major impact on current and future beneficiaries.

"The Medicare bill now emerging from the House is fair and judicious," says AARP Executive Director Horace B. Deets. "But in the Senate, provisions in the bill approved by the Finance Committee could unravel the Medicare program as we know it. Its side effects could do more harm than good."

Both measures would extend Medicare's solvency to about 2007 by trimming \$115 billion from the growth in its future spending.

Both bills would add preventive benefits and raise premiums. But there much of the similarity ends. The Senate bill has four serious deficiencies, Deets says.

• "For the first time there would be discriminatory means testing," says Deets. Higher-income enrollees would pay much higher

deductibles (up to \$2,100) for physician services.

• Many low-income enrollees would not get help with Part B premiums.

• People who use home health services would pay up to \$500 a year.

• Americans now under 60 would wait longer to qualify for Medicare, creating a new group of uninsured.

It remains to be seen how the differences between the House and Senate bills will be worked out, says AARP legislative director John Rother.

Both stem from the deal that President Clinton and congressional leaders reached this spring to balance the nation's budget by 2002. That according called for finding much of the money to balance the budget by curbing increases in Medicare's future spending by \$115 billion over five years. Under the agreement, most of the cuts are to be achieved by reducing the growth in future payments to hospitals, health maintenance organizations, doctors and other pro-

viders.

Although the budget deal calls for Medicare's Part B premiums to rise over the next five years, the increases are lower than many earlier proposals. "[Beneficiaries] have been treated very lightly," says former Congressional Budget Office Director Rudy Penner. "The current generation of retirees has dodged a bullet."

Still, the changes won't be entirely painless for beneficiaries, analysts point out. Not only is the Part B premium certain to rise—from \$43.80 to day to a projected \$67 a month—but some current and future beneficiaries could be affected far more adversely than the budget deal indicated.

For example, under the Senate version of the proposal, current enrollees who use Medicare's home-health benefits would have to pay a \$5 copayment, each home-health visit.

Since many people in this group need home-health care several times a week, their total cost could be unaffordable over time, Rother says. Americans in their 50s also could get quite a jolt, finding their eligibility age for Medicare delayed beyond the current 65. Starting in the year 2003, under a Senate plan, eligibility age would rise about two months each year, top ping off at

age 67 in the year 2027. Also, it's not clear whether Congress will provide funds, as the original deal seemed to pledge, to pay Part B premium costs of enrollees whose income falls near the poverty line.

Right now, the agreement is expected to clear Congress soon with bipartisan support. Whatever the final details, older Americans should feel "that they have contributed to this budget reduction

package," says Urban Institute economist Marilyn Moon. "They are being asked to pay substantially higher premiums over time, and they should be given credit for it."

States moving to allow citizens more understanding of HMOs

By Les Gapay

Hundreds of bills are being pushed in state legislatures nationwide to help American consumers better understand standard use—health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and other types of managed-care health insurance. The aim of many proposals, says health-issues specialist Van Ellet of AARP's state legislation department, is to help consumers compare the plans' performance and to learn how plans work, what they cover and what rights patients and doctors have in such settings.

"There's insufficient information for consumers to make meaningful choices among managed-care plans and to assess the quality they provide," says Brian Lindberg, executive director of the Consumers Coalition for Quality Health Care in Washington, D.C.

"People are tearing their hair out trying to figure out which benefits are available from different plans and what the quality [of care] is," agrees Diane Archer, executive director of the Medicare Rights Center in New York.

You needn't look further than Irvin Stuart to understand why.

Stuart, a 65-year-old retiree in the Bronx, wanted to weigh the benefits of managed care for his

Medicare cover age. But, he told the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging in April, consumer materials provided by the plans were "confusing and ambiguous," leaving him bewildered about his options. For months Stuart could not decide which plan to change to. But many Americans already have switched. To day, more than half of all covered Americans and about 13 percent of Medicare enrollees are in managed care plans, which provide comprehensive care at predetermined rates, often requiring patients to have care preauthorized by plan physicians. Many who have made the switch are pleased with their decision. But many have been critical of the paucity of information given consumers about plan coverage, performance and incentives for doctors. Others have criticized the lack of consumer protection.

"There is a consumer outcry that doctors are not in control of care and that companies are putting their bottom line first," says Missouri state Rep. Tim Harlan (D) of Columbia, a proponent of managed-care reform.

The increase in complaints is fueling the influx of bills in statehouses across the country, says Harvey Rosenfield, founder of Consumers for Quality Care based in Los Angeles. The result: Last year,

more than 1,000 managed-care bills were introduced in state legislatures, with about 100 passing in 40 states. Some 980 bills—covering a wide spectrum of issues—from mandatory coverage for emergency-room care to more direct access to specialists—have been introduced in 49 states so far this year. Bills relating to consumer disclosure have been one of the most contested issues, with over 100 bills in 35 states. "A revolution is going on at the state level" as more states seek to regulate managed care, AARP's Ellet says. Crucial to successful regulation, in his view, is providing consumers with the information they need to compare plans—how satisfied plan users are, how grievances are handled, why people have chosen to leave the plans. "That will result in plans competing on quality, not just price," he says. Ellet notes rising consumer interest in the issue. In the last six months, he says, more than 40 AARP State Legislative Committees—made up of local AARP members—have been involved in shaping managed-care legislation at the state level. Also active at the state level are the Consumers Union and Citizen Action.

Read The "M" Voice

INVITATION FOR BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the Housing Authority of the City of Greenville in the office of Authority, 1103 Broad Street, Greenville, North Carolina 27835, up to 2:00 PM, local time on Thursday, 24 July 1997, and immediately thereafter opened and read in the presence of attending bidders for the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment for Drainage Channel Rehabilitation-Moyewood project upon the Owner's property in Greenville, North Carolina.

Complete plans, specifications and contract documents will be open in the office of H.R. Associates, P.A., 1200 Navaho Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina, (919) 872-6345. Prime bidders who are qualified and who will make a bid will, upon deposit of the sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) with the Architect, receive documents in duplicate. The full deposit will be refunded to those qualified prime bidders who submit a bona fide prime proposal, providing bidding documents are returned in good condition to the Architect within five (5) days after receipt of bids.

The work consists of clearing, grading, filling, piping and landscaping for the Moyewood development.

All bidders are hereby notified that they must have proper license under the State laws as a General Contractor.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a cash deposit or a certified check drawn on some bank or trust company insured by the FDIC in an amount equal to not less than 5% of the proposal; or in lieu thereof, a Bidder may offer a bid bond of 5% of the proposal. No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids for a period of sixty (60) days.

A Performance Bond shall be required for one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities, and the award contracts in the best interest of the Owner.

Pork industry working to eliminate virus

Pork industry leaders joined state and federal officials recently to renew their commitment to eradicate pseudorabies virus (PRV) in the hog populations in North Carolina.

The virus costs pork producers millions of dollars each year through decreased breeding efficiency and growth performance plus additional expenses for treating and vaccinating the animals. PRV lowers resistance to other diseases and causes nervous signs and death in younger pigs. It poses no health threat to humans. North Carolina has 107 herds circulating the virus, including 37 sow farms and 70 finishing floors.

Officials are also concerned about future transfer of pigs to other states. Because of the number of swine raised in the state, North Carolina producers must ship some pigs to other states for finishing and processing. PRV-free states could restrict the shipment of hogs from states with the disease, leaving producers with no outlet for the swine.

Eliminating the virus requires attacking the problem on two fronts. One involves removing the diseased sows from production and the other includes vaccinating hogs to prevent them from contracting PRV. Producers estimate the disease and associated cost is around \$13 million a year to vaccinate hogs and cull infected sows.

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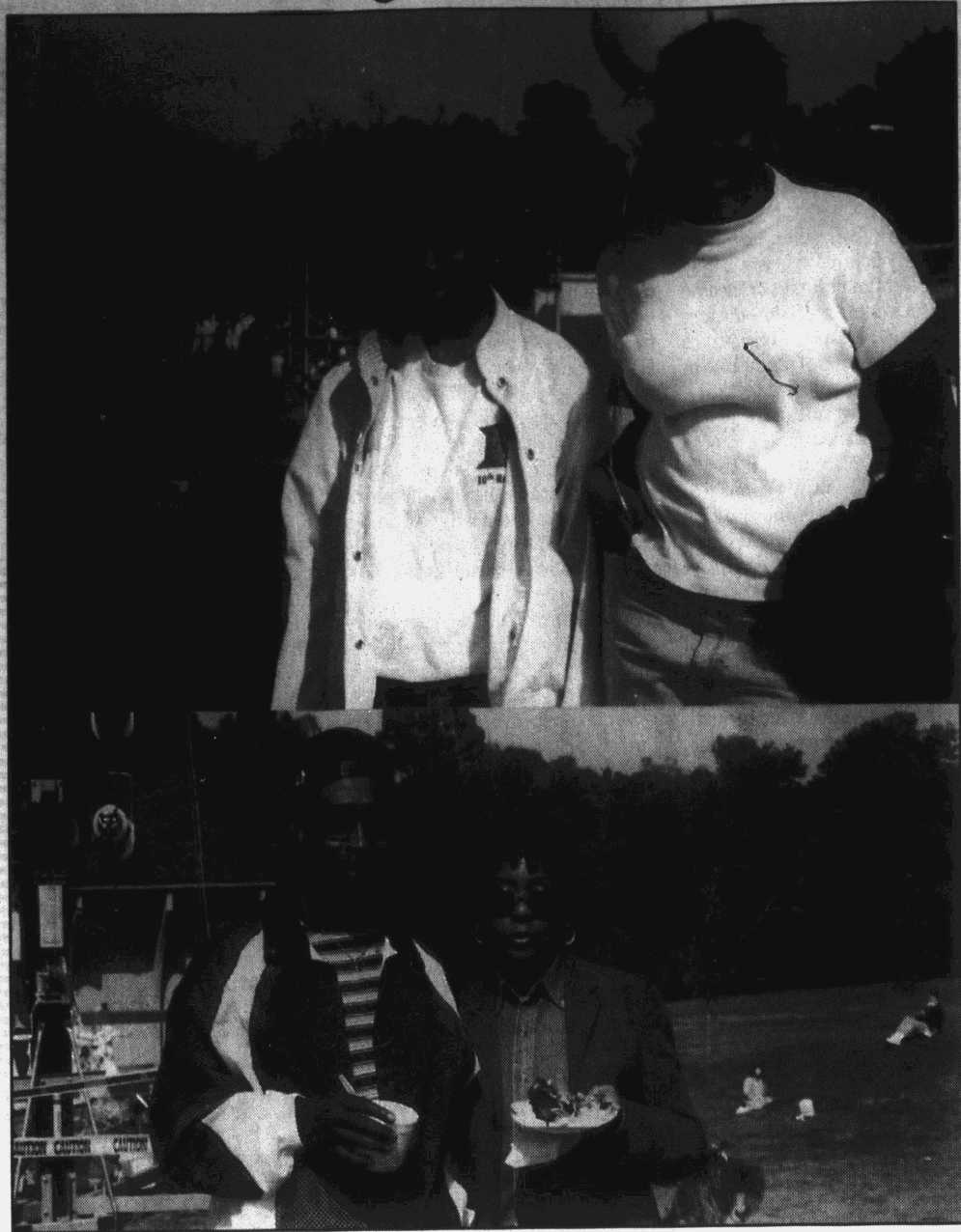
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Young And Talented



These three young college students (upper photo) were recently at the Town Common enjoying the festivities and posed for The "M" Voice camera. We encourage our sisters to get a good education and prepare themselves for the future.. A brother and his lady (lower photo) enjoy the fun.

Photos by Jim Rouse

Local representatives speak out on GOP's social reforms

Proposal to have county governments have control over welfare sparks anger

By Alvin Peabody
The Wilmington Journal

From east to west, north and south, the continent of Africa seems to be engaging in one crisis or another. For nearly half of the last three decades, 30 of approximately 52 sub Saharan countries have been ruled either by a military or dictatorial leadership (that figure has dropped considerably today). From Sierra Leone and Liberia in West Africa, to Rwanda and Burundi in the Southeast, and to the two Congos in the central and southwest portions of Africa—military takeover was fast becoming the main avenue for achieving power in the world's second largest continent.

"The armies of Africa have long ago lost their focus of what they're supposed to do, which is to protect and defend the citizens of their countries," said Dr. Francis Simbo, a Sierra Leonean who resides in nearby Maryland. "Instead, they've focused on raping women and killing the masses of people."

Such feelings reflect the emergence of a new debate as to whether Africa is now experiencing a period of crisis—or a true transition from dictatorship to democracy. Melvin T. Foote is the executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Constituency for Africa and, he sees a new "change shifting throughout Africa This is actually

a transition to change, whereby countries are moving away from dictatorship and adopting multi-party democracy "

"Yes, you are always going to have some people who are dictators (like Mobutu and Gen. Abacha in Nigeria) who are not very comfortable with the atmosphere of change and would like to hold on to power," Foote said in an interview yesterday (Wednesday). And pointing to success stories in Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa, Foote observed that, "You also have nearly 50 countries that are doing quite well and are marching towards economic self-reliance and democracy."

"Is there a crises in Africa? I don't know. But I do know that when people rise up and seek change, often times that is followed by violence and death," said David Bositis, a senior political analyst at the Joint Center for Economic and Political Studies who has made several visits to the West African nation of Benin.

Sierra Leone is another example of a country that has seen its recent efforts towards democratization thwarted by a group of junior military officers. After many years of one-party autocratic rule, citizens of the former British colony enthusiastically participated in their first free elections in 1996 and elected a lawyer, Ahmad Kabbah. Unfortunately, he was overthrown in a bloody coup two months ago (May, 1997). Since then, news reports have noted ongoing destruction of properties and the indiscriminate killings of innocent men, women and children.

"Africa is now experiencing what I would call the 'wars of the have-nots,'" commented Ted Roberts, a native of Sierra Leone who is also a producer in the English-to-Africa Division at the Voice of America in Washington, D.C. These are all remnants of years of

neglect, and people are now revving up for change; genuine change."

On tomorrow (July 11), a march organized by the Coalition for the Restoration of Democracy in Sierra Leone (CORDISAL), was expected to have drawn hundreds of the nearly 30,000 Sierra Leoneans living in the Washington metropolitan area in a protest demonstration in front of the White House, before marching along Pennsylvania Avenue to Capitol Hill to press for international support to restore Kabbah, who has been forced into exile in neighboring Guinea.

"We don't only want to restore the elected President of Sierra Leone, but also find new ways to avoid these countless military coups in Africa," said Kwame Fitzjohn, CORDISAL's Secretary General Kwame Fitzjohn who also serves as the Washington correspondent for the BBC's World Service for Africa program.

The good this that is happening in Africa is that more and more people are now standing up firmly to military regimes and pressures from dictators," said Dr. Simbo, a keen observer of West African politics. "And with that, I do see a dying breed of dictatorships, all across the continent of Africa." Also on July 11, leaders of the Economic Community of West African States were to decide if a multi-nation military force was needed if the newly-formed Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) refuses to relinquish power. Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution condemning the coup, which was led by Maj. Johnny Paul Koroma. "We are urging the immediate end to all violence in the Republic of Sierra Leone and we are encouraging the members of the AFRC to negotiate a hand-over of power back to the democratically elected government," the resolution said.

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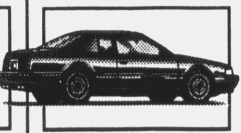
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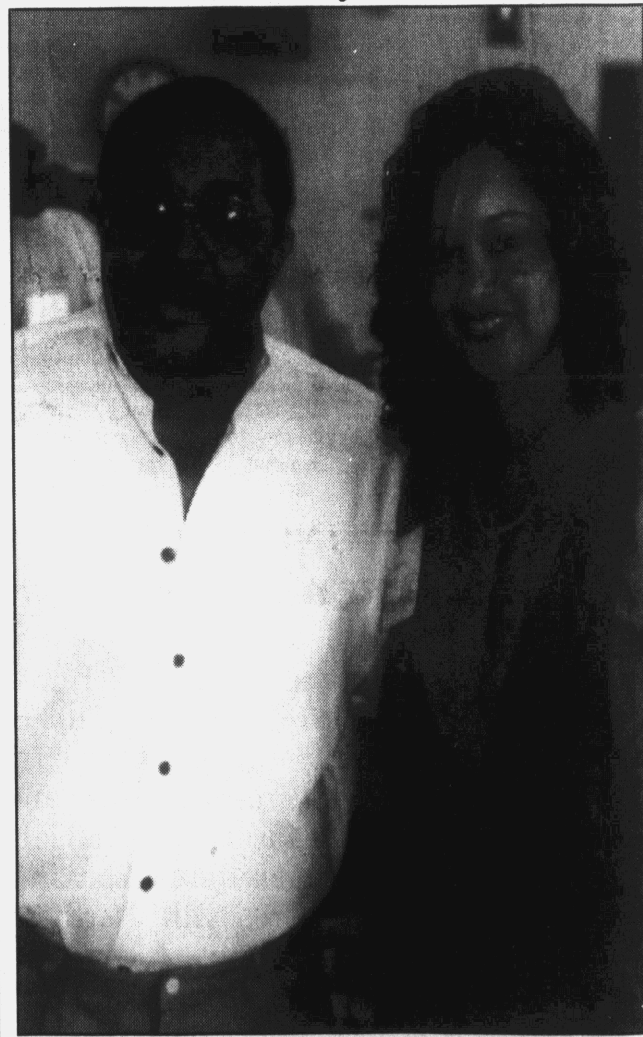


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Mills Family Reunion



Pictured above is Brother Bobby Teel and Sister Mills at the Mills Family Reunion held recently.

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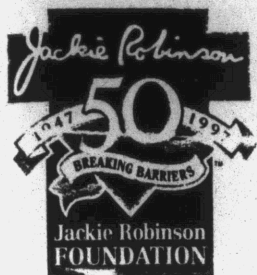
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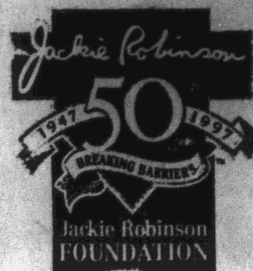
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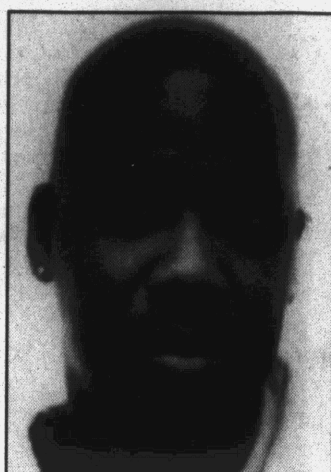
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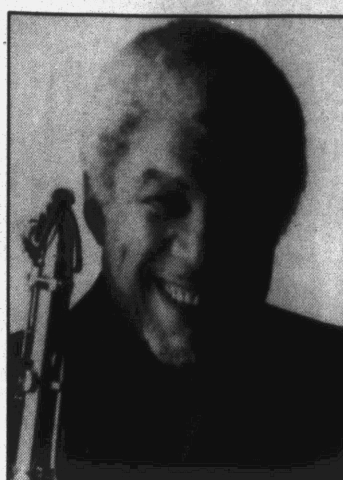
THE JACKIE ROBINSON FOUNDATION PRESENTS "AN AFTERNOON OF JAZZ"



JOYCE DI CAMILLO
TRIO



WILL DOWNING

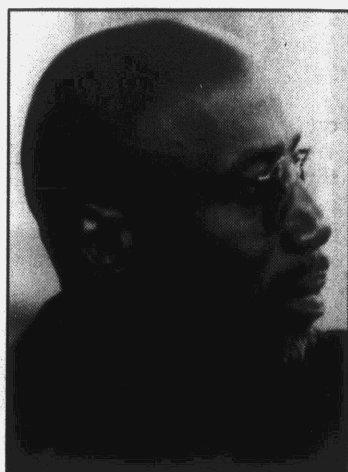


FRANK FOSTER



SANTITA JACKSON

FEATURING



T.S. MONK JR



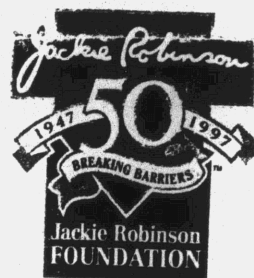
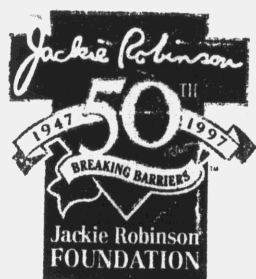
BOBBY RODRIGUEZ



BILLY TAYLOR



NANCY WILSON



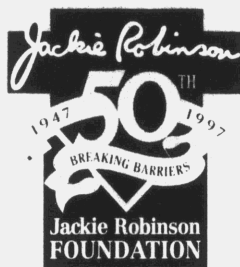
MR. WILL DOWNING GREETES
LENNY GREENE OF KISS-FM
AND FRIEND AFTER HIS
SOULFUL PERFORMANCE.

STORY AND PHOTOS

BY

RICHARD WASHINGTON

BENEFITING

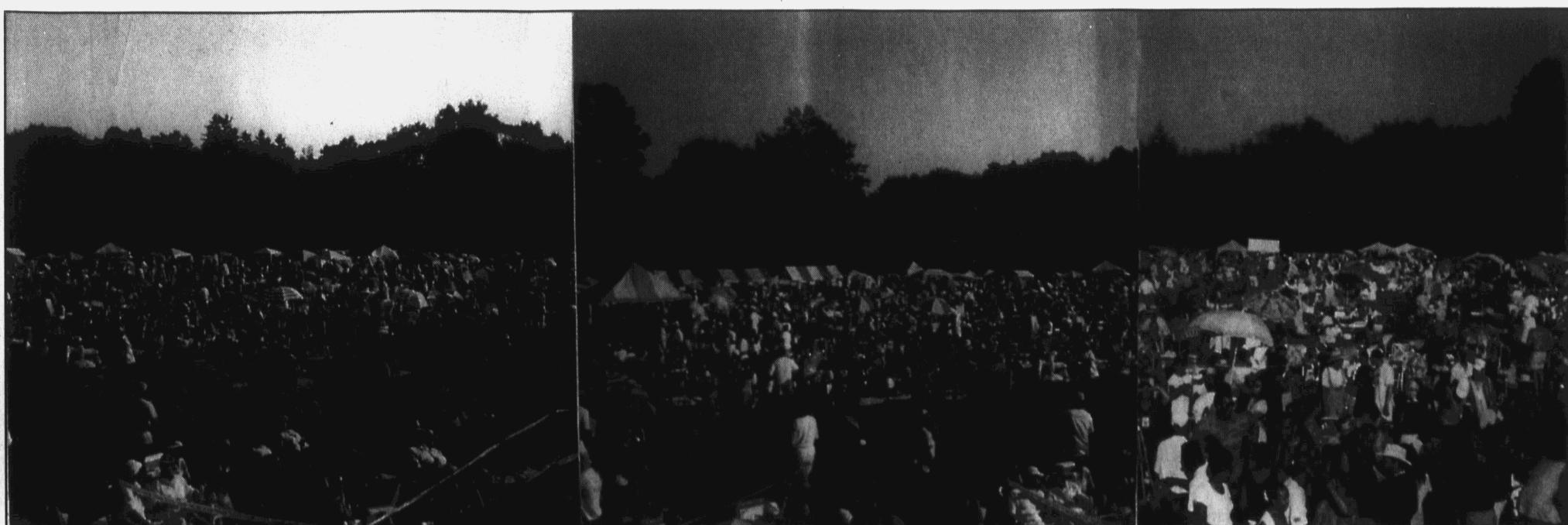


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ENTRY INTO BASEBALL
WITH THE MAJORS



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MOMENT WITH A SATISFIED MRS.
RACHAEL ROBINSON, C.E.O. AND
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FOUNDATION AND JAZZ FESTIVAL.



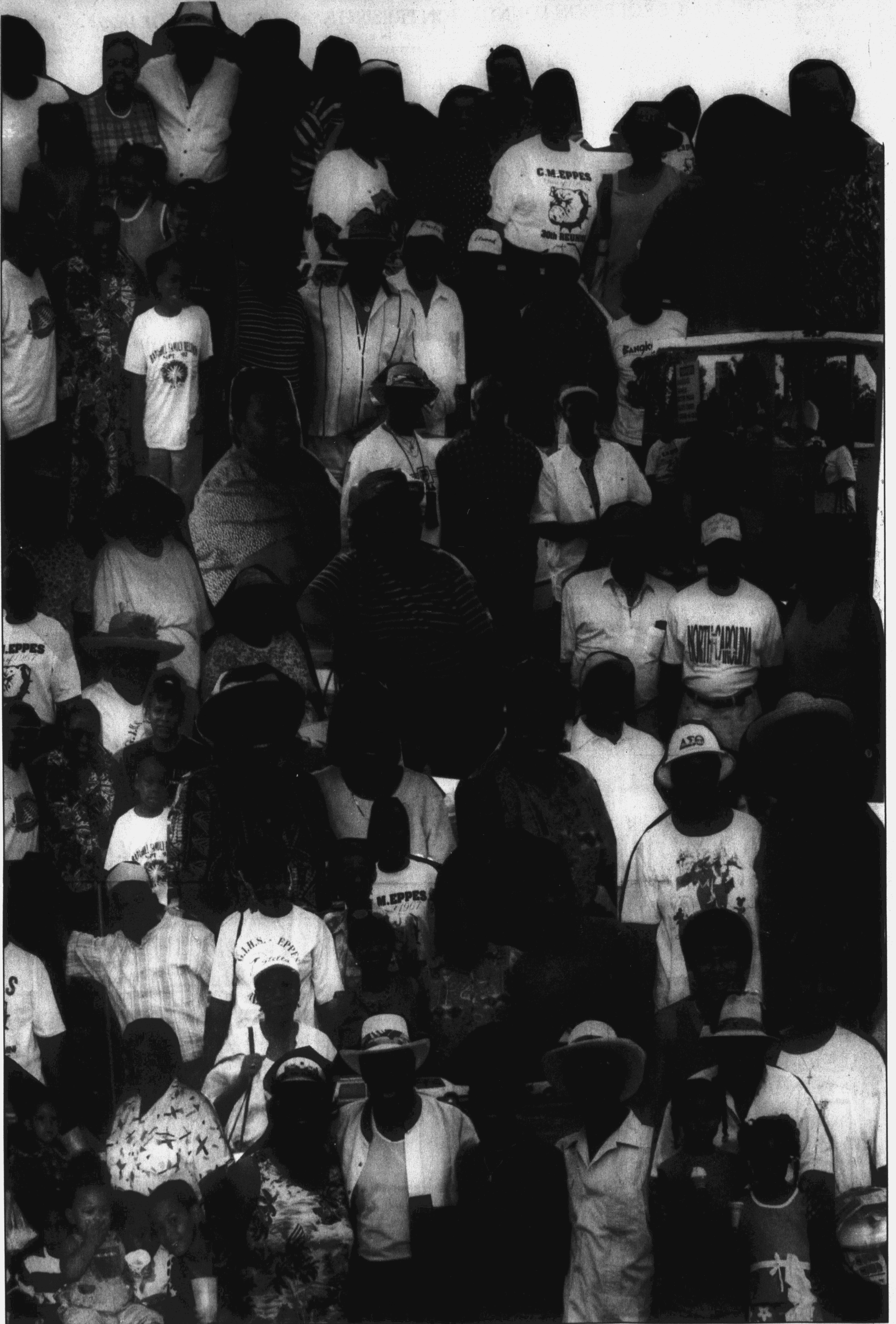
MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE PACKED THE FIELD IN CRANBURY PARK IN NORWALK CONNECTICUT, SUNDAY JUNE 29TH FOR THE ANNUAL JACKIE ROBINSON FOUNDATION JAZZ FESTIVAL, IN HONOR OF JACKIE'S 50TH YEAR OF ENTRY INTO BASEBALL'S MAJOR LEAGUES.

THE CREATOR COULDN'T OF PLANNED THIS DAY ANY BETTER, AS HE COMPLEMENTED THIS EVENT WITH A GIANT RAY OF SUNSHINE AND SUMMER BREEZES, TO AMPLIFY THE SOUNDS OF THE BEAUTIFUL SOULFUL VOICES OF NANCY WILSON, WILL DOWNING, SANTITA JACKSON AND THE LIVE PULSATING SOUNDS AND RHYTHMS OF BILLY TAYLOR, BOBBY RODRIGUEZ AND T.S. MONK.

THIS WAS MORE THAN JUST A JAZZ FESTIVAL, BUT A TRIBUTE TO A STRONG WOMAN MRS. RACHEL ROBINSON. GREAT WORK IN KEEPING THE MEMORY OF JACKIE ROBINSON ALIVE AND STRONG THAT THE FOUNDATION PROVIDES OUR YOUTH WITH SCHOLARSHIPS TO COLLEGE. THIS DAY WAS CULMINATED WITH A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER IN MEMORY OF YET ANOTHER STRONG WOMAN MRS. BETTY SHABAZZ, AS THE FIELD BECAME QUIET, AS THE WARM SPIRITUAL BREEZE PASSED OVER US.

BY: RICHARD WASHINGTON

C.M. EPPES 1997 REUNION



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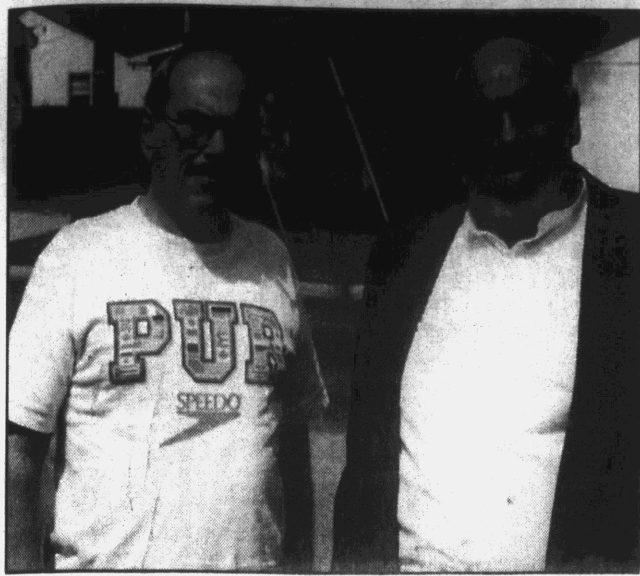
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Gov. Hunt boasts of NC's reform success

By Cash Michaels
The Wilmington Journal

Saturday, President Bill Clinton, in his weekly radio address to the nation, announced that since his signing last year of the most sweeping welfare reform in the system's 62-year history, 1.2 million recipients have left the rolls, and are gainfully employed.

With the federal government relinquishing control of the Social safety net, and now giving block grants to states to manage their own, a variety of programs providing job training, childcare, and transportation — all with the tough promise to "work, or else" — have recipients looking for any kind of job to keep their benefits coming, knowing they have only two years to do so.

Last month, Gov. Jim Hunt, speaking at the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus Banquet, boasted about the success of North Carolina's year-old welfare reform initiative.

"Since we began WorkFirst, 22.3 percent of the families that were then on welfare have now gone into jobs, paying them, in many cases, much more than they were making," Hunt said.

"This is the right thing to do, if you do it the right way." Many advocates for the poor aren't quite so sure.

Of key concern is the possibility that not enough federal or state resources are being dedicated to childcare, job training and creation, transportation, and most

importantly, universally accessible healthcare, even though there is technically more money being allotted overall.

"With [enough of] those kinds of things in place, then it would be possible to help folk move from dependency to self-sufficiency," S. Collins Kilburn, executive director of the N.C. Council of Churches, told the Wilmington Journal and Carolinian. "However, because of republican cuts to what Clinton originally proposed, Kilburn warned, 'Our worry is, and we'd be happy to be proven wrong, that some people are going to be left high and dry in the streets with no place to go.'"

That's the opposing mantra now about the GOP-led state House's welfare reform plan attached to their budget proposal. Republican leaders say abolishing state control, and leaving it to all 100 counties to devise their own benefits and requirements, is the way to go.

Even Gov. Hunt had to blast the plan as "wrong," charging it would cut funding, and create a patchwork of varying welfare systems in the state "that might unleash a race to the bottom to see who could do the least for families and children."

This, welfare today, in the words of a New York Times report last week, "...is a system evolving from a national safety net into a series of state trampolines: They are better equipped to lift the needy into the job market, but much less certain to catch them — or their children — during the

inevitable slips and falls."

A large portion of the welfare population consists of people for whom the market has few jobs, and no good paying jobs, Kilburn said. "There's a very serious question as to whether simply pushing people off welfare will guarantee that they will end up in jobs that will lift them out of poverty." Dr. Kathleen Mullen Harris, professor of sociology, a fellow at UNC at Chapel Hill's Carolina Population Center, and author of the book Teen Mothers and the Revolving Welfare Door (Temple University Press), agrees.

Using long-term data based on a 20-year University of Pennsylvania study started in the 1960s, Dr. Harris traced the welfare and work experiences of 300 poor, unmarried black teenage mothers living in Baltimore from the birth of their first child.

Half of them were employed while on welfare, while 62 per cent left public assistance for jobs, her research revealed.

This mirrors findings of the N.C. Association of County Directors of Social Services, which showed that 83 percent of current welfare recipients would leave the rolls if they had a job that provided the benefits they're getting for their children now, and at least \$6 an hour, the amount needed to keep a family of three out of poverty.

Instead, women forced to work at jobs paying the \$4.25 minimum wage nationally, lost their welfare benefits, and were thrown deeper into poverty, the association said.

That's what happened to Keisha Gray of Durham, says Southerners for Economic Justice (SEJ), a grassroots advocacy organization. When she finally landed a \$6-per-hour job, her AFDC check was slashed from \$200 to just \$29 a month; her public housing rent raised from \$59 to \$260 a month; and she now had to pay her own childcare expenses.

Gray couldn't stay with that job long as a result, because she couldn't afford transportation.

"It's not the lack of work, but the quality of work recipients can get that keeps welfare families poor," Dr. Harris said. "Women don't rely on welfare because it is so great; they rely on welfare because the workplace is so bad."

"The jobs that welfare mothers can get are low-paying, unstable and typically don't provide health insurance, sick leave or help with childcare. For welfare reform to succeed, we must address the quality of work available to welfare mothers and provide the education and training they need to survive in today's workplace."

With the federal government offering tax incentives to businesses to hire welfare recipients this puts those already working at or just above minimum wage, at risk of being replaced, advocates warn.

Michelle Stevens of Durham is a witness that knows well. According to SEJ, Stevens was a nurse's assistant raising her two children on her \$1,000-a-month salary. But when WorkFirst kicked in last summer, her field was flooded with welfare recipients required to work to keep their benefits.

"She lost her full-time job and ended up working 25 hours a week at \$8 an hour — not enough to keep up her car payments nor support her family. She applied for benefits," the May edition of Common Good, SEJ's newsletter, reported.

"I was making a living," Stevens said. "I was not on welfare. Now I am, because everyone is a nurse's assistant."

Cynthia Brown, SEJ's executive director, says these are just some of the stark realities, and inequities, of current welfare reform. Those looking to work their way off, need a graduated lessening of benefits as they earn more.

And legal protections need to be put in place, she says, so those already working hard to stay off welfare don't find themselves victimized because the government is giving tax breaks to recipient employers.

Sgt. Bottoms named new recruiter

Goldsboro has a new army recruiter. Sergeant First Class Dennis E. Bottoms, a Tarboro native, was recently transferred to Goldsboro after serving 2 1/2 years with the Army Recruiting support Battalion, Fort Knox, KY.

Although Bottoms will concentrate his recruiting efforts in Goldsboro, he will also enlist civilians from the Wayne County area.

To teach people about the military, Bottoms said he is required to call and visit people at home and travel to area schools.

In recent news release, he noted that he would rather spend his time actively recruiting than waiting for potential soldiers to stop by his office.

"I minimize the amount of time required in my office."

Since joining the army, Bottoms has received several awards and

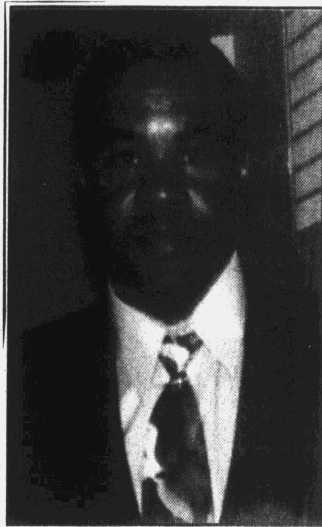
commendations including the Re-

cruiting Ring, one of the highest award given to a recruiter.

He has also been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Two Army Commendation Medals, Five Army Achievement Medals, Four Good Conduct Medals, The National Defense Service Medal, The Gold Recruiter Badge with three Sapphire Achievement Stars, The German Armed Forces Marksmanship Badge, Two Overseas Ribbons, Three Basic Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbons and The Driver Badge.

In his spare time, Bottoms plans to take advantage of educational programs offered by the army. He plans to attend college part-time.

Sgt. Bottoms is the son of Jessie J. Bottoms and the late Lizze Bottoms. He lives in Greenville with his wife, Brenda, and son Brendan.



Sgt. Dennis Bottoms

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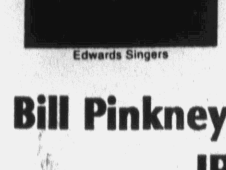
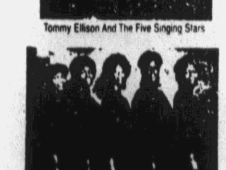
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Johnson

Continued From Page 1

phy, but not longitude and latitude. Instead he studied what he calls urban social geography, tracking where groups of people move, where they move to, how they flourish in one place. When he graduated in 1977, he wanted to go back to Falkland. To find a job. Be with his family. But his mentor at N.C. Central, Theodore Speigner, scoffed at his plans and urged him to go to graduate school.

"We called him Doc," remembers Johnson. "He started the geography department in the 1960's and by the 1980's he had produced a dozen Ph.D's. It was the shaping of one individual, and he was an imposing figure. But he just didn't send you out there. I remember at the most crucial moments in your life when you're doubting yourself, the phone would ring and it would be him."

He received a Master's in geography from the University of Wisconsin, and then went on the Michigan State. There thoughts of that bus stop in Falkland kicked in.

"Half the people in my class left the first semester," says Johnson. "A lot of them came from Ivey League schools and I thought, 'What am I doing here?' But I studied 17 or 20 hours a day because I didn't want to fail. I didn't want to get off that bus stop and have everyone in town know that I failed."

Even before he finished defending his dissertation, he had to face a barrage of invitations from universities around the country asking him to come teach.

"Now that doesn't happen very much nowadays," says Johnson. He accepted a teaching position at UCLA in 1980, where he stayed until 1994. While in California, he blazed through the professor track, receiving tenure in four years and becoming full professor in nine. He became a policy wonk, studying and publishing papers on urban poverty, work force diversity, minority economic development and welfare policy. He wrote extensively about race relations in Los Angeles after the unrest following the Rodney King verdicts. (his "Awaiting Resurrection: The Los Angeles Civil Unrest of 1992 and Its Aftermath" was published by the Oxford University Press this year).

In 1992, he left his post at UCLA and joined the Kenan Institute of

Private Enterprise, where he now heads the Urban Investment Strategies Center and the Urban Enterprise Corps, two programs aimed at promoting business development and investment in inner-city communities by giving managerial and technical assistance to minority-owned businesses.

Besides teaching, Johnson last year helped to start Triangle Nightflight, the midnight basketball league made up of adults 18 to 25 from Raleigh, Chapel Hill and Durham. He has a resource center for minority-owned businesses in the works, and a program to develop a partnership between two local construction companies, one black owned and the other hispanic-owned, to train local unemployed and unskilled workers. But it's the Durham Scholars Program, now in its third year, that most reflects who and what Johnson is.

"It started in the late '80's, when I started writing about an emerging school of thought called 'social capital,' the ideas of it's not what

you know, but who you know. People who are successful are embedded in a dense network of institutions and individuals who can help them negotiate the potential land mines in their lives," says Johnson. "That's what happened to me. I had those mentors, I could call on them if I had questions or problems."

"Now when I put my business hat on, when I looked at kids in the inner city, I asked the question, 'Where is there an emerging business opportunity?' He says he found it at the times when kids are most often left alone: in the afternoons after school, during the summers and on weekends. So the program, which is funded by a \$3.6 million grant from the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust, takes 30 sixth-graders from the most economically disadvantaged sections of Durham, a 96-block section north and east of downtown. They get tutorials from UNC students. They're taught study skills, says Johnson, but what's most important is that they are put in

touch with community, educational and recreational groups that would usually be out of reach in their own neighborhoods.

"It's much the same way I was connected to mainstream opportunities and networks and mentors," says Johnson. "But we just want to systematize it."

The program awards scholarships to graduating seniors from those same blocks, as much as \$10,000 a year for four years to attend a local university. Nine students have been sent to college and all nine are still enrolled.

Sabah Sumo is one of those who received a scholarship to attend UNC-Chapel Hill, where she is a rising sophomore. The Durham resident is a native of Liberia, and plans to study geography.

"The students in the program respect Dr. Johnson because he comes across as together and serious," says Sumo, who graduated from Riverside Senior High School in Durham. "I can contact him anytime if I have questions about geography, or about anything."

New survey says African-American men trust doctors less

A new nationwide survey released reveals that the nation's roughly 10 million African American men are less trusting of their doctor than white men, and yet, are more concerned about most male-related health issues. The survey, conducted for Men's Health magazine and CNN, in conjunction with National Men's Health Week (June 9-15) also finds that despite their higher risk for health problems such as heart disease and prostate cancer, African-American men are less likely to believe these health problems will affect them in their lifetimes.

According to the survey, slightly less than half (46 percent) of African-American men believe that they will develop heart disease. This despite the fact that the death rate for coronary heart disease is 3 percent higher among African-American men than for white men. Conversely, 56 percent of white men believe they will develop coronary heart disease in their life time. Similarly, while African American men have the highest incidence for prostate cancer in the world, only 50 percent believe they are at risk for developing prostate cancer compared to 49 percent of white men who stated as such. Overall, 80 percent of men believe that prostate cancer is an important health issue, an increase of 6 percent age points from just

two years ago.

"The recent number of high profile celebrities such as Arnold Palmer who have openly discussed their battle with prostate cancer has certainly made this disease more important in the minds of American men," says Mike Lafavore, executive editor for Men's Health. "Yet, it is clear from this study that this message needs to be expanded on a greater level into the African-American community."

Overall, the survey finds that African-American men are much more likely to recognize their risk for a number of health related problems. The survey finds that among African-American men, higher percentages recognize their risk for developing problems such as hypertension (65 vs. 54 percent), diabetes (46 vs. 32 percent), high cholesterol (63 vs. 53 percent), lung cancer (42 vs. 33 percent), pneumonia (46 vs. 32 percent) and hepatitis (35 vs. 15 percent) compared to white men.

In general, African-American men rate their health positively, with 53 percent rating it as either excellent (21 percent) or very good (32 percent). This compares to 63 percent of white men who stated as such.

Yet, despite their overall positive health, African-American men are reluctant to see their doctor

for annual health checks. Among those surveyed, 33 percent have not been to the doctor in the past 12 months for a physical examination or a check-up. Among the key factors for not going to the doctor were cost (56 percent), lack of trust (34 percent), lack of time (25 per-

cent), "only sick people go to the doctor" (25 percent) and a belief that if something were really wrong, the doctor wouldn't be able to do anything anyway (23 percent).

When it comes to preventive health checks, African-American

men are more likely on a regular basis than white males to have their blood pressure checked by a health professional (76 vs. 70 percent), use condoms during sexual intercourse (42 vs. 29 percent) and have a test for colon cancer (27 vs. 24 percent).

Taxi

Continued From Page 1

"Now there's a lot more I can check," Haddock said.

Willie Moore, who is becoming the owner of Yellow and Checker Cab Co., didn't bother bringing in three of his seven cabs because he knew they wouldn't pass.

Some didn't have air conditioning or needed new tires or brakes, he said. "It's going to cost more, but it's going to be better to serve the people," Moore said. "I wouldn't do it any other way."

There's no guarantee the cabs that failed aren't still on the road, Haddock said.

"I don't have a bit of assurance," he said.

The new test shouldn't have caught cab owners off-guard, Haddock said. The standards were adopted three months ago, and the city sent the six taxicab franchise owners letters May 15 reminding them of the inspection. "They've known for 11/2 months we were going to have an inspection today," Haddock said. "There's no sense them coming up here with slick tires and cracked windshields."

Some of Haddock's requests took City Cab Co. owner Marvin Best by surprise. Best tried to prepare the nine gray and navy blue Chevrolet Caprice Classics.

"Ain't nothing wrong with them," he said. "They're clean, the air condition works—what's wrong with them? You don't know 'til you get down here (what they are looking for)."

Six of the nine City cabs passed. Franchise owners pay \$8 per cab to cover the cost of two inspections annually. The other is in December.

Best doesn't agree with all the new requirements.

Making drivers log trips and charges is redundant because the dispatcher keeps that information he said.

If drivers have the zone map, a list of the rates isn't needed, Best said. Ms. Carr discovered last month that some cab drivers were

Lewis honored for work at ECU's Social Work School

Lauretta F. Lewis, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work and Criminal Justice, East Carolina University.

Recipient of a Letter of Commendation and a Certificate of Appreciation from NASW (The National Association of Social Workers), the largest organization of Professional Social Work Practitioners in the Nation.

The recognition honored Professor Lewis' advocacy and recruitment efforts on behalf of the Social Work Profession as a member of The Association's Volunteer Arm of Regional Faculty Liaisons.

OBITUARY

Issac Lee Tyson

Funeral services for Mr. Isaac Lee Tyson, 45, of Sneeds Ferry, N.C. were conducted Monday, 2:00 p.m. at Mt. Calvary F.W.B. Church, Greenville, N.C. with Rev. Dennis Taft officiating. Burial will follow in the Greenwood Cemetery, Greenville, N.C.

Mills Family Reunion



Mrs. Marcias Smith and her son Wayne at the Mills Family Reunion on the weekend of the Fourth of July 1997.

over charging passengers, a majority of whom have a low to moderate income.

"Here they are getting a double whammy," she said. "(Paying illegal fares) and riding in conditions the city doesn't think is suitable. But they have no choice."

Inspection results

The cab companies and inspection results are:

- Aladdin: five presented—three passed, two failed
- City: nine presented—six passed, three failed
- Dependable: two presented—two passed
- Eagle: four presented—three passed, one failed
- Tucker: three presented—one passed, two failed
- Yellow and Checker: four presented—three passed, one failed

Poetry contest being held

Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum is offering a grand prize of \$500 in its new Distinguished Poet Awards poetry contest. Thirty-four cash awards are also being offered in the contest. The contest is free to enter and open to everyone. "Although we encourage poets to purchase an anthology to ensure publication, there is no obligation of any kind in order to be a contest winner," states Jerome Welch, Publisher.

Poets may enter one poem only,

20 lines or fewer, on any subject, any style. Contest closes September 30, 1997, but poets are encouraged to send their work as soon as possible.

Poems should be mailed to Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum, Dept. JP, 609 Main Street, P.O. Box 193, Sistersville, WV 26175.

Poets may also submit poems electronically at the Sparrowgrass web site or by e-mail: <http://www.tinplace.com/sparrow> or Sistersv@aol.com

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4. Mechanical aptitude with ability to use hand and power tools safely.
5. High school graduate, or G.E.D., capable of demonstrating 10th grade literacy level in reading, writing, and math.
6. Availability to work overtime as needed.
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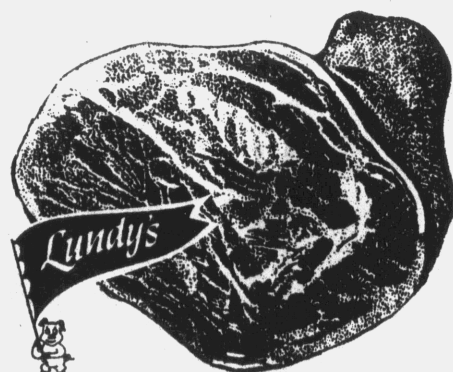
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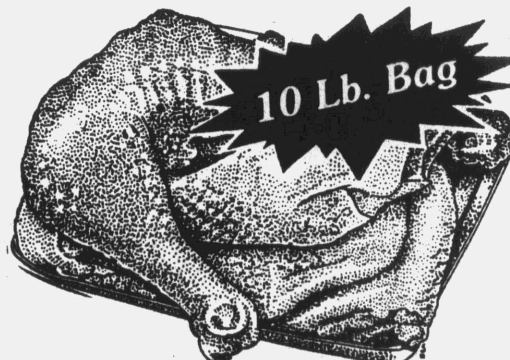
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