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To know how to grow old is the master work of wisdom, and one of the most difficult chapters in the great art of living. Frederic Amiel

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE-SINCE 1981

ISSUE WEEK OF MARCH 3 - 9, 1998

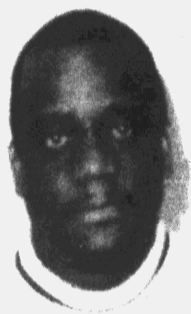
Decision Disappoints NAACP

Black leaders in the Pitt County community and the NAACP will continue to seek a stiffer penalty for the teacher involved in the Wintergreen school incident.

The Pitt County Board of Education, after reviewing the case, decided that the three-day suspension without pay was sufficient and that no further disciplinary action is needed for Sandy Patchkofsky, the teacher who reportedly referred to February as "nigger" history month.

Members of the NAACP and Southern Christian Leadership Conference had asked for the teacher's dismissal or reassignment during a closed session with the board on Monday. Black leaders, members of the NAACP and SCLC met with the board for a half-hour and the board took an-

other 40 minutes before deciding that no further action was necessary.



HOST RADIO FORUM—Rev. Randy Royal, Pastor of Philippi Disciple of Christ Church hosts Radio Forum on Wintergreen incident. (See Story This Page)

Don Carson, chairman of the school board, said that the board was following the recommendations of the superintendent. Carson reported, "We all regret that this happened and Sandy Patchkofsky had a good [teaching] record." Carson went on to explain that it may have been a different story if there had been problems in the past.

The NAACP continues to feel that the school board is taking the incident too lightly. NAACP members plan to meet with the two black school board members, Ralph Love and Michael Dixon. They would like for Love and Dixon to put more pressure on the school board.

NAACP President Gaston Monk said that they will do whatever it takes to get this incident resolved.



PRESS FOR A STIFFER PENALTY—(l.-r.) NAACP President Gaston Monk, County Commissioner Candidate Calvin Henderson, and Winterville alderman Bill Worthington still continue to press for a stiffer penalty for Wintergreen teacher. (Staff Photo)



SHARE A MOMENT—Greenville City Councilwoman Mildred Council and her husband Walter Council share a moment with Congresswoman Eva Clayton, who is sponsoring a forum for entrepreneurs. (Staff Photo)

Congressional Representative Eva Clayton To Sponsor Community Forum In Kinston

U.S. Rep. Eva M. Clayton (D N.C.), who represents North Carolina's First Congressional District is sponsoring a community forum to discuss Social Security reform proposals. The forum, which

is free and open to the public, will be held Saturday, March 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Lenoir Community College in Kinston.

"Social Security Reform is one of the most important issues that we

face today," Clayton said. "I believe the general public, and my constituents in particular, should become educated and actively engaged in this important debate."

The program will feature presentations by: Thelma Lennon, of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP); Ms. Eaddy Roe, of Economic Security 2000; and Ms. Arlynda Boyer, of Third Millennium.

A record number of "Baby Boomers" set to retire, coupled with declining birth rates, threaten to cripple the Social Security program unless reforms are made in the very near future. Expert commissions have already identified the problem and suggested a number of proposed solutions.

"We want to ensure the future for our children and grandchildren, but we also want to protect the financial security and promised benefits of retirees and those who will retire within the next 10 to 15 years. While many of us have widely differing beliefs about what needs to be done to ensure financial solvency of the Social Security program, an overwhelming majority agree that reform is necessary and should be sooner rather than later," said Clayton.

For further information, to reserve a seat or to obtain directions to the college, contact Rep. Clayton's Greenville office at 1-800-274-8672

SEANC Hold District 65 Convention

The State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC) held a convention for District 65 on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at the Hilton Inn. With the theme, "A Public-Private Partnership for Pitt County," the luncheon convention was opened with a welcome and overview by the SEANC President Chuck Stone. Stone stated that the purpose of the convention was to learn about state government and how it participates in the community. He went on to talk about state employees' positive impact on the state's economy.

Treva Matthews, chairman of District 65, presided over the meeting and introduced other state agency representatives who gave short talks on the impact of their agency on the community and state. Dr. Charles Russell, president of Pitt Community College and Dr. Richard Ringeisen, vice

chancellor of academic affairs at East Carolina University, both

the importance of the positive support that they have received from Pitt County and surrounding communities.

Other speakers included Steve Davis, personnel director of the Department of Health and Human Services; Carla O'Konek-Smith, acting area administrator for Eastern Area Division of Prisons; Nell Lassiter, division engineer for the Department of Transportation and Captain D.L. Turner of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

About 150 state employees from all areas attended this convention. A few on hand for the luncheon/convention included Ann Huggins and Bill Davis of East Carolina University, Rev. Joseph George of York Memorial AME Zion and Shirley Williams, current vice chairman for District 65. Williams, an ECU employee, has been a



SHIRLEY WILLIAMS
Vice-Chair District 65

spoke on the contributions of their institutions to the community and

(See MEET, P. 2)



National News Wire

VICE PRESIDENT AND SBA ADMINISTRATOR ANNOUNCE PACT WITH BIG THREE AUTOMAKERS

Vice President Al Gore and Aida Alvarez, director of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) have announced an unprecedented alliance with the "Big Three" U.S. automakers, General Motors Corporation, Ford Motor Company and Chrysler Corporation, that will benefit minority-owned businesses. The agreement will increase subcontracting awards to minority businesses by nearly \$3 billion over the next three years—a 50 percent increase over current levels; provide more technical and developmental assistance and encourage strategic alliances between minority and non-minority suppliers. The agreement marks an important public-private partnership. It is also the first time an industrial group of this size and economic importance has engaged in a partnership with the SBA. "Right now, our economy is stronger than it has been in decades," said Vice President Gore. "As we move into the 21st century, our challenge is to make sure that every individual, every business and every community has a chance to thrive. That's why our new partnership with the Big Three is so significant—and that's why the leadership of the auto industry will make such a big difference. By opening the doors of opportunity wider than ever before, we can prove that our growing diversity and our growing prosperity go hand-in-hand." For more information please contact your local SBA office. For the office nearest you call 800-8-ASKSBA or visit its website at www.sba.gov.

BLACK FARMERS, CBC DENOUNCE USDA USE OF STATUTE
(See NATIONAL NEWS, P. 2)



SPEAKS AT SEANC CONVENTION—Captain D. L. Turner speaks at SEANC Convention as Steve Davis of Dept. of Human Services and SEANC President Chuck Stone attend. (See Story)

Rev. Royals Guest Speaker On Radio Forum

Rev. Randy Royal of Philippi Disciples of Christ Church was one of the guest speakers hosting a radio forum concerning the Wintergreen incident and race relations recently.

The forum was cohosted by WOOW's Mike Adams and Evangelist Brenda Tyson. Other forum panel members included Rev. Michael Dixon, a former school board member; Bennie Roundtree of SCLC and County Commissioner candidate Calvin Henderson.

All panel members were in agreement that the Wintergreen teacher should receive a stiffer penalty than the three-day suspen-

sion for her racist remarks (referring to Black History Month as "Nigger" History Month).

The local leaders agreed that the black community must stick together until this incident is resolved.

Rev. Royal, who also serves as president of the Coalition Against Racism (CAR), stated that one would think that we were back in 1898 and not 1998 from these remarks. These types of remarks will not be tolerated today, he said.

Rev. Royal said that what the school board has done is to basically put a band-aid on a cancer when radical surgery is required

(referring to the three-day suspension).

School board member Michael Dixon said that the school board's decision was the result of not wanting to cause disruption in that teacher's classroom. Even though the teacher apologized to the principal, Dixon said that he was offended that the punishment seemed to be a slap on the wrist.

SCLC President Roundtree stated that this case is far from being over and that he will continue to stand with Rev. Royal and the NAACP. Roundtree also expressed that threats made to one of the

OF LIMITATION

More than 200 Black farmers and supporters heard J.L. Chestnut, the attorney representing Black farmers in the Pigford vs. the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) class action law suit, give updates on the case at a Feb. 14 Town Hall Meeting coordinated by the Federation of Southern Cooperative/Land Assistance Fund. This was part of its 15th Annual Farmers Conference, Marketing and Trade Show. The legal charge was launched in an effort to end the systematic discrimination experienced by black farmers in their attempt to access USDA programs. The case in now in mediation and some black farmers have been informed by the government that they will not be able to participate in the process because of a statute of limitations. That is, farmers who did not file their complaints within two years of the discriminatory action no longer have a claim against the USDA. Chestnut said that in 1983 the Reagan administration abolished the USDA Office of Civil Rights, where farmers would have filed a complaint. The Clinton administration recently reopened the office. "How can you charge folks for not having filed on time when there was no way to file it?" Chestnut asked. Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), shares Chestnut's outrage. In a Feb. 20 letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, she insisted that the Department of Justice (DOJ) "intervene and correct this travesty of justice." She said, "This is indefensible. Black farmers relied on Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman's promise to resolve these complaints. Neither the Black farmers nor the members of the CBC understood Secretary Glickman's commitment to 'resolve quickly' the Black farmers' complaints to mean that the DOJ would hide behind insupportable and far-fetched theories to unilaterally dismiss hundreds of timely filed administrative actions."

MEET

Continued from page 1

member of SEANC for 15 years. The SEANC currently has 62,000 members statewide. The state government has a workforce of 110,000 employees with a 2.2 percent annual growth rate. The Pitt County community has 3,308 state employees. A little more than 1,600 state employees are members of District 65.

FORUM

Continued from page 1

leaders must stop because no one is going to get hurt. Community call-in opinions varied, but all were offended by the teacher's remarks. Some callers felt that they would have liked to have been present for the school board meeting (which was a closed session). Others expressed disappointment in the black (school board) elected officials. Some of the callers to the forum had questions instead of comments. Some of the concerns included: Why has the black community become complacent? Why has prayer been taken out of the schools? Why are some blacks themselves still using the "N" word? Why is there underrepresentation of black teachers and principals in the school system, especially when the student enrollment is predominantly black? Panel members and outside callers elaborated on these questions and discussed these and other racial issues. The issues ignited interest in the community and the response to the forum was overwhelming. Follow-up forums concerning the Wintergreen incident and other racial issues are planned.

Did You Know?

(NAPS)—Losing between 10 and 15 pounds between Thanksgiving and New Year's is easy with *The New Beverly Hills Diet*, says author Judy Mazel. Besides losing 72 pounds herself, Mazel has helped celebs such as Jack Nicholson and Jodie Foster shed many unwanted pounds. Getting children involved in making lunch may make it less likely lunches are traded or thrown away. Give children healthy choices such as Libby's Juicy Juice boxes, which can be frozen overnight for a cool treat. A web site created by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Exxon's "Save The Tiger Fund" is working to ensure the long-term survival of tigers. This web site can be reached at <http://www.5tigers.org>.

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from the desk of **Mrs. Beatrice Maye**

IS GOSSIP EVER GOOD?

"Did you hear?" That's the opening line. Then comes the payoff, the latest gossip, the newest scandal, the family secret, the inside scoop. Did you hear?

It's a rare listener who responds, "No, don't tell me." Most of us love gossip. "Show me someone who never gossips," wrote Barbara Walters in her book *How to Talk with Practically Anybody About Practically Anything*, "and I'll show you someone who isn't interested in people." Indeed people are the subject of gossip, the people we know and their problems with health, love, money, sex, work, relationships and whatever else they wish to keep private.

We gossip about these things to enhance our status, to feel superior to the person we're discussing and to use information as power. We gossip to build ourselves up by pulling another person down, and to show off. Saying, "Everyone thinks Jack quit but I know he got fired. He told me," is like shouting, "I knew it first." If knowledge is power, secret knowledge is power with an ego-booster rocket attached.

It can also be very dangerous. Gossip is not meant to travel back to its subject, but when it does, it can be devastating for all involved. That's why gossip is a furtive, subversive, high-risk endeavor that we undertake with the dread of getting caught. Many feel guilty doing it. Some classify it as a sin. The rest admit it's to justify their behavior.

Good gossip can be a lifeline to someone who's out of touch. A sales manager insisted that office gossip is actually an exchange of news and survival tips rather than a negative force. "It's about who's doing what and what's going on under the surface."

Finally, gossip can function as an early warning system, a way of identifying the family member who's drinking too much, drifting aimlessly or behaving self-destructively. Gossip allows the rest of the family to express concern and mobilize for action.



Beatrice C. Maye

So gossip seems to serve a constructive social purpose: It keeps people connected. Most of us absorb and circulate it willingly, and while the success of tabloid TV shows may suggest a societal addiction to cruelty and malice, a case can be made for intimate, personal gossip as the currency of human interaction, the very stuff of life.

From: Letty Cottin Pogrebin's latest book *Getting Over Getting Older*, May 1996, Little, Brown

LEADERSHIP WISDOM

YOU MUST HAVE A STRONG RELIGIOUS PRAYER AND MEDITATION LIFE.

You cannot treat everyone the same but you can treat everyone fairly.

Be willing to listen and learn from others.

Use the people you have—be positive.

Never rise above those you lead. Never assume you cannot be replaced.

Always assume people are more intelligent than you think.

Always do what you believe is right, not necessarily popular.

Always assume blood is thicker than anything.

Always seer love, harmony, compromise, peace and unity.

Think twice before you speak or respond to questions.

Never use or abuse people; they have very long memories.

Never ask people to follow you where you are not willing to go (never ask people to do what you are not willing to do) (never ask people to make sacrifices you are not willing to make).

Never assume nobody knows but you.

Keep your enemies close to you and your friends by your side.

Never assume you know it all—ignorance stands out.

Never fight an unnecessary fight.

Never fight a lie.

Trust god—have faith—never quit.

What goes around comes around. Truth always is recycled.

Your friends will betray you.

You must be able to accept constructive criticism.

Some issues are worth fighting over.

There is a God—religious leadership is serious.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Davenport Street Community Club had its initial meeting for the new year, Monday, March 2 with Beatrice Maye, president, presiding.

After a brief discussion of the SAFE HAVEN's city needs and strategies for improvement, attention centered on our local needs for

Sgt. First Class Herbert Gray, U.S. Army Recruiter. Staff Sgt. Mario L. Sanchez, U.S. Army Recruiter.

Chief Raymond Carney, Fire/Rescue, Greenville.

Each gave pertinent facts relative to the celebration of African-American History Month.

PROVERBIALY

SPEAKING...

A JOB well done is its own reward.

There is no way we can lift people up unless we come down to their level to help them.

Being intoxicated, or drunk, is not just a single sin, but it is one that opens the door to many others.

Know God—know hope, know peace; no God—no hope, no peace.

Difficulties are obstacles only to the weak.

We best keep God's Word when we give it away—EVANGELIZE.

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ENCOURAGING THE VOTE—Shown above giving his support as he has always done is Rev. Jesse Jackson. Rev. Arlee Griffon and Ed Carter (who is a candidate for N.C. Senate) encouraging members of Cornerstone Church to get out and vote.

ABWA Cites Bessie Lewis With Woman Of The Year Award

The Raleigh Triangle Chapter American Business Women's Association (ABWA) held its award program on Feb. 19 at the N.C. State University Club.

year at chapter meetings, Spring Conferences and at the (ABWA) National Convention in Phoenix, Ariz. on Sept. 16-20.

Lewis has volunteered her service for many nonprofit organizations over the years, most recently at Wake Medical Center as a volunteer in the family waiting room as a liaison between families and physicians, phone callers and the nursing staff, coordinating visiting hours.

She also coordinated the holiday donations drive for the Woman Center of Wake County, serving as co-chairperson on committees and volunteering for projects sponsored by the Heart of Carolina Council, ABWA.

Ms. Lewis enjoys spending quiet time along, listing to soft music and reflecting on her growth and "taking time to count my blessings."

"I try to focus on dreams and aspirations which provide me with daily strength to meet any challenges that I might encounter in my day-to-day activities," she said.



BESSIE LEWIS

Bessie Lewis was chosen as the "Woman Of The Year." This honor recognizes contributions and achievements. The recipient receives recognition throughout the

Child Abuse Focus Of Upcoming Events

Pitt County agencies involved in the diagnosis, intervention, and prevention of child abuse will network to raise community awareness about the problem of child abuse and how it impacts on our families and our society in April which is designated National Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Youth and adults will learn of the local and national extent of the problem, and what services are available to victims of abuse. A major emphasis will be placed on prevention at a personal and community level. A youth and adult speaker's bureau will be available to address interested service groups as well as for media presentation about child abuse.

On April 9 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. there will be an open house at the

courthouse with informational booths regarding agencies involved in child abuse.

SAFE Walk will be held on May 2 beginning at the Town Commons in Greenville as a community demonstration supporting the prevention of child abuse, and to support

the TEDI BEAR (Tender Evaluation, Diagnosis, Intervention for Better Abuse Response) Children's Advocacy Center, Greenville, NC (355-1060).

Plan to walk with us on May 2 and help create a safer world for the children of the next generation!

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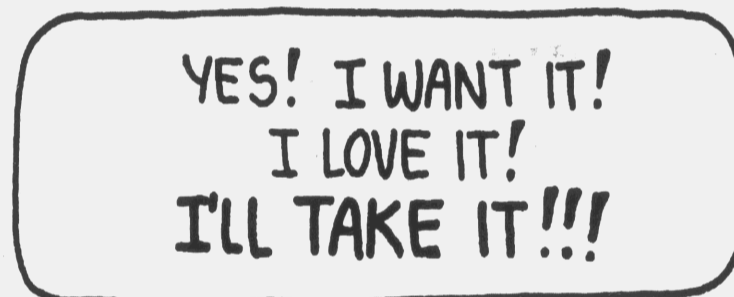
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OPINIONS

COMMENTS

Editorials

Credo of the Black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and natural antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human rights. Hating no person, fearing no person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

Out Of Hiding

"Noot? Is he still in politics?"

The question was dead serious.

He had just heard the announcement last week that U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich was looking into ways to use a discretionary fund to help finance possible impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton.

It was a question echoed by many.

Where had Gingrich been? What had he been up to? And why suddenly break his silence, now?

When the "Republican Revolution" hit in 1994, the media were full of him. The liberal press decried the coming of a new era of American politics, dominated by a philosophical cross between Ebenezer Scrooge and Adolf Hitler.

The conservative media hailed a house-cleaning in American politics where evil and corruption would be swept away in a purge that hadn't been seen since Jesus cleared the temple of the moneylenders.

The visible symbol of that revolution was Georgia Rep. Newt Gingrich. A self-professed "bomb-thrower" from years back, he had earned his "radical" credentials through deliberately inflammatory (some said deceptive and manipulative) speeches on the House floor.

His crowning achievement had been orchestrating the removal of House Speaker Jim Wright for violations of ethics rules that most folks found it hard to figure out.

He was all but declared the defacto president by conservatives, who threw their newfound power around with an arrogance and abandon that bothered even many veteran Republicans.

That, it turned out, was his—undoing.

After steamrolling through a number of "reform" measures, the conservative juggernaut bogged down when a surprisingly combative Clinton made a stand and effectively shut down government.

Remember Winter?

We have made it to March already, and what appeared at first to be a temporary break in the weather has blossomed into a full-fledged early spring.

Most folks don't seem to be trusting it, of course. There isn't any of the joyous celebration normally associated with spring, as people wander around cautiously sniffing the air and peering warily up into the sky.

There may yet be a fit of cooler weather before March gets well and truly out of the way, which is as usual, but for the most part, it seems that winter may be behind us.

If it holds, this would be the second year in a row without a winter.

Some purists would insist that we did have a winter, just a mild one, emphasizing the snowstorm Raleigh had on Martin Luther King Day.

That, though, was an aberration. The roads were clear by that afternoon, and the snow was for the most part gone the next day, as temperatures pushed close to 60.

In fact, temperatures only actually dropped below freezing a couple of times all "winter."

There was barely enough time to break out the heavy clothes or make sure the car heaters worked, before it was time to start checking on the air conditioning again.

We've had autumns that were more severe than that.

A telltale sign of the type of weather we have been having is that our transplanted Northerners could

The public blamed Gingrich and his Republicans, saying that the president did what he had to do—that they went too far.

Opinion polls showed that the public sympathized with much that the Republicans were trying to do (they elected them), but just didn't like their attitude. They were too loud. Too arrogant. Too pushy.

They especially didn't like Newt Gingrich.

Republicans took the hint. They backed off. Gingrich went into a sort of self-imposed exile, making few pronouncements on public issues.

It reached the point that, in the 1996 elections, almost no Republicans solicited his support, and many distanced themselves from his policies in their campaign ads.

Now, though, Gingrich is back, with that statement and later with a widely publicized denouncement of Clinton's drug plan.

Why come back now, with Republicans in such a precarious public-opinion quandry?

Could it be, as some suggest, that Republican leadership is so out of touch that they don't realize their plan to torpedo Clinton has backfired, leaving him stronger than ever?

We think not. The Republican Party, ironically, has been suffering from a leadership crisis. It lost badly in an election that should have been a romp, because it couldn't come up with a candidate that fired people's imaginations.

Now, in budget debates, the Clinton White House is setting the tone, taking the fight to them.

Republicans may feel that they need a strong leader, even one that is widely disliked and ridiculed.

After all, if a bozo like Clinton can continue to lead the Democrats, who's to say Newt can't resume the reins for the Republicans?

Either way, the Republicans may feel, they have little left to lose.

barely be heard to complain about the temperatures.

They were wont to do that, even during perfectly ordinary winters. It seems that most of them expect everywhere in the South to be like Florida, and get very indignant when they see ice down here. They could have stayed home for that kind of weather, they huff.

This year, though, our adopted Northern neighbors were as happy as clams again.

When it happened last year, most folks figured it was something left over from Hurricane Fran.

Maybe the big storm fried weather patterns for the rest of the season, people were saying.

This year, though, was a repeat of the last one, and it has us wondering.

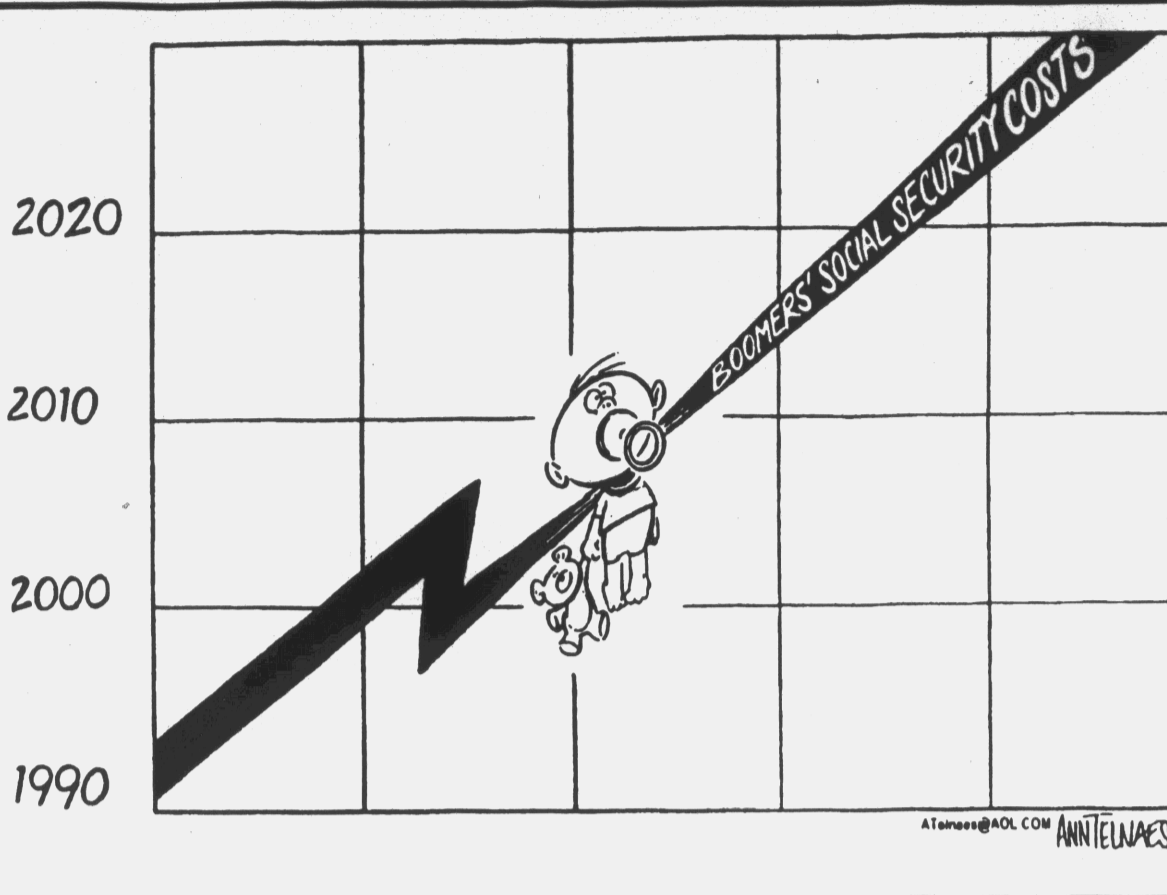
Not that we're complaining, mind you. It's just that it makes one nervous.

If the weather can be this confused during the winter, what might happen during the summer, when North Carolina industry is depending on crops and tourism?

Maybe the global warming people are right, and we are in for a general upturn in temperature that will have us growing grapefruit in Fayetteville.

Or maybe it will just cancel out the ice age that we are supposed to be starting sometime soon.

Whatever eventually happens, for this year at least, it looks like "winter" is over.



Other Viewpoints

DEVELOPING MUTUAL GROWTH IN A TIME OF TRANSITION

By Chessley A. Robinson, III

Special To The Carolinian

City planning and development is a chore. One must weigh all the risks involved in any move and then act with swift reluctance on a wide variety of issues. A city such as Raleigh is a particularly difficult task for Raleigh is stuck in a transition from rural to urban. Should planners develop a program to satisfy those living in the sub urban or more rural areas in Raleigh? Should planners abandon those living in rural or sub-urban areas to develop those people living in urban settings? These questions were at the heart of the past local elections. They were only disguised in the form of inner versus outer Beltline but when it comes directly to the point the issue is urbanites against sub-urbanites. Who do we support?

The brass tacks of the issue is, however, that the two groups make up one city. We, as citizens of Raleigh, must demand that both inner and outer Beltline Raleigh be planned equally to develop a balanced city for growth. That is why our city planners should separate their agendas two fold: Neighborhood planning and urban density planning.

Neighborhood Planning for the Sub-urbanites: To develop all of our sub-urban regions in the same manner would be a mistake for our city. Anyone who has met with the various citizens' councils know that the needs of one are not necessarily the needs of another. The people who live around the area of Glen Eden and Ridge Road have different issues and needs than those people who live between Saw Mill and Strickland roads. If the city makes the mistake of planning equilaterally for all of the sub urban areas of Raleigh then it shall not only run the risk of wasting money by generically spending on the needs of one section for the entire region but it will also waste precious time and ignore many issues directly important to specific neighborhoods that are not in the agenda for that region. If the city, however, separated sub-urban Raleigh into neighborhoods then the concentration of dollars could be more focused and immediately felt by constituents.

Urban Population Density: The secret to developing an urban area is simple. One must increase the population density to create space for developers to build. There are two problems. One is that it is simply unethical to move people into an area of less living space simply for the sake of development, and secondly there will be neighborhoods which are uncomfortable with the move to urbanization. The solution to the first problem is to convince builders to build up and not out. If a builder utilizes technology to build high-rises then people are not risking living space and the ground is reserved for more development. The builders must be regulated, however, to build rooms, especially in living domiciles, that are of a comfortable size and that are affordable. It may even be in our best interest to create a pricing ceiling to ensure that the price per square foot of living space is reasonable. Secondly, do not touch the neighborhoods. The secret to development is to develop that which is undeveloped or deteriorating. Why attempt to bother neighborhoods when you can leave them be and let them enjoy the benefits of development? By building up instead of out you create more living space, leave room for ground level development, and avoid developing over established neighborhoods. It all works together.

The way to accomplish a balanced city is to develop all sides at the same pace. At times concentration has gone to North Raleigh over South Raleigh and downtown but now a change must be made. A mutual development program involving a movement of residents to the downtown area and a rejuvenation of inner Beltline Raleigh must begin with this administration. This is my opinion of a tool to get the job done. Let us close the growing division between North and South and unite the city for one goal. To grow as much as possible for the next generation to prosper!

PRACTICING (PRACTICAL) DIPLOMACY

By Hugh B. Price

President, National Urban League

Less than two weeks ago the American government was about to go to war against Iraq again. Newspaper headlines blared that the American round-the-clock bombing of Iraqi military targets—intended to force dictator Saddam Hussein to allow United Nations weapons inspectors unimpeded access to the country's weapons sites—was imminent. The American military high command projected that the planned four-day bombing assault would kill more than 1,500 Iraqis. Those projections helped provoke vigorous objections to renewing military action from several of America's allies in

Europe and among the Arab states—and, surprisingly, it provoked a sudden, strong grassroots reaction within the United States, too.

Now, there has been no bombing, no deaths, and no possibility—always present in such actions—of a wider conflict, because Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General, persuaded Hussein to permit the weapons inspections on the terms the Clinton Administration wanted.

Yet, to hear and read some commentators, you'd think that Annan was, on the one hand, just easy pickings for the shrewd, duplicitous Iraqi strongman, or, on the other, just an errand boy for President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

In the immediate wake of the accord, some newspapers reported that Albright was in effect Annan's ghostwriter in crafting its terms, and in a crack bordering on racist, radio talk show host Don Imus even called Annan "a waiter" who carried America's orders to Baghdad.

Don't be fooled by the detractors Annan's eleventh-hour and successful negotiations were a dramatic example of high-stakes diplomacy carried out by a skilled diplomat.

Of course, no one takes Saddam Hussein at his word. No one thinks the utmost vigilance—and more tough talk on the President's part—won't be required to compel Hussein to live up to the agreement. It may even be that America will have to take military action in the future.

But Annan's success in averting the bombing campaign was notable for one specific reason As *Newsweek* magazine put it in its story this week, it bought the Clinton Administration time.

"Now, the White House is puzzling over a slew of options," the magazine stated, "[such as] training insurgents, boosting opponents in exile—that might help get rid of Saddam or at least contain him. If nothing else, the deal gives Clinton's team breathing room to figure out the next move."

These words define what is most often the *stuff* of diplomacy: figuring out the next move short of war. Diplomacy is the pursuit of the practical—in this instance, preventing the outbreak of military conflict, convincing the opposing sides to try for this week to peacefully work out their differences in the hopes that a long-term solution can be hammered out across the negotiating table.

That is what has been occurring for decades in the three-cornered conflict in Northern Ireland, and the one between Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle East, and in the still-murderous conflict in the Balkans, and in other hot spots around the globe.

In that regard, the U.S.-Iraq conflict—for all of Saddam Hussein's brutality—is no different.

Was Kofi Annan acting alone? Of course not. That's not the function of a United Nations Secretary General. His function is to be a mediator, to work in concert with leaders and diplomats of the world's nations to preserve the peace and advance the interests of peace. That is what Annan did here.

And why should his ability to do so skillfully surprise anyone? After all, no one rises to the top of any nation's diplomatic corps, and then campaigns for and is voted Secretary General of the United Nations, without possessing superb political instincts.

So, the notion that Annan was the equivalent of a country bumpkin pushed this way and that by either Hussein or the U.S. reveals more about those who push that line than about Annan himself. It shows that they're still controlled by the old stereotypes which declared diplomacy a whites-only enterprise that people of color lacked the sensitivity and shrewdness to master.

That's one reason it's exciting to see someone of African descent soar to the heights of international diplomacy: because it reminds us that it's been done before, and not just by such modern figures as Andrew Young and Donald McHenry. A half-century ago another great diplomat, Ralph Bunche, an African-American, won the Nobel Prize for his efforts to negotiate peace between a young Israel and its Arab neighbors.

Kofi Annan's mediation of this latest world crisis underscores anew that the diplomatic heights he's scaled are populated by people of African descent, too.

Support The Black Press!



ATTEND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LUNCHEON—The League of Women Voters President, Amina Shadid-El (second from right), is pictured with Judge David Leach (back) and members of the League of Women Voters, who are all smiles during a recent luncheon. (Staff Photo)

Pitt County League Of Women Voters Hold Luncheon

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of Pitt County recently held its monthly "Lunch with the League" where Judge David Leach was guest speaker. A local District Court judge for the past nine years, Judge Leach spoke on family violence. Current LWV President Amina Shahid-El presided over the luncheon which was held at the China 10 on 10th Street. About 15 members were in attendance.

Judge Leach talked about how frustrating cases of family violence can be because everyone involved is a victim. "The state has an interest in these cases regardless of the people involved because of the children. We are also trying to prevent new generations of domestic violence perpetrators," Leach.

Judge Leach went on to inform the group that short of a call when a weapon is involved, the domestic violence calls are the most dangerous for policeman to answer. "The mindset and attitudes of our policemen are more sympathetic to domestic violence than they were 10

years ago because children are involved and because they are more informed about resources that are available."

Judge Leach reported that Pitt County now has five units that deal with domestic violence cases only and Judge Aycock has one day set aside to hear domestic violence cases only.

"I am encouraged about where we are going in this county in terms of education and resources we have for domestic violence victims", explained Judge Leach. "Many who complete counseling programs show improvement in their relationships."

Two such programs are the Tedi Bear and the SAFE programs which serve abused children and their non-offending family members. Other counseling programs are continuing to be made more readily available concerning family violence and child abuse.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to the principle that good

government is dependent on the informed and active participation of its citizens. In 1997-98 the League of Women Voters of Pitt County will present forums on local civic

concerns. For more information call 931-4484 or 355-7335.

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Thomas Meredith Scholarship Fund Told

Meredith College has announced the newly endowed Thomas Meredith Baptist Heritage Scholarship fund.

To pay tribute to its Baptist history and to recognize outstanding students who are North Carolina Baptists, each year the College will award three scholarships valued at \$1,000 per year. The awards are renewable based on satisfactory academic performance.

Selection criteria include academic excellence, outstanding service to church and/or community and leadership ability. A recipient must be a member of a North Carolina Baptist church and be recommended by her pastor, youth minister, or the director of the WMU or

other similar women's organization.

A Thomas Meredith Baptist Heritage Scholarship is awarded without regard to financial need. The completed application should be returned by March 1 to the Office of Admissions at Meredith College. To be considered for a Thom-

as Meredith Baptist Heritage Scholarship award, a student must be accepted for admission to Meredith and entering as a first-time freshman. For more information on the scholarship, contact Meredith College's Office of Admissions at 919-829-8581 or 1-800-MEREDITH.

CONGRATULATIONS!

LINDA BROWN
Mid-East
Housing
Director



Mid-East Housing Authority is honored to salute Linda Brown for Black History Month. Linda has served as a Section 8 Specialist for 17 years. She started as a secretary in Beaufort County and is currently manager/director of the Section 8 Mid-East Program for Pitt County, a position she has held since 1985. A member of Triumph Missionary Baptist Church, Linda has one daughter, Candance, 17.

The Section 8 Program which was started in 1974 has helped to place low income families in standard housing. A couple of new programs have been put in place since Linda has been director. One such program is the Family Self Sufficiency Program, which was started 3 years ago, is designed to help families become self-reliant and productive citizens. Please call (919) 752-9548 for further information.

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'Essence' Magazine Offers 'Loaded' Issue For Month Of March

NEW YORK—Jada Pinkett-Smith is on the cover of the March issue of ESSENCE magazine. In her cover story, Pinkett-Smith talks about her new husband, the baby that's on the way and her new movie, Woo. This month our annual careers issue offers a special section on starting your own business as well as a working woman's beauty guide and fashion layout. We also visit with U.S. labor secretary Alexis Herman. In addition, ESSENCE teamed up with Ladies' Home Journal for a candid roundtable discussion on current relations between Black and White women.

Special Reports

BLACK AND WHITE WOMEN: WHAT STILL DIVIDES US—Why, after the defining Civil Rights Movement in the '60s, a move to liberate women in the '70s and the push for affirmative action and diversity programs in the '80s, is race still such a major issue? When ESSENCE and Ladies' Home Journal convened a roundtable discussion on race to assess some of the issues affecting Black and White women, tough questions were asked—and the answers were startling. Listen in as our panelists describe the perceptions, opinions and unconscious attitudes that get to the heart of how Blacks and Whites see each other (page 77).

VENTURES: FROM EMPLOYEE TO ENTREPRENEUR—Have you ever wondered if you have what it takes to become your own boss? If you've dreamed about turning your love of cooking into a catering company or your facility with numbers into your own bookkeeping business. Then ESSENCE has the guide to help you get started. We offer tip on topics ranging from preparing yourself for a juggling act to managing your own money (page 121).

JADA PINKETT-SMITH: THE THINKING WOMAN'S AC-TRESS—With a new husband and a baby on the way, Jada Pinkett-Smith is set for her leading-lady

close-up in the romantic comedy Woo. Pinkett-Smith recently sat down for some sister talk with prolific feminist author, social critic and longtime fan bell hooks. Pinkett-Smith shares her thoughts on feminism, her career, relationships, Tupac, sexuality and the plight of Black women in Hollywood (page 72).

LABOR OF LOVE—When Alexis Herman was sworn in last May, she became the first Black woman to hold the title of U.S. secretary of labor and the highest-ranking Black female Cabinet member so far. ESSENCE recently spent a day with Herman to find out how she broke a government glass ceiling and how she plans to meet the goals she laid out at her swearing-in ceremony (page 87).

THE OTHER JOB—Meet women who work from nine to five and then get busy with their side gigs. Learn how the police officer who's a professional singer, the flight attendant who has a bed-and-breakfast, and others balance both careers (page 114).

WORKING WOMAN'S BEAUTY GUIDE—For a woman on the go, mornings are about being on fast-forward. Make every minute count with our timesaving tips that will have you ready in no time to face the world at your best (page 17).

EXECUTIVE CHIC—For this fabulous fashion layout, ESSENCE introduces you to six movers and shakers who have climbed the corporate ladder with undeniable ambition—and a sense of style to match (page 93).

PROFILES IN STYLE—ESSENCE and Revlon asked you to tell us in 25 words or fewer what makes you a woman of style, and many sisters responded by sending in warm and personal letters and great photographs. This month meet the winners of the ESSENCE and Revlon Women of Style Contest: Toni Smith of Houston, Texas; Audrienne Jones of Atlanta; and Tiffany Warner of New York City. They'll share their secrets for look-

ing incredible (page 22).

THE \$500 HOME OFFICE—ESSENCE contacted leading interior designer Courtney Sloane to create a home office with \$500. Follow her steps for a functional and fashionable home office (page 130).

CHICKEN DISHES THAT FLY—Like many of us today,

you're probably relying more and more on takeout or packaged convenience foods for dinner. These emergency—measures may work in a pinch, but they leave us starved for real home cooking. ESSENCE provides tips on using chicken to prepare delicious single-portion meals and ones the whole family

will enjoy (page 106).

THE ESSENCE MUSIC FESTIVAL We invite you to join us once again for a soul-stirring celebration of music, culture and heritage. Over the 1998 Fourth of July weekend (July 2, 3, 4 and 5), the Essence Music Festival returns to the enchanting city of New Orleans for an event you won't want to miss!

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Tickets are \$20, \$35, \$45 and \$50, and special limited floor seats are \$55. For general information, call (800) ESSENCE or visit our Web site at <http://www.essence.com>. For Official Essence Music Festival travel packages, call Destination New Orleans Management, Inc., at (888) 299-1997.



SHARING A MOMENT—"M" Voice Newspaper Publisher, Jim Rouse (2nd from left), share a moment with the Delfonics, who gave a concert at the National Guard Armory.



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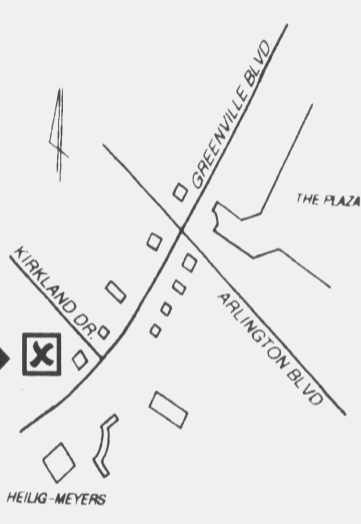
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If elected County Commissioner for District 3, I will support these issues.

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- 2. Environment** - It is important to maintain a safe water supply and clean rivers. The county needs to have a start-up program for a county-wide sewage system.
- 3. Law & Order** - I support maintaining and improving the present programs now in use by the Sheriff's Department.
- 4. Employment** - We need to work in securing industry that employs people with different educational backgrounds.
- 5. Zoning** - I would support a simple zoning plan if the county would show good intentions to provide sewer and water for the citizens.
- 6. Open Meetings** - I believe in open meetings since it's the peoples' agenda. Any other way of conducting business has not worked well in the past.
- 7. Personal Information** - I am married to Erlene Copeland Wynne and we have three adult children. I am a retired farmer, a veteran of the Korean Conflict, having served in the U.S. Coast Guard. I reside in the Pactolus Township and am a retired member of the Pactolus Volunteer Fire Department. I am currently president of the Pitt County Farm Bureau and a member of the Tar-Pamlico River Council.

Public Health Leaders Seek Ways To Combat Heart Disease, Stroke

Public health leaders from Pitt and neighboring counties met recently in Greenville to brainstorm possible solutions to the state's number one health threat: heart disease and stroke. Heart disease, which includes heart attacks and coronary heart disease, is the leading cause of death among North Carolinians. Stroke is the number three cause of death. Each year, 25,000 North Carolinians die of heart disease and stroke (cardiovascular disease). This is more deaths than are caused by cancer, AIDS, injuries and pneumonia combined.

Dr. Kathy Kolasa, professor of family medicine at East Carolina University (ECU), moderated the discussion at ECU. The conference was scheduled around the satellite broadcast of the opening session of a national conference, "Cardiovascular Health: Coming Together for the 21st Century."

The day-long videoconference, one of 10 held across the state, was sponsored by the N.C. Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force, the American Heart Association and UNC-Chapel Hill. The 27-member task force, established by the N.C. Legislature, set up the videoconferences to collect information for its statewide prevention plan, which will be presented to the General Assembly next year.

"Developing such a plan requires identifying effective strategies to address the causes of heart disease and stroke," said Elizabeth M. Puckett, task force executive director and a member of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

Experts have long recognized the major, modifiable risk factors for heart disease and stroke: smoking, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, high-fat diet, high blood cholesterol and obesity. If you have one or more of these, you are at risk.

Levels of these risk factors are relatively high in North Carolina. For instance, North Carolina ranks 49th in the nation for adults getting adequate physical activity. That puts many North Carolinians at risk for developing cardiovascular disease (CVD).

But getting people to reduce their risk, which often means changing entrenched lifestyles, is far from simple. Creating an envi-

ronment that supports health is key for motivating people to choose healthy behaviors.

The task force invited local health department staff, Healthy Carolinian task force members, Heart Association volunteers, local fitness councils and local health providers to the regional videoconferences to help determine what prevention strategies will work for North Carolina. "We want to be sure that the plan is doable and that it addresses the needs and priorities of every region of the state," Puckett said.

"North Carolina leads the nation in many respects, and our task force is a good example of that leadership role," Task Force Chairman Sen. Ed Warren told participants at the start of the conference. "With your help, we will stop leading the nation in the number of deaths and disabilities from cardiovascular disease. We will begin to lead it in the numbers of our people who are making healthy choices for themselves and their families."

Dr. Ron Levine, N.C. Deputy Secretary for Health, gave confer-



LOCAL BLACK HISTORY QUIZ—From the "M" Voice Archives—Pictured are African-Americans from Pitt County who contributed in some way to the county and state. Name all of them and win dinner for two compliments of "M" Voice and Joy 1340-WOOW. Call or write us with your answers. (Deadline for contest is March 15)

ence participants an overview of N.C. cardiovascular disease statistics. "There tends to be much greater urgency in the press and among the general public about health problems that, while important, impact many fewer people," he said. "Our task is daunting, but it presents a real opportunity to make a vast difference. We look forward to working with you to move North Carolina out of the Stroke Belt, and out of the cellar on measures related to CVD risk factors."

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CP&L's commitment to high-performing minority and women-owned businesses is winning praise from people who know. The Carolina Minority Supplier Development Council recognized CP&L for the bridges we've built with minority business. The Sterling Consortium, a diversified group of minority entrepreneurs, singled out CP&L as the Corporation of the Year.

The Piedmont Minority Supplier Development Council likewise recognized CP&L as the Corporation of the Year. And singled out our own Jerry Fulmer as MBE Coordinator of the Year. The Raleigh-Durham Minority Development Agency also honored Jerry Fulmer

— as Minority Business Advocate of the Year. And CP&L was recognized by the North Carolina Institute for Minority Economic Development for its continued dedication and support of minority business in North Carolina. We're always scouting new talent.

If you're in top form, we want you. Together we have what it takes to be a winning team. Just remember, we play to win. And people notice.

To learn more about CP&L's Supplier Diversity and Business Development Program, write to Jerry J. Fulmer, Supplier Diversity and Business Development Manager, P.O. Box 1551, CPB-2C3, Raleigh, NC 27602, or call 919-546-2193.

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Edith Wiggins,
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CONGRESSWOMAN EVA CLAYTON ON THE MOVE—Pictured is Eva Clayton with North Carolina Commerce Dept. and new director of the Rural Economic Development, William Tadlock (right of Clayton).

Commandments Of Retirement Living

• **Thou shalt make plans.** Be bold, be daring. Take up a new hobby; try an evening course at a local community college. Get active in your neighborhood...anything that keeps your body and mind active.

• **Thou shalt look at the brighter side.** Be optimistic. Remember, aging is a positive life experience.

• **Thou shalt travel.** There is

no time like the present to see new sites or visit family and friends. Many travel companies even offer special programs for mature travelers like Hilton Senior HHonors. Call 1-800-432-3600 (Ext. 902) for more details.

• **Thou shalt not whine:** It's a time-waster and won't win you any friends. Better to devote your energies to solving problems or scaling new heights.

• **Thou shalt write at least one cheerful letter to someone every week.** Remember, it takes two minutes out of your day to become a highlight of someone else's day, and sharing your thoughts also makes you feel great.

• **Thou shalt wear out rather than rust out.** Spend your time creating new memories rather than dwelling on the past. Stay active.

TEDI BEAR Center Fills Niche In Community

TEDI BEAR serves children who are victims of neglect, sexual and/or physical abuse and their non-offending family members. The center has provided Child Medical Evaluations (CME) and forensic interviews for eastern North Carolina since March 1992 and has served over 1,300 children since its establishment. More than 300 children were sewed by the center in 1996 alone.

TEDI BEAR currently serves the 29 surrounding counties. Its team of pediatricians, nurse practitioner,

clinical social workers, clinical psychologist and child life specialist provides evaluation, investigation, diagnosis, and intervention for abused children at the request of social services, law enforcement, medical professionals, school counselors and family members. The center allows social workers and law enforcement to interview the children together in a child-friendly environment in order to reduce the number of interviews the children would normally face and to reduce the trauma that oc-

curs with abuse.

Individual and family therapy is provided to the children, adolescents, and non-offending family members. If children are unable to travel to the center for treatment, referrals are made to local therapists and mental health centers. The center is currently implementing more preventive programs including parenting education and training.

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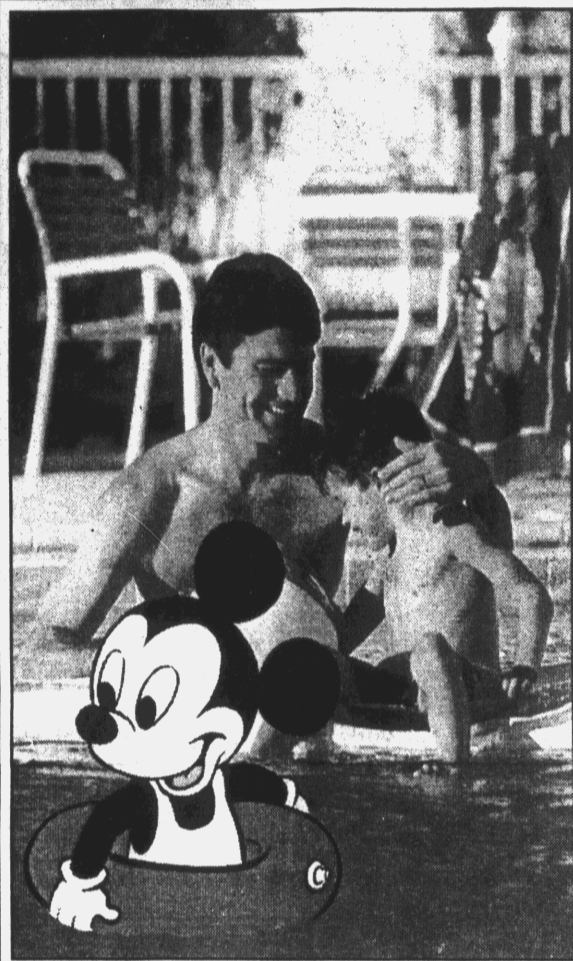
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