

Writers Forum

by George B. Russ



BOYS AT WORK

The curiosity of many Durhamites was aroused, recently, by a white, sunny-yellow trimmed, Mini-Bus cruising through the streets of the city.

Seeing an attractive bus weaving through the noonday, downtown traffic is no reason for one to panic, however, many downtown shoppers were curious about its presence here in the "Bull-City."

Whatever negative approach you may have taken regarding the strange bus, you were off course. While Simmons Youth Development Guild Bus was not here on a good will tour, its presence was one of good-tidings.

The handsome Mini-Bus is a gift from the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, donated to the Simmons Youth Development Guild to take the students on more field trips and to deliver each youngster directly to his home after classes.

This field trip to Durham was an award to Steven Walker and Kenneth Wade, a pair of handsome youngsters who are supervisors of the Simmons Youth Development Guild, for their outstanding supervisory work with the Guild.

Aside from the recipients and Mr. Simmons, Mrs. Henrietta Simmons, Miss Rosa Penn and her sister Faye made up the party of cheerful visitors.

Mrs. Henrietta Simmons is a Durhamite, the niece of Mrs. Cora Jackson of 303 West Enterprise Street.

Simmons Y.D.G. was started about 4 years ago by Mr. and Mrs. Simmons; Stephen and Henrietta, in their home at 1821 W. Erie Avenue. The purpose of the organization, as detailed by Stephen Simmons, a licensed electrician, is to instruct youths in the electrical trade; to give interested youngsters the opportunity to learn a viable trade; to instruct them in supervisory, administration and leadership; to keep youngsters off the streets and to motivate them toward clean, healthful, meaningful and constructive pursuits.

Simmons Youth Development Guild is the love child of Stephen Simmons an ardent lover of young people. The handsome, hefty, saucer-eyed, dimpled cheek Stephen observed that his favorite people were in trouble, but most of them were in trouble morally, physically, spiritually and suffering from the hazard of job unpreparedness. The obvious is easy for one to complain about, but doing something about the situation is a "horse of another color."

Aware that he could not go to the aid of all the young people in need of a special kind of leader-- a big brother-- a father image, he decided to work with the youngsters in his immediate neighborhood. So, with a prayer and a slogan: "send me your children and I will endeavor to return you good citizens-- and, his expertise in his trade, he set out to save as many youngsters from the ravages of vice, crime and disease; and, equip each with a useful trade, as possible.

The real test of Stephen's faith came when the posture of his "magnificent gesture" needed his own hard earned cash to sustain its nobleness-- he gave unstintingly of his cash for equipment, tools, program administration, transportation for fieldtrips, and refreshments. Cash is still the number one retardation to mammoth progress, however, friends of Simmons Youth Development Guild have made contributions of money, supplies, equipment and food stuffs. Simmons is eternally grateful to Bell Telephone, Sears, Girard Bank, Gino's Kelly's Korner and others for "having a heart for missions."

Naturally, hardships overlap smooth-sailing; but, by and large, Simmons' hopes and aspirations have occasions to soar above the cares that infest a single day. June 30th, was one of these occasions, the Guild held an Awards Dinner and presented Achievement Awards to six trainees.

Certificates were presented for satisfactory completion of a nine month course in Bell Electrical Systems. Recipients were Samuel Price, Roger Dozier, Carlton Price, Michael Padillo and Daniel Price.

Presentations were made by business men of the community: Messrs Ernest Lyerly, City Electrical Underwriter Inspector, Kravitz and Grant, Manager and Assistant Manager respectively of Gino's at Broad and Hunting Park, and Dan Ginyard, Tioga News.

There are approximately 35 boys in the Electrical Training Program and 4 adults. The instructors are competent in their fields: Messrs Ernest Lyerly, City Electrical Inspector; Paul Duff, Phila. Licenses and Inspection Bureau; James Brown, contractor; and Jerry Colbert, art instructor.

Presently, 15 girls attend classes; they are given the opportunity to become involved in meaningful activities. Classes in needlework, Charm, Clerical and Art. Instructors include Mmes. Smith, McQueen, Simmons and Mr. Jerry Colbert.

Mrs. Henrietta Simmons is vitally interested in more girls joining the Youth Guild so that classes can be extended and several new subjects added to the Training Program. Registration for boys and girls is now open. New prospects can register at any time, if they are between the ages of 7 and 15 years; there are also classes for adults; dues are 25 cents per week, regular attendance of classes is mandatory, as well as maintaining good grades in regular school work. However, the trainee is counseled by Stephen Simmons if the youngster is having trouble with his regular school work.

A copy of the report card of each trainee is kept with his work progress file. After each school report period, prizes are given to those trainees who attain best grades.

Forum's picture of the week is one showing a trio of trainees at work; the smiling young man with the clipboard is Kenneth Wade, Stephen Simmons' assistant, is 15 years of age who has completed the Training Program. He is in charge of the youth who supervises the trainees, maintains attendance records, and assists the supervisors in periodic evaluation of each trainee.

The Simmons have very ambitious plans for the immediate future and are presently negotiating to purchase the buildings at 1819 and 1921 W. Erie Ave., so as to expand their training facilities. As of now, they have only their faith in God and cash contributions from new and old friends to make this dream become a reality. Cash gifts from relatives and friends in the Durham area will be highly appreciated, become an inactive member of Simmons Youth Development Guild. The organization is a nonprofit corporation-- your contributions are tax deductible. Write: Stephen and Henrietta-- 1821 W. Erie Ave., Pennsylvania, Pa. 19140.

Results of Day Care Study in Durham County

Results of a year-long study of the day care situation in Durham County were released here recently by the Community Planning Service (CPS).

CPS Chairman Vivian P. Parks, Jr. told the news media at a press conference at St. Philip's Church that the full report of the study is now available to agencies and interested individuals.

Parks pointed out that an accurate picture on day care here was available prior to the comprehensive study, and that the report sheds light on a previously "gray area" in the community.

Mrs. James E. Davis headed the Day Care Task Force which was established in June 1972 and which involved extensive research by more than 150 volunteers.

From this study, Parks said, four separate reports have come forth: a full report and a summary report on the findings, both of which are entitled "Durham's Share in Day Care," "Programs and Community Resources for Day Care" and "Starting a Day Care Operation."

The report on resources is available to anyone who provides day care services, and the how-to report is available to anyone who needs information on starting a day care operation.

Since the study was completed in June, a committee headed by William Gantt has been investigating implementation of the report. This group expects to make specific recommendations within the next 60 days.

Gantt, at Thursday's meeting, said, "We expect to make a recommendation to the CPS board shortly." His committee has concerned itself with the development of an ongoing vehicle to act as a coordinating, informational advocate for day care in Durham County.

Gantt pointed out that the committee's immediate objective is to get the information gathered in the recent study into the hands of as many people as possible-- especially those directly involved in day care.

At the Thursday meeting, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Benson McCutcheon, who worked closely with the detailed study, answered questions on results of the study.

Mrs. Davis said that day care, for study purposes, included a wide variety of arrangements for the supervised care of children away from their homes, for part or all of the day.

A number of recommendations grew out of the study. The Task Force, in its report, points out the need for community-coordinated child care, more day care facilities to meet a growing need for such services, increased consultation with health professionals, expanded health standards, better use of existing community facilities, better use of related services, involvement of industry in providing day care for employees, and funds to supplement the high cost of good day care to working parents.

Parks said, "Prior to the day care study, much confusion persisted in the community as to whether Durham County's day care facilities and services were adequate to meet existing needs and to what extent the demand for services would grow."

He pointed out that CPS considers the report worthy of implementation and a vital step toward day care improvement in Durham County.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. - (NBNS) - F1st fights have broken out over the past week aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Navy has admitted.

Officials of the Jacksonville Naval Station said fist fights broke out two days on the Roosevelt between black and white sailors, while the carrier was on maneuvers in the Caribbean.

Injuries, said Lt. Cmdr. Hal Torrance, were limited to "minor abrasion and bruises." He, however, could not say how many were involved in the incident.

More than 1,000 sailors put out to sea on the vessel on July 11 from its Mayport, Fla. home base for Atlantic Fleet exercises.

AFRICAN REPORT

NAMIBIANS ASK FOR MAJOR REFORMS IN S. AFRICA
JOHANNESBURG - (NBNS)- Various tribal delegates from Southwest Africa (Namibia) have asked South African Prime Minister John Vorster for major reforms in the political and social conditions for natives, as well as increased impetus in the development of the homelands.

The requests by delegates for the relaxation of pass laws that restrict the movement of Africans and for moves toward equal pay for equal work came at a meeting of the advisory council for Southwest Africa.

Vorster, who presided over the meeting, established the forum so that representatives of the region's various groups could discuss their grievances and put suggestions to the South African government. The feeling, at the time, was that the council meeting would help defuse criticism of the government's apartheid rules.

BLACK REVOLUTION IN RHODESIA INEVITABLE
SALISBURY - (NBNS)- Black African majority rule is inevitable if the government continues to promote hatred and hostility between black and white Rhodesians, the opposition party warned the ruling party here.

The ruling Rhodesian Front Party would rather bring the country "crashing in ruins" than face the fact the only outcome will be a revolution by the Africans unless the hostilities ceased and the Africans be permitted to rule the nation.

BLACK LEADERS TO ADDRESS S. AFRICAN OPPOSITION
JOHANNESBURG - (NBNS)- The opposition United Party in South Africa will be addressed by three black leaders at their annual congress. It will be the first time in the party's history.

U.N. AGENCY ABOUT TO OPEN IN KENYA
NAIROBI - (NBNS)- The assistant executive director of the United Nations Human Environment Program has arrived here to prepare for the opening of a secretariat here in October and open residence.

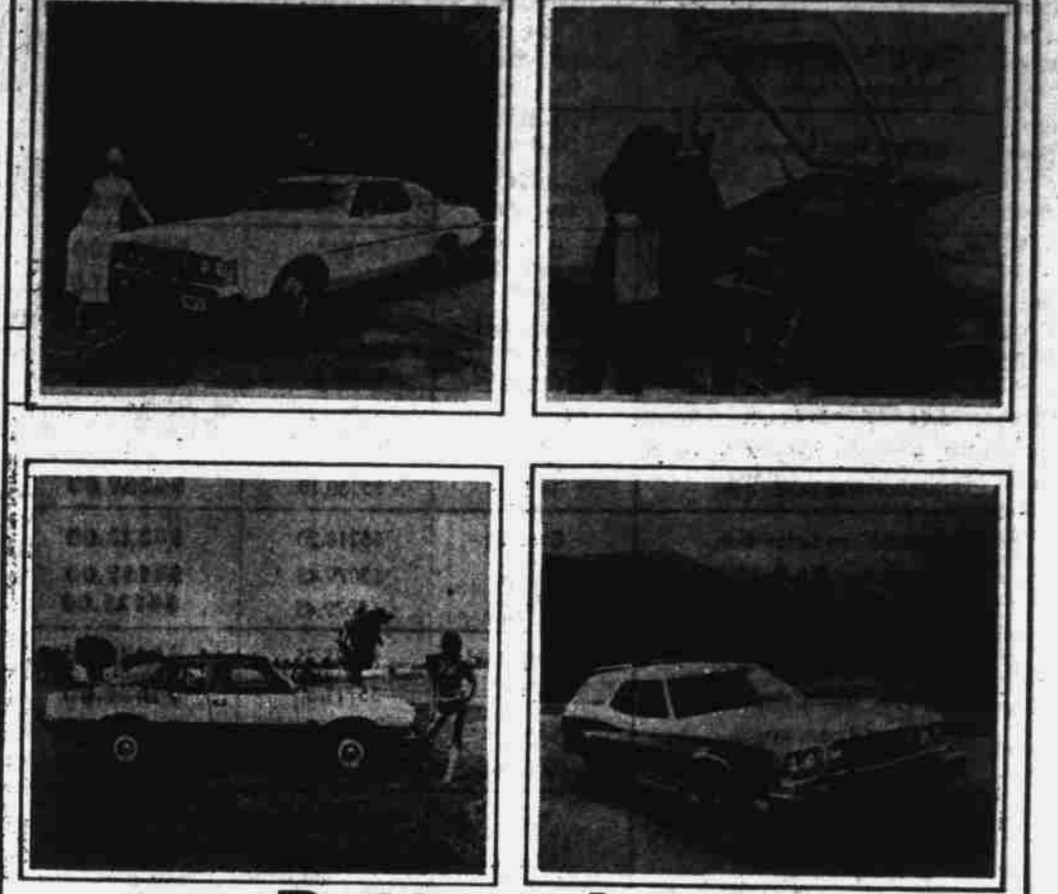
Robert Froesch, in hailing the U.N. decision to have one of its specialized agencies based in "developing Africa", said it was his hope to make Nairobi become a world center for human environmental consciousness.

NAMIBIA RIOTING CONTINUES
WINDHOEK, Namibia - (NBNS)- Part of the Katutura township has been sealed off by South African police following a night of rioting.

Police arrested 265 Ovambo tribesmen during the night of rioting when police were stoned and their barracks set afire. Two officers were injured in the clash.

The rioting occurred after police raided a meeting of 40 members of the militant Southwest African People's Organization, which has maintained that the South African controlled territory of Southwest Africa (Namibia) become independent, has been supported in the effort by the U.N.'s agreement that the government should not rule the African majority.

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