

## Life Begins At 62½

By George Russ

Miss Madie gulped hard. Her jokes about jumping at the first proposal did not manifest at this moment. She sat quietly, looking into the cup of her idle hands; she was thinking of how strangely lifeless they looked.

Jeff was disappointed, he had not expected Madie Perkins to jump at the chance to marry him but he expected a much livelier response; "Madie, I have been a bull in the pasture of young heifers—I've been drunk 'n rowdy 'n lousy at one time or another. I am not trying to marry off the man who was. I weigh 145 lbs., I'm five feet nine inches tall—I have no hair on my chest—I sleep poorly—read everything—I loathe aphrodisiacs—rejuvenators; surgical or medical restoratives." Jeff's laughter was shallow-uneasy. "My sex needs are meager. I change shirts and underwears every day. I dislike foul odors. I like simple foods—a little meat—lots of vegetables, fruits and honey. Do I sound like a man who is hard to get along with?"

Miss Madie clicked her plates together—wished she had not made the unenchanted sound at this moment; then, she began speaking her piece softly at first but the late evening breeze stirred more volume into each word; "No. And you don't sound like a man who is easy to live with. On th' other hand, you are bound to know, soon or later, that I have just as many hide bound habits as you have. You sound like-ah-nice clean wishy-bone ready for making-an-wish and scrambling to get the longest side. You're bound to wonder who'll get th' short end."

Jeff chuckled lazily; "That was well put, Madie. I am game if you are."

"pends on what you call game—a chicken is considered game to-ah-hawk. I ain't saying you're chicken or hawk, but being game can be-ah-nightmare for a man of the world and a woman who has never had a single fling. And I ain't thinking of dirty sheets."

Jeff hid his impatience under a romantic sigh; "Madie, think of all the things I have said. My summation was not in depth or far reaching in any direction but it was frank 'n honest."

Miss Madie threw her head back and laughed deeply; "my honesty is so simple 'n wide open, I feel ashamed of it."

Jeff slid over close to her; "count honestly in your favor—the part about simplicity remains to be seen."

Miss Madie did not appreciate the joke, however, she did not relate this discomfort to her boyfriend. She said, "Jeff, a man like you can shake the average woman out of her good senses without turning her one bit. I'm putty in your hands—I just don't want you to see me stamping my feet 'n praising the Lord for being amongst the candidates likely to marry you—take me home before I do my number."

Jeff grinned sheepishly; "you're mean. You build my ego up like mad, then, you say take me home."

Miss Madie flirted with her eyes before she answered. After fluttering her eye-lashes, primping her mouth and weaving her head close to his chin, then turning again toward the setting sun, she said, "I read your mind the way I read-ah-book—I'd be less than a lady to let you make love to me now. Good things come to those that wait."

Jeff's tone was serious; "I like the way you keep me feeling like a man without giving me the feeling that I am going to pay through my nose for a little fun."

Miss Madie laughed softly; "you sound like-ah-man who is more money bait than trap-bait for fillies."

"Jeff could not refrain from laughter, "you said it, Madie. At 65, I am good company with an expense account."

"Don't feel badly, Mister Jeff. At 62, I am too old to do the twist 'n too young to refuse a kiss with-ah-spense account behind it."

"Miss Madie!" Jeff exclaimed.

"No fools no fun, Mister Jeff. I said what I did to shake you out of self-pity. And you can take it from the horse's mouth, self-pity is the worst kind of company for fallen-arches."

Jeff turned the key over in the switch; have you made up your mind about marrying me?

My mind don't need making up. I maybe asking for a short-cut to the cemetery but I'd like nothing better than being your wife."

"Well put, lady." He answered.

Very little was said during the drive home. Miss Madie wanted to talk more—get everything out into the open, including the date of the wedding. However, she made no attempt to shake Jeff out of his silence; instead, she sat thinking of "Mister Ben". And when the flashy car came to a halt in front of Apartment 2-A, she realized that a good thing had suddenly come to an end. For the first time, she didn't look forward to seeing "Mister Ben." Jeff was

in no hurry to leave, but she shooed him off and dragged her feet toward the door of 2-A. She entered the apartment and started toward the kitchen; a glass of cold milk and a hunk of gingerbread should remove the pangs of remorse. "Jesus! I love that man," she sighed as she filled a glass of milk. Then she heard a familiar sound that started her so much that she dropped the crock milk pitcher. "Is that you, Miss Madie? In the name of God, was her ears playing tricks on her? Ben Prut! Mister Ben? She screamed—continued.

## Dentist Says Plaque on Teeth Must Be Controlled at Home

Dental researchers have found that professional tooth cleaning by a dentist or dental hygienist at regular intervals isn't sufficient to prevent tooth decay and gum problems. The "plaque" that develops on and between teeth re-forms the very next day.

Plaque is a sticky, practically colorless film. It can be removed by effective toothbrushing and use of dental floss at least once a day.

Professional instruction on how to brush teeth effectively is important. Fortunately, there are also toothpastes that contain special ingredients that help to remove plaque. One of these, SENSODYNE, make it possible for even persons with hypersensitive teeth to reduce plaque buildup, and control the sensitivity.

Although surveys have found that there are a number of Americans who don't brush their teeth properly—or at all—it is also a known fact that some of these individuals are afraid to brush, because of sensitivity to the touch of a toothbrush. A new "SENSODYNE GENTLE" toothbrush was designed for these individuals.

A recent nationwide survey showed that "tactile stimulation" contributed to pain in 65.8 percent of all patients with hypersensitive teeth.

Although the new brush is extra-soft and gentle, it contains 2500 bristles in 4 rows, with 51 tufts to provide a dense brushing surface, which according to the company that makes the brushes available, assures greater coverage for maximum cleaning and polishing.

The dentist may suggest other plaque-removal aids such as dental floss, and the use of small, red tablets that dissolve in the mouth to stain plaque on teeth. The idea is to show areas you may have missed in brushing.

Dental authorities stress the importance of regular dental checkups, but warn against patients considering these visits sufficient insurance against future dental problems. Effective home care, aided by professional instruction and treatment are considered by many to be the hope for preventing tooth decay and gum disease.

## Dr. Marion Thorpe Is Elected To ECS Policy Making Group

Dr. Marion D. Thorpe, Chancellor, Elizabeth City State University, has been elected to the Steering Committee of the Education Commission of the States (ECS). The election represents an elevation of Dr. Thorpe, since he was first appointed to the Commission, in 1969.

As a member of the ECS policy-making body, Dr. Thorpe will be closely involved in the search for answers to many of the crises confronting education today, according to Wendell H. Pierce, ECS Executive Director.

Dr. Thorpe, who earlier this year was re-elected to serve on the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities (SACS), now becomes North Carolina's representative and chief educational commissioner, on the policy-making committee. In addition to the ECS and SACS appointments, the Durham

native and graduate of North Carolina Central and Michigan State Universities is a member of the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Universities, the Public Affairs Committee of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and other higher educational organizations.

ECS, founded in 1966 as a non-profit organization, represents a coalition of governors, legislators and educators who work toward improving education at all levels, pre-school through post-secondary. The Commission is supported by 45 states and two territories in its efforts to tackle many issues that affect education, through inter-state cooperation.

## Competence In Ministry

## Morehouse Alumni On Black Church Studies

ATLANTA — Three Morehouse College alumni are participating this summer as Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellows in Black Church Studies. The program is being conducted at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta and is sponsored by the Colgate Rochester, Bexley Hall, Crozer Theological Seminaries.

Augusta and Atlanta, Ga.; the Rev. Samuel B. McKinney, of Seattle, Wash.; and the Rev. Frederick B. Williams, of New York City.

The 1973 PROGRAM began on July 9, and will conclude on Aug. 18. This is the second year of the three-year program. In 1972, the 20 Fellows studied at the University of Ife in Nigeria and at the University of Ghana. In the summer of 1974, the Fellows will study at the

Colgate Rochester, Bexley Hall, Crozer Theological Seminaries in New York.

The purpose of the program is to develop, through discussion, writing, and lecture, increased professional growth and competence within the black church and community ministry. Fellows and faculty consultants are expected to deal theologically with such aspects of the ministry as pastoral care, worship, and community in-

volvement.

IT IS HOPED that the Fellows will pay particular attention to those aspects of black culture which demonstrate that there need not be a sacred, secular dichotomy. The thrust of the program is that each of the Fellows commits himself to the authorship of some item to augment and enrich black church studies.

Topics of interest in the program include: "Black Concerns in Biblical Interpretation;" "Pastoral Care and Mental Health in Black Culture and Church;" "Black Church in Mission Through the Mass Media;" "Black Church in Mission to Street Culture;" and "Black Church Mission in Political Action."

Synthetic vitamins have the same desirable effects as natural ones.

## Bennett College Receives \$637,000

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Dr. Isaac H. Miller, the president of Bennett College, has announced that the college received \$637,000 in government funding under Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The funds will be distributed among seven cooperative programs of which Bennett College is actively involved with other institutions.

"The Title III funding serves to strengthen the academic programs of developing institutions and allows them to undertake more research in the area of innovative curricula," stated Dr. Miller.

"HOWEVER, MOST of the smaller institutions will feel the force of major cutbacks in federal assistance to higher education. For instance, this year the \$637,000 granted is \$78,000 less than we received last year."

He stated that the immediate impact of the cutback was the elimination of the Six Institutions Consortium Program which was a cooperative effort of six predominantly black institutions to develop curricular and teaching materials in African-Afro-American Studies.

"IT WILL MEAN that some of the programs will be reduced in scope and their operations will be hindered unless other revenue is found to defray their cost."

## Advisory Issued

RALEIGH — The National Weather Service issued an air stagnation advisory for North Carolina Tuesday afternoon because of lowering visibility over the state.

The public was urged to eliminate all unnecessary use of automobiles and to use car pools, if possible, for the next few days, especially in congested metropolitan areas.

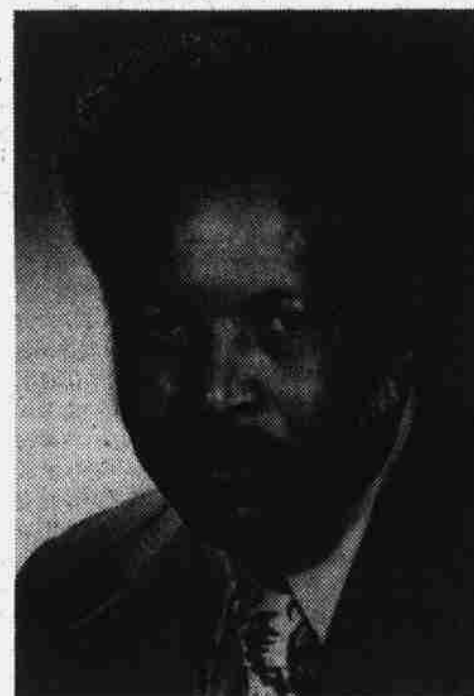
While outdoor cooking was not banned, it was discouraged, and persons were urged to cooperate by refraining from other types of outdoor burning.

Temporary burning permits issued by the Office of Water and Air Resources were suspended until further notice.

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Floyd E. Leonard

Floyd E. Leonard and his wife Goldie live on Kemp Road, Route 3, Durham with their 4 children, Mike, Pamela, Thomas, and Kerry.

Floyd was employed in Durham by B.C. Remedy Co. for 19 years. He is a member of the Cox Memorial Free Will Baptist Church, Chairman of the Troop Committee of Boy Scout Troop #63, Treasurer of A. S. Hunter Masonic Lodge #825. Floyd will be specializing in Radial Tire Sales and Service and Automotive Service Department. He will be working with commercial and individual customers. Come in ... just ask for FLOYD!

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