

## IN AND AROUND ROCKY MOUNT

By R. D. Armstrong

**ROCKY MOUNT** — Rocky Mount's contribution to Baseball Hall of Fame, Walter "Buck" Leonard, was among the more than fifteen baseball celebrities attending the first Hot Stove League banquet held at Atlantic Christian College in Wilson Friday evening, January 30.

The principal speakers for the occasion were Stan "The Man" Musial and Gaylord Perry. Sharing the spotlight, however, with Musial and Perry, were two great North Carolinians, Enos "Country Slaughter" and Leonard.

Leonard, currently is the only baseball player from N.C. to be enshrined in the coveted group of baseball greats. Slaughter, currently coaching baseball at Duke University and a native of Roxboro, has failed to be voted into the Hall of Fame.

In his speech at the Hot Stove League banquet, Musial was high in his praise for his former team mate, boosted Slaughter's candidacy for entry into the baseball shrine at Cooperstown, N.Y.

Musial, who holds as many hitting marks as anyone who ever played the game, noted the hitting ability of Slaughter. He added, "he was a great competitor, a great hustler and a dedicated player".

Leonard, also a hitting star in the old Negro League, shared Slaughter's concern over the rift between the current major league players and the owners. Both men feel the problems can be solved among themselves thereby keeping various suits out of court.

The Rocky Mount Hall of Famer was also present at the 26th Annual Raleigh Hot Stove League banquet Wednesday evening, February 4. More than 800 baseball fans were on hand for the event which was held in the auditorium of the W. Kerr Scott Building on the State Fairgrounds.

State Representative Sam Bundy was the speaker for the banquet.

Twenty-six young ladies from area high schools in the Nash-Edgecombe and Halifax Counties, participated in the annual Black Eleganza Beauty and Talent show recently. The program was held in the OJC auditorium, the former Booker T. Washington High School building.

The Eleganza was one of several events sponsored by the Zeta Beta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, leading to the annual Debutante Ball to be staged in Rocky Mount on Friday evening, March 12.

The Talent and Beauty Show here Monday night, was also a part of the sorority's observance of Black History Week which has been expanded to Black History Month.

The Debutante Ball was begun by the Sorority in 1948 for the purpose of providing scholarships, encouraging the development of artistic talents, and promoting wholesome and educational experiences for the participants.

Since its inaugural ball in 1948 more than 1,000 young ladies have been recipients of generous scholarships. Through these efforts the Sorority hopes to continue to implement the National Theme: "The Issues-Service and Progress".

The Welfare Rights Committee, an organization of local women who are currently receiving aid from the Edgecombe County Social Services, appeared before the County's Welfare Board, last week, during its regular monthly meeting in Tarboro and voiced their strong concern over several matters pertaining to the Welfare System in the County.

One of the three member committee, Mrs. Naomi Green, told the Board they were not there to argue nor were they bitter, but they wanted to get some clarification on recentralings which had been passed on to them by Mrs. Claudia Edwards, veteran head of the Edgecombe County Welfare Program.

The committee had reference to the proposed movement of the Welfare office in Rocky Mount to Tarboro, eighteen miles away. The committee pointed out the move would cost the Rocky Mount recipients additional travel which was not included in their monthly checks.

Also, they said, there had been no justifiable reasons given for the number of people residing in their homes and being counted as wage-earners.

Finally, they called attention to the manner in which they were treated by some of the workers in the Rocky Mount office.

Mrs. Edward attempted to explain these problems and promised she would call the staff in Rocky Mount together to see what was going on.

She concluded her explanations by saying, "My hat is off to you for the manner in which you carry on". She had reference to the small amount of money the families were receiving from her office.

Mrs. Daisy Foster was honored here last Sunday afternoon by the Rocky Mount Business and Professional Womens Club, Inc.

Mrs. Foster received the Sojourner Truth Award which replaced the organization's honoring "The Woman of the Year".

## CRESCENT CALENDAR

The Durham Theater Guild will present East Lynne, a 19th century melodrama with musical interludes, on February 27, 28, 29 and March 4, 5, 6, 7, at 8 p.m. at the Durham Arts Council Building, 810 Proctor St., in Durham. Reservations can be made by calling 682-5519 after February 16.

For further information contact, John A. Friedrich, Jr., 383-5507 or 383-4193.

### MINISTER NA'IM AKBAR TO SPEAK AT DUKE'S PAGE AUDITORIUM

Dr. and Minister Na'im Akbar, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of the Nation of Islam, the Honorable Wallace D. Muhammad will speak at Page Auditorium on the Duke University West campus at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13. His subject will be "Rediscovery of the Black Mind". The public is cordially invited.

The Fifth Annual Mid Eastern Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament will be held in Delaware State College Memorial Hall February 20 through 21.

The teams competing are Delaware State College, Howard University, Morgan State University, North Carolina A & T State University, North Carolina Central University, South Carolina State College, University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

There will be three sessions: **FIRST ROUND**, Friday, February 20 at 3:00 p.m., **SEMIFINALS**, February 20 at 6:30 p.m., **CONSOLATIONS AND CHAMPIONSHIP**, Saturday, February 21, 3:00 p.m.



THE FACE OF HUNGER IN INDIA (NC News Photo)

## Members of Congressional Black Caucus Criticizes H. R. Crawford Dismissal

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus said that the presidential firing of HUD Assistant Secretary H. R. Crawford was a deeply disturbing action against a respected and effective professional in the housing field. Caucus Members said that the decision raises serious questions of a double standard in the application of rules of conduct for black appointed and elected officials.

Crawford had announced in December 1975 that he planned to resign in April 1976. He is apparently being investigated over contacts made with private business for employment following his service as HUD Assistant Secretary for Housing Management.

"It is a common, everyday occurrence," said Congressman Yvonne Burke, newly elected Chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, "for federal officials to move on to private employment in

the field of their expertise. Rarely, if ever, are efforts made to prosecute high federal officials who seek to do so as their public service comes to an end. The sudden interest in applying new standards of conduct when a black official is involved raises deep concern and skepticism about the action. We call on the Administration to bring these actions to an immediate conclusion." H. R. Crawford, she noted, has made enormous contributions toward improving housing not only for black Americans, but for many other persons across the country.

Congresswoman Burke pointed to a recent statement by Senior House Member Edward Boland (D-Mass.) during hearings before House Appropriations Committee where he said that "in the years I have sat here with respect to housing management, I think he (Crawford) is the best man that the Department has ever had

on board." Caucus Members feel that the President's action flies in the face of the opinion of other Members of Congress as well. Congressman George Shipley (D-Ill.) said of Crawford that "I have confidence in you being able to do many of the things that you have proposed. I think that your forthright and straight talk to the Committees has been effective....We appreciate your forthrightness and your honesty in attempting to solve some of the age-old problems that this agency—and the country—has had in housing. I want to compliment you on the excellent job that I believe you are doing."

Congressman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) at the Appropriations Hearings also praised Crawford's work as HUD Assistant Secretary: "Of course, one is really unable to elaborate upon the comments made by Mr. Boland in regard to your competency and ability. I am sure you know I

share their feelings and concur in their statements made relative to the outstanding job you do as administrator for this department."

Upon hearing of the Crawford firing, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.), a member of the House Banking, Currency and Housing Committee expressed shock that the President "pulled the trap door" on one of the few high-ranking blacks in the Administration under circumstances that are at the least suspicious.

Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy (D-C. C.) also voiced his concern at the action against a devoted public servant who first built his reputation as a tough, but fair manager of public housing in the District of Columbia.

The Caucus also urged the President to appoint to the post of Assistant Secretary for Housing Management a person with the stature and ability of H. R. Crawford to carry on the work which he began.

## BWUF Calls For A Multi-National Women's Confab

The Black Women's United Front is sponsoring a Multi-National Women's Conference on March 6 in New York City. While formed just over a year ago, the BWUF has worked on a number of issues and programs that spoke directly to the oppression and exploitation caused by racism, capitalism, imperialism and sexism. The projects, such as the Jo Ann Little case, protests against the budget cuts and massive cutbacks and layoffs, served as a method of strengthening the organization in political education and add new members to the ranks. We have learned a great deal in our attempts to win over women to the struggle. We see a need to join with other organizations and individuals that are moving towards the same direction—join together to discuss our views and opinions, talk about our commonalities and differences of interests, see where we can work together—perhaps on the support of the Equal Rights Amendment, demanding paid maternity leave at all work places and free and low cost child care.

The Conference will provide an educational forum to fully discuss the root cause of women's oppression, historic struggles for our democratic rights and current moves to support women's emancipation. The morning presentations

will explain the goals and objectives of the BWUF, "Why the Call for a Multi-National Women's Conference", and go on with speeches and workshops dealing directly with various aspects of women's oppression and exploitation, international struggles and victories of women and end with a presentation on International Women's Day. The workshops will provide a forum for questions and thorough discussion and agreements on points of unity among the many various individuals and organizational representatives coming. A fundraiser-dance is being scheduled for the evening. Everyone is being urged to participate in the Multi-National Women's Conference and join in the Demonstration and March to the UN the following day for International Women's Day.

The need for a united struggle, a united demand for women's democratic rights is a clear indication of the need for a united organized method of addressing the question of how to most effectively raise the level of political consciousness of women, to draw them into the struggle, and forge ahead in the overall movement to end all forms of oppression and exploitation.

The Multi-National Women's Conference will be held at the Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive (Riverside Drive and 122nd St. in New York City).

## SELECTIVE SERVICE OFFICE WILL CLOSE SELECTIVE SERVICE

William H. McCachren, State Director of Selective Service, announced that the Selective Service Office located in Raleigh, will be permanently closed on February 28. After that date, according to McCachren, all persons having business with Selective Service should contact State Headquarters N. C. Selective Service System, 310 New Bern Ave., Raleigh.

McCachren further pointed out that registration with Selective Service is no longer required nor is there a requirement any longer that

Selective Service registrants carry their Selective Service Registration Cards. Duplicate Registration Cards will not be issued in the future. McCachren added, inasmuch as all records from the local Selective Service Office have been transferred to the Federal Records Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

The first Easter egg roll was held April 2, 1877, at the Capitol grounds in Washington, D.C., during the administration of President Rutherford Hayes. President Franklin Roosevelt discontinued the custom in 1942, but President Eisenhower reinstated egg-rolling in 1953.

## Zambian Pres. Proclaims State of Emergency

LUSAKA, (Hsinhua) — Zambia is now under a full state of emergency, announced President Kenneth Kaunda in a nationwide radio and television speech.

He said that developments on Zambia's borders "Have been deteriorating, and now they pose a grave threat to the peace and security of Zambia." He pointed out that the enforcement of the state of emergency is that "I want the country to be put in a state of full preparedness to counter any move to destroy our country."

President Kaunda stressed, "In Angola, we have witnessed

## AGREEMENT OF CONFLICT IN LEBANON SEEN

PEKING (Hsinhua) — The parties involved in the armed conflict in Lebanon reached agreement on the total settlement of conflict on the morning of January 22 through the mediation of Syria, reported Radio Lebanon quoting a communique of the Presidency of the Republic of Lebanon.

According to a Beirut report, under the agreement, a Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian Supreme Military Committee would be set up to take necessary measures to bring about a cease-fire and to ensure its application and the return to normal. Several committees under the Supreme Committee would be set up to supervise the implementation of the agreement in all regions and positions.

According to Radio Lebanon, a Supreme Military Committee composed of six officers (two officers for each of the three parties) was set up as soon as the agreement was reached. The committee decided that cease-fire was to be enforced throughout Lebanon at 10 p.m. on Jan. 22 and demanded that the parties concerned observe and assure the implementation of the agreement.

The agreement is a comprehensive one, covering not only the Lebanese political problem but also the presence of Palestinians in Lebanon, the

grave phenomenon of foreign intervention in African affairs by foreign powers. We have witnessed imperialism at work in all its manifestations."

He pointed out, "Africa has fought and driven out the ravenous wolves of colonialism, racism and Fascism from Angola through the front door. But a plundering tiger is now coming in through the back door." "A number of foreigners and people financed by the foreigners have infiltrated our country," he pointed out. "The effects of foreign intervention are now being felt in Zambia."

President Kaunda said, "Zambia is at peace, enemies do not like it. Zambia is prosperous enemies do not like it." He added, "We must stand and fight, and fight we will."

He emphasized, "We will take firm action against infiltrators, saboteurs, subversive elements, rumour-mongers, criminal gangs of every type, people sowing seeds of discord and threatening peace."

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