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The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBIDDEN

Words of Wisdom

Machines and methods must keep pace with men and minds. —Hal Stebbins

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ATTY. GENERAL RULING SET ON BABY DEPOSIT

Medicaid Recipients Have 9 Months To Save \$100, Says Waddell

HENDERSON (CCNS) — An official of the N. C. Department of Human Resources has called upon the N. C. Attorney General to give a ruling on whether a Henderson hospital can charge \$100 to Medicaid patients that seek to have their babies delivered.

Robert Watkins, an official in the Recipient and Patient Services Section of the Human Resources Department described the policy of Maria Parham Hospital as "not within the spirit and philosophy of helping poor people", but pointed out that was just his personal opinion.

The policy was first imposed upon recipients of the federally funded Medicaid program in January. Watkins said the administration of Maria Parham Hospital did not consult the state prior to making the policy. One of the policy's first victims was 25 year old Georgia Brown who tried to get admitted to the hospital for six hours on January 22 but was turned back because she didn't have the \$100 deposit. Her doctor had sent her to the hospital for admittance so he could induce labor and end her problem pregnancy.

Hospital administrator Samuel Waddell said the \$100 is charged only as a deposit that is refundable after the Medicaid recipients are discharged and bring Medicaid labels for the baby to the hospital from the local Vance County Department of Social Service. He says that DSS regulations at the state level prohibit issuance of Medicaid labels to cover the unborn child's bill until delivery. But he says the reason for the \$100 deposit is that some Medicaid patients fail to bring back to the hospital the Medicaid labels which allow hospital reimbursement.

Waddell said that having babies is "not considered as an emergency and should not be a hardship on anyone because they (Medicaid recipients) have nine months to save the \$100."

However, the policy was adopted by the hospital board in January and implemented the same month. Georgia Brown and several other Henderson and Vance County residents did not know about the policy until they tried to get admitted to have their babies.

Georgia Brown finally got admitted when black Vance County civic leaders called County Commissioner Billy Hughes who called the department of Social Service Director who called the hospital and was able to get Ms. Brown admitted. But the others, which hospital Business Manager Basil Asbury says are more than 15 a month, are forced to ride to Duke Hospital in Durham or Wake Hospital in Raleigh. Both are approximately a one hour drive from Henderson.

A similar policy was implemented by the hospital several years ago. During that time several babies were born en route to Duke in ambulances and the back seats of automobiles. Public outcry at that time caused the policy to be changed.

The policy is not favored by some of the County Commissioners but they have no input in policy decisions and no monetary control over the hospital which is privately owned, although the county gave \$250,000 toward its construction.

Commission Chairperson J.

Nelson "Pete" Faulkner, a representative of the Maria Parham Hospital Board from the County Commission, questioned about the policy said that "its going to take some study to see what we can do."

Prior to the adoption of the policy in January the hospital board requested \$195,000 from the commissioners but did not receive it. Chairperson Faulkner said "without some say so, we can't do it."

Another commissioner, Billy Hughes, who initiated the action which got Ms. Brown in the hospital, said the county needs its own hospital, but did not know if the commissioners would support the cost of building a new one.



MECHANICS AND FARMERS BANK 1977 STOCKHOLDERS MEET.

Asheville Mobilizes For April 9 March

THIS IS NAT'L POISON PREVENTION WEEK

WASHINGTON, D. C. — According to statistics from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, approximately two hundred children die each year from the effects of lead poisoning. Thousands more are potential lead poisoning victims and could suffer permanent mental retardation, brain damage, blindness or even death.

One of the causes of lead poisoning is the ingestion of old, pre-World War II leaded paints, containing up to 60% white lead. These paints can still be found on the walls of old buildings, especially in inner-city areas. If this old paint begins to peel, it can be eaten by children and cause lead poisoning.

The most notable symptoms of lead poisoning in children are stomach aches; irritability or easy tiring, and frequent vomiting. If your child has any of these symptoms and has been seen eating old paint chips, the National Paint and Coatings Association suggests immediate medical care.

If you live in an old house, and the paint is peeling, limit your child's chances of contracting lead poisoning by taking the following steps:

1. Sweep any peeling paint off walls, woodwork and ceiling with a stiff brush or broom. Then, be sure to throw all loose pieces away.
 2. Keep looking for new paint chips and peeling paint. Sweep them away before small children get them. Keeping the lower parts of walls free of peeling paint is most important. This is where small children can reach it most easily.
 3. Don't let children chew on woodwork, stair railings or other places which have been painted — even if the paint isn't flaking.
 4. Give children safe things to chew on — crusts of bread, toys made for chewing.
 5. Tell big sister, big brother and baby sitters not to let children eat paint chips or chew on woodwork, stair railings or other painted surfaces.
- If lead poisoning is caught early, the child can be treated and cured.

Wilbert Tatum To Speak At UNC

CHAPEL HILL — Wilbert A. Tatum, a Durham native, who is director of the Mayor's Midtown Action Office in New York City, will lecture on "The Resurrection of the Central City through the use of Zoning, Planning and Economic Tools," Friday at 3:30 p.m., 102 New East, in the department of city and regional planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Tatum is responsible for coordinating development from 14th St. to 59th St. in Manhattan, including the Garment District, Times Square and 5th Avenue, according to Jerry Levin of the speakers committee in the department of city and regional planning.

A former director of Urban Renewal in Central Harlem and deputy Burroughs President of Manhattan, Tatum is vice chairman of the board of directors of the Amsterdam News and the Inner City Broadcast Association.

He has served as an adjunct professor for the New School for Social Research in New York City and at York College of the City University of New York. He has also lectured on "The Negro in America" at Stockholm University in Sweden.

Restored To Position As HUD Director, Management After EEO Decision

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Washington Bureau announces that native Durhamite, David W. Stith, an employee it has represented before EEO officials at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Civil Service Commission, has finally been restored to his position as director, management division, Greensboro area office, over 11 months after his removal on adverse action charges.

After Stith filed a complaint of discrimination, Housing and Urban Development's EEO director found he had been discriminated against and ordered him restored to duty, with back pay, in October of last year. However, apparently due to pressure from former Ford administration officials, this decision was reversed the following month.

The NAACP, after seeking in vain to have HUD reinstate the original decision, took Stith's case to the Civil Service Commission. In January,



DAVID W. STITH

in a precedent setting action, the Commission ordered HUD to reinstate the original decision. Stith was rehired, but despite the Commission's order, he was not given his old job. Rather he was detailed to a position, the main function of which has been described as "counting paperclips."

Finally, after further discussions he was reassigned as division director in the past week. Now, however, he faces possible transfer to another area. The NAACP has written Secretary of HUD Patricia Harris, advising it would consider this an act of reprisal and asking her to prevent its occurrence.

As a result of the outcome of his complaint, Stith will receive approximately \$32,000 in back pay as well as retroactive employee benefits.

The NAACP Washington Bureau worked closely throughout the proceedings with the Office of Representative Parren Mitchell, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

BOYS CLUB WEEK
MARCH 27 - APRIL 2
Support John Avery BC
(See Story Page 6)

Bank Reports Growth At Stockholders Meeting

Stockholders of Mechanics and Farmers Bank held their 69th Annual Meeting on Monday, March 14th in the lobby of the home office of the Bank

MECHANICS & FARMERS

located at 114-116 West Parrish Street, Durham. Approximately 280 stockholders were represented by proxy and 85 others were

present in person for the purpose of hearing the reports for 1976 and for the election of Directors for the ensuing year.

John H. Wheeler, President of the Bank, discussed the highlights of his printed report which had been mailed to all stockholders along with the formal notice of the meeting, the required proxy material and a copy of the year-end Statements of Condition and Earnings certified by Haskins & Sells, Certified Public Accountants.

Highlights of the report indicated that the Bank's assets at the end of 1976 were \$41,404,817 and that net earnings for the year were \$241,404 or \$1.71 per share. The report also noted a 23.2% growth in Demand (checking) Accounts and a 1.9% decline in passbook Savings Accounts. Also noted was a \$968,000 increase in Loans Outstanding and an excess of \$162,126 of the market value of securities held (\$16,960,533) over their book value (\$16,798,407). Capital funds increased from \$2,857 at the end of 1975 to \$3,044,899 at the end of 1976 and earnings

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Carmichael Barred From Shaw — Speaks At UNC

CHAPEL HILL (CCNS) — Stokely Carmichael, once chairperson of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) that raised across the South and nation demands for Black Power in the mid-nineteen sixties, lectured to an all black group of students and some community people at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill last week. His Chapel Hill speech followed his being denied permission to speak at Shaw University in Raleigh.

Denouncing capitalist exploitation and predicting the eventual overthrow of U. S. imperialism by its workers, Carmichael lectured on the advantages of life under socialist government as opposed to "profit by any

means necessary under capitalism." Giving an example of 1956 cars being built better than 1977 cars, although technology to produce more efficient and longer lasting cars has improved. Carmichael said "technology and science are now used to exploit rather than serve our people."

He said that under socialism the objective of government is "service to humanity" "through people owning and controlling the means of production."

Carmichael criticized as liberal theories that socialism and capitalism can co-exist and develop simultaneously without conflict. He consistently told his audience that compared to "profit by any

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EEOC Finds For Woman -- Against Johnson-Lee CAP

SMITHFIELD (CCNS) — The North Carolina office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has found "reasonable cause to believe that" the Johnston-Lee Community Action Inc., fired in December 1975 a woman because she was black and because she opposed unlawful employment practices in the agency.

Harris Williams, Director of the N. C. EEOC, informed Gloria J. Bryant of Raleigh and the Johnston - Lee Community Action Inc. (JLCA) of EEOC intentions to conciliate the dispute. If the dispute cannot be settled by bringing the parties together, court action will follow, Harris' letter said.

The EEOC investigation disclosed that Ms. Bryant was employed as Director of Housing and Community Development and had complained of unlawful employment practices to the EEOC on June 30, 1975. The letter said that two months later, Ms. Bryant was fired by then Executive Direc-

tor Paul Keller and reinstated on the same day "due to lack of sufficient documentation."

Ms. Bryant had complained that males, particularly white males, had received higher salaries than women, particularly black women hired at the anti-poverty program performing the same or similar duties. The report further disclosed that a white male was hired by the agency and placed under Ms. Bryant's supervision at a greater salary than she was paid.

In November 1975, Gloria Bryant was given an "average overall" rating on her performance evaluation. She said that evaluation "was the poorest evaluation I received in my seven years employment there." The EEOC found that following the evaluation and "absent any written warnings or reprimands," Keller fired Ms. Bryant. Only a few days before Ms. Bryant had appealed to the Johnston-Lee Board of Directors for an increase in pay despite Keller's objections. The board overrode Keller and

gave Ms. Bryant a salary increase commensurate to the rate paid white male program directors in the agency, on the principle of "equal pay for equal work."

Ms. Bryant charged that she was fired "in retaliation for my opposition to unlawful employment practices which violated Section 704(a) of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964." That section makes it illegal to discriminate against any person because he or she has made a charge, testified, or participated in any manner in an investigation under Title VII.

Keller is no longer Executive Director of the JLCA, but is now a member of the board. He was replaced by Leon Penny who was formerly Deputy Director and gave Ms. Bryant the "average overall rating" that she complained of.

If conciliation of the dispute is not accomplished by the EEOC, section 706(b) of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 allows Director Harris Williams to initiate a civil suit to enforce an EEOC order to settle the dispute.



JOURNALISM CONTEST WINNERS — From I-Howard University School of Communications conference coordinator, Peggy Pinn, joins in congratulating journalism essay winners Evelyn Bailey of Clark College, Atlanta; Peter Harris, HUSC; and First placer Kenneth Campbell of East Carolina University, Greenville, and Washington, D. C., publisher, Calvin Rolark and HUSC Ddean Lionel C. Barrow, Jr., shake their hands. Awards were made at HUSC's sixth annual communications conference recently at Mayflower Hotel in nation's capital. (Photo by Roy Lewis).