

Bill Introduced to Study Cause of Drop-outs

A bill has been introduced in the North Carolina House of Representatives to create a Commission to study the underlying reasons for the statewide increase in public school drop-outs.

Representative Kenneth B. Spaulding, one of the bill's sponsors, stated that there appears to be a growing number of North Carolina students who drop out of school before graduation and that this problem is unacceptable.

Spaulding stated that so often young people drop out of school at an early age then they don't fully appreciate the consequences of their actions. They often find out after it's too late that without a fundamental education they are severely handicapped in their ability to attain economic opportunities and security.

Most importantly, however, Spaulding stated that young people who drop out of school are deprived of intellectual growth and stimulation and often find as outlets less constructive activities.

The commission will study (1) what are the causes of the high dropout rate in North Carolina in grades 8 to 12, (2) why so many North Carolina

high school graduates fail to continue their education beyond the high school level; (3) what should and can be done to encourage

students to remain in high school until they graduate; and (4) what special factors, if any, have caused the dropout rate to be

especially high in the western mountain counties comprising the Eighth Educational District, and what special solutions, if any, exist.

Brookhaven Four Help Sought; Appeal Long Prison Term

A 1977 law which denies parole to persons convicted of violent crimes is being brought into national focus through the cases of four young black teenagers. One of the cases has received a lot of media attention within Mississippi and some press attention nationally.

Two separate defense funds have been set up by attorneys and community people who say they'll raise \$20,000 for the defenses. Fourteen year old Robert L. "Bubble" May, seventeen year old Lawrence Edward Williams, eighteen year old Earnest Tolliver, and eighteen year old Bob Terrell were sentenced last January to serve consecutive terms without possibility of parole. May, Tolliver and Terrell were convicted of four robbery charges and were sentenced to four-

twelve year terms to run consecutively. Lawrence Williams was convicted of three armed robbery counts and was sentenced to 36 years in prison.

At the behest of white Attorney Ron Welch, the circuit court judge who sentenced May to 48 years, set aside May's guilty plea because of inadequate representation by counsel. May is scheduled to be retried in September. The bearded Welch is appealing for funds to defend May, whose case is beginning to get some exposure outside the state.

But the cases of Tolliver, Terrell and Williams, who are serving prison sentences in Mississippi's Parchman Prison, have been virtually unpublicized in Mississippi. They are being represented by Attorney Leonard McClellan, president of the

Mississippi Chapter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers. Three black lawyers have been identified to work on the cases.

Defense attorneys for the three jailed defendants have indicated that they will seek to have the convictions set aside as was done in the case of May. Only May has a prior record.

Questioned about the lack of media spotlight given to the three jailed defendants, Ms. L. C. Dorsey, an employee of the Southern Coalition of Jails and Prisons commented, "The attorneys who represented May simply used the media to their advantage and the media wanted to focus in on those two (lawyers) and there was never a great deal of commitment of people to admit that they were a part of



CLARKE A. EGERTON III

Clarke Egerton, III Listed in Who's Who

Clarke A. Egerton, III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarke A. Egerton, Jr., is listed in the current edition of Who's Who Among American High School Students. Clarke, a senior at Hillside High School, plans

a career in technical education.

Less than five per cent of the nation's junior and senior class high school students are honored in the current editions.

three other people." The black woman continued, saying "you know how the media are. It is a very willful instrument that responds to those images that it wants to respond to."

Attorney Welch could not be reached to respond to the charges. Operators said his telephone had been disconnected.

A group of clergymen

coordinated by Brookhaven's Rev. Clarence Coleman, have organized to raise funds for the teenagers.

Checks and money orders are requested from people who want to help. They should be sent to: The Brookhaven Four Defense Fund, c/o Rev. Clarence Coleman, President, 121 Jones Ave., Brookhaven, Mississippi 39601.

Ben Ruffin Culminates Black History Month

Ben Ruffin, Special Assistant to Governor Jim Hunt, was the principal speaker, for the closing of the Black History Month celebration at Shepard Junior High School. Appearing before the student body, on February 27, Mr. Ruffin challenged the students to dream "The Impossible Dream." He narrated an impressive list of blacks who have achieved because they dared to dream the impossible dreams. He ended by admonishing the students to study, stay in school and take advantage of every opportunity to become educated. His final challenge was "You can make it, if you try." He was enthusiastically received by the student body.

Previous events at Shepard in observance of Black History Month were as follows:

February 2, Mrs. Gwendolyn Haskins accompanied by Mrs. Barbara Cooke presented a program of Negro spirituals and a jazz group from NCCU presented a program of blues and jazz.

Students viewed a film entitled "Black History, Lost, Stolen, or Strayed." The film highlighted Blacks who have contributed to our American way of life in but in many cases have not found their way into

our history books. Throughout the month, Miss Fields, our media specialist, provided library activities centered around Blacks.

February is often called "Fabulous February" and it was just that at Shepard. In addition to Black History, the Prescott family presented a musical program on February 1. The program featured Mrs. G.S. Prescott at the piano, Thurmon Prescott at the piano and on the violin, Camille Prescott on the viola and Ruby Prescott on the violin. The entire family ended the program by singing "The Last Supper" from "Jesus Christ, Superstar."

February 12, Miss Beverly Burke, newscaster, and anchorwoman at WTVD talked to the students about her career as a television personality; visited classes and had lunch with the students in the cafeteria.

February 14, students presented a Valentine's Day Talent Show centered around "Love." Selections ranged from sonnets by Elizabeth Barrett Browning to songs like, "I Love You Truly" and "What the World Needs Now is Love, Sweet, Love."

We ended February with the King's and Queen's Ball on February 28.

NAACP Leaders

(Continued from front)

Kenyon Burke, Associate Director for NAACP Programs, will head a Team of Consultants from the National Office to develop machinery for active Task Forces in Employment and Political Action. The N.C. NAACP Task Force in Education is operative with Mrs. Willie Mae Winfield of Roper, as Chairperson.

The goal of the North Carolina NAACP is to improve service to it's more than 100 branches and to strengthen the "advocacy capacity" of the NAACP in North Carolina.

Burke will be accompanied to North Carolina by Ms. Gerda Steele, Director of Education Programs; Lewis Carter, Director, Labor Programs and Joe E. Madison, Director of Voter Education. Joining these National NAACP Consultants will be Regional Director, Earl T. Shinhoster and Regional Youth Director, Ms. Janice Johnson, both of Atlanta Georgia.

Mrs. Carolyn Q. Coleman, the new Field Director will officially be introduced to the N.C. NAACP Leadership. Mrs. Coleman formerly was Director of the NAACP Emergency Relief Fund, which is an NAACP program primarily established to provide temporary relief in the form of money to assist needy families to purchase food stamps. The program is not a dole but to help the disadvantaged through a difficult period.

The days activities will climax with a special dinner program paying tribute to Charles A. McLean, retiring Field Director of the N.C. NAACP at 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Inn.

McLean was first employed by the NAACP in 1950, by the late Walter White, who as that time was Executive Secretary of the NAACP. In 1951, because of such an excellent job with a special register and vote campaign, McLean was offered the position of State Field Director which he accepted. Many of the gains made by the N.C. NAACP are due to the brilliant performance of McLean during his tenure of directorship.

The North Carolina State NAACP had 35 branches when McLean began his term as Field Director and as he retires, there are more than 100 branches operative in the State.

Clarence Mitchell, Jr., retired NAACP Washington Bureau Director, will deliver the Tribute Address.

LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR

DENNIS HONORED

RALEIGH - Liberian Ambassador to the United States Francis A. Dennis was the guest of honor at a breakfast last week sponsored by the Durham Life Broadcasting Company, Raleigh's Mayor Isabella Cannon and other political bigwigs as well as WPTF executives were on hand to welcome Ambassador Dennis.

The Liberian was speaking in the Triangle Area during Brotherhood week observations. Later in the week, he was the keynote speaker at White Rock Baptist Church in Durham. Mayor Cannon presented Dennis with a wine goblet with the inscription "the love of liberty brought us here." The Ambassador was also presented a key to the city.

Unable to attend the breakfast was the honorable Governor James Hunt whose Assistant for Minority Affairs and Special Projects John Larkins said Hunt had longstanding engagements and conferences with the legislature. Larkins presented Dennis with the seal of North

Carolina. Master of Ceremonies for WPTF was Carl Venters, Jr. who was joined by Asa T. Spaulding, Jr. and Dan Gibbons and several other staffers.

Ambassador Dennis responded to the presentations and expressions of brotherhood with thanks and was very appreciative to the U.S. for the insights that Christianity had given his country. Liberia was settled by former slaves in the 1840's under the administration of James Monroe for whom Liberia's capital, Monrovia, is named. The American Colonization Society spearheaded colonization of West Africa as a means of solving race questions in the U.S., but only a fraction of slaves who wanted to return were taken back to Africa.

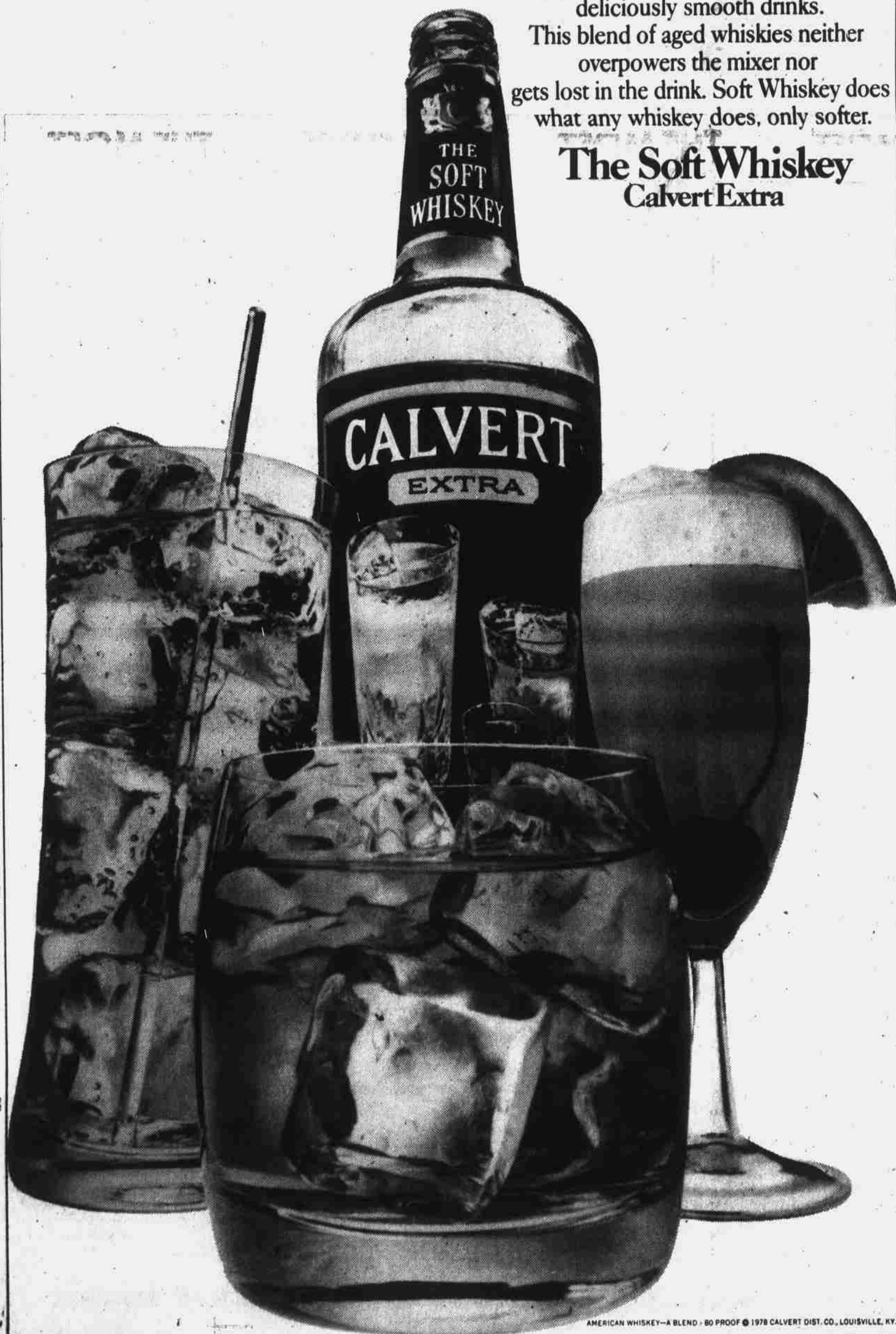
DENTURE WEARERS

A major advancement
CUSHION GRIP[®]
DENTURE ADHESIVE
one application holds comfortably up to 4 days

Only Calvert Extra makes a mixed drink soft.

Calvert Extra mixes up into deliciously smooth drinks. This blend of aged whiskies neither overpowers the mixer nor gets lost in the drink. Soft Whiskey does what any whiskey does, only softer.

The Soft Whiskey
Calvert Extra



AMERICAN WHISKEY—A BLEND • 80 PROOF © 1978 CALVERT DIST. CO., LOUISVILLE, KY.

Compare Dristan[®] Tablets relieve more colds miserably than Contac or Aspirin.

	Dristan	Contac	Aspirin
Nasal Congestion	✓	✓	
Runny Nose	✓	✓	
Aches & Pain	✓		✓
Fever	✓		✓

CD

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, March 13, 1979
7:30

Meeting Room
Municipal Bldg.
306 N. Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, N.C.

ENTITLEMENT GRANT 1979-80
CD PROGRAM

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: THE CHAPEL HILL PLANNING DEPARTMENT, MUNICIPAL BLDG., 306 N. COLUMBIA STREET, CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (928-1111)