

PETITES MADEMOISELLES (Top) are seen at a lecture in French given by Lawrence Davidson, technical advisor for the first annual PETITES MILLES PAGEANT sponsored by Eta Phi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., at Chapel Hill. The Premiere Mille and other winners in the Pageant will be presented on April 21, at the Washington Duke Motel in Durham. Participants are girls ages 7-12. The Pageant is a cultural and social event and activities will include visits to museums, ballets, French restaurants, and a "fun" outing. Proceeds from the event will go for scholarships and civic causes. Mrs. Viola Lawrence is Basileus of the Chapter. Dr. Tommie Young, Chairperson of the Pageant and Mrs. Martha Tilley, Co-chairperson. Chapter members (bottom) enjoy refreshments.

Call For Action Tips

FINANCIAL PLANNING WITH A DOUBLE INCOME

Often, a double income means double trouble for a married couple, unless they plan carefully. This message from the pages of "Everybody's Money" was sent to Call For Action as a public service of Credit Union National Association, Inc., to share with our readers. There are times when families with both husband and wife working can be trapped by the second income. Often there is a tendency to spend more on luxury items. Also many people buy larger houses and then are squeezed by big mortgage payments and

higher taxes. The family also buys more on credit, counting on future income to pay off debts. Then financial disaster strikes, most likely, if one spouse is laid off or becomes ill, or stays home to raise a family. The ideal way is to live on the income of the one whose job is likely to be the most permanent. If this is impossible, the couple should agree on a solution. To arrive at a workable plan, they need

to set priorities and specific goals. Plan in five year units: they can set intermediate and long range goals without feeling deprived forever. If couples find themselves in the situations of financial squeeze and do not know what to do, Call For Action can give referrals that will help them to find a solution to their problems. The numbers to call are: Durham 688-9306 and in Raleigh, 828-7578.

OPINION

—BY RALPH WILLIAMS—

Recycling

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collected 134.5 million pounds of metal, including 2.9 billion aluminum beverage cans. Since the inception of the program in 1967, the company has recycled about 13.7 billion cans and paid the public more than \$95 million.

Reynolds now pays 20 cents apound for all aluminum beverage cans and other clean household aluminum products. Certain other items, including aluminum siding, gutters, aluminum storm door and window frames and law furniture tubing also are worth 20 cents per pound if properly prepared. This aluminum must be free of all foreign materials, cut to lengths not exceeding three feet and should not be mixed with aluminum cans.

Black parents and black teachers are casting criticisms and recriminations at each other, whether they be true or not, doesn't matter, for it appears for recriminations to be the order of the day. The cause? Economic progress for the poor-blacks-poor blacks is at a standstill. Who is responsible? Self-indulgent organizations, dedicated to reinforce educational insularity.

Well, I for one, am tired of the assumptions about black parent's apathy and black teacher's incompetency. I say the fix is in and despite what educational organization and coalitions report. Most black parents are not dumb and they are about their children and most black teachers are concerned and doing their job. We (black parents and black teachers) must begin to speak out and silent those blacks and forces who think they must speak for us or give to us their accounts of their stewardship, for they seem not to be able to understand the social and political forces at work in our educational system or they are working for those self-same insulated forces. Whichever, they have allowed black parents and black teachers to be divided and this division has caused our schools to develop a locked up/out system.

This situation has allowed our schools to be in the pockets of a few and our schools to serve as an advancement center for the chosen few and their associates.

In order to return our schools to a system where parents can be heard and education is permitted, let black parents and black teachers pledge:

I WILL DEVELOP A DEEP INNER LOVE THAT FLOWS OVER AND AROUND THE BLACK CHILD TO FORM A SHIELD OF PROTECTION, GUIDANCE, WISDOM AND STRENGTH. This I do pledge.

Gen Tel Speeds Service With MECOBS System

Operator-handled long distance telephone calls from Durham, Butner, Creedmoor and the Research Triangle Park will go through faster with General Telephone's new "mechanized cord board system," according to Terry Desmond, the company's division service manager.

Desmond said the basic difference in the new computerized system, called "MECOBS" for short, is that operators will be entering information directly into a computer as it is received from the customer, rather than making a handwritten record. Using a

keyboard that looks much like an expanded touch-call telephone, operators will be able to record all necessary information more rapidly, allowing calls to reach their destination sooner. The computer will automatically verify such details as validity of calling numbers and credit card numbers.

Because operators will not be making a written record of the calling information, there may be instances in which they will have to ask for certain information to be repeated. "For example," Desmond said, "if a caller places a person-to-person call to

a party that is not at home and then asks the operator to have the party return the call, the operator may have to ask for the originating number again. On most calls, however, the MECOBS system will be much faster."

The computerized system was installed at a cost of \$260,000 which General Telephone expects to be able to recover in about two years through improved efficiency. Desmond said that a gradual conversion to the new system was begun in late January and will continue through July.

HEALTH NOTES

NEW TEST DETECTS SICKLE CELL ANEMIA BEFORE BIRTH

A new, reliable test that can be used during pregnancy to diagnose sickle cell anemia — a disease that dooms one in 500 American black children — have been developed by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco.

Sickle cell disease is caused by a genetic defect, and this is considered incurable. It has been estimated by health officials that some 500 million people worldwide are afflicted with sickle cell anemia, including about 70,000 in the United States.

Nearly all of this disease's victims are black, and about half of them die before age 20. A few may live as long as 45.

The developer of this new diagnostic test, which can be used early in pregnancy and thus makes therapeutic abortion possible, is Dr. Yuet Wai Kan. In an interview, Kan said "the new approach may mean similar inherited blood diseases, such as hemophilia (bleeding tendency due to deficiencies in blood) and thealasemia (also called Cooley's anemia and Mediterranean anemia), may also become diagnosable. "Prenatal diagnosis will allow couples who otherwise wouldn't have wanted to risk having children to plan families," Kan said.

He noted that he and his co-workers have already used the test on one pregnant woman. They were able to tell her that her unborn child does not have sickle cell anemia. Two earlier children had been born with — and died of — the disease. Sickle cell disease gets its name from the strange C-shape, like a sickle, that is assumed by the victim's red blood cells.

It is known that victims of sickle cell anemia lack the proper genetic instructions for making hemoglobin, the iron-centered molecule that enables red blood cells to carry oxygen to all

parts of the body. As a result, victims' cells are gradually damaged by lack of oxygen.

Such sickle cell children are often poorly developed, having short trunks, elongated extremities and skull.

Death is usually caused by tuberculosis, stroke, heart failure or other complications.

A specialist in such blood disease work, Dr. Jane Deforges at the Tufts New England Medical Center, commented that

"Dr. Y.W. Kan is an outstanding researcher," and that "prenatal diagnosis of sickle cell disease is of special importance," since so many people are stricken with the disease.

Desorges, professor of medicine at Tufts, noted that in addition to black populations, a few others, most Mediterranean populations, also are prone to the disease but at a low rate.

The new test developed by Kan and his colleagues in San Francisco involves drawing a sample of amniotic fluid (the watery liquid around the baby) from the mother's uterus. Using what are called recombinant DNA techniques, Kan is able to select out and test the genes that are responsible for making hemoglobin. By this method, he can determine whether a child's hemoglobin-making gene is faulty.

These recombinant DNA techniques have been developed only in the past few years, but promise to open many new doors to medicine, science and industry.

Most scientists consider the promise to be almost unparalleled.

Indeed, after only a few years of research, scientists are already reporting enormous success. Some researchers have even tricked tiny bacteria into making insulin, both rat insulin and human insulin.

INITIATION AND OBLIGATION CEREMONIES HELD

Boyd and Hodge Court No. 7, Heroines of Jericho initiated three ladies and obligated one man into their court on Sunday, March 4.

The initiation ceremonies were held at the Masonic Lodge on Cook Road.

The ladies initiated were: Mrs. Mary E. Young, Miss Elizabeth Burroughs, Mrs. Violet P. Rogers, J. L. Rogers was obligated.

Sponsors were Miss Mary Scott, Mrs. Ann Gore, and Mrs. Gladys Dawkins. Mrs. Gore serves as chairperson of the Investigation Committee. Miss Scott is chairperson of the Social Committee.

Following the ceremonies, a delicious repast was served to all in attendance.

Mrs. E. M. Scott is the president of the Court.

TAX facts & figures

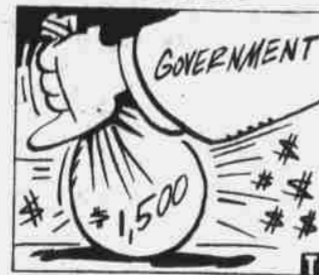
WAYS TO REDUCE RATES

We Americans pay nearly \$155 billion individual income tax to the federal government alone.

The federal government collects some \$1,500 in taxes from every man, woman and child in the country.

Some people say one way to ease our tax burden is to stop the government from spending our money on lost causes. One of these, experts say, is the Amtrak system that has so far cost us over \$4 billion.

When Amtrak was created in 1971, it was with the expectation that it could become self-sufficient. The Department of Transportation, however, believes that, as currently operated, Amtrak will have cost taxpayers approximately ten billion dollars by 1982.



According to the Committee to End Government Waste of the National Taxpayers Union, the taxpayer is paying for two-thirds of the cost of the average trip, yet the entire 27,000-mile Amtrak system handled less than one-third of one percent of the nation's intercity travel in 1977.

If such drains on our tax dollars as that are removed, some of the nearly 130 million tax returns filed every year might be a little smaller.

Kindergarten

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To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be five years old by October 16, 1979. He must be six years old by that date to be eligible for first grade. The only items parents are urged to bring to registration are the child's birth certificate; duplicate copy if possible, and immunization records if they are already completed.

If a child attended a county schools kindergarten last year his parents needn't register him for the first grade. The procedure will be handled by the school.

At registration, information will be available about after-school care. Also, parents will receive an appointment for pre-school screening, a program which involves vision and hearing tests as well as interviews. Parents are urged to register their children during the pre-registration week in March so the youngsters can participate in the screening program.

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