



The National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc.'s University Year for ACTION (UYA) Volunteers and Directors attending In-Service Training Sessions.

## Black Mayors Train Volunteers

The National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. (NCBM) recently held a three-day in-service training session for participants in its volunteer program at Paschal's Motor Hotel in Atlanta. The service-learning program entitled, University Year for ACTION consists of a total of seventeen (17) college students from the following six colleges/universities, Miles College, Birmingham, Alabama; Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi; Saint Augustine's College, Raleigh, North Carolina;

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina and Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas.

The seventeen (17) students were selected from the aforementioned institutions of higher education to serve for nine months in eighteen rural black-managed municipalities with populations of 2,500 or less, according to Ms. Michelle D. Kourouma, Executive Director of NCBM. These municipalities located in Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas were selected based upon their need for assistance in improving administrative capability at the executive level.

In the previous two years, forty-five (45) and thirty (30) student volunteers were a part of the program, respectively. This year's grant from ACTION in the amount of \$156,151, which brought about a decrease in volunteer strength, will allow for a more concentrated effort in the areas related to economic development, employment, education, fiscal management, health services, water sewage, fundraising, housing, energy and human resources development.

The purpose of the three-day training session was to assist the

seventeen (17) student volunteers in acquiring additional information, skills, and techniques necessary to carry out their responsibilities in their respective municipalities. During the three-day training, some of the workshops conducted were: "Developing Communication Networks," "The Volunteers Roles in the Community," "Time Management," "Program Planning and Proposal Writing," "Community Analysis," "Fundraising at the Grass Roots Level," and "Current Issues."

Resource leaders sharing their expertise were: Dan Tibbs, ACTION-Region IV; Ms. Barbara Wilson, ACTION Headquarters; Ms. Carolyn Gullatt, former Peace Corps Director in Western Samoa; Marcus Bell and Weldon Elbert of Atlanta Junior College; development Ms. Janice Sikes, West End Neighborhood, Inc. (WEND); Mrs. Geraldine Thompson, Voter Education Project; Arthur Cole, NCBM; Ms. Paulette Smith-Epps, Atlanta Consultant; Warzo Hendrix, Saint Augustine's College.

The program commenced its third year in April, 1981, and is designed to allow interactions that will ultimately lead to assisting mayors in carrying out their responsibilities and obligations

to their constituents. Program efforts focus on providing avenues for local residents to participate in the governmental process as it relates to decisions that affect their lives.

NCBM consists of 194 members and draws its memberships from several of America's most cosmopolitan cities. However, the overwhelming majority of the mayors represent small rural communities isolated from the mainstream of social, economic, and political life. These communities are characteristically rural, existing on insufficient tax bases, high unemployment, increased demands for social services, and lack of recognition and access to state and federal agencies' programs and funding opportunities which could change the living conditions of residents significantly.

### Miss Clement Receives Fellowship

Miss Kathleen O. Clement, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Clement, 206 Pekoe St., Durham, has received a fellowship to attend Indiana University in Bloomington. The fellowship is from the Consortium for Graduate Study in Management and is funded by major U.S. corporations specifically for minorities studying business.

A 1978 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Miss Clement was previously employed as a personal banker with Wachovia Bank and Trust Company in Raleigh.

### Handicapped Denied Role in Jury System

By Harry M. Philo

Among the many things that society has traditionally denied the handicapped is the right to serve on a jury. But this may be changing as some states are recognizing the constitutional right of the handicapped to jury duty.

In 1977 California became the first state to permit the blind to sit on juries. The practice continues today with no problems.

Last year California passed a new law which also gives deaf people the right to sit on civil and criminal juries and to participate actively in the judicial system.

The new law states that no one can be excluded from jury duty solely on the basis of a hearing impairment, though a prospective juror could still be eliminated from jury duty without cause during the pre-trial examination by the lawyers involved in the case.

The California law also provides that sign language interpreters can help deaf jurors throughout the trial, but it expressly states that the interpreters cannot take part in deliberations other than to assist with communications among the jurors.

However, nearly 30 states have laws prohibiting deaf people, or those who aren't in full possession of their natural faculties, from serving on juries. The states of Washington and Massachusetts leave the issue of allowing the deaf to sit on juries up to the discretion of the individual presiding judge.

The main argument of some lawyers against blind or deaf jurors is that their client's constitutional right to a fair trial should be given greater weight than a handicapped person's asserted constitutional right to jury duty.

But lawyers for the handicapped argue that to exclude them by law from jury duty creates a suspect classification of persons. And other lawyers argue that to deny jury service to the blind or deaf violates their right to equal protection under the law, as well as the principle that a jury should be comprised of a fair cross section of the community.

The Association of Trial Lawyers of America will continue to work to help the handicapped obtain their goal of full participation and full equality in all aspects of their life, including the right to serve on a jury.

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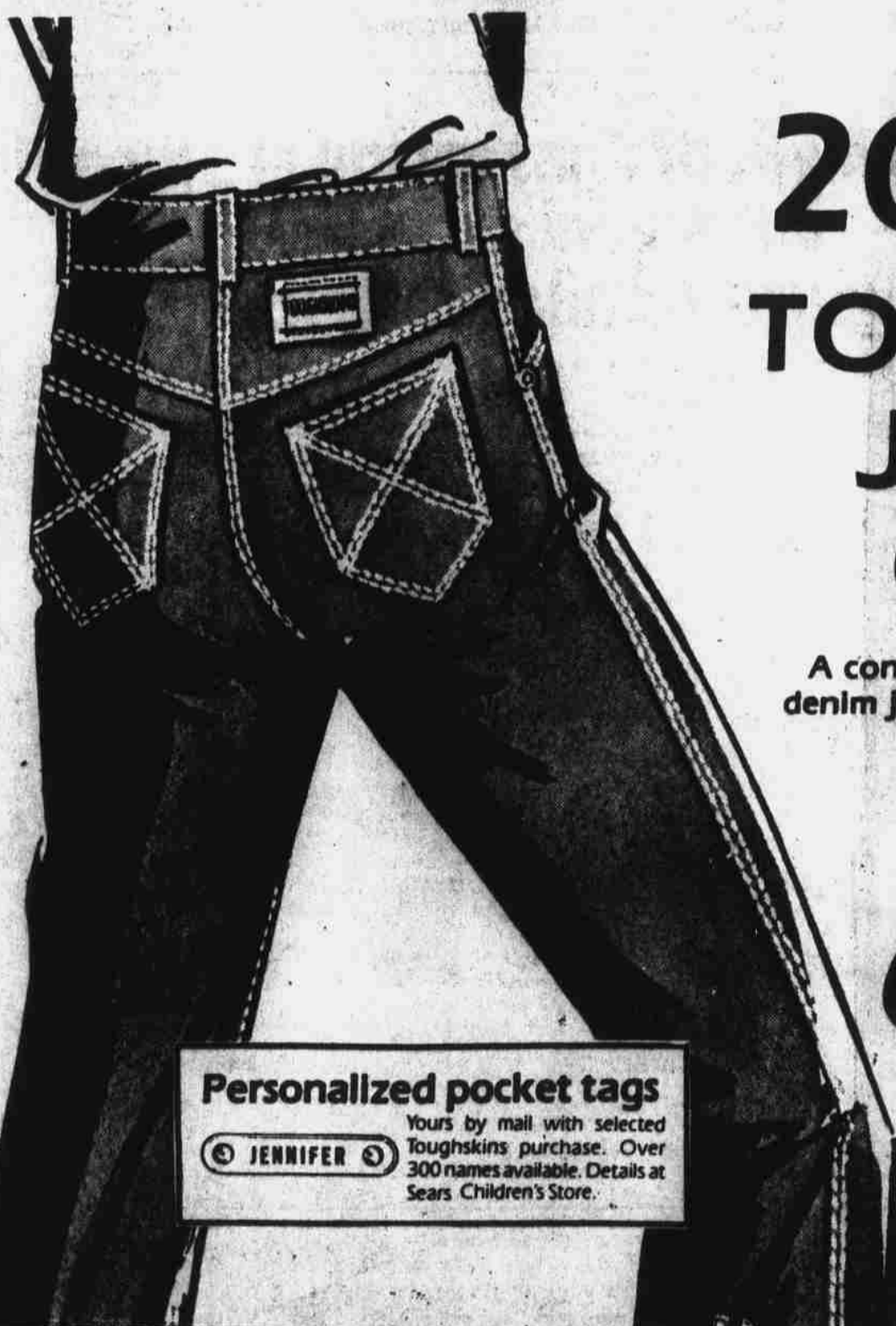
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