



Someone You Should Meet ...

Name: Brenda K. Hairston
Job Title: Chore provider
Hometown: Winston-Salem
Describe yourself in one word: "Aggressive"
Hobbies: Swimming, reading, writing, ping-pong, bike riding, and shooting pool
Favorite Book: Mahatma Ghandi's biography
Favorite Movie: "Lady Sings the Blues"
Person admires most: Twin sister, Linda G. Hairston, and Pat Lindsay
Career goal: "To marry money and to become a Jordan missionary"

(Photo by James Parker)

NEWS DIGEST

National, state and local news briefs compiled by John Slade

Black Power conference says nominate Jackson

GREENSBORO -- After three days of meetings in Atlanta, the National Black Organizers' Conference (NBOC) has decided it will organize a massive, nationwide "People's Consensus Petition Campaign" to nominate the Rev. Jesse Jackson for president of the United States.

Declaring that "the national conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties have never reflected the will of the majority, particularly black people," the conference voted to promote the petition in churches, schools, communities and places of work.

"The purpose of the national petition campaign is to build on and solidify the consensus represented in the positions Rev. Jackson has taken," said Johnny Fair, a trade union leader from Baltimore. Fair emphasized that

Jackson has taken "strong positions ranging from job-training programs, to special taxes on large corporations in order to fund human needs, to ending U.S. interference in the internal affairs of other sovereign countries."

Conference organizers said local press conferences will be held in cities throughout the country to show people's views on the issues and "expose" some of the old leadership they consider to be out of touch with the people.

"We want Rev. Jackson to be joined by thousands at the People's Convention and the Democratic Convention, both to be held in San Francisco in July," said Dr. Mary Hoover of Long Beach, Calif., a conference co-convenor. "Those thousands should be backed by hundreds of thousands organized locally throughout the country."

HUD finding ways to desegregate public housing

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has launched a study it hopes will determine workable approaches to the racial desegregation of public housing throughout the United States.

HUD Secretary Samuel B. Pierce Jr. has announced that the department has awarded a \$70,000 contract to International Business Services Inc., a minority-owned firm based in Washington, D.C., to study desegregation strategies that work and those that fail.

The assistant secretary for Public and Indian Housing, Warren T. Lindquist, welcomed the study, saying that, despite HUD's requirement that PHAs accept and assign applicants on a first-come, first-served basis without regard to race, segregation persists in public housing

authorities in many areas.

"We must do everything we can to assist public housing agencies in alleviating segregated conditions where they exist -- preferably through voluntary compliance," said Antonio Monroig, HUD assistant secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "Our objective is to desegregate public housing found in violation of the Constitution or Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We will do this as quickly as we can using every means available to the department."

With HUD field staff assisting, the research firm will study innovative desegregation techniques that have proved successful, as well as desegregation programs that have failed to achieve results.

Black papers and readership up, says professor

BOSTON -- A Boston University journalism professor who has studied the black press for the past 15 years has reported an increase in both the number of black newspapers and their reported readership. According to the researcher, his findings mark a reversal in the downward trend he had observed since beginning a series of surveys in 1970.

However, Henry LaBrie, an assistant professor of journalism at Boston University's School of Public Communication, has words of caution for the nation's black press. He warns that publishers may have to offer more stringent methods of auditing the number of readers reported to advertisers or run the risk of losing advertising revenue.

According to LaBrie's survey, more than 185 black newspapers are published in the U.S. Three are dailies and most of the others are weeklies.

"There are a few more newspapers than there were five years ago, and the circulation is up, seemingly," says LaBrie. "Just how much it's up is hard to say, although it appears to be up about 700,000, or about 23 percent."

But the problem, says LaBrie, is determining the real number of readers, since only 33 of the black newspapers use outside services to audit their circulations.

LaBrie says this poses a danger to the black press because advertisers are less willing to buy ad space without verified circulation.

He also suggests that black publishers adopt new communications technologies, develop aggressive staff recruiting and training programs and improve the graphic appearance of their papers.

"Very few black papers have gone into computerization or upgraded printing facilities," says LaBrie. "In fact, the survey showed only 15 of the papers have their own printing facilities."

Fire Prevention

Last chance for spring cleaning

By THOMAS FLYNN
 Syndicated Columnist

The birds are back from the South...the crocuses are in bloom...your income tax soon will be past due. There's no disputing any more that spring has sprung. And with spring comes the annual ritual called spring cleaning. If you haven't gone through your house in search of winter debris by now, you'd better hurry. Not only are your neighbors starting to talk about you, but you could be sharing your home with a number of five hazards.

How much paper are you keeping? Old newspapers, cardboard boxes you'll never use and similar detritus? How many old cleaning rags have become thoroughly saturated with flammables like cleaning fluid, snow-blower fuel or shoe polish? In a closet, attic or corner of the basement, a pile of such material is an invitation to spontaneous combustion. Put it in a metal garbage can

and get rid of it.

Newspaper can be sold to recycling firms in most communities for a few dollars a ton -- or you can save yourself the aggravation and announce to your area Boy Scout troop that your papers are there for the taking.

Have your winter appliances inspected by repairmen before you put them away. If there's a hazardous defect in your space heater or electric blanket, it'll only cost more to have it fixed in the fall -- and incomparably more if the appliances sets your house on fire next winter. Snow-throwers should be tuned, adjusted and drained of fuel before they're put away for the summer.

This is a good time to sort all of your possessions. Items you never use are just more things to catch fire, or to trip over if you're escaping from something else that has caught fire. Rent a mini-storage room for a few

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The school prayer question From Page A1

Both opponents and proponents of the prayer amendment have predicted that the outcome of last week's vote would be used as ammunition in the upcoming presidential and congressional elections. If Richard Viguerie, who raises funds and dispatches political messages through a direct-mail firm near Washington, is correct, the war has already begun.

"This is shaping up to be the No. 1 issue that the New Right will use against senators if they voted wrong," said Viguerie last week in an interview with the L.A. Times-Washington Post News Service. "Also, we will be sending out 15 million letters for two major clients who are making independent expenditures on behalf of the Reagan campaign. We will talk about Hart's and Mondale's positions against school prayer."

But Rodney says he's not interested in the political aspects of the prayer amendment. "I see prayer as a valuable element in our lives," he says.

And Butler suggests that the ideology of separation of church and state is misunderstood by the masses.

"Congress begins its day with prayer, and schools ought to do the same thing," he says. "Don't confuse that with the separation of church and state. God is over the state like God is over the church. We cannot say we must keep the state separate from God when God is over the state. The state is subordinate to God."

"Prayer means we must develop consciousness for God, and that's not political," says Butler.

Alderman Martha Wood expressed contentment with the Senate's vote.

"I'm a Baptist and I believe in the separation of church and state," she says. "... I don't depend on the public school system to teach religion. If we get to this point, we're all in trouble."

Wood also questions the political intentions of the proponents of prayer in the public schools.

"I think it has been misinterpreted -- the separation of church state issue -- with regards to public prayer -- by Sen. Helms and Sen. East," she says. "I am most concerned when that item is first on the agenda. My religion is too important to me to make pablum out of it -- I just can't support that approach."

Counters Butler: "We ought to understand that America is founded on Christian principles. The Pilgrims were motivated to worship freely. Prayer ought to saturate our lives."

"We have a tendency to forget that prayer rules our government -- and we mustn't forget that."


Chris Blakely and Michael Wingate, students in the local school system, think public school prayer would work if students could be assured that they would have a choice in the matter.

"It should be all right as long as teachers don't make people pray who don't want to," says Blakely, a seventh-grader at Southwest Junior High.

"If a person is religious, he has a right to pray," says Wingate, an 11th-grader at West Forsyth Senior High. "All Gods are the same, and people have a right to pray. They just pray different."

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