



## Someone You Should Meet

**Someone You Should Meet**  
**Name:** Betty L. Mack  
**Job Title:** Quarter office manager  
**Company:** Headquarters  
**Address:** 1500 S. Main Street  
**Describe yourself in:**  
 "Open-minded"  
**Hobbies:** Reading, swimming, working with children  
**Favorite Book:** The Bible  
**Favorite Movie:** Sounder  
**Person you admire most:** Mother  
**Days, week and year:**  
**Volunteering:**  
**Career Goal:** To complete a degree in music and special education and ultimately become an opera singer.

(photo by James Parker)

## NEWS DIGEST

National, state and local news briefs compiled by John Slade

### NAACP hails dismissal of charges against Geter

NEW YORK -- NAACP Executive Director Benjamin L. Hooks says he is overjoyed at the recent dismissal of armed robbery charges against Lenell Geter, a black engineer. Dallas prosecutors dismissed the charges after witnesses identified another suspect in the robbery of a fast-food restaurant five years ago.

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People hails the March 21 announcement by Dallas County District Attorney Henry Wade of the dismissal of armed robbery charges against Lenell Geter," said Hooks. "This is another example of the longtime, victorious legal work of the NAACP. Once again, the 75-year-old organization has come to the aid of a victim of a gross miscarriage of justice."

Geter served 18 months of a life sentence before na-

tional media attention brought his case to the forefront. He was then released and a new trial date set pending the outcome of lie detector tests by the Dallas Police Department. NAACP lawyers objected and had Geter undergo polygraph tests in New York, which he passed.

"The defense of Mr. Geter by the Association required considerable legal research and expense," said Hooks. "The NAACP succeeded in winning Mr. Geter's freedom through the diligence of our assistant general counsel, George E. Hairston, and the help of the Dallas NAACP office."

Prior to Geter obtaining his freedom, Hooks said the outcome of Geter's plight might have an effect on whether Dallas would remain the site of the NAACP's national convention this year.

### Black Reagan appointees face ire of Congress

WASHINGTON -- Two blacks who head federal agencies came under fire recently for what their critics consider a withdrawal of leadership in the field of civil rights.

When Clarence Pendleton, President Reagan's choice to head the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and Clarence Thomas of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission sought appropriations totaling almost \$175 million for their budgets next year, they faced the wrath of several politicians who took the opportunity to criticize the two.

Thomas, who wants \$161.2 million for EEOC, was criticized for powerlessness in the wake of the Justice Department's proposed appeal of a women's pay suit in Washington state. Federal Judge Jack Tanner, a black, ruled that state must raise the pay of underpaid women workers, a decision that could cost the state more than \$500 million. However, Assistant Attorney General

William Bradford Reynolds has indicated that he will appeal the precedent-setting decision.

Thomas responded that he favors equal wages, but that the EEOC could not block any Justice Department action and does not have the authority to file briefs in such matters. One angered congressman told Thomas, "You might as well stay home and we'll mail you a check."

Pendleton's critics have charged the Civil Rights Commission with ineffectiveness brought on by close connections to the White House. Black, Hispanic and women's groups are urging Congress to stop funding the organization, an action Pendleton denounces as "motivated by ignorance of the facts or purely partisan brinkmanship."

His opponents charge that the commission has become an "arm of the White House" and has been newly staffed with Reaganites.

### Africa mourns death of Guinea's Sekou Toure

DAKAR, Senegal -- The death of Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure last week is being viewed in much of Africa as a severe blow to efforts to attain peace and bring unity to the continent.

The 62-year-old Sekou Toure died early last week after heart surgery in Cleveland, Ohio, ending 26 years of rule in the country he led to independence from France in 1958. Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui, 61 and a close associate of Sekou Toure's, has been chosen as his temporary replacement. Western diplomatic observers say Beavogui is the likely successor.

In Washington, the Department of State hailed Sekou

Toure as "an internationally respected statesman whose efforts on behalf of peaceful settlements of disputes had earned him and his country an enviable reputation for peacemaking."

Sekou Toure had been flown to the Cleveland Clinic on a plane arranged by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia after a team of physicians from the clinic examined the Guinean president in Guinea, said Frank Weaver, a spokesman for the clinic. Sekou Toure's doctors were unable to stop massive internal bleeding, which killed him, Weaver said.

Sekou Toure was to become chairman of the Organization of African Unity next month in the Guinean capital.

## Fire Prevention

### The crazy world of flammable liquids

By THOMAS FLYNN  
 Syndicated Columnist

We call them flammable liquids, but as liquids, they don't burn.

It's even possible to extinguish a highway flare by submerging it in gasoline. (Don't try it; just take my word for it.) Flammable liquids -- from gasoline to paint thinner to plastic model cement -- are flammable because they release vapors -- gases which burn with explosive violence. Knowing how flammable liquids really burn can keep you safe from a host of fire hazards that just aren't apparent to unaided common sense.

The Federal Hazardous Substances Act divides flammable liquids into three classes according to their characteristic vapor temperatures. *Extremely flammable* liquids, including gasoline, white gas, contact adhesives and some wood stains, release ignitable vapors at room temperature and even below 20 degrees Fahrenheit! *Flammable* liquids, including paint thinners, some paints and automotive brake fluid, also produce ignitable vapors but only at higher temperatures.

Meanwhile, *combustible* liquids such as fuel oil, diesel

oil and kerosene don't release ignitable vapors and are, therefore, more difficult to ignite accidentally.

The fire-wise homeowner realizes the danger of vapors produced by highly flammable liquids, using them with care and only when necessary.

These vapors are heavier than air and will spread along the floor for long distances. The fire record bursts with cases where a spark produced in an electric motor or even a light switch detonated a cloud of invisible vapor released by an open container of flammable liquid on the other side of the house.

Here are some simple rules for using flammable liquids wisely:

- Use them away from any flame or source of sparks. Of course, that means no smoking. That also means beware of furnace and water heater pilot lights or exposed space heater coils. Gasoline is never a safe cleaning fluid for clothing, metal parts or anything else. It's too flammable -- use it only as a fuel in equipment designed for it.
- Gasoline-powered equipment such as chain saws and

Please see page A12

## Crime Prevention

### Known suspect threatens, robs woman

The following "Crime Box Score" is designed to keep you abreast of criminal activity in your community during the past week and to help you protect your family and property from crime.

- Armed Robbery**
  - 1400 block, Ivy Avenue  
A known suspect threatened to hit the complainant with a large stick if she did not give him her money, which she did. The suspect has been arrested.
  - 500 block, Northwest Boulevard  
The suspect entered a business and asked the manager the price of 12 bags of coal. When the manager returned with the price, the suspect knocked him down, drew a small handgun and demanded money. The suspect then took money from the manager and the company deposit bag. The manager was tied up, beaten and kicked. The suspect, who also stole the manager's keys, started the manager's car and then jumped out and ran behind the building. The suspect is described as a 5-10, 175-pound, 35- to 40-year-old, clean-shaven black male.
  - 1600 block, Cleveland Avenue  
The complainant and three other victims were staying at their cousin's house to look after it for him. When the complainant answered the front door, two suspects pushed their way inside. One pulled out a handgun and the other held a sawed-off shotgun. The complainant was assaulted, and he and his friends were robbed of their money and pocketbooks. The investigation is continuing.
- Storebreaking**
  - 1500 block, East 14th Street  
A large amount of money was taken from several video game machines.
  - 500 block, Trade Street  
An officer on patrol discovered a break-in. A large amount of clothing was taken.

- 3500 block, Patterson Avenue  
A large amount of jewelry and watches were recovered on the sidewalk after an apparent break-in. An inventory is under way to determine what was stolen.
  - 2700 block, Shorefair Drive  
A Skil saw, a coffeemaker and a hot plate were taken.
  - 1300 block, Patterson Avenue  
A 12-volt battery charger, several boxes of spark plugs, four heaters and tools were taken.
  - Housebreaking**
    - 1500 block, East 23rd Street  
A Zenith television, Philco television, Whirlpool washing machine, chest freezer, two end tables and a brass bed frame were taken.
    - 600 block, East 27th Street  
A Sansui stereo system, two speakers and one mixer were taken.
  - Larceny**
    - 1600 block, Patterson Avenue  
An N.C. registration plate was taken.
    - 2800 block, Cherry Street  
A cassette recorder was taken.
    - 3000 block, Waightown Street  
Shoes were taken.
    - 3500 block, Patterson Avenue  
Peanuts were taken.
    - 4300 block, Ogburn Avenue  
A Huffy bicycle was taken.
    - 1300 block, Locust Street
- Please see page A12

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