



## Someone You Should Meet ...

**Name:** Esther Rockette  
**Job Title:** Personnel officer  
**Hometown:** Washington, D.C.  
**Describe Yourself in one word:** "Vivacious"  
**Hobbies:** Sports, dancing, talking to youth groups and handicrafts  
**Favorite Book:** "Games Mother Never Taught You" by Betty L. Haragan  
**Favorite Movie:** "Mary Poppins" and "Star Wars"  
**Person admires most:** Mordecai Johnson, past president of Howard University and Shirley Chisholm  
**Career Goal:** "To establish my own personnel consulting firm."

(If you are single, at least 18 years old, doing something positive in the community, employed and interested in appearing in this column, or if you know someone who meets these criteria, please send your name and daytime telephone number to: Someone You Should Meet, Winston-Salem Chronicle, P.O. Box 2151, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.)

(photo by James Parker)

## NEWS DIGEST

National, state and local news briefs compiled by Greg Brown

### Housing Secretary Pierce to keep post

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Samuel R. Pierce Jr., the Reagan administration's highest-ranking black, says he will remain in that job during President Reagan's second term.

Prior to this month's general election, Pierce, the only black Cabinet member, had said he might step down from the post and return to his New York law practice. He agreed to keep the job after President Reagan telephoned him and asked him to stay, a press release from the Department of Housing and

Urban Development said.

Pierce said one of the department's priorities during the next four years will be to press for Congressional enactment of the president's proposal for urban enterprise zones, which he said would relieve unemployment in economically depressed areas.

The housing secretary also praised the department's minority assistance program, which he said has awarded millions of dollars in contracts to small, minority-owned businesses.

### S. Africa arrests two black union leaders

PRETORIA, South Africa -- The South African government has arrested two leading black trade unionists who oppose the government's apartheid racial policies.

Phiroshaw Camay, general secretary of the Council of Unions of South Africa and a member of the executive board of International Confederation of Trade Unions, and Chris Dlamini, president of the Federation of South African Trade Unions, were arrested in a security roundup of leading proponents of democracy and majority rule.

Camay and Dlamini were arrested after a peaceful two-day, stay-away strike which reported-

ly brought South Africa's industry to a standstill. Critics of the government, including the American AFL-CIO, said the detentions are a repudiation of Pretoria's public commitment to black labor reform and protection of black workers' rights.

"In a year that has seen an accelerated assault on the rights of its black citizens and a systemic suppression of internal dissent, it is clear that South Africa desires to live as an international outlaw, flouting civilized norms and practices," said an AFL-CIO press release from Washington, calling for the release of all blacks arrested during the recent roundup.)

### O.A.U. sees 'alarming' economic situation

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia -- The Organization of African Unity ended its 20th meeting last Thursday expressing concern at the "alarming economic deterioration" of the African continent.

Delegates to the four-day meeting said that the majority of the 50 O.A.U. members are dependent upon food aid from abroad. They called for renewed talks under United Nations auspices for a "new world economic order" and asked the World Bank and developed countries to establish a special fund

for Sub-Saharan development to combat drought and famine.

The O.A.U. also pledged additional funds for groups fighting South Africa.

Peter Onu of Nigeria, the O.A.U.'s acting secretary, would continue in that post. Onu was elected when the delegates were unable to select a new acting secretary from between two other candidates after nine ballots.

### Pendleton calls comparable pay 'looney'

WASHINGTON -- The chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights last week said that comparable pay for women is "the looniest idea since Looney Tunes came on the screen."

Clarence M. Pendleton Jr. said the comparable pay issue should raise a "lively debate" when the eight-member commission discusses the issue early next year.

Pendleton made the remarks during a press conference where 16 scholarly papers about com-

parable pay were presented. Linda Chavez, the commission's staff director, told reporters at the conference that comparable pay is "against the grain of what the women's movement has stood for the last 20 years" -- the opening of doors to traditionally male jobs.

By forcing salaries higher in some traditionally female jobs, Pierce said, comparable pay could backfire if employers decide to cutback employee benefits.

## Relief efforts lag

From Page A1

ticism that what is contributed will ever reach its intended destination.

"People have seen the suffering on TV but they also have seen the food stacked up on the docks that's not getting to the people," he said. "There is a problem with distribution. The Ethiopian government and some of the cities are living high on the hog. They just spent \$100 million for some kind of celebration (the 10th anniversary of the coup that brought President Mengistu Haile Mariam to power). That might be another factor."

Nevertheless, the Red Cross

will begin a national \$5 million fund-raising campaign on Jan. 6. The money, said Haste, will be used to purchase such foods as dried cereal and fish, provide medical staff and relief personnel, purchase vehicles to transport the food and install long-range food production systems.

Although no programs as such have been held in the black community, a number of groups and organizations throughout the city have sponsored activities that focus attention on world hunger. Some of the money from the CROP Walk, sponsored by Church World Services, will be

sent to Ethiopia. In addition, such groups as Bread for the World, Oxfam America and the Board of Home Land Missions of the Moravian Church have initiated programs to aid Ethiopia.

The Rev. Cedric Rodney, chaplain at Winston-Salem State University, said the university is planning a fund-raising program that should be implemented in two weeks.

As for groups or individuals wanting to provide aid through his agency, Haste said, the Red Cross prefers that they give donations that will be used to purchase food, versus actual food, since food is too expensive to ship.

## Parents transmit racial attitudes

By Dr. M.L. CLARK  
 Wake Forest University

When do children develop a sense of racial identity? At what age do they recognize racial differences? These questions have been studied since the 1920s and a lot has been learned since then.

There are a number of different terms that are used when assessing racial attitudes. Racial awareness is the ability to distinguish between racial groups by using physical characteristics. Racial identification is the ability to correctly classify oneself racially. Racial attitudes involve the good-bad evaluation of racial groups.

As early as three years of age and certainly by four, most children have developed a sense of racial awareness. They use information about skin color, facial features, hair color and hair texture to classify people into racial groups.

Skin color is the most important feature used to determine whether a person is black or white. It is not unusual for a black child to say that a light-skinned black American or that a suntanned white person is black. It is difficult for preschoolers to integrate information about skin color with other features determining racial identity.

In addition, black Americans are a mixture of many racial groups and have diverse physical characteristics. This makes it even more difficult for black preschoolers to grasp the concept of black American.

White American culture and its language perpetuate a positive evaluation of whiteness and a negative evaluation of blackness. Children learn that white is positive by hearing terms such as "white lie" and seeing white associated with cleanliness and purity. The term black, on the other hand, has negative meanings, as reflected by the words "blackmail" and "black market" and its association with dirtiness and darkness.

In the past, good cowboys on television were

always dressed in white, while the bad ones were always in black. Although we have shifted from cowboys to space invaders, the messages are still the same. Darth Vader was dressed in black to give him the appearance of being evil and there was constant reference to him as being part of the dreaded "dark side."

Thus, children internalize the message that black is bad and white is good. However, they must use these same words to label racial groups and, consequently, young black children may begin to see dark skin as negative.

By the age of five or six, many children are aware that you cannot distinguish a black person by skin color alone and one must use other information about hair type and facial features. As they enter school, they are well on their way to establishing full-fledged racial attitudes.

The positive or negative nature of these attitudes will depend greatly on the family. Children tend to accept and imitate the values and behaviors of parents. Some black and white parents may instruct their children to stay away from those of different racial groups. More often, children pick up the parents' attitudes indirectly by overhearing conversations or watching interracial interactions.

White parents who lock their car door when entering black neighborhoods are passing on negative attitudes about blacks. Middle-class black parents who do the same thing when traveling through economically depressed black areas of town are guilty of passing on a similar negative message about low-income black Americans.

Television and books also transmit society's racial attitudes. Black children who watch "Webster" or "Different Strokes" are indirectly being told that the best thing that can happen to a black child is to be adopted or taken in by a white family. Television has not allowed stable black families to survive, but the Bill Cosby show is a step in the right direction.

Please see page A5

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