

Hoyle H. Martin Sr.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



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James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was persistent in his testimony before the House Select Committee on Assassination last week in claiming that he did not kill King. However, reams of evidence produced, the Committee and expert cross-examination shattered Ray's plea of innocence.

Lydia Monice Jackson, 19, from Willingboro, N.J., was crowned Miss Black America for 1978 on Friday night in Philadelphia. Miss Jackson is a student at Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Md. Among the 29 contestants from 27 states was Dehava Marie Drake, 22, Miss Black America of North Carolina.

The Local sponsoring committee for the establishment of an Urban League affiliate in Charlotte has named a 27-member board of directors pending the granting of a charter by the national organization. Harold Hansen, First Union National Bank's city executive, was elected chairman. George Battle, pastor of Gethsemane AME Zion Church, was elected vice chairman.

Despite the economic boom and growing industrialization in the South, a study by the Institute for Southern Studies in Chapel Hill, based on census data reveals a gap between the rich and poor that has hardly changed in 25 years.

While minorities - including women - have made substantial gains in the 16 years since the Civil Rights Act (1964), white men have gained too and at a much faster pace, according to a report released

last week by the Civil Rights Commission.

The report used for the first time the most advantaged group - white men - as a standard of comparison to include that they have moved faster in gaining better education, jobs, income and housing.

The number of U.S. family households headed by a single or divorced has increased by 46 percent since 1970, according to a recent Census Bureau report. The report shows that in March 1978, nearly 8 million, or 11 percent of the nation's 76 million households, were headed by a woman without a husband present. That represents an increase of 2.5 million since 1970. However, in 1978 47.4 million households or 62 percent, were maintained by married couples.

Of the 4,300 teachers in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, 25 percent took all of their sick days during the last school year. Schools administrators said this means some teachers are abusing the privilege.

Military service's top commanders have been told by Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Bernard Rogers, to find out why black soldiers more often receive harsher punishment than whites and to "eliminate any discriminatory handling of soldiers."

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Five Of Today's Top Acts Performed Here Last Week

By Cynthia Bell
Post Staff Writer
Five of today's top acts performed at the Charlotte Coliseum last Friday night before the near capacity crowd as the Newcomers, Bohannon, Mass Production, Betty Wright, and the Barkays jammed into the wee hours of morning.

The Newcomers who sang from a selection that included their single, "That's When You'll Know" was a terrific opening act that got the crowd in the mood for Bohannon's foot stumping music. Inspiring the crowd with the mere sound of his name, Bohannon started them up anew with his hit like "Let's Start The Dance."

After dancing through two acts, Charlotte proved that they were definitely ready for Mass Production who made them disco down with the exception of one mellow tune that they played.

With all the disco action going down, Betty Wright came on to clean the whole show up. No one expected her to come on stage to the music of "Clean Up Woman," but she did just that. Her list of impersonation ranged from Sylvia to the O'Jays.

The Bar-Kays, by far the

sexiest men on the show was one of the reasons they were on the top of the show in this writer's opinion. They shook

their rump to the funk of their latest, "Let's Have Some Fun" as well as many others by these veteran showmen.

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