

# Council Of Senior Citizens Concerned Over Increasing Health Care Costs

By Audrey C. Lodato  
Post Staff Writer

One of the issues being addressed by the newly formed Mecklenburg Council of Senior Citizens is the problem of ever-increasing health care costs. While this is an issue affecting the nation as a whole, it is of particular concern to the elderly. The Council recently put together a Health Action Checklist composed of five questions related to the health care crisis in this country. The checklist was sent to local candidates, as well as gubernatorial, senatorial, and presidential candidates.

Key questions needing to be addressed by office holders concern Medicare assignment, Medicaid financing, holding down out-of-pocket costs, health care cost containment, and the solvency of the Medicare trust.

By accepting Medicare assignment, a physician must agree to accept Medicare's reasonable charge as payment in full for the service. About half of the physicians accept assignment on a case-by-case basis. Less than 20 percent accept all of their Medicare patients on assignment. When a physician does not accept assignment, patients must not only pay up-front and wait to be reimbursed by Medicare, but they must also pay any excess charges not covered by Medicare.

According to the Mecklenburg Council of Senior Citizens, the Medicare program pays for less than half of the medical expenses of people over age 65. Under current law, Medicare beneficiaries' out-of-pocket expenses will have grown from an average of \$698 in 1977 to almost \$5,000 by the year 2000.

The Mecklenburg Council's "Report Card On Health," a summary of the responses of the



At the recent "Crisis In Health Care Rally" held in Marshall Park, Charlotteans gathered to speak out about the rising cost of health care for low-income and elderly people. Among the speakers to address the

crowd were 9th District Congressional candidate D. G. Martin and Rod Autry, County Commissioner candidate. (Photo By Tema Okun)

candidates for the top three political races, indicates that Mondale responded favorably to all five items on the checklist. Hunt and D.G. Martin each gave four 'yes'

answers. Besides Mondale, Hunt, and Martin, others responding to the checklist included Democratic gubernatorial candidate, Rufus

Edmisten; Republican candidate for Congress, Alex McMillan; Democratic candidates for the State House, Howard C. Barnhill and Jim Richardson; Republican candidate

for the State House, Marjorie Murray; Jim Long, who is running for Insurance Commissioner; and County Commissioner candidates, T.L. Odom, Bob Walton, Rod Autrey, and Raleigh Bynum. Although President Reagan did not use the checklist, he did send a position paper on several of the issues.

The Mecklenburg Council of Senior Citizens was organized by the senior Organizing Project, an arm of the Carolina Community Project. According to organizer Melvin Whitley, the Council also plans to address such issues as taxes, utility rates, housing, and other social and economic problems which particularly impact on the area's elderly.

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## Ray Arrington Is Very Excited About SCSF Golf Tournament

By James Cuthbertson  
Post Sports Writer

Mr. Ray Arrington is very excited about a project that he is working on.

The pace is slow at this point in time, he said, but he anticipates that it will pick up.

The Special Children's Sports Foundation, Inc. is sponsoring the first annual Mayors Trophy competition, a 36-hole Captain's Choice Golf Tournament for businesses that will be held at the Pawtucket Golf Course.

The tournament is being held through October 31, it began on September 10.

"Our purpose is to raise funds for the SCS Foundation, to organize assistance for disadvantaged youth through special sports training in golf, tennis, swimming, and financial assistance during the school and college years," he said.

Arrington added, "We are inviting participants to participate and win prizes and trophies and to learn about the Special Children's Sports Foundation which is aimed at helping disadvantaged youth."

A long range goal of the SCS Foundation is to rent or lease a building suitable for installing golf nets for lessons and basic practice by January, 1985.

Within three years, they expect to have a driving range and a club house.

In four years, they plan to have a par three golf course.

Housing is planned for the project to house weekenders and out of town students.

Five years down the road, they expect to have one regulation, 18-hole golf course, tennis courts and a swimming and diving pool.

The Foundation is calling this 30 Days of Golfing Madness.

Golfers will have a chance to win a 1984 Eldorado Biarritz and \$20,000 in hole-in-one prizes.

A closest to the pin prize of \$100 is being won daily on each of the par three's.

Individuals and teams will play for \$8,000 consisting of handicap, Captain's Choice and mixed four-ball events.

A golf vacation for two valued at \$2,000 will be awarded through a drawing.

## Get Acquainted

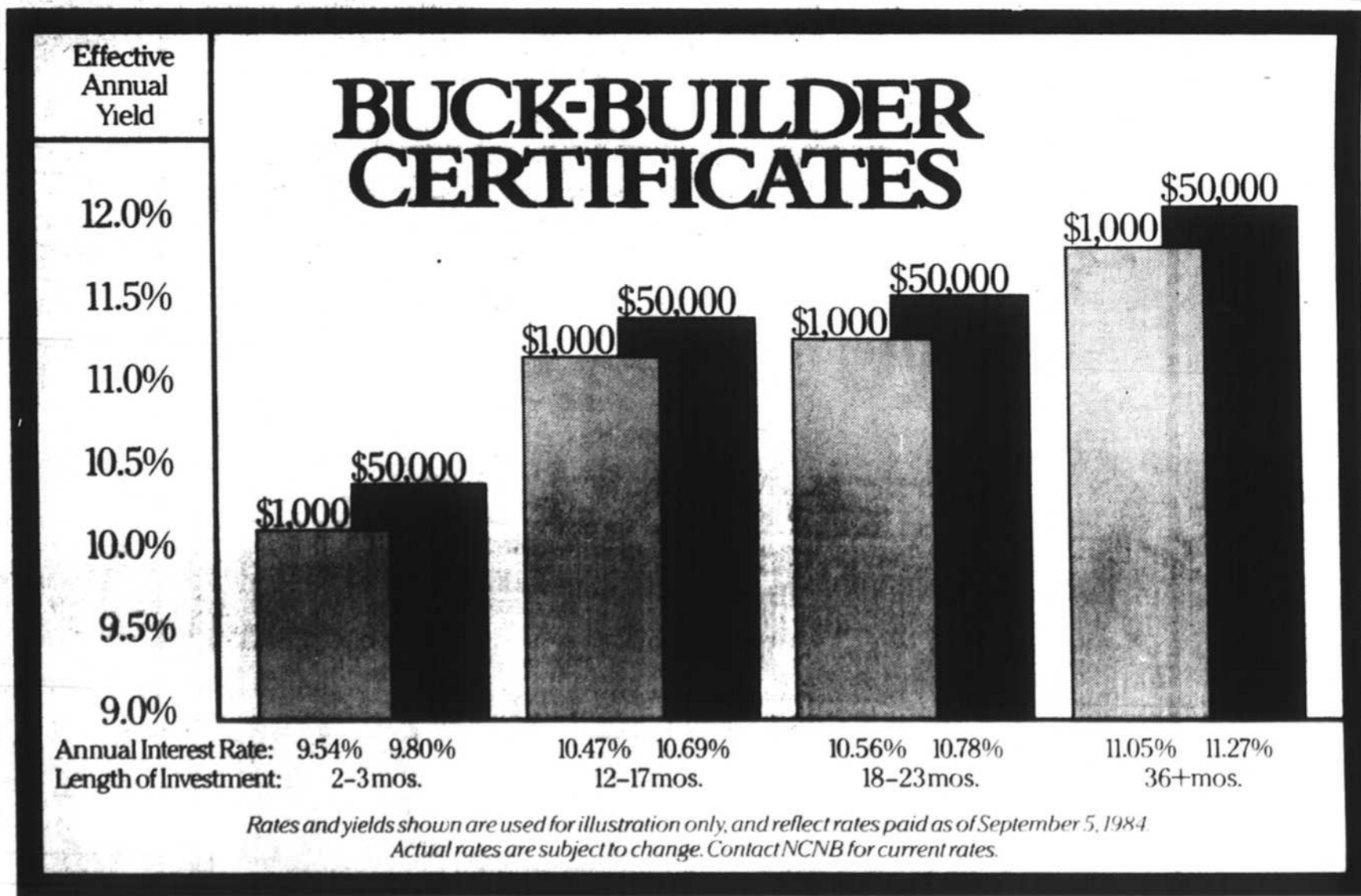
On Sunday, September 30, at 5 p.m. the Charlotte Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. will kick off its 21st annual Debutante Cotillion with a "Get Acquainted" mix in the Student Union of Johnson C. Smith University.

Prospective debutantes, accompanied by their parents, will be presented a calendar of planned activities beginning with a Pajama Party, October 13.

This year's Cotillion, slated to be one of the best, will be held on March 23, 1985 at the Park Center. The debutantes will vie for scholarships and proceeds, according to Daisy Stroud, sorority spokesperson, will be donated to worthy community projects. Elaine Brown is sorority president with Cotillion chairpersons Royce Buck and Dorothy Johnson.

Additional information may be received by calling Buck at 535-0773 weekdays from 5-7 p.m.

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