

Turner hopes latest play causes people self-examination/1B

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Blue works to shift burden on working class

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

When the legislature convenes in May, N.C. Rep. Dan Blue will be working on repealing the state's tax on food, since the state expects to have a healthy surplus.

"Since we have an excess, thanks to the policies we put in place in the late '80s, we have money to repeal the Food tax," said

Blue, who was Speaker of the House until Republicans took control after the 1994 election. "The question is whether we want to give relief to business, as Republicans want to do, or spread relief down to the people."

In an interview on the eve of his visit to Charlotte to keynote the Martin Luther King prayer breakfast Monday, Blue discussed what's happening at the state

and national levels as the Republicans carry out their "Contract with America."

Republicans want to punish the poor and the elderly with cuts disguised as returning control for social programs to the states, Blue said.

If North Carolina gets \$500 million less from the federal government, the state will have to drastically cut

services, Blue said.

The Republican plan to replace federally-run programs with block grants to the states

"will not work," he said.

"It is not possible to do more with less money," said Blue.

"There is no way the state could deliver the same level of services such as

"I think again it is to going to the question of Republican Congress wanting to generally cut services.. They want to cut services to elderly, Medicare and Medicaid. They want to cut services to the poor population, programs that give opportunity to young children."

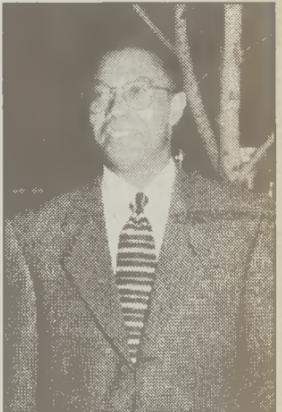
-Dan Blue

Medicare, Medicaid, child care, Head Start.

"The question would be where would you decide to eliminate something. What would you eliminate to make Head Start dollars go just as far? And unless you going to control or cut the amount doctors charge, you are not going to cut Medicare.

"It's a question of cutting services and deciding where you are going to cut," Blue said.

"I think again it is to going to the question of the Republican Congress wanting to generally cut services. They



Dan Blue

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REMEMBERING KING AND THE DREAM



Bernice King, daughter of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King (center) leads prayer at her father's crypt Monday during memorial services in Atlanta. Flanking her are Bernice King's mother Coretta; brothers Martin Luther King III and Dexter King and President Clinton.

PHOTO/ WADE NASH



Amber Cox of Harding High School holds her saxophone aloft during the annual Martin Luther King parade uptown. The Charlotte procession is the largest of its kind in North Carolina. The parade started at West Charlotte High School and finished at the Charlotte Convention Center.

PHOTO/ PAUL WILLIAMS, III

Clover, S.C. conference focuses on black males

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A South Carolina group will introduce boys to manhood next week.

Clover-based Brothers United For Change will host its second Black Male Conference Jan. 26-28 at Clover Middle School. Organizers hope to attract 500

African American youngsters between ages 7-18 and their families to the event. The conference is a grassroots campaign to address issues that affect young black men and their families.

Several events are planned for the conference, starting with a kick-off community worship service Sunday at 3 p.m. at Weeping Mary Baptist Church in Bowling Green,

Second conference hopes to attract 500 youngsters, 7-18

S.C. A revival service will be held Monday with the Rev. Claude William, pastor of Mt. Clement AME Zion Church, as guest speaker.

Among the participants

invited to the three-day conference are Charlotte-based Save The Seed, Delta Sigma Theta sorority and Dee Sumpter, founder of Mothers of Murdered Offspring.

Workshops will be held on a variety of subjects, including "Navigating the school system;" "For sisters only;" "A talk about HIV/AIDS" and "Winning against the odds." Special conference sessions will include dialogue with The Insiders of the S.C. Juvenile Detention Center and Operation Get Smart of the S.C. Dept. of Corrections. A Greek step show featuring fra-

ternities and sororities from Winthrop University, Johnson C. Smith University and other area schools. The Soweto Street Beat Dance Company from South Africa will perform at the community fellowship Jan. 26 at 7 p.m.

Pre-registration for the conference is \$2 before Tuesday; \$3 on-site. For more information, call Brothers United For Change at (803) 222-5100.

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Queens College is off to a 12-1 record in basketball and a No. 12 ranking in the NCAA Division II poll. Story on Page 8B.

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Slave ship exhibit has no takers in Charlotte

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Another local museum has passed on an exhibit of the Henrietta Marie slave ship.

Discovery Place officials, who opted not to display the ship's artifacts, contend the exhibit does not fit its science mission and does not have enough "hands on" activities.

One Discovery Place official, African American Rudy Cooper, vice president of exhibits, also objected to what he called the "negative image" portrayed by the slave ship.

"We need to forget about slavery and move on," Cooper said two weeks ago.

Cooper and other Discovery Place officials have suggested that The Museum of the New South might be the appropri-

ate place for the exhibit. The museum opens this weekend in its permanent home at 324 N. College St. But executive director Emily Zimmern said the slave ship is not appropriate for her facility.

"As you know, we are a young institution," she said. "Our mission is to chronicle the history of Charlotte and Carolina Piedmont since 1877. We need to establish our identity. Regrettably, the slave ship Henrietta Marie does not fit in our purview. It doesn't fit in our mission."

"That's where it stands at this point," Zimmern said. "We want to be a servant to the community. But that's not the purpose of our museum. The purpose of our museum is



PHOTO/ MARCUS PATTION

About 5,000 people visited Detroit's Museum of African American History Monday to see the exhibit "A Slave Ship Speaks: The Wreck of The Henrietta Marie." Charlotte's Discovery Place refuses to bring the exhibit here, citing its negative spin on African American history.

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