

Speaker urges action for black health

By ANJETTA McQUEEN
Staff Writer

Open discussion of minority health issues could lead to successful health improvement, Bylye Avery told about 150 people during the 10th Annual Minority Health Conference's first Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Lecture.

Avery, director of the Atlanta-based National Black Women's Health Project, spoke on "Organizing for Social Change," in Rosenau auditorium Friday.

"We need to be organizing for the improvement of social status," she said. "Work around health activism can be exciting and stimulating."

"You can be surprised at what can happen when you move on a thought," she said.

Avery said she became aware of the health issues affecting black women while working on the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act program. Through working with the program she found poor health statistics for blacks.

Black women were not being told that

health statistics were against them, she said. "If they did (tell us), why didn't they tell us in a way that we could hear it."

Avery said she began organizing several minority health conferences around the country. The first conference took two years to plan, she said.

"We couldn't bring women from California to tell them what the infant mortality rate was," she said. "We had to have something more to offer."

The theory behind these conferences and workshops was activism, she said. No one could afford to look at health statistics as an abstraction, she said.

Avery said she advocated presentation of minority female health concerns to males and whites. One of her workshops, "Black and Female: The Reality," is heavily attended by whites and males.

"... Blacks have to realize that (whites and males) are hurting too," she said. "We are not the only ones carrying a cross."

She said the hardest lesson health educators had to learn was that people

have to have their own priorities. Many educators were frustrated because health was not a primary concern for some people, she said.

"I had been told low-income people don't care about their health," she said. "I couldn't believe women don't want to live."

The black community's sentiment that health concerns should be kept secret has hindered health improvements, she said.

"It is a conspiracy of silence... it kills us," she said. "We need to share our symptoms in discussion."

Avery said fear of discovery prevented many black women from exploring, discussing and improving their health status.

"Most black women are caretakers of the home, and we can't even take care of ourselves," she said.

Avery said the most important step in improving minority health status was the removal of all racial and socio-economic barriers.

"We need to learn to work effectively with our low-income brothers and

sisters," she said. "People can tell you what will work in their communities."

She said she realized people did not have to have medical degrees to take care of themselves.

Avery said that when she holds conferences at schools she does not develop plans without hearing student input.

Youth health concern has increased. Infant mortality and adolescent pregnancy are issues which need to be discussed with teenagers, she said.

"We all need to deal with the things that are taking our lives," she said.

Avery said an increased self-help awareness is crucial to health status improvements.

"If we all struggle for ourselves and our families, it makes a difference," she said. "It could break down the isolation, and we could work together."

Avery, a graduate of the University of Florida at Gainesville, said her husband's death prompted her to work in health activism. Her husband died of a heart attack in 1970, she said.

General Motors offers legal aid to black South African workers

From Associated Press reports

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — In an unusual anti-apartheid move, General Motors Corp. said Sunday it would give legal aid to any non-white employee charged with swimming at whites-only beaches.

Bob White, manager of GM's plant in the southern city of Port Elizabeth, said "legal and financial assistance" would be provided to any of its 1,800 black and mixed-race employees prosecuted for using segregated beaches.

The *Sunday Star*, a Johannesburg newspaper, said it was the first time a foreign-based company operating in South Africa had taken such an action against apartheid.

State & National

Senator lays odds on budget

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the Senate budget committee told the nation's governors Sunday that the balanced-budget law is "a planned train wreck," but he voiced optimism that Congress would act to avoid scheduled, automatic spending cuts.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said the odds are better than 50-50 that Congress will "pull the switch and the wreck will be avoided" by passing its own budget that meets the deficit-reduction targets of the Gramm-Rudman balanced-budget law.

Survey rates customer services offered to students at local banks

By ROB SHERMAN
Staff Writer

First Union National Bank offers the best banking plan for students, based on an informal survey of area banks concluded Thursday.

The survey compared the minimum balance necessary to avoid service charges on checking accounts. It also compared interest rates, service charges and electronic services.

The banks surveyed were North Carolina National Bank, Wachovia Bank and Trust, First Citizens Bank, Central Carolina Bank and First Union. All have branches in downtown Chapel Hill.

None of the banks offered a greater interest rate than 5.5 percent on either a statement savings or interest checking account. CCB offered a slightly lower rate, at 5.25 percent.

Tom Wilson, assistant branch manager of the First Union on Franklin Street, said this was an standard set by North Carolina law. He also said that the law was changed recently but was not sure if the interest rates would rise in the near future.

All of the banks surveyed offered electronic banking machines. David Hurley, a junior physics major from Montana, said he likes the bank machines because he could get money when the banks were closed. "I would use it when I was going to bars (on Franklin Street)," he said.

The only real difference between the services offered by the banks was the minimum balance required to avoid service charges. First Union's minimum

balance was the lowest — a \$300 balance in a statement savings account would result in no service charges on its Advantage Checking Account.

The other banks required higher minimum balances: CCB, \$600 minimum balance; Wachovia, \$500, minimum or \$1,250 average daily balance; NCNB, \$500 in statement savings or \$600 minimum, \$1,000 daily average balance in checking; First Citizens, \$500 minimum or \$1,000 average daily balance.

First Union also has the lowest service charges available, charging \$3 a month and 20 cents per item paid when the balance drops below \$300. This is the same service charge as First Citizens.

Wachovia's service charge is \$3 a month and 25 cents per item, and NCNB's is \$4 a month and 25 cents per item. CCB charges \$5 a month, but the first 10 items are paid without charge. Other items paid are 10 cents each.

These service charges can add up. Using First Union as an example, if a customer writes 15 checks a month, the yearly service charge will be \$72. If the lost interest is included then the customer has paid about \$90 more than he would have if he maintained the necessary balance.

Wilson said that student accounts make up about 90 percent of the business at First Union's Franklin Street branch. "We don't go out of our way to attract students, but we do offer competitive (and) convenient services."

N.C. Filipino group petitions Marcos regime

By KATHY NANNEY
Staff Writer

Members of N.C. Citizens for Philippine Concerns gathered over 750 signatures in Raleigh Friday on an anti-Marcos petition but said the murder of a Filipino journalist may have frightened some Filipinos away from the drive.

The petition called for a stop to U.S. military and economic aid to Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. Edward Binanay, coordinator of the organization, said he believed Filipinos in the United States have been afraid for the safety of their relatives in the Philippines when they have protested against the Marcos government.

The Wednesday slaying of Oscar Salvatierra, editor of the anti-Marcos *Philippine News*, contributed to the Filipinos' apprehension. Since the petition drive, Salvatierra's son has been arrested in connection with the slaying and investigators have discounted any

involvement by the Philippine government.

"Once you've made a commitment here, we've heard they have a list of people who are active against Marcos here," Binanay said. "But that's kind of unimportant when thousands and thousands of people back home are putting themselves in front of trucks and tanks (in government protest). It's not fair to say we're scared."

Binanay said he received phone calls from two Filipinos Friday who had planned to attend the rally but changed their minds upon hearing of the murder. One of the Filipinos called back after the arrest of Salvatierra's son, he said.

"... (The arrest) was tragic but in a way it was good news, to find that Marcos had not been involved," Binanay said.

The organization set up a small table draped in yellow paper, the campaign color of Marcos opponent Corazon Aquino, at the Fayetteville Street Mall. Six

people wearing yellow armbands walked the area near the table, requesting passers-by to sign the petitions, which also condemned the recent presidential elections as being marked by fraud and terrorism.

Hazel Snider, one of two other Filipinos present at the petition drive, said she had feared for her family during pre-election violence.

"I am from Duval City where there were two, three people killed every day during the elections," she said. "Always when I turned on the TV, I was afraid I would see my mother or brothers had been killed."

N.C. Citizens for Philippine Concerns is meeting with 4th District Rep. William Cobey today to present the petitions, Binanay said. Copies will also be sent to N.C. Sens. Jesse Helms and John East, who were two of nine senators who voted against a congressional resolution condemning the Philippine election as fraudulent.

Soviet communists to convene 27th congress this week

MOSCOW (AP) — Communist party leader Mikhail Gorbachev convenes a national party congress on Tuesday aimed at rekindling faith in the nation's leadership, spurring economic progress and setting a course for future foreign policy.

Five thousand Soviet delegates, joined by guests from foreign Communist parties, will gather at the Kremlin Palace of Congresses for more than a week of speeches and discussion of a revised party program, party rules and economic and political guidelines.

Gorbachev's congress will open exactly 30 years from the day that Nikita Khrushchev, at the 20th congress in 1956, denounced Josef Stalin's "cult of personality" and the bloody purges carried out in Stalin's name.

Gorbachev and many of the party officials, ministers and economic managers he has brought into power in his 11 months of rule were in their 20s then.

Khrushchev boasted of huge economic progress ahead for the Soviet Union. In the 1961 party program,

overseen by Khrushchev, the Kremlin promised the nation a near utopia. Khrushchev was ousted from power in 1964 and his name was nearly erased from history books.


After Khrushchev, power went to Leonid Brezhnev. He was ill during his final years as party chief, and was considered by many to be inattentive to economic and social problems and indulgent toward the old system.

Brezhnev was succeeded briefly by Yuri Andropov and Konstantin Cher-

nenko, neither of whom lived long enough to make major changes.

Gorbachev, 54, has brought to his job the image of an alert, impassioned leader eager to make progress. The congress will give his policies formal approval and usher in a new era.

Gorbachev's main speech and those by his top lieutenants could be used to announce new foreign policy initiatives. But most observers expect Gorbachev to focus on his domestic goal of improving the economy through greater discipline and technology.



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