

Union Students Smiling Bright

Students at Union Primary School in Shallotte have whiter, brighter smiles and a \$300 sweepstakes prize as a result of a month-long dental hygiene program conducted in February.

"It's an example of what happens when you have the right people in the right job," Principal Clara Carter said, praising the work of school nurse Karen Cooper.

During Dental Health Month, she said, Cooper arranged for dental screening of every child in school, as well as dental hygiene programs and lessons.

After completing the dental health program, Cooper entered the school in the "Super Smiles" sweepstakes sponsored by the N.C. Dental Society for participating schools, said Carter. In a drawing, the school won a check for \$300, which Carter and Cooper accepted in Raleigh last Friday, along with a certificate.

"We've set it aside," she said of the money.

Four People Injured In Wreck

Four people were seriously injured following a March 25 accident on N.C. 130 about three miles south of Shallotte.

Driver Harold Dean Tibbals, 58, of Supply, and his wife Joyce, 55, a passenger; and driver Finnie Morris Walker of Shallotte, 61, and his passenger, Alberta Faircloth, 52, of Supply, were treated at the Brunswick Hospital in Supply for class A injuries.

According to N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper R.L. Murray's report, the Tibbals were traveling north on N.C. 130 and Walker was driving south. When the two vehicles reached the intersection of S.R. 1132 and N.C. 130, Walker attempted to turn left in front of Tibbals. This caused Tibbals' front left fender to strike Walker's vehicle in the right front quarter.

Trooper Murray charged Walker with driving while intoxicated, according to the report.

The Tibbals' 1985 Chevrolet received approximately \$7,000 in damages while Walker's 1977 GMC station wagon received about \$700 in damages.

School Board To Begin Work On '87-'88 Budget

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County Board of Education members made plans Monday night to work on its 1987-88 budget.

Following a discussion centered around semantics, the board scheduled reviews of a "draft" of the proposed 1987-88 budget with a presentation at the board's May 4 meeting. It also set work sessions for May 7 on the public school fund and for May 11 and 12 on the local current expense and capital outlay budgets respectively.

The proposed budget is to go to the county manager by May 15. School board members will have copies for their personal review on or before May 1.

Members James Clemmons and Dorothy Worth questioned what they understood to be presentation of the budget in public before members had a chance to address it themselves. "We need to have it before the public gets it," said Clemmons. "If the public gets it first, it's not our budget."

But Chairman James Forstner noted that was the purpose of the budget meetings—to look at and change the budget before its final adoption and forwarding to the county for commissioners' consideration. "It's illegal for us to debate it in executive session," he pointed out.

When Clemmons noted that the current four-year plan, which was prepared by a previous board, is outdated, Forstner agreed. He suggested a separate meeting to update it.

Members also offered their suggestions for items to be addressed in the

upcoming budget and/or school year. These ranged from Clemmons' request to make sure the county meets state curriculum requirements first before expanding its elective offerings to Doug Baxley's request for a feasibility study on better use of volunteers in the school system.

"There's a lot of talent going to waste out there," Baxley noted, when more volunteers could be used for tasks such as tutoring in math and reading. "The Brunswick County Literacy Council is active with adults. Maybe it could expand its work with teenagers."

A presentation at the May meeting will review how several hundred volunteers are now helping local schools.

Community Involvement

In a related matter, information officer Jean Parker presented a draft of a proposal to generate greater involvement of community members in improvement of the schools, possibly by re-examining the roles and make-up of existing school advisory councils.

The idea, she said, is to strengthen links between the schools and students' parents as well as with the community at large. The goal is a more effective school, using each facility's required "improvement plan" as a guide for action.

Board members will review the document for discussion at their May 4 meeting, while it will be presented in detail to principals at a May 1 workshop.

Some of the ideas proposed stem from a January retreat held by board

members, a review of programs in operation in other states and general ideas offered by an ad hoc committee. The committee was composed of principals Mark Owens, James McAdams, Don McNeill, Principals' Association President Joe Butler and William Hardee, chairman of the Bolivia Elementary School Advisory Committee. The committee for instance, suggested staggered terms of office and while having parents as a majority, allowing non-parents to serve as well. They suggested also that all members should have a sincere concern for providing an effective education for all students.

Councils could be ready to start the 1987-88 school term with a new approach if the board adopts related policies at its May meeting.

Personnel Actions

Following an hour-long executive session, the board approved a brief personnel list, accepting retirements effective June 19 from two West Brunswick High School teachers, Mildred Holden (English) and Betty Aidrich (math), and Cora Johnson, a custodian at Southport Elementary School; accepted resignations from Josie Niles, a Union Primary School cafeteria worker; and approved employment of Carey Hendrix of Wilmington as printer at the A.V. Center and Mollie McDonough of Myrtle Beach, S.C., as a teacher's aide at Union Primary School.

The board also approved as substitute teachers Angela Reaves of Ash, Mary Palmore of Winnabow, Helen Hamer of Supply, and Linda Hewett and Susan Scheetz, both of

Shalotte. They granted an educational leave of absence until the start of the 1988-89 school year to Bolivia Elementary School teacher's aide Carolyn Yarbrough for her to complete her bachelor's degree and student teaching.

Proposal Tabled

Pending a legal opinion on the school system's liability, the board tabled action on a recommendation from Superintendent Gene Yarbrough to request in writing that the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department take over maintenance and development of the schools' athletic grounds at no direct cost to the schools.

According to Yarbrough, the only consideration requested by the department is that it be "forgiven" some expenses or requirements related to night functions held in school-owned facilities.

He said the department is involved in or is scheduled for grading and other work that might be worth as much as \$100,000 if the schools had to pay for it. Otherwise, he said, "It's not getting done."

However, several board members questioned the county department's willingness to take on the job without reimbursement.

Said Clemmons, "I can see them doing some basic work, but not going out and mowing the ballfields every two weeks."

Other Business

In other business, the board: •Authorized advertising of bids for adding a turn lane at Shallotte Middle School (see related story) and for

tearing down the old Waccamaw School gym. In dilapidated condition and boarded up, the building is still entered by students after hours and is dangerous, staff reported. Members agreed both projects should be acted on immediately.

•Made plans to vote on the proposed 1987-88 school calendar at its May 4 meeting. The calendar, which calls for students to begin school Aug. 31 and end on June 10, has met with no adverse reaction from the schools or public to date.

•Heard a request from attorney Glen Peterson for the schools to join the county's two-year observance of the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, agreeing to assign the social studies supervisor as the schools' liaison. "Children these days don't usually have a good grounding in civics. I didn't!" said Peterson. "This is a good opportunity for hands-on learning."

•Heard from Bill Turner, assistant to the superintendent, that despite several problems, contractors at Union and Lincoln Primary schools expect to complete work before their Aug. 18 ending date, including making up three weeks' work at Lincoln and two weeks' work at Union.

•Reached consensus that a policy is needed regarding Acquired Immune Deficiency (AIDS) and other communicable diseases.

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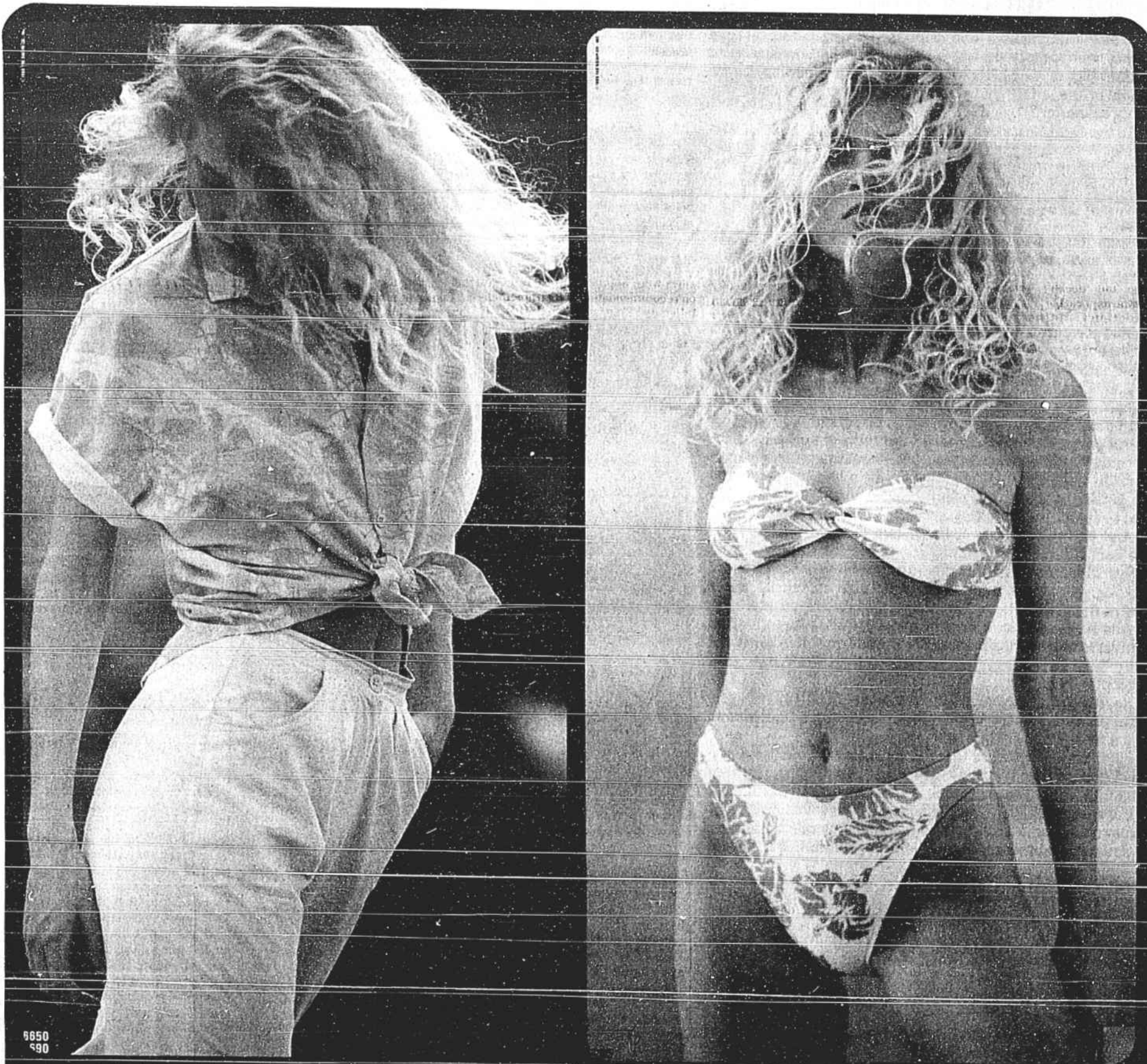
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