



COLUMNS/Julie Moore

## Louisburg adopts refugee family

By Robert Mathews  
Contributor

Louisburg gained a new addition to its community on January 16, when a refugee family of thirteen arrived at St. Paul's church in Louisburg, last Wednesday. The Ta Family is from Vietnam and belonged to the much pitied group of "Boat People". They left their home in Saigon on October 31, 1978, with an unknown destination, and little food or money.

"We are very happy to have a home," shyly said Ta Tu Tran, the oldest of the eleven children, when asked what she felt about Louisburg.

Mr. Ta worked in the family rice processing plant in Saigon. The family is from the upper middle class in South Vietnam, according

to Rev. George A. Magoon, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. When the American troops left South Vietnam, all business people were grouped in one section of the city of Saigon. All businesses and money were taken from the people. The Ta family would lose all personal freedom if they did not leave the country.

The Ta family paid a large sum of money for a boat ride out of the country. The family was cheated out of this money and never received their boat ride. Mr. Ta eventually was able to get another boat ride for his family by spending every penny the family had and borrowing the rest. The family had to escape the country leaving friends and relatives behind. As Tu Tran, 20, expressed it, "I am very sad because I left my

grandparents."

The boat which the family used to travel from Saigon to Malaysia was about 60 feet long and carried 400 people. The overcrowded conditions brought on much sickness at sea. The Ta family was at sea for approximately five or six days before making land fall. Upon the family's arrival in Malaysia, they were housed in a barn for five days. Then they were transferred to a school where the students were apparently on vacation. Afterwards they were transferred twice to other camps before they heard that St. Paul's Episcopal church would represent them in Louisburg.

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## Gov. Hunt optimistic about future

By Safari Mathenge  
Editor

"The dollar is pitifully weak in the world market. The cost of government and taxes and regulation are unbearable for many farmers, businesses and individuals."

That was Gov. Jim Hunt's message to an audience of several hundred people at the third annual "Eggs and Issues" breakfast sponsored by the Louisburg Area Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, January 15.

Even though he delivered such unfortunate news, the governor

was not a prophet of doom. He emphasized his optimism for the future from even the most unpredictable events in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran to the \$5.9 billion industrial commitment in this state, reached only in the last three years.

"I think North Carolina can be a leader. Good things are happening in our state. Good things are happening in Louisburg and Franklin County. I am optimistic about our future," he said.

In sharing his thoughts about

the state and nation as America begins the 1980s Hunt said, "lets not forget that this decade began with Russia's invasion of Afghanistan...that ought to wake us up. It's time America stood up. It's time we faced some hard facts about this world."

Hunt compared Russia's invasion to the march of Nazi storm troopers into Austria in the 1930s. He expressed pride in President Carter for "taking a new look at

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## L. C. has French Connection

By Safari Mathenge  
Editor

A French Club has been organized to expose Louisburg College students to the rich French culture and to give French students an opportunity to practice the language. Gwendolyn Covington was elected president of the club. Vivian Woods will be vice president and David Couvillion, secretary.

Covington said that the club holds its meeting every Monday at 3 p.m. in the Blue Room at the student center. Everyone is welcome to join the club. Students, she said, need not fear for all events have been conducted in English so far.

The club, though recent, has shown much promise and vigour in intramural activities. Vivian Woods, reflected to their last semester's involvement in the cheese tasting party, and brightened up as she explained the possibility of hosting French dishes as a part of the club's functions. If sufficient funds can be gathered, the club might consider a trip to France.

As their first project this year, the club is organizing a tour to Greensboro on February 4. There, they will see the play, "The Chairs", written by the famous French playwright Lonesco and will be performed at the UNC-Greensboro Auditorium. The play will involve only three characters, all the rest being imaginary.

Harriette Sturges, who is the French instructor and advisor to the club called for massive student interest.



Gov. James Hunt