



## On Danger Ignored

While Secretary of State George Shultz is in Moscow trying to negotiate a curb on nuclear missiles, a potentially more dangerous time bomb is ticking away in many of the more remote areas of the world.

We are thinking about the population explosion.

As the earth's population passes the five billion mark, the birth rate is again swinging upward, adding an unprecedented 87 million mouths a year. At that rate, the world's population will double in just 40 years.

In order to focus more attention on the problem and to point out the ways in which it affects all of us along the Public Parade and elsewhere, Gov. James G. Martin has issued a proclamation setting aside the week of April 20 through 25 as "Population Awareness Week in North Carolina."

What are some of the consequences of over population. For one thing, about 92 per cent of the growth occurs in the poorest, least developed countries, where the potential for further increase is great because 40 per cent of the total population has not yet reached childbearing age.

Contrary to what conventional knowledge in the western world would suggest, poor health care and famine conditions tend to stimulate rather than limit the number of babies born. The urge for survival has been shown to increase childbearing in famine ridden areas.

Sixty-five countries which depend on subsistence farming will be unable to feed their growing population by the turn of the century. On a country-by-country basis, per capita food production has fallen in 55 countries, including 34 out of 44 African nations.

Topsoil is being lost at the rate of 25 billion tons per year, while about 2 per cent of the best farmland in the more developed nations is lost annually to urban growth. Unless these trends can be reversed, it is only a matter of time until our productive capacity will be inadequate to meet the world's need for food.

Erosion and deforestation lead inevitably to desertification, with all that implies for our global environment. The handwriting is already on the wall in many Asian, African and Latin

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**PILGRIMAGE PRIZE**—This king-size quilt, depicting historic buildings in Edenton will be given away on Sunday at 5 p.m. as the last event of this year's Biennial Pilgrimage. Shown with the quilt are (l. to r.) Bonnie Bachman, Linda Eure, and Marie Perry who have all been active in Pilgrimage planning. Tickets for quilt drawing are available at the Barker House for \$1. Mrs. Perry commented that the quilt "could easily sell for \$1,000."

## Board Approves Search, Seizure Policy

One member voiced opposition to regulations governing search and seizure procedures adopted by Edenton-Chowan Board of Education, but new policies governing the handling of communicable diseases within the school system passed unanimously.

The new policies are directed toward giving school officials the guidelines needed to maintain optimum safety and student welfare.

Supt. of Schools John Dunn said no incidents had occurred within

the school system to prompt adoption of the new policies, but the board felt it was time guidelines were established to set procedures.

The guidelines for searches read, in part, "...To maintain order and discipline...school authorities may search a student, student lockers or student automobiles under circumstances outlined and may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search..."

The term "unauthorized"

means any item dangerous, disruptive or described as unauthorized in school rules available to students.

Board member John Mitchener, who voted against search and seizure procedures, said he had no problem with the policy, but felt that reports should be made to the board whenever searches were conducted.

Mitchener said, "We don't grant that type of unlimited discretion in any other segment of our society. I am not concerned with teachers or principals behaving irresponsibly or going on a witch-hunt, I just feel the school board should know when such an event happens within a reasonable time period."

Under the adopted policy, a student or his personal effects may be searched if school officials have reasonable suspicion to believe the student is in possession of contraband.

If a student is searched, it will be done in private by a school official of the same sex and in the presence of an adult witness, when feasible.

Student's lockers are school property and remain under its control. Periodic general inspection of lockers may be conducted by school authorities without notice, student consent or a search warrant.

Students are permitted to park  
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## Firemen Answer Calls

Edenton Fire Department has answered four alarms recently, with no major damage reported.

Firemen were called to the home of Brenda Lane at 9:16 p.m. April 16 at 20 Stratford Road when grease ignited on a stove. Fire Chief Lynn Perry said smoke caused damage inside the home, but the fire was contained in the kitchen.

At 8:16 p.m., April 18, a car belonging to Bill Skittlethorpe caught fire when a catalytic converter overheated at 103 Bond Street. Chief Perry said, "This is

something that's showing up more in newer cars." Damage was minor.

The same day, an inmate in Chowan Jail from Gates County set fire to paper inside a cell at 12:13 p.m. No damage was reported and he was transported to Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro for evaluation.

An April 20 fire at the home of Henry Levi Lee on 224 West Albemarle Street is under investigation. Chief Perry said slight damage was confined to the outside of the structure.

## Lawmakers Request Bridge Buzzing Halt

By JACK GROVE

Some area residents have been scared by military jets buzzing the Chowan River bridge on U.S. 17, according to a letter sent to the Navy by state Reps. R.M. (Pete) Thompson, Vernon G. James and Sen. Marc Basnight, all of the First District.

The letter states, in part, "It seems that these planes make a practice run on the bridge and at times seem to be closer than 500 feet high. We are sure you can visualize the feeling of someone who is on a long two-lane bridge and doesn't realize that anything is near until the roar of a jet passes close overhead, then you see another one coming right at you on the bridge."

"There are sometimes two planes coming down the river that appear to be coming right at you...Regardless of what you might feel like doing, it is a very frightful feeling."

"We are bringing this to your attention with the hope that even though your planes might fly the Chowan River, they fly at a much higher altitude and stop using the bridge for practice runs."

Thompson was reluctant to provide names of those who have complained, but said that he had firsthand knowledge of the problem. "I've been on that bridge when they came through." He said the planes come down the river, "leap frog it (bridge) and go on to the military ranges." The Navy has practice bombing ranges in Dare County and in Albemarle Sound near Columbia.

The Chowan legislator said he had seen jets approach lower than 500 feet. He said that this had happened "a couple of times."

Dale Edenfield of Winfall has been a bridge-tender on the river bridge for one year. He said that military planes traverse the river two or three days a week and on these days fly from morning till night and sometimes at night.

From an interest in aircraft, he was able to identify the various aircraft as the Navy's A-6 Intruder (bomber), and F-14 Tomcat (fighter). Another type of aircraft he said flew the route was the F-4 Phantom. This aircraft is no longer in the Navy's inventory but is flown by the Air National Guard and the Marine Corps.

Edenfield said that on occasion, "They come across here so fast that you don't even see them until they're past." He asserted that they have flown as close as 130 feet above the bridge-tender's hut and rattled windows. At these times, "You probably could hit 'em with a rock."

He said that at least three of the five bridge-tenders have been upset enough about the situation to consider contacting military authorities themselves. "It's enough to give you a heart attack," he said.

The legislators' letter was addressed to Vice Admiral Robert F. Dunn, Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk. Admiral Dunn was actually transferred to the Pentagon in December. Currently commanding Naval Air Forces, Atlantic Fleet is VADM Richard Dunleavy.

Admiral Dunleavy's spokesman, Commander Jolene Keefer, was interviewed by telephone

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Richard Bunch

## Bunch Named New Director

Richard Bunch has been named Executive Director of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, effective May 4, 1987. Bunch is Regional Director for the N.C. Jaycees and is currently employed by J.H. Conger & Son.

Bunch feels that his experience with the Jaycees at the State level has given him experience and educational opportunities which will be valuable in his job with the Chamber. "My philosophies are right in line with the Chamber's directions of promoting tourism

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## Substance Abuse Panel Hears Local Concerns

By JEANETTE WHITE

Citizens concerned with substance abuse had a strong link with the governor's office Tuesday when First Lady Dottie Martin came to Elizabeth City to speak and listen.

Mrs. Martin sat on a panel which heard about 20 people discuss what they felt were main areas of concern and possible solutions.

The overriding theme emerging from comments was that answers lay in better education, funding for that education and stronger reinforcement from the home.

Governor Martin's Executive Order #23 established the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Among Children and Youth, which surveys public opinion in different areas of the state. Panel discussions in those areas earmark problems for the particular area.

The council hopes a plan will emerge wherein a network of community groups will become involved in important issues.

Council member Wallace Nelson of Hertford moderated the public hearing. Nelson is the pharmacy director at Chowan Hospital.

The first lady said there are people "sitting on the edge of their chairs" waiting to join hands across North Carolina to identify

and deal with substance abuse.

N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Mike McArthur of Edenton told Mrs. Martin that the Northeast is not afforded the same federal funds and manpower found in higher populated areas and complained that punishment for drug

offenders found on schools' properties and those on the street is not uniform, since the first is most likely not reported to law enforcement.

Perquimans Sheriff Joe Lothian told Mrs. Martin he felt dealing

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**CONFERENCE BREAK**—Edenton Town Councilman chats with N.C. League of Municipalities officials during a break in the regional conference of the league held at the American Legion building Wednesday. From left are Hollowell, (a board member of the league) David E. Reynolds of Raleigh, executive director, and Jonathan B. Howes, president.

## League Addresses Municipal Legislative Issues

Future goals and methods of achieving those goals were the theme when Edenton Mayor John Dowd and the town council hosted a meeting of the N.C. League of Municipalities Wednesday.

The regional meeting was one of 12 being conducted across the state to update municipal officials on key state and federal issues.

The NCLM is a non-partisan federation of 479 cities, towns and

villages and serves as advocate for municipal interests at both the state and federal level.

Wednesday's meeting was set to discuss the status of municipal legislative issues ranging from funding for water and sewer facilities construction to the need to better protect highway rights-of-way and additional local government revenue sources.

In his welcome to officials

gathered to compare notes, Mayor Dowd issued an invitation to "ride around and look at Edenton" when the meeting was over.

NCLM President Jonatohn B. Howes of Chapel Hill said towns the size of Edenton are an asset to the state, because small towns provide "the good quality of life" enjoyed by some areas.

Legislative goals were set at the

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**ATTEND HEARING**—N.C. First Lady Dottie Martin and Wallace Nelson of Hertford were among those attending a regional drug and alcohol hearing in Elizabeth City on Tuesday.