

WRITERS FORUM

By George B. Russ



MRS. VIOLA B. THOMPSON

During the rush hour, ten minutes before the long line of white robed Tots will be "goose stepping" toward the sanctuary where they will be singing during the 11 o'clock worship service, parents and co-supervisors are in a tizzy making the singers really pretty for the grand entrance. Curls are given a final twist, wide blue collars are made secure, buckles to slippers tightened, kleenex dubs perspiring foreheads, a cupped hand is passed around to collect "bubble-gum." So much for the upper-half of the long line of impatient "song birds," the faces wore the aspect of "she has my sincere sympathy," and no one smiled brightly for Mrs. Thompson as she called out sweetly, "be sure to sing pretty for me, children." Too busy, really, to probe the cause of the "long faces," Mrs. Thompson strided hurriedly toward the leader. The time had come for the choir to march in. Suddenly, she gasped, "what is wrong Dean-na?"

Several youngsters answered in concert, "Dean-na's mamma forgot to bring her robe, Mrs. Thompson." The huge round, navy blue collar neatly pinned to the neckline of Dean-na's above the knees, fancy, cool, white dress wasn't saying one thing to assuage Dean-na's "awful embarrassment." She would rather be without her majorette twirling sticks for a whole week than make an appearance now without her robe. Nevertheless, she reluctantly moved off down the hall toward the rows of seats flanking the rostrum on the right.

The Tots sang all of their songs well. Perhaps Mrs. Mary Brewington's directing, or they remembered, Mrs. Thompson's coaxing "sing pretty for me, children"; or maybe, they were thinking that today, Sunday, May 16 was Happy Birthday time for the Tots Choir. Twelve years of gratifying progress for some and for some others only a few months. Howbeit, the spirit of the occasion was contagious because everyone was saying nice things about the Tots Choir and wishing for them "many happy returns of the day." And those who were working with candidates in the "Mr. or Miss Tots Choir" title, hurried off to stuff their envelopes with additional coins.

Among the first to return at 3 o'clock, all prettied up in special occasion clothes, ribbons or other hair adornments, and grown up airs, were our unhappy Misses involved in the robe incident. The boys were obvious with their giggles, but the little Misses gave them cool, calculating glances without stopping to say, "hello." They sassayed down the long aisle of the sanctuary to the seats reserved for them. Moments later, the "Twelfth Anniversary" observance of the Tots Choir began with Miss Ava Darlene Best presiding. Several members of the choir were seated on the rostrum, and some of the girls cautiously waded to them; Pamela Dortch, Jackie Fuller, Tawanda Gongs and Inez Ellis - the guest minister, Rev. Mack Timberlake, First Baptist Church, Creedmoor. And while the supervisors were busy, they waded to the boys and girls singing with the First Baptist Church Youth Choir.

The excitement of who



DEAN-NA M. PRATT



LISA BREWINGTON



"MR. TOTS CHOIR"



"Little Miss Adult Choir"

would be crowned "Miss or Mr. Tots Choir" warmed the cool air wafting into the sanctuary from the vents of the tall, colorful windows.

Inez Ellis' reading of the Tots Choir history held their attention. The history revealed some very interesting facts about the Tots Choir. This group of singers was organized on the third Sunday in May 1964. With the presence of the pastor, Dr. Grady D. Davis, a staff of anxious instructors, an organist and thirteen prospective members, the success of the Tots Choir, was sealed from the very outset. By working together, faithfully the choir has been able to make worthwhile contributions to the UBC church family; gifts comparable to those given by long established groups. This year, the choir purchased beautiful robes for each member of the Tots Choir. Happily, the Tots Choir is growing by leaps and bounds. Presently, the Tots



THE EAGLES NEST

FOUR NURSING AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED

Four students who graduated Sunday from the North Carolina Central University Department of Nursing received the department's highest awards at a special pin presentation ceremony. Award winners were Glen Esther Howell, Ferguson Memorial Award; Cathy Badgett, Helen S. Miller Award; Russell Capps, Norma R. Lipscomb Award; and Maglon Bell, Faculty Award.

The Ferguson Memorial Award, received by Miss Glen Esther Howell, is given by Ambassador Clyde Ferguson, director of clinical nursing at the National Institutes of Health, in memory of their father and their brother, who were former resident of North Carolina. Miss Howell has the highest scholastic standing in her class in the department of nursing.

The donors of the Miller Award are Lillian G. Stokes, associate professor of nursing at Indiana University; Jacqueline Lewis, professor of nursing at Dillard University; Constance Jones Best of Jacksonville (Fla.) Community College; and Iris Edwards, assistant professor of nursing at Purdue University.

Mrs. Norma R. Lipscomb, an alumna who is now a faculty member at Watts Hospital School of Nursing, is the donor of the award made to Russell Capps. She is also an organizer of a departmental alumni association.

The Faculty Award is given by vote of the faculty of the department, who unanimously conferred it to Maglon Bell.

FOOD BASKET

Save energy in the kitchen. To save energy in the kitchen, plan ahead. If you need the oven for one dish, round out your menu with others that can be baked in the oven at the same temperature. An oven takes more energy to heat than top-of-range units, but it uses energy efficiently if you cook several dishes at once.

Milk Facts The Milk Industry Foundation says Americans are drinking less whole milk than they used to, less cream, too, but more low-fat or skim milk. Today, only 9.5 per cent of all dairy products are sold by home delivery, compared to 52 per cent during World War II. Americans drank an average of 132.2 quarts of milk in 1974.

FAYETTEVILLE HAPPENINGS

By Mrs. T. H. Kinney

Congratulations to Maurice Lee, "Mr. Beautillion 1976" for the Entre Nous. Lee is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Lee.

Happy Birthday and best wishes to everyone celebrating a birthday or an anniversary this week. "The best is yet to be."

We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Dorothy Standifer has lost her mother, who lived in the Cedar Creek area, also Mrs. Vivian Fuse has lost her mother, who lived in Enfield. We were indeed sorry to hear about the death and funeral of William E. Boney, assistant principal in Apex. These families have our sympathy.

First Baptist Church, Moore Street, held its annual Laymen's League seminar this week. Theme "Christian Freedom and Responsibility," was presented by Dr. Claude Stephens, who spoke on missions; Alfred Brake and Milton Jarvey, finance; Dr. Jessie Williams and Dr. D. M. Scaroro, health; Julian Brown, business; and R. C. Smith, overment.

JFK Center for Staff Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bobby Jell has received a transfer to the 210th Artillery Group, Germany. He will leave the Center around June 4 after a two year tour. He served at the Main Post Chapel.

Ernest Hodges a graduate of Pine Forest High School, has signed a full grant-in-aid to play basketball for Lees McRae Junior College. Hodges has been attending Fayetteville State University.

Some 15,000 Shriners

and wives of the Sudan Temple held a parade down Hay Street Saturday past: main sessions were held at Bordeaux and some 500 new members were installed at the Memorial Auditorium. They donated to the Burn Institute for treatment for cripple children up to the age of 15.

It is thrilling to hear that Fayetteville State University has some 490 receiving degrees and Fayetteville Technical Institute has also over 400. Congratulations to all 1976 graduates.

Eight of the nine high schools submitted eight nominees for the Richard M. Lilly Award. Reid Ross, Donald Dyer won the award. Other nominees were: Chris Newman, Terry Sanford; James Coleman, Seventy-First; Barbara Lambert, Fayetteville Academy; Lee Jukes, E. E. Smith; Willie Thompson, Pine Forest; Melanie Hinton, South View; and Kenny Ramsey, Cape Fear. Douglas Byrd declined to nominate a candidate.

Miss Iris McBride, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Valoncia McBride was named to the Dean's List for the Spring semester at Winston-Salem State University. Miss McBride is a rising sophomore majoring in psychology.

We wish for the sick and shut in a speedy recovery.

Have a good week everyone and remember that somebody out there somewhere needs you.

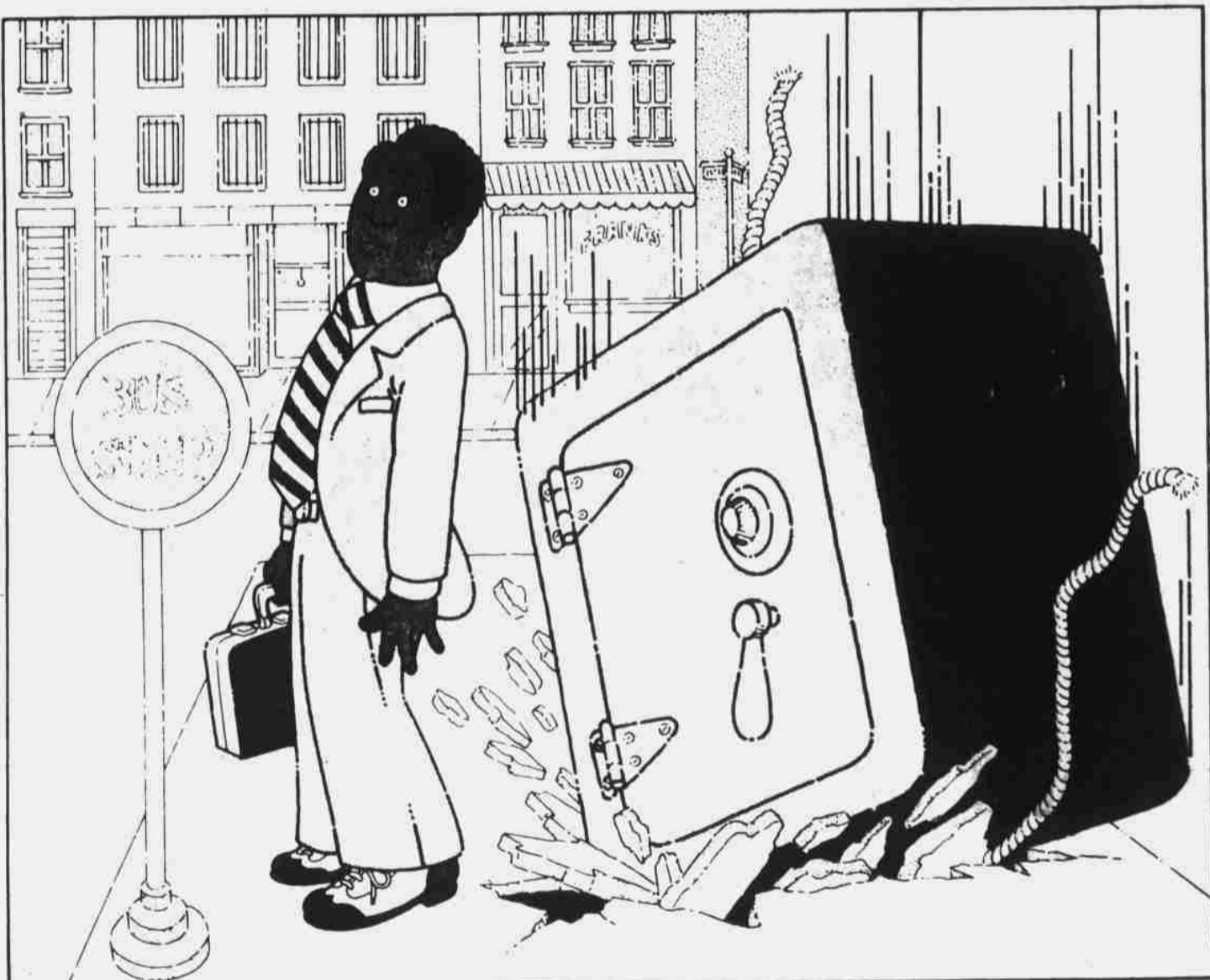


GRANT GOES TO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN - The American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, represented by Miss Jean McKee, Deputy Administrator, recently made a \$20,000 grant to the National Council of Negro Women. This grant will be used to create the Bethune Collection on Black Women's Organization. The collection will be housed in Washington, D. C. as a national archive and research center on the past and present contributions of black women and their organizations to America. A certificate of official recognition and Bicentennial flag were presented to Ms. Dorothy Height, National President of NCNW, by Miss McKee.



30 YEARS OF SERVICE - MRS. MARY TOOMER PLEDGAR has been awarded a certificate in recognition of 30 years of service with the Defense Personnel Support Center. Mrs. Pledgar, a native of Durham and the wife of Wilbert O. Pledgar is currently residing in Pennsylvania where she is affiliated with the Federal Agency. Presenting the certificate to Mrs. Pledgar (L) is John C. Shepard.

What will become of your family if nothing happens to you?



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