



# The Carolina Times

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## Words of Wisdom

"We rarely find anyone who can say he has lived a happy life, and who, content with his life, can retire from the world like a satisfied guest."

Horace

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## THE PEOPLE SPEAK

By John McDonald

What should we as blacks be aware of during black awareness month?



**Ms. Renee Wilder, Duke graduate student:** We should be aware that there is still an up-hill struggle in terms of equity in job opportunities and education. Remember the past, but dwell on the future. We must use the past as a spring board to better future opportunities. Awareness of self and education are the keys to further advancement.



**John Lucas, principal, Hillside High School:** We should bring into sharp focus our need to excel in all facets of daily living. This need includes educational, vocational, economic, cultural and religious endeavors. We should be mindful of how fortunate we are to be who we are — a great people with a great heritage. We should spend time reviewing our history, understanding the present and developing strategies for the future.



**Sister Tee Williams, businesswoman:** We should be aware of the ongoing plan to slow down or stop our youth from having a substantial grip on the tools that are necessary to survive. We should realize that there are people who would destroy them out of fear and/or personal gain. Because we are in trouble as a race, we need black awareness and self-determination 365 days a year.



**Ms. Pamela Bagley, NCCU student:** One distinguishing factor that should be brought to our attention during black awareness month is that blacks have made significant contributions to humanity, technology, science, and many other successful causes. We should honor those successes and continue striving for that level of superiority.

# School Board Makes 2nd Choice

## William Lawrence To Fill Vacant Seat

It took only a few minutes Monday night, February 25 for three school board members of the Durham City Schools to cast their ballots in favor of William Lawrence for the vacant seat on the school board left by the death of John D. Lennon. The announcement, made by city school superintendent, Cleveland Hammonds, was greeted with applause from the packed-house audience that seemed relieved to have the matter settled.

Ms. Beth Upchurch, who had consistently maintained that Dennis Nicholson be selected to fill the spot, changed her vote to make the decision unanimous. In a special board meeting on Wednesday, February 20, Lawrence had received two votes on the first ballot and one vote on ballots two and three before a fourth

ballot chose David Wiggins to fill the vacancy. Wiggins declined the seat, Friday, February 22, stating that "personal reasons prevented him from serving."

Lawrence said that he does not mind being the school board's second choice for the seat. "I feel that I have something to offer and I don't mind being second, third or fourth choice," Lawrence said. He said that his major concern is that the Durham City Schools provide the best possible education for the children it serves.

Lawrence has a son attending Shepard Junior High School and a preschool age daughter.

Mrs. Thelma C. Lennon, the widow of board member John D. Lennon, had also applied for the seat, but she asked that her name be withdrawn before Monday night's votes were cast.

## Eight States To Give Elderly And Disabled Cash Instead Of Food Stamps

WASHINGTON—Beginning in April, elderly and disabled people who are eligible for food stamps will get cash instead of food stamps under a U.S. Department of Agriculture pilot project in eight states.

Monroe County, New York; Dillon, Darlington, Marion, and Florence counties, South Carolina; Cuyahoga County, Ohio; Hennepin County, Minnesota; East Baton Rouge parishes, Louisiana; the Portland area (regions 1 and 2) of Oregon; Vermont, and Utah have been selected to take part in the pilot project, which will run for one year.

In these areas, households eligible for food stamps—where every member is at least 65 or is participating in the supplemental security income program—will get a check for the amount of their food stamp allotment each

month. Supplemental security income is a cash assistance program through which the Social Security Administration provides benefits for aged, blind and disabled people.

"We hope to find out whether providing cash instead of food stamps will encourage elderly and handicapped people to take part in the program," said Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carol Tucker Foreman. "We will also look at the effect of providing cash rather than food stamps on food purchases."

Currently, the food stamp program, administered by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, reaches about half of the eligible households with aged, blind or disabled members.

The project will also test whether more aged and handicapped people will



## DURHAM BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL CHAIN, INC.

A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

In cooperation with

THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

"Building Better Business Since 1938"

William H. McLaughlin, Jr., owner and operator of McLaughlin's Hardware, responds as one of three Durham businessmen who received plaques Thursday night at the annual Durham Business and Professional Chain Annual Banquet. The other recipients were: Tom Porter, owner and operator of The Copy Express; and Ira K. Bradsher, owner of Bradsher Grading and Excavating. Others at the dais are Chain officials. Photo by John McDonald

### Gets Honor

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take part if they can apply and be interviewed at places besides food stamp offices. In some demonstration areas, elderly persons and people applying for supplemental security income will be able to file an application for food stamps at Social Security offices.

The project is authorized by the Food Stamp Act of 1977.

A final list of project areas will be announced in the Federal Register after budget negotiations are completed.

## Systematic Racism Said Cause Violent Deaths Among Blacks

By Trelle L. Jeffers

Recent reports show that violent deaths have become one of the leading killers among black Americans. Black men and women between the ages of 18 and 35 are killing each other in almost equal proportions.

These alarming statistics have alerted health professionals and have prompted them to add violent deaths among blacks as one of the country's major health hazards. Consequently, the Minority Student Caucus and the Student Union Board of the UNC School of Public Health held a workshop Friday, February 22 to attempt to answer the question: "Why Blacks Are Killing Each Other?"

The workshop was led by Dr. Darrell Hawkins, a sociologist at UNC who cited several sociological theories that attempted to give an explanation for this serious problem. Most of the theories, once examined, seemed to contradict themselves.

One theory, for example, was that blacks descended from a southern culture where white men tend to murder each other at a rate much higher than those of other states. (North Carolina was cited as having the sixth highest murder rate in the U.S.). But conflicting data showed that blacks in large cities outside the South kill each other at a rate much higher than those living in small, rural southern cities.

Another theory cited was that Africans are violent and since blacks are descendants of Africa, they are inherently violent. Statistics cited showed that Africans do not kill each other unless they are living under the colonial rule of a white government, and that murder in Africa tends to be much lower than that of both black and white Americans.

The multi-variable theory — that economic and social deprivation, poor education, unemployment and sub-cultural values — was the cause that seemed most probable to the group, since poor whites and poor blacks tend to murder their own race at a

much higher rate than group members of other socioeconomic income levels.

The consensus of the group was that systematic racism which causes frustration, demoralization, and helplessness against the oppressive forces of the American society is responsible for the high murder rate among blacks. The other leading killers which are also being related to the same cause are cardiovascular diseases, cancer and alcoholism. These were also discussed in separate workshops.

Some of the solutions offered by the group to remedy the situation were that

• blacks must have better educational opportunities that will prepare them for economic stability;

• schools that educate black pupils must include curricula that build self-esteem rather than dehumanize black pupils;

• there must be a comprehensive community involvement to attempt to find further solutions to the problem; and

• whites and blacks must become aware of their role in maintaining an oppressive society. The workshop participants were practicing social workers, sociologists and students working toward graduate and undergraduate degrees in a health career.

## Durham YMCA Seeks \$900,000 In Effort

The Durham YMCA launched a capitol fund-raising campaign last week to modernize and expand YMCA facilities in Durham.

YMCA president Dr. Craig Tisher of Duke Medical Center said the campaign will be headed by Claude Sykes of General Telephone Company. A minimum goal of \$675,000 has been set, with a "challenge goal" of \$900,000.

"The lower figure," Tisher said, "would provide for construction of a new Family Fitness Center at the YMCA building near Lakewood Shopping Center, plus substantial remodeling and modernization at both the Lakewood building and the Y's 23-year-old building on Trinity Avenue."

"If the campaign workers and the community are successful in reaching the \$900,000 challenge goal," Tisher said, "development of a new five to eight acre site in northern Durham would be possible. In addition, we would be looking at the development of a Family Aquatic Recreation site on the Falls of Neuse Reservoir and construction of an outdoor swimming pool at Camp

Kanata, the Y's residence camp located east of Durham near Wake Forest."

Rembert Garris, Executive Director of the Durham YMCA, pointed out that this is the first community-wide YMCA capital fund drive in Durham since 1971, and that it will probably be another decade before the Y makes such a public appeal. "We need an all-out effort now," Garris said, "to enable the YMCA to keep pace with the growing needs off the Durham community."

Marion Erwin, who along with his father, Frank, and his brother, Dan, head the Campaign's "Top Level" gifts committee, announced that some money has been pledged in advance gifts. Erwin is also the Durham Y's immediate past president.

## N.C. Tenants to Meet in City

Tenants in North Carolina may soon have a means of communicating with each other. Plans for establishing a state chapter of the National Tenants Organization (NTO) will be presented by Jesse M. Gray, executive director of the NTO, at an all-day North Carolina conference in Durham on Saturday, March 1.

The National Tenant Organization works for both public-funded tenants and those renting from landlords on the private market. It has affiliated groups all over the country. NTO keeps a lobby going in Washington, D.C. and has four representatives on the Housing Task Force with HUD. The NTO brings in proposals from its affiliated groups in different states. It can also mobilize to work for local strategies or state projects affecting tenants.

In the morning session, workshops will be presented on North Carolina tenant-landlord law and community

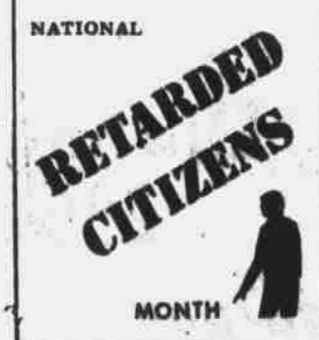
development (are these federal funds being used to benefit low-income tenants in this state?). Workshop leaders will include attorneys Donald Saunders of Legal Services of the Blue Ridge in Boone and Benjamin Ertitz of the Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina, Inc., in Winston-Salem. Organizer Pat Bryant of Durham will deliver the opening address.

The conference is a joint project of two Durham-based tenant groups—West End Community Action Group, which deals mainly with private housing tenants, and the Durham Tenant Steering Committee, which is composed of public housing tenants.

Durham Tenant Steering Committee member, Mrs. Norma Burton, believes the attempt to combine public, private, and subsidized tenant interests to be an important feature of the March 1 event. "I think that this state needs a private and public housing mobiliza-

tion committee for tenants. There should be better communication between private and public housing residents. I think the resource people coming in will be able to help us accomplish this. It will be very educational for tenants in public and private housing on conditions, policies, guidelines locally and nationally."

Neighborhood groups, experienced tenant organizers, legal advisors, and private citizens from Wilmington to Asheville have indicated plans to attend on March 1. The conference will last from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at McDougald Terrace on Lawson Street.



### Only A Remote Chance

Deputy State Health Secretary Dr. Donald Reid tells reporters in Harrisburg, Pa., last Thursday, that there is only a remote chance that the increase in hypothyroidism among infants in the areas around the Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant is related to the release of radioactivity following the nuclear accident. At right is Bureau of Health Research Director, Dr. George Tokuhata. UPI Photo

