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J.J. 'Babe' Henderson Died Monday Morning



J.J. HENDERSON

North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, he rose through its ranks to vice president in charge of finances.

A political activist concerned about the interests of all people —

especially black people — Henderson served on the Durham Housing Authority Board of Directors. The J.J. Henderson Towers, a housing facility for many of Durham's elderly and handicapped of all races on South Duke Street, is named in his honor.

He had been chairman of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, a political organization member of the boards of Mechanics and Farmers Bank and Mutual Savings and Loan Association. He was in the forefront of the establishment of St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, which operates Hayti Heritage Center.

He was a founder of the Durham Business & Professional Club.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Julia Henderson; a daughter, Dr. Ann H. Brockenborough of Upper Marlboro, Md.; and a son, James J. (Bill) Henderson, Jr. of New York.

Final arrangements are by Scarborough & Hargett Funeral Home.

Teenagers Get Knowledge, Get Wiser, Fewer Births

By John T. McCann

The word is getting out to Durham's teenagers about preventing pregnancies, but cultural differences may be the reason for the shift in births by adolescents. For the first time, Hispanic teens are having more babies than black teens, according to a federal report by the National Center for Health Statistics. Still, girls in both groups are twice as likely as whites to have a birth before they turn 20.

Hispanics are the country's fastest-growing minority group, and the poverty rate is following. There seems to be a link to education. Hispanics have lower rates of high school and college education than African Americans who, so long, have been plagued by high numbers of teenage births. Experts say most teen parents come from impoverished households and are poorly educated parents. And the cycle often repeats itself.

Durham has a number of community- and church-based programs that address the issue of adolescent pregnancies. Most of the programs available are aimed at empowerment and often target girls at risk of becoming teenage moms. Some are geared toward girls who already have children.

Experts say cultural factors are to blame for the rise in births among Hispanic teens. Language barriers pose problems when it comes to passing on information about preventing pregnancies. Views on abortion vary from ethnic group to another.

A nurse practitioner at Hillside said the school does not keep records of student pregnancies, but added the number of pregnant students there is low. It's true at Northern High, as well, where most of the students are black and white. Principal Isaac Thomas said most of the students at Northern seem to take the sex education programs seriously but also he hasn't gotten much feedback from the parents. Thomas said surveys are sent out seeking opinions but few are returned.

One parent, who wished to remain anonymous, has a 15-year-old daughter at Northern. She was in a class that required carrying a 5-pound bag of flour to simulate having a child. The mock baby had to be fed, dressed, and otherwise attended to as any newborn would. The 10th-grader's mother said the class exercise gave her daughter an

idea of the responsibilities that come with having a child.

The mother, who is black, said she does not have a problem with an abstinence-only approach to sex education. But she did express concern about the overwhelming pressure today's teens face. She has her daughter on birth control pills. "It's always better to be safe," she said.

State NAACP President Does About-Face on Racial Attack At Guilford College

GREENSBORO (AP) — The head of the state chapter of the NAACP says he regrets criticizing Guilford College for its response to a campus racial attack.

"Maybe I was a little hasty in trying to portray the manner in which I thought he should act," Melvin "Skip" Alston said of Don McNemar, president of the college. Last week, Alston accused McNemar of having a "laid-back attitude" toward the Feb. 11 attack on student senate president Molly Martin.

Alston said then that he would ask the State Bureau of Investigation and state Attorney General's Office to investigate the attack if an arrest was not made within two weeks.

On Monday, Alston did an about-face, praising the college and McNemar for their work in the case. Alston backed off his ultimatum to call in state officials after learning that four Greensboro detectives are investigating the incident.

"That tells me they are handling this in a serious manner," Alston said.

Guilford College officials say an attacker knocked Martin unconscious Feb. 11, then wrote the

words "nigger lover" across her chest.

The attack happened a few days after fliers appeared around campus urging people not to reelect Martin, who is white, unless they wanted an "all-black senate." Martin won her campaign last week.

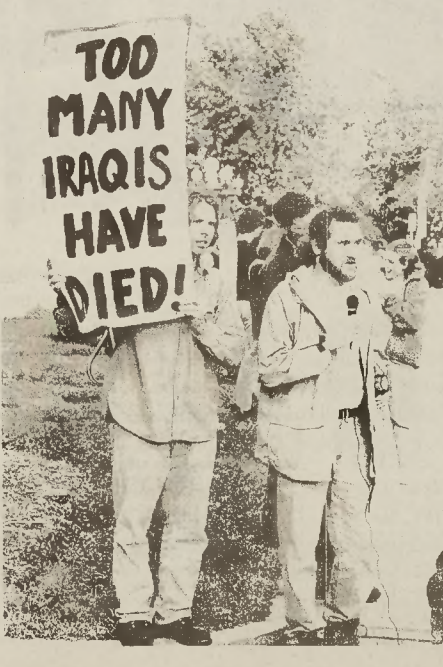
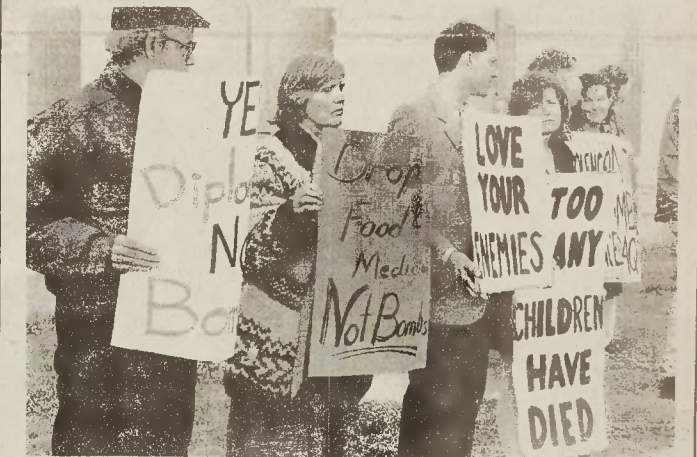
Police continued interviewing students and others on campus this week in connection with the attack.

A campus security official said last week that police are investigating an anonymous e-mail message sent to several students questioning whether the attack was staged. Police are also investigating a telephone call to two black female students in which a male caller used racial slurs.

In explaining his change of attitude, Alston said he did not realize how much the college had done in the wake of the attack.

That included a forum attended by 500 people and several smaller meetings of faculty and students. Alston said he came to understand and respect the college's Quaker approach, which emphasizes introspection and deliberation.

"Don is not Skip Alston in his way of handling things," Alston said.



DURHAM
DEMONSTRATORS'
SIGNS SEND STRONG
MESSAGE PRIOR TO
UNITED NATIONS
SECRETARY
GENERAL
KOFI ANNAN'S TRIP
TO IRAQ

(Photos by Lawson)