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Voters
React

Continued from Page 1

eye on the electoral vote count." She continued saying, "I told my grandmother that if Ford won I was going to lay down and cry. I just couldn't go to sleep until I knew." She said that when the projection was made that Carter had won she went straight to sleep and couldn't be roused a few hours later for school.

Allen Russ, an employee of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, said he was disappointed that Carter had won. He said however, "I think he'll do o.k. Besides, we don't have much choice now anyway do we?"

Another man, who refused to be named, said he was for Ford. He said, "Carter's win kind of worries me because there is still a certain air of mystery about the man and there has been an exposed degree of uncertainty, surrounding his decisions. But he worked hard to win, and I think maybe he will do alright once he gets himself settled and use to the job."

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Di-Gel.
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Baker Family

Continued from Page 1

said. Keeping her cool, has become her guideline for keeping a beleaguered family together. Her husband, Michael, was in Louisville, Ky., at the time of the accident. She said he was there because, "he needed some time to try to turn his life around again."

She explained that she and her husband had been really down on their luck lately. She said her husband was a gifted musician who had been a trumpeter and lead vocal backup for rock star Al Green. She explained further that her husband was also an ordained minister.

The resulting clash between the two callings caused her husband to leave the world of tinsel and glitter for the ministry. She said, "times have been hard since then."

She said her husband had tried working at different odd jobs while trying to find an outlet for his music. So far, there has been no success at either venture.

The family's economic level is at best dismal, in spite of the help given them by the church. They are members of Shiloh Baptist Church. Thinking of the accident, Mrs. Baker said, "Even if we had been killed there would not have been anyway to bury us." She said that their life insurance had lapsed because they had no money to pay for the premiums. She said that her family had no hospital insurance either but were assisted through welfare.

"The idea of going on welfare," she said, "has hurt her husband tremendously." She said he feels like less than a man because he is unable to provide adequately for his family. "It really hurt, when he got those first food stamps," she said.

Mrs. Baker said that because of the family's economic troubles her husband had become extremely depressed about a week before her accident and had gone into an uncontrollable rage.

The police had to be called in to control him. Last week she was in court to have the charges against her husband dismissed. She explained, "He did not mean what he did. He's been under a lot of pressure. He has even sought professional help."

Mrs. Baker's mother, Mrs. Hortense Houston, said that her son-in-law was a good man with too much pressure on him. Mrs. Houston has herself been the victim of hard times.

Mrs. Houston owned a home in Louisville, Ky., until it burned to the ground in June. She said she was going back to her birthplace in

Leavenworth, Kansas, to tend to a sick aunt after the fire destroyed most of what she had.

She decided instead to come to the aid of her daughter who she said needed her more. "When I came for a visit when they first came to Winston-Salem, the baby was crawling around on these cold wooden floors," she said. "I knew then that I was needed here more."

Mrs. Baker said her mother has been fantastic, citing the fact that it was she who bought the Buick, and rugs for the floors. "I got these rugs from Goodwill, honey," she quips. Mrs. Baker said her mother has really been trying to make their "well-used" abode as "livable and comfortable as possible."

Mrs. Baker has a job that she got through the church, "but it's just not enough to cover the needs of my family," she said. "If Michael could just get a break, things would be much better," she said.

Through it all, the Bakers have endured, but then so have their problems. They still need some transportation, money or a way to get it and some friends. "We have made only two close friends since we came here a little over a year ago," said Mrs. Baker. "Mr. Baker also needs to feel useful again, 23, is an awfully young age to give up on life," she said.

Truer words were never spoken. So, Mrs. Baker and her mother cope until Michael can return to them. "I've got to take care of my children no matter what," she said. She has two other children besides her son Terrence; Tywa, 9, and Michael Jr., 11 months.

She admits that her children have been the driving force for her own personal survival. Without them, it seems it might have been a more tragic story.

"For the most part we are still pretty much together," she said heartily. "But there are times when I just don't know what to do," she admits with a sigh.

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