

New Law Says

Landlord Must Make Repairs

by Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Reporter

Because of a new law in North Carolina, a landlord is required to make any repairs needed to make his tenants' living quarters fit and safe, including fixing plumbing, heating, sanitary, and electrical equipment.

The new Landlord-Tenant Law, which went into effect October 1, 1977, covers all housing that people pay to live in, including apartments, houses, trailers, and public housing, whether the tenant has a written lease or not.

The law orders the landlord to see that his

buildings comply with the local housing code, which has requirements ranging from major items, like a plumbing and heating systems to work relatively minor items, such as fixing window screens or tightening a loose towel rack. If appliances, such as a stove or refrigerator, are provided by the landlord, he must fix them if they break.

The law also requires that the tenant keep up his responsibilities. He must pay his rent on time, keep his place as clean and safe as he can, and do not do any damage to the place, or permit others visiting to do so.

Most landlords are not

happy about the Landlord Tenant Act, because it requires them to make repairs which could be expensive if the property is badly run down. They warn that the law will drive rents up and add to the shortage of low-income housing.

Because a landlord may evict a tenant without giving a reason for doing so, Paul Sinal, an attorney with Legal Aid, cautions tenants to consult a lawyer before trying to use this new law, to avoid the possibility of eviction.

To get a landlord to make needed repairs, a tenant must first decide what needs to be done. He may do this himself or call

a city building inspector to inspect the property. The building inspector will look at the property for free, and make a note of any repairs that are needed. The landlord will notify the landlord that repairs are needed. Paul Sinal warns that a tenant would do well to check with Legal Aid or a private attorney before contacting the building inspectors, in case the landlord resents his being called, and tries to take it out on the tenant.

After consulting a lawyer, and deciding what needs to be fixed, the tenant should notify the landlord, preferably in writing, of the needed

repairs. Then, give the landlord time to make the repairs.

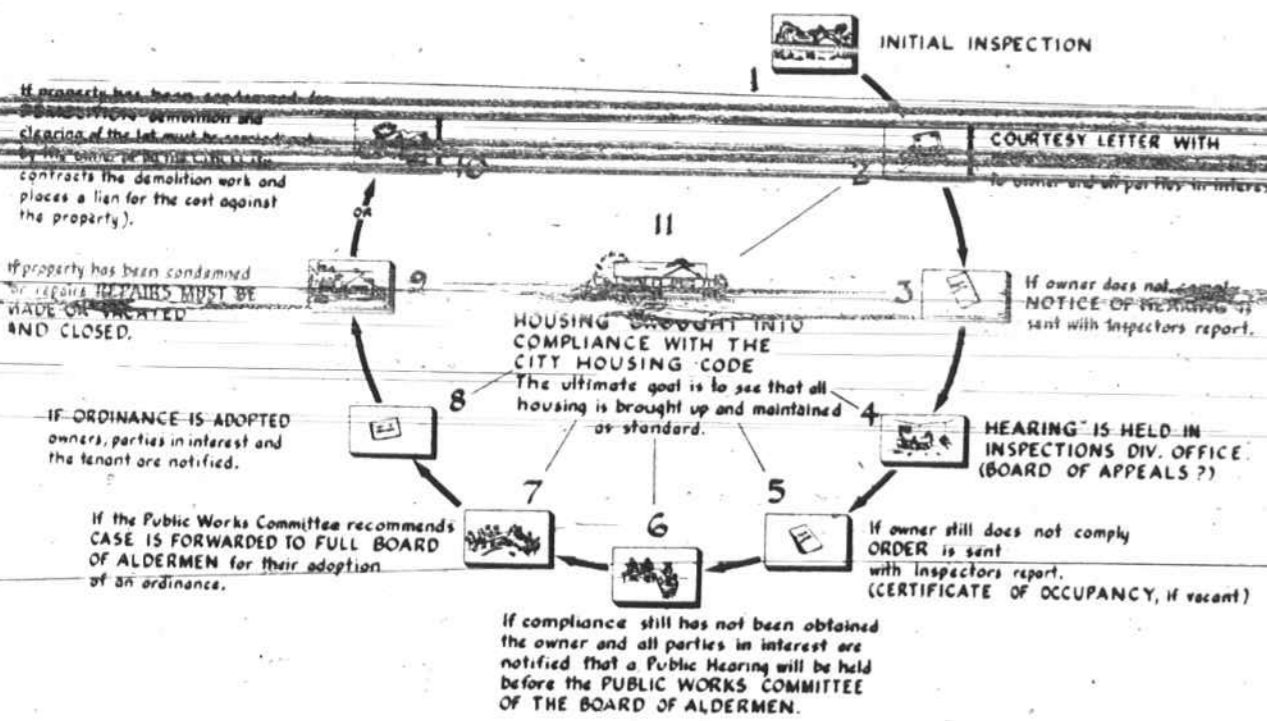
If he does not make the repairs within a reasonable length of time, the tenant may sue in court, and it is possible that some of the tenant's rent money will be refunded.

"This is the most important law for blacks since the 1954 desegregation law!" said Alderman Virginia K. Newell, when she learned of the new law.

She described cases in her own East Ward, where tenants have complained with little success to get needed repairs to

See Page 2

SYSTEMATIC HOUSING CODE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM PROGRESS FLOW CHART



Local Citizens Blast Pupil Assignment Plan

by Yvette McCullough
Staff Reporter

Numerous citizens voiced their complaints over the proposed pupil assignment plan for next year at the Board of Education meeting Monday night but few came up with an alternate solution.

A very vocal crowd was making their presence known through standing ovations, cheers and applause. A group from Rural Hall was out in numbers in order to gain support for making Rural Hall Elementary a k-6 school. The motive for suggesting the change however was questioned by two school board members.

"This entire plan is based on the premise that k-6 is better than k-4," Dr. Sheppard said. "I don't think the argument is based on educational reasoning."

Ms. Wooten agreed with Dr. Sheppard. "It seems that k-6 is only a good idea when it is in 'my' neighborhood. If k-6 is educationally sound regardless of the community then why not put a K-6 school at Fairview if K-6 is so desirable."

Dr. Adams told the group that they did not represent the group that is pleased with the plan. "Changes can be made in the plan but people will always be affected by the plan," Dr. Adams said.

Dr. Adams also said that the school district would go K-6 districts as

the population changes. Under the proposed plan three schools, Oak Summit, Konnoak and Old Town Elementary would expand to K-6 schools.

Patrick Hairston, president of the local NAACP, said that he believes in integrating the school system but he objects to the closing of some inner city schools.

"Under the plan all old schools will be demolished and most old schools are in the black neighborhood," Hairston said. "I'm afraid five years from now all of our children (blacks) will be bused out to schools and none will be bused in."

Dr. Adams also added that if the school system eventually goes to a 3-3 plan on the secondary level an addition of two senior high will be needed. He named Carver and Mount Tabor as two

schools what would fit into the plan.

Professor Selected In Exchange Program

Mrs. Victoria Yates, Associates Professor of Spanish at Livingstone College and wife of Dr. Walter Yates, Dean of Hood Theological Seminary has been selected to participate in the fifth Caribbean-American Scholars Exchange Program of the Phelps-Stokes Fund March 2-17. This is a first for Livingstone College and another phase of The International Curriculum Development Program. Orientation for the participants was conducted in Washington, D.C. February 1-3rd.

The Exchange Program See Page 11



Mrs. Pearl Hardy, the first tenant to test North Carolina's Landlord-Tenant Law in court, points out the debris left from repairs made on her apartment. Behind her is the newly-installed window.

Landlord-Tenant Law Tested Here

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Writer

The first court case involving the new Landlord-tenant Law took place last month in Winston-Salem. Paul Sinal of Legal Aid and his client Mrs. Pearl Hardy used the law to fight an eviction proceeding brought against Mrs. Hardy.

District Court Judge William Freeman ordered Mrs. Hardy's landlord, Sam C. Ogburn, to make repairs to the apartment.

and awarded Mrs. Hardy a rent abatement of \$80, the total of \$20 per month for the four months before the repairs were made and since the law took effect in October.

Mrs. Hardy called the new landlord-tenant law "Beautiful." "It makes me feel much better," she declared. "It's somebody on the poor people's side."

The Landlord-Tenant Law, passed in 1977, requires landlords

See Page 2

Dr. Atkins . . .

On Negro Education

by Velma McCloud
Special to the Chronicle

Should the Negro be given an education different from that given to the whites? This was the question that challenged the educators when the TWENTIETH CENTURY NEGRO LITERATURE, which contained the thoughts of 100 of America's greatest Negro intellectuals, was written.

"The education of a Negro is the education of a human being. In its essential characteristics the human mind is the same in every race and in every age. When a Negro child is taught that two and two are four, he learns just

what the white child learns when he is taught the same proposition." The above quotation from Bishop Haygood indicated the answer to Rev. S.G. Atkins, who at that time was given the handle Rev. S.G. Atkins.

Dr. Atkins stated that the question was simply a revival of an old superstition concerning the Negro that manifested itself in the inquiry as to whether the Negro had a soul. Dr. Atkins said, "God had made one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of all the earth," taken from the declaration of St. Paul. It is a strange fact that nobody ever pro-

poses a modified or peculiar form of education for any other nationality.

Dr. Atkins has said in his speech that benefits from education were realized according to individual temperament and power. Dr. Atkins was a man who, at the time of that writing, had undergone many hardships during his educational training, enough to demonstrate immense insight in his writings.

"I would not contend that environment would not make the whole group of children more or less backward, and I do not dispute the fact that be-

See Page 5

PTA Attacks Violence On TV

by Yvette McCullough
Staff Reporter

Just like "Seasame Street" and "Zoom" can teach children their ABC's, "Starsky and Hutch" and "Kojak" can teach them ABC's of violence. This was the conclusion found by the Na-

tional PTA Television Commission based on numerous public hearings, which were held to see what effects if any, television violence has on children.

The National PTA believes that television violence is a national problem and are concerned

about the impact violence has on children and youths. Public Hearings were held last year in eight major population centers throughout the country.

Major effects of television violence, expressed at the hearings were aggression, desensitization, paranoia, effect of the quality of life, relationship to learning problems and distortion of reality.

Aggressive behavior it was repeatedly stated, is learned by children who watch violent or aggressive actions on television, often performed by "hero" figures. The aggressive behavior cited most frequently was cruel or rough play.

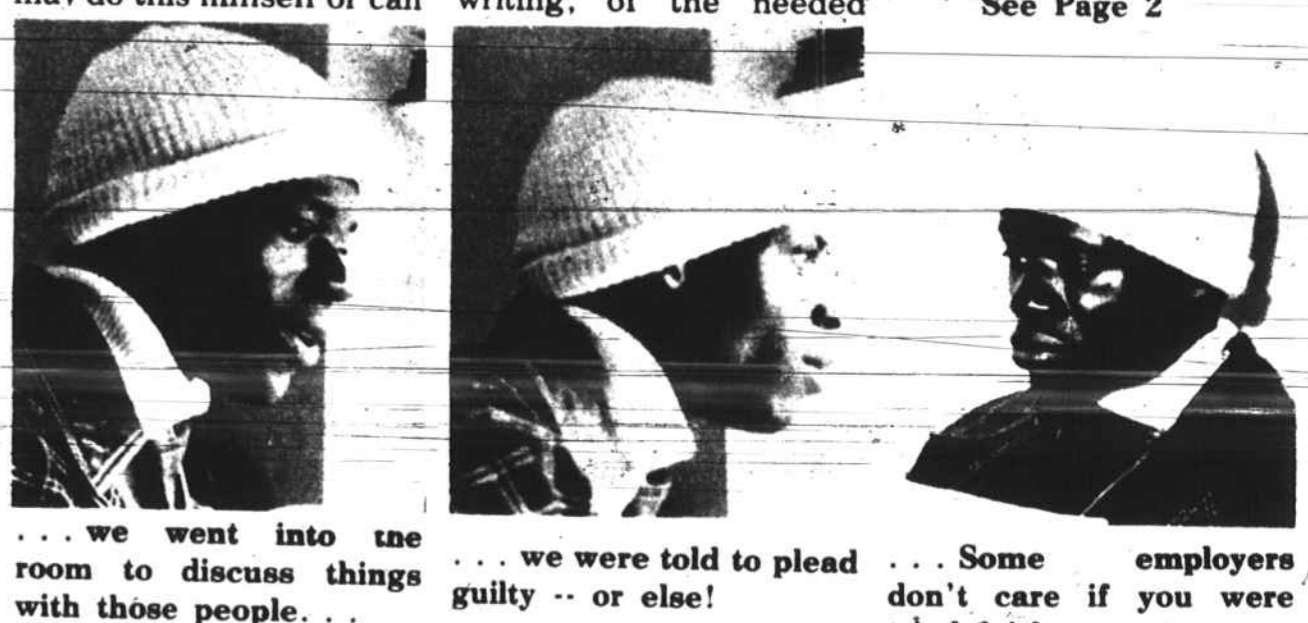
It was stated by one psychologist at the Atlanta hearing that he had been shot by his nephew, who said later that he thought his uncle "would be all right in a few minutes, the way they are on T.V."

Another frequent concern of people at the hearings was progressive desensitization of children who regularly view violent acts on television. It was stated that seeing repeated acts of violence increased children's tolerance



Dr. S.G. Atkins

"Nothing under the sun is ever accidental." G. E. Lessing



... we went into the room to discuss things with those people. . .

... we were told to plead guilty -- or else!

... Some employers don't care if you were tried fairly or not. . .

Pendleton Fourteen

'Still No Justice!'

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Reporter

Donald Ray Hunter is a soft-spoken, gentle young man. Even his towering height gives not suggestion of menace. One would not expect him to be an ex-Marine with a bad conduct discharge for an assault conviction, which is what he is -- but the story behind these

facts is complicated and tragic.

In November 1976, Lance-Corporal Donald Hunter had sixty days left to serve of a three year hitch in the Marine Corps. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California.

Also stationed at Camp Pendleton were Ku Klux Klan members who had been allowed to join the Marines, yet still retained their KKK membership. These people, Hunter recalled, were passing out racist literature on the base, posting offensive signs, and sometimes staging confrontations with minority soldiers.

"They wore robes with a cross on the back to the cafeteria, and carried knives," said Hunter.

"Once they spray-painted a truck gray, and wrote on it 'kkk is here to stay,' and the base officials just let it sit there like that for two weeks."

The black and Chicano Marines complained about these incidents, but the brass ignored them. Finally, the minority enlisted men began to hold meetings to discuss ways to deal with the situation. The officials' response was to ban their meetings.

Finally, on November 13, 1976 a group of black soldiers decided to go to the quarters of three known Klansmen to talk.

"We just went there to talk," says Hunter. But for fear of reprisal, the

See Page 2

Davis Defends Position On Humphrey-Hawkins Bill

State Senator Lawrence Davis defended his position on the Humphrey-Hawkins bill by saying that he opposes the bill because it "Adds fuel to the fire of inflation by taking the purchasing power away from the average American."

Davis released his position Tuesday on a bill that is favored by most of his opponents. Davis is one of eight candidates seeking a seat in the U.S. Senate.

The Humphrey-Hawkins bill main objective is employment. The bill would strive for 3 per cent adult unemployment and 4 per cent overall unemployment by 1983, compared to the present unemployment rate of 7.1 per cent.

"Incomes have not kept up with inflation. The average paycheck buys less today than in 1973," Davis stated. "The Hum-

phrey-Hawkins bill would generate additional inflation by increasing the federal deficit."

Davis continued, "Inflation fueled Humphrey-Hawkins bill would hit the hardest those very target groups that the bill seeks to aid, namely the unemployed living on a fixed income."

He said that it would be in the best interest of the citizens to find new jobs in the private sector rather than temporary Ceta positions or other similar positions funded by the federal government.

"Full employment is a goal that is reachable and we must reach that goal if America is once again to have sound economic footing," Davis stated.

Inflation is running rapid at almost 10 percent per year Davis said and that additional inflation

See Page 2

See Page 2