

newslines

Rain Makes Woman Nervous

RALEIGH--A few drops of rain makes a Western North Carolina woman nervous. A heavy downpour almost makes her panic. It isn't until the rain stops that her fears - very real ones - subside.

This woman is one of over 3600 victims of last November's floods in the North Carolina mountains. Her house has been rebuilt and most of her possessions replaced. But all of the damages caused by the disaster were not that easily repaired. She still is working on healing the psychological wounds that come with being part of such a disaster.

Through the Blue Ridge Mental Health Center in Asheville and a federal grant this woman and about 600 other persons who suffered traumas because of the flooding were able to receive psychological help and counseling. The purpose of the program, Project Hand (Healthy Adjustment to Natural Disasters), was to determine the adverse psychological effects the November 6, 1977 flooding had on the residents of the four hardest hit counties: Buncombe, Yancey, Madison and Mitchell. Funded with a \$47,600 Federal Disaster Assistance Administration grant the program was the first of its kind in North Carolina.

Livingstone Gets Grant

SALISBURY NC-- President F. George Shipman has announced Livingstone College's receipt of a Title III Grant for the 1978-79 school year in the amount of \$608,500. The grant award will be used to strengthen the areas of curriculum and faculty development, student services and administrative operations.

Title III is part of the U.S. Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and provides support for strengthening developing institutions that serve large percentages of low income and minority students.

The program is administered by the division of institutional development of the U.S. Office of Education and funds more than 250 schools annually with grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$700,000.

This year's grant to Livingstone is one of the largest one-year grants awarded to a four-year private institution and is the largest 12-month grant received by the College since it began participating in the Title III Program.

Migrant Workers File Suit

Fayetteville, N.C.--An attorney with Farmworkers Legal Services of North Carolina (FLSNC) today filed the first lawsuit in the state's history on behalf of migrant farmworkers. The suit, which was filed in Federal District Court in Fayetteville, names a Sampson County crew leader and a Johnston County farmer as defendants.

In the suit, the farmworkers are seeking money damages for alleged failure of the defendants to pay minimum wages and to make disclosure required by law before transporting them to temporary labor camps in North Carolina.

"This suit is the beginning of what we feel will be a continuing effort to enforce the legal rights of migrants and seasonal farmworkers," said FLSNC Executive Director Bill Geimer.

"Our clients are members of a segment of society that has been exploited for too long," he said. "They have the legal rights accorded to them by our state and federal governments and we intend to do everything possible using the legal system to see that these rights are enforced."

FLSNC was started in August. It is an affiliate of the statewide, federally-funded Legal Services of North Carolina program and it is responsible for providing free civil legal assistance to migrants and seasonal farmworkers. FLSNC offices are located in Newton Grove, N.C.

Says Human Relations Panel

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Writer

North Carolina's Human Relations Council has passed on a resolution calling for more minority representation in the state's education system, and members of the council will meet this week with Governor James Hunt to discuss the resolution and three others, recently passed by the group.

The governor will confer with Dr. Jerry Drayton, chairman of the N.C. Human Relations Council, Director Henry McKoy and a committee who will discuss the implementation of the 4 resolutions which were adopted at the council's last quarterly meeting in Charlotte.

The education resolution urges the Governor to appoint more minority representatives on boards of trustees within the state's community college system. It also recommends that Hunt establish a "special task force on the hiring of minorities" to consult with local educational leaders for the purpose of encouraging equal employment of minority groups in educational institutions.

A resolution on fair employment states that "the present statutes prevent the state of North Carolina from receiving large sums of funding for processing and handling discrimination complaints for the state's handicapped, elderly, minority, and female citizens," and it asks that

the governor include a "Fair Employment Practices" bill with enforcement authority for the State Human Relations Council in his fall legislative package.

The Human Relations Council will discuss the possible implementation of a New Horizons program on the state level. The New Horizons program was developed by HUD's Fair Housing and Equal Employment Office to provide grants for governmental units to engage in voluntary compliance in Fair Housing.

In its fourth resolution, the council resolved to take an active role in voter registration. It plans to present to the governor a study conducted last summer analyzing the minority voter registration statistics in North Carolina. The study shows that there are 62% white registered voters and only 45% non-white registered voters.

"There are some eastern counties where the black population outnumbers the

white," Dr. Jerry Drayton explained. "We feel that if these people would be registered and vote, they could change a lot of things to make conditions better for themselves--like getting better health care."

At the next meeting of the N.C. Human Relations Council, to be held next

week in Durham, a committee will present a study of the state's affirmative action plan, pointing out those departments which deviate from the plan.

"We feel that we could be more effective if the state provided a living example of affirmative action," Dr. Drayton commented.

Mayor Seeks Nominations

Wayne A. Corpening has announced that he is seeking volunteers or nominations from City residents to serve on the Fairgrounds Commission.

Corpening said that individuals should write him stating their candidacy or their nominations. The letter should have the name, address, telephone number and an outline of those personal attributes that would assist the commission in carrying out its function.

The closing date for volunteering or nominating is Friday, Dec. 1.

Letters may be sent to Corpening at P.O. Box 2511, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

The commission sets policy for all facets of fairgrounds operations and sets the rates and rental fees at the fairgrounds.

The commission has nine members appointed by the mayor and board of aldermen. Each term runs for three years. Incumbents may be eligible to serve two consecutive terms and after a one-year absence can be reappointed.

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