

State NAACP Plans Annual Meet

CHARLOTTE--Kelly M. Alexander, Sr., veteran president of the North Carolina NAACP, has announced that the 36th annual convention of the North Carolina NAACP will convene in Greensboro, November 8-11.

The theme of the convention is: "NAACP Priorities In A Time of Economic Crisis."

The convention headquarters will be the Golden Eagle Motor Inn. Alexander

said, the convention program will provide, through workshops, discussions and expert presentations, information and guidance for North Carolina NAACP branches in the implementation of policy and programs.

Alexander said that a vigorous and aggressive action program for the '80's will be launched to create a state-wide impact and sensitivity to the problems affecting the black population,

disadvantaged and the poor.

Ms. Althea T.L. Simmons, director of the Washington Bureau NAACP, will be the keynote speaker on Friday evening, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m., at the United Institutional Baptist Church, 802 E. Market St., in Greensboro. Ms. Simmons has served in many capacities

with the NAACP, before assuming her current duties. She was associate director for branch & field services,

national director for training programs, director for education programs and director of voter registration projects.

The convention will begin with its annual "Ministers and Church Emphasis Day" on Thursday, Nov. 8, at the United Institutional Baptist Church, 802 E. Market Street.

The Thursday "Ministers and Church Emphasis Day" will feature the Rev. Julius Ceaser Hope, NAACP national director of religious affairs.

The Winston-Salem Chronicle is published every Thursday by the Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Company, 516 N. Trade St. Mailing Address: P. O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. Phone: 722-8624. Second Class postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. Subscription: \$9.60 per year payable in advance (N.C. sales tax included). Opinions expressed by columnists in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the policy of this paper. Member N. C. Black Publishers' Association. PUBLICATION USPS NO. 067910



Rev. Henry Lewis

Pastor Focuses On Technology

How was the world created? Is the beginning and end of human life in the hands of God or medical technology? Such questions show the controversies surrounding "Technology and Religion" which will be discussed at the Main Public Library on Thursday, Oct. 18.

Speaker and discussion leader for the forum will be Henry S. Lewis, Jr. Lewis will focus on whether or not there are basic conflicts between religion and science and how religious beliefs can be reconciled with the modern technological society in which we live.

Lewis has been a pastoral counselor for R.J. Reynolds Industries since 1977. He was formerly university chaplain and assistant professor of Religion at Winston-Salem State University and minister at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

This is the fifth in a series of ten film-and-forum programs on technology and change sponsored by the library's CONNECTIONS project. Dr. William F. Sheppard, director of extended education at Winston-Salem State University, is on-going moderator for the series.

This and all programs in the Library's CONNECTIONS series are free and open to the public. Free college credit is also available for participants who register before November 2 and complete suitable readings and tests.

The Library forums are also videotaped and shown for home viewers on cable channel 12 at 9 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday each week. "Technology and Religion" will be shown on October 28 and 30.

Soldier

While facing a court-martial, a desperate Smith wrote Green's parents in New Jersey asking for their help.

On Oct. 13, Smith's Army lawyer took Green's account of the frame-up by telephone, according to the affidavit. Smith maintains that the same day, the lawyer advised him to submit a request for a discharge in lieu of the court-martial.

The defendant heard "through the grapevine" that Green had talked to the lawyer and demanded that his request be withdrawn. According to an affidavit by the sergeant who guarded Smith, the soldier also went to his company commander with the small request, only to be told "the case was closed."

By Nov. 3, Smith was out of the Army, reduced in grade from E-5 (Specialist) to E-1 (Private).

With \$21, he left Ft. Jackson, S.C., spent three hours in Winston-Salem and headed back to Washington. "I knew if I was going to get anything done, it would have to be there."

He contacted Legal Aid, which referred him to the Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights, then conducting a special program for handling cases of undesirable discharges.

Through lawyer Eliot Goldstein of the firm Deboise and Liberman, Smith filed an appeal with

the Army Discharge Review Board.

On Aug. 29, 1978, the board voted unanimously that Smith be granted an honorable discharge. The panel held "that sufficient evidence exists to strongly suggest impropriety in protection of applicant's rights during discharge proceedings."

"I felt like the weight of the world was lifted off my shoulders," said Smith of the moment when he heard that news.

The new discharge meant Smith is now eligible for Veterans Administration benefits and possibly for back pay from the Army.

A claim in the U.S. Court of Claims has been filed on Smith's behalf for back pay, medical allowances and other benefits. The government has responded that Smith has failed to exhaust administrative remedies, according to Justice Department spokesman Mark Sheehan, and challenged some of his contention.

Whatever the outcome of that case, Smith has gotten his VA college benefits which he hopes will make him able "to ensure that nothing like this happens again."

Addlestone said more veterans holding undesirable discharges should follow Smith's example. "About 30 per cent are being upgraded," said the specialist in military law.

The lawyer said the

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administrative discharges are being abused extensively. "It encourages commanders to bring rather weak charges with serious results and then offer

the discharge as an out." "It's a very neat way to circumvent the Congressionally mandated system of military justice," he added.

Fuel

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gallons for two people," said Britt.

"I paid out \$1,098 last week for oil," she added. "That's scary because it's just for 24 people." Last year, the ministry purchased 1,100 allotments of 50-gallons for about \$25,000. At this year's rates, the same number of allotments would cost \$50,000.

the impact of the increases is not lost on dealers, who say they are merely passing on increases from their suppliers. "I expect it's going to cause a lot of problems," said Melita Sanders of R and R Fuel Oil Service. "But we've never really demanded payment, especially from older people on fixed incomes."

"It's hard on us too," said Shelton, "because we have to handle so much more money, without making any more than we did years ago when cost a lot less."

Because more families will be unable to afford the higher prices, coupled with higher prices for food and other necessities, the outlook is bleak, noted Britt. "None of us knows what we're going to do," she said. "We'll just buy it until it runs out."

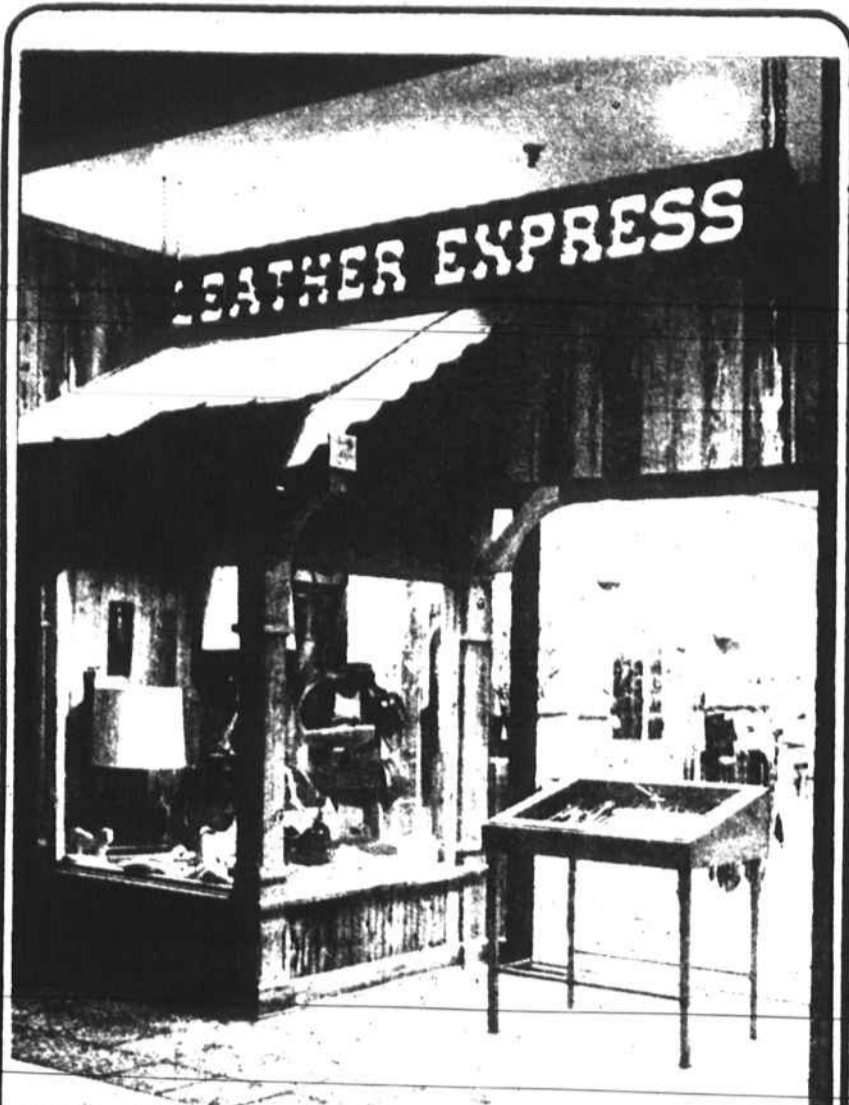


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Charlotte Passes Fair Housing Law

CHARLOTTE--The City of Charlotte has become the second North Carolina municipality to implement a tough fair housing ordinance with enforcement powers.

The ordinance gives the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee the authority to investigate and resolve discrimination complaints based on race, sex, religion or national origin.

If a complaint can not be resolved through voluntary means, the committee can hold a public hearing, requiring involved parties to attend through subpoena power granted by the ordinance.

The committee can also apply to courts for temporary injunctions or restraining orders to prevent the sale or rental of affected property until the

complaint is resolved. Following the hearing, the committee may file suit in Superior Court on behalf of the complainant, with the approval of the City Council.

Sis Kaplan, chairman of the CRC, said the ordinance "represents a strong commitment by the city to equal opportunity in housing for all residents of Charlotte."

Raleigh was the first city in the state to pass such an ordinance in 1976.

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