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Letter to the Editor

Challenge to NAACP And Urban League

Dear Editor:

Assuming that you are as much of a leading force in our community as the NAACP and Urban League are supposed to be, pray explain these occurrences: The Monday, March 3, Sentinel state in an article entitled, "50 per cent of Juvenile Referrals Come from Within the Southeast and Northeast areas."

Nevertheless, leading individuals and organizations in the Black community silently or helplessly accept the continued saturation in these predominantly Black areas with low-income housing sponsored by the Federal government through HUD. And "statistics" also reveal a disproportionate number of youths from the so-called poverty-level incomes commit the most criminal offenses.

Under the circumstances, there exists a vicious circle, topped with hypocrisy on the part of those in power. They repeatedly offer statistical evidences of the what, where, and why of high crime areas, then develop more of the conditions--and statistics continue unchanged. For no logical reasons, they continue to smother the Southeast and Northeast

See Page 4



Doing Well In Paris

Local musicians Michael Wright and Joey Daniels (left) and fellow artists Bobby Helms and Barbara Purdy are having a high time in Paris, France as they continue their three-month odyssey through Europe. After starring in a show entitled "Celebration," they have most recently performed on one of France's most noted radio stations, Europe 1. They are also performing at a Parisian caberet called La Belle Epoque. One might remember Daniels as the Chronicle's Sounds columnist before he left for France.

Don't miss special bridal guide **Joining Together**

300 Black Voters Added Since Jan. 30

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

Three weeks before the deadline to participate in the May 6 primary elections, only 319 new black voters out of a potential 13,000 have been added to the Forsyth County rolls.

A Jan. 30 tally by the county Board of Elections shows a total of 23,617 blacks registered to vote. During February, records show that 251 blacks registered. In the first ten days of March, 68 blacks have registered.

The March 10 figure of 23,936 voters is a decrease from the 1978 figure of 24,379 blacks registered cited in a study by the State Human Relations Council.

A council report on minority voter registration released in August 1978 indicates that Forsyth County had a black

voting age population of 37,569 then, 23 per cent of the total voting age population.

Lester Davis, chairman of the joint NAACP-Winston-Salem Improvement Association voter registration drive announced in January, has no figures on the number of voters registered through the effort.

Davis said "Most of the work has been concentrated in recreation centers and community centers. We're going to expand a little bit and do some door-to-door work before the deadline."

Davis said very little door to door work has been done to date. A campaign is set for this week in the Broadway Heights section and stationary registration sites have been planned for Galilee Baptist Church March 16, Happy Hill Community Center

See Page 3

Grant Rules Revised for Elderly Owners

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

The city's \$5,000 rehabilitation grant program to elderly homeowners is likely to be changed to remove a provision which had scared off many of its potential users.

The public works committee of the Board of Aldermen has approved an

amendment to the ordinance creating the grants which removes the liens placed on the owner's property if the owner dies.

Residents have to live in the home at least five years to have the lien on their property forgiven. The provision was added to prevent profiteering on the grants.

Eligible grantees, such as all those in the East Winston Community develop-

ment area, have shied away from the program because they have been told that if they die before the five years is up, the lien comes due.

However, the ordinance change provides that if the person dies before the five years is up, the loan is forgiven, according to assistant city manager Joe Berrier, who unveiled the proposal to the committee Monday night.

Alderman Virginia K. Newell, D-East, who almost came to tears while seeking a change in the ordinance two aldermanic meetings ago, was pleased by the city staff's action.

"It's better that what they had had as an albatross over people's heads," she said Tuesday morning. "Now the people don't have a big debt of \$5,000 hanging over their heirs."

Woman Arraigned In Lovers Stabbing

Paulette Solomon, of 801 E. 3rd St., accused in the stabbing death of Ricky E. Thomas, has been bound over to Forsyth County Superior Court for arraignment before a grand jury later this month.

Miss Solomon, 26, is accused of stabbing Thomas, her boyfriend, in the neck after an argument during which Thomas allegedly beat her.

In her statement, which was read by Det. J.H. Tucker, Miss Solomon stated that the argument had begun over the presence of Thomas' uncle, Robert Crawford, and his girlfriend, Mary Elizabeth Pratt, at the apartment.

Tucker testified that the statement indicated that Miss Solomon had asked Thomas to ask the couple to leave. He refused. While the couple were arguing, Crawford and Miss Pratt went upstairs to

a bedroom.

According to the statement, Miss Solomon went upstairs and allegedly retrieved a knife from under a bed. She went back downstairs and allegedly stabbed Thomas once in the neck near the jugular vein.

She called police and an ambulance and was in hysteria when they arrived, Tucker testified.

The detective stated that when he interviewed Crawford and Miss Pratt, they were too intoxicated to give a statement. Tucker noted that at 10 a.m. the next day, the couple was still too intoxicated to give a statement to him.

The two, sweethearts since college, reportedly shared the apartment on E. 3rd St., where the stabbing took place.

Thomas was dead on arrival at the local hospital. Miss Solomon is free on bond.



\$1 Million Policy

C.P. Booker, right, District Sales Manager of the Winston-Salem District of N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Co., presents Mutter Evans, center, her \$1 million life insurance policy. Harold R. Davis, left, NCM's vice-president for Field Operations, looks on. Ms. Evans, owner of WAAA radio station here recently purchased NCM's first \$1 million life insurance policy.



Debate Winners

Ronald Brown, junior from New Brunswick, N.J., and Ronqle Davis, a junior from Fayetteville, won the debate competition at the NAACP regional convention in Charlotte last weekend on behalf of the Winston-Salem State University chapter of the NAACP. Above, they display the trophy they earned.

Court-Appointed Lawyers: The Luck Of The Draw

By Donna Oldham
Staff Writer

In Forsyth Superior Court, a man sits and awaits his trial. Several weeks ago, he was arrested for receiving stolen property, a new stereo.

It had all been so easy and anyway, who had an extra \$300 to pay for a new stereo. But, he got caught.

The district attorney calls the man's name and he steps in front of the judge.

"Are you represented by an attorney sir," asks the judge.

Attorney? The man looks at the judge. If he had money to pay for an attorney he'd have had enough to buy the stereo legitimately and he wouldn't be in trouble now.

But, he needed an attorney. "If you desire an attorney and can not afford one, an attorney can be appointed for you if you qualify," the judge tells him.

The magic way out? Not really. Each year, thousands of people ask the courts to appoint attorneys for them because either they will not or can not afford one.

Recently, during the arraignment of a man accused of murder, Judge R. Kason Keiger asked the man if he had an attorney. The accused told the court that he wanted the court to appoint a lawyer for him.

"You mean that you would trust your life to someone who may have never tried a case in court," asked the judge? The man got his own lawyer.

Forsyth District Court Judge William H. Freeman said that the judge was merely trying to frighten the defendant into admitting that he had lied and could really afford an attorney.

"If it's a capital crime, then we do not appoint an attorney with less than five years experience. Even then, the judge has to feel that the lawyer is competent enough to handle the case," Freeman said.

In cases not involving life imprisonment or the death

penalty, people are assigned the next lawyer on a list of available attorneys.

Freeman explained that any lawyer licensed to practice in the state of North Carolina can ask to be placed on the list. Several years ago, all attorneys were placed on the list, but now only those who ask.

"As a general rule, the lawyers on the list are ones without a big clientele or a lot of experience, especially when we swear in 50 new lawyers at the beginning of the year. However, there are some experienced lawyers with big practices who remain on the list because they feel it's their duty," Freeman said.

Who qualifies for a court-appointed attorney?

There are no set guidelines the decision is entirely up to the judge. In court, the person fills out an affidavit listing salary, dependants, and other pertinent information. It is then presented to the judge who either approves or disapproves the request. It's up to the discretion of the judge," Freeman said.

"As a judge you have to be careful not to assign an attorney to someone who really doesn't need one," Freeman said.

"People make false statements and then turn around and swear that everything that they've said is true. They take the attorneys away from people who really need them."

Assistant district attorney Jean Burkins said that people feel that court-appointed attorneys are free with no strings attached. That's not true.

"If a person is found guilty, they have to reimburse the state for the attorney's fee. They get a free attorney if they're found not guilty."

Those who do have to pay the state back rarely do, according to figures released by the Administrative Office of the Courts in Raleigh.

"Three to four percent of what is expended is ever paid back," said Dallas Cameron, assistant director of the of-

See Page 16