



## Someone You Should Meet ...

**Name:** David R.J. Plummer  
**Job Title:** Dentist  
**Hometown:** Winston-Salem  
**Hobbies:** Participating in and observing sports activities, putting together miniature models and playing audio-visual equipment  
**Describe yourself in one word:** "Human"  
**Favorite book:** "The Arts and Science of Operative Dentistry" by Cliff Sturdivant  
**Favorite Movies:** "Star Wars" and "The Godfather"  
**Persons admire most:** Parents, Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Plummer  
**Career Goal:** "To get people out of pain."

(photo by James Parker)

### NEWS DIGEST

National, state and local news briefs compiled by John Slade

## King Holiday Bill Clears Helms' Filibuster

WASHINGTON — Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., caused a stir on the Senate floor last week when he referred to the work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King as "action-oriented Marxism."

Helms' remark came during a 40-minute speech intended to delay action on a bill that would make King's birthday a national holiday.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., immediately attacked Helms' comments as racist.

Helms said that the creation of a King holiday would cost \$5.3 billion in wages and lost productivity. "The ironic thing to me," he said, "is that black citizens, who, above all others, need jobs, would ask -- no, demand -- the Senate pass this legislation without any hearings. I just don't understand it."

Countering Helms' view was Kansas Republican Robert Dole, who said: "Since when did a dollar sign take its place atop our moral code? To those who worry about cost, I would suggest they hurry back to their pocket calculator and estimate the cost of 300 years of slavery, followed by a century or more of economic, political and social exclusion and discrimination."

Helms agreed to end his one-man filibuster of the King bill two days later in a prior arrangement with Sen. Howard Baker, the majority leader, to give consideration to a bill that would set price supports for dairy farms and tobacco. Helms' action almost ensures passage of the King bill in the Senate.

"If the Martin Luther King Bill comes to the president's desk," said Anson Franklin, a White House spokesman, "he will surely sign it."

## Community College Desegregation Plan OK'd

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Education Department approved an amended plan for the North Carolina community college system last week.

The community colleges in North Carolina are being required to show substantial progress toward desegregation during the 1983-84 school year or face losing federal funds, said a letter from Harry M. Singleton, assistant secretary for civil rights.

The Legal Defense Fund had urged the Education Department to reject the new plan, saying it was inadequate and only "a plan to plan."

The amended plan was ordered by U.S. District Judge John Pratt after he found that the community college system in North Carolina and five other states had not met goals set in five-year plans to desegregate.

The plan requires the community colleges to recruit more black faculty and students, and to maintain a register of all faculty and administrative openings to make it easier for black applicants to find jobs in the system.

## Justice Department Says County Discriminates

RALEIGH — The Justice Department filed a suit last week challenging the at-large election system of county commissioners in Halifax County.

The civil suit, which was filed in U.S. District Court in Raleigh, charged that the system discriminates against blacks. Named in the suit were chairman of the Halifax county commissioners, Harry Branch, along with five

other commissioners, the Board of Elections and Halifax County.

The county has a population of 55,286, which is 47.1 percent black. The government charged that the at-large method results in blacks having less opportunity to elect candidates of their choice, thus putting the county in violation of the Voting Rights Act.

The persons named in the suit declined to comment.

### Crime Prevention

## Assailants Rob Man At Knifepoint

The following "Crime Box Score" is designed to keep you abreast of criminal activity in your community during the past week and to help you protect your family and property from crime.

#### Armed Robbery

•2400 block, North Cleveland Avenue

Two black males knocked down the complainant, and one of the suspects pulled a knife and put it against the complainant's throat. The suspects stole the complainant's boots and his wallet, which contained a large amount of money.

#### Strong-Armed Robbery

•1600 block, East 14th Street

Three suspects attacked the complainant from behind, struck him on the head with an object, and took his money and wallet.

•500 block, Trade Street

Three suspects attacked the complainant and stole his money.

#### Storebreaking

•1300 block, North Liberty Street

A black-and-white Philco television and a 19-inch color Philco television were taken.

•700 block, East 27th Street

A warehouse was entered and several storage cartons were broken into. It is unknown at this time what was taken.

•500 block, East 28th Street

A school was entered and the suspect or suspects took candy and money from a vending machine.

•2300 block, New Walkertown Road

Officers responded to a reported break-in in progress and observed two suspects inside a business. The officers chased both suspects and apprehended one.

•1500 block, Patterson Avenue

A school was entered, and an electric typewriter and Commodore computer were taken.

•1500 block, Liberty Street

Soft drinks were taken.

#### Housebreaking

•400 block, West 23rd Street

A refrigerator, electric stove and furniture were taken.

•1500 block, Diggs Boulevard

A 20-gauge shotgun, calculator and cigarettes were taken.

•3000 block, Sawyer Street

A house was ransacked. The items taken are not known.

#### Autobreaking

•1500 block, Diggs Boulevard

The inside of a car was damaged; nothing was taken.

•500 block, West 30th Street

A purse, money and assorted papers were taken.

#### Larceny

•5100 block, Britt Street

A 48-piece silver flatware set and chest were taken.

Please see page A5.

### Fire Prevention

## Night Fires: Expecting The Unexpected

By THOMAS FLYNN  
 Syndicated Columnist

No one's ever really ready for a night fire in his home. But you can be ready to survive one by being prepared. Families should take steps to ensure that, if fire strikes while they sleep, they'll know in time, and know what to do.

Here's how to prepare for night fire in your home: Preparation begins with one simple, vitally important bit of knowledge: *smoke kills*. The largest number of fire fatalities are killed by inhaling smoke and superheated toxic gases -- not by direct contact with flame. In today's home, snugly insulated and furnished with all manner of synthetic materials, smoke is more toxic than ever before. Because smoke is hot, it rises, spreading along the ceiling and climbing ceilings over stairways.

All of these survival tips are designed to protect you from noxious smoke long enough to get you out of the house.


First off, install a UL-listed smoke detector on the ceiling in the hallway outside your sleeping rooms. The detector will wake you with its strident howling long before smoke has built up to dangerous levels. If you haven't installed a smoke detector yet, do it now.

Then make sure every family member sleeps with sleeping room doors tightly closed. Some parents dislike doing this for fear that a child will call for help and they won't hear through two closed doors. But a closed door will keep smoke and toxic gases from entering a sleeping room for up to 20 minutes after they would enter through an open door. Seconds count in fire and 20 minutes is a luxury beyond price, so keep those doors shut.

Because smoke rises, the best air is near the floor. Each person should crawl to the door and feel it -- warmth or heat in the door means that fire might be right outside and that you should escape through the window instead. Second-floor or higher windows that don't open onto a garage roof or similar escape-way should be equipped with emergency ladders, and the persons who use those rooms must be trained in using the ladders.

Each family member should know a pre-arranged spot at which to meet to establish who has and who has not escaped. Call the fire department only after escaping; Use a neighbor's phone or a public telephone.

Finally, practice. Hold family fire drills over and over, at unpredictable intervals, until every member of your family knows what to do when fire comes.

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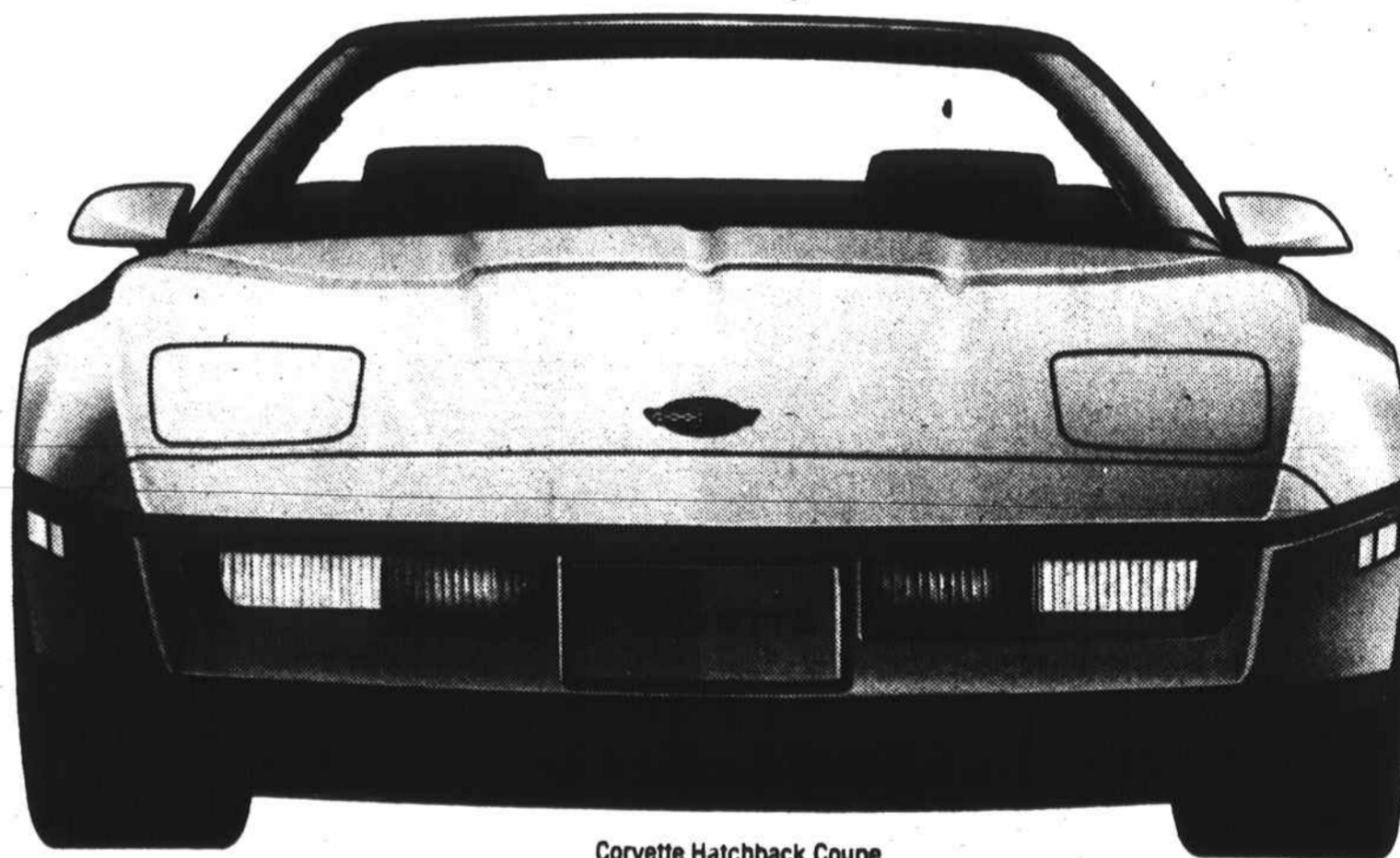
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