



Someone You Should Meet ...

Name: Gabrielle A. Hairston
Job Title: Cosmetologist
Hometown: Winston-Salem
Describe Yourself in one word: "Outgoing"
Hobbies: Singing and hairstyling
Favorite Book: Mystery novels
Favorite Movie: "Sudden Impact" and "Scarface"
Person admires most: My grandmother, Lola Yokley and My mother, Yvette Nickerson
Career Goal: "To one day own my own salon."

(If you are single, at least 18 years old, doing something positive in the community, employed and interested in appearing in this column, or if you know someone who meets these criteria, please send your name and daytime telephone number to: Someone You Should Meet, Winston-Salem Chronicle, P.O. Box 2151, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.)

(photo by James Parker)

NEWS DIGEST

National, state and local news briefs compiled by Greg Brown

Helms' press aide apologizes for slur

GREENSBORO -- Sen. Jesse Helms' black campaign press secretary apologized last week for using a slur in reference to some supporters of Democratic senatorial challenger James Hunt.

Gov. Hunt had charged that Helms was the leader of a national right-wing network. When a reporter from the *Greensboro News and Record* asked Helms' press secretary, Claude Allen, to comment on the remark, Allen said that if Hunt was going to attack Helms' followers as right-wing, "we could go back and do the same thing with the queers." Several advocates of homosexual rights have contributed to Hunt's campaign.

Allen, who turned 24 last week, telephoned the

newspaper shortly after the interview and apologized for the remark. He later told reporters, "I could probably have chosen a better word, but I can't say I regret saying it."

Helms, in Charlotte for a speech before the N.C. Association of Realtors, declined to say whether he regretted Allen's language. "I don't think I'd have used that word," Helms said, "but I'm not going to criticize Claude because he's a fine young man."

Will Marshall, a Hunt campaign spokesman, said the comment revealed the true nature of Helms' campaign. "It is a campaign that resorts to name-calling, smears and epithets instead of debating the real issues," he said.

Hooks assails Senate for defeating bill

NEW YORK, N.Y. -- The NAACP has called the U.S. Senate "irresponsible and totally insensitive to affirmative action and civil rights" following the Senate's refusal to approve the proposed Civil Rights Act of 1984.

The NAACP's executive director, Benjamin L. Hooks, said he found the Senate action "unconscionable."

"This act was the most important civil rights measure before the Congress," Hooks said in an NAACP press release. "This Senate action is undeniably craven. The Civil Rights Act of 1984 did not break new ground and would not have made new law. However, the rights of blacks, other

minorities, women, the disabled and the elderly cannot be tabled and those who would deny equal rights and equal opportunities will not be forgotten. We have a voice and we have a vote."

The proposed legislation would have overturned a narrow interpretation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1984. It would have reaffirmed 20 years of practice consistent with the intent of the civil rights laws, the press release stated.

Hooks said the NAACP would distribute individual "report cards" on each member of Congress highlighting the votes on the Civil Rights Act of 1984 and providing an analysis of the 1984 election platforms.

Civil liberties endangered by revisions

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Reagan administration officials and Congressmen from both parties say the sweeping anti-crime legislation which the president signed into law last Friday is the most far-reaching overhaul of federal criminal law in history.

The legislation, for the first time, authorizes preventive detention, by which judges can jail allegedly dangerous defendants before trial. The law abolishes parole, completely overhauls the federal bail and sentencing systems, curbs the insanity defense, makes it easier to seize assets of organized crime and drug rings and increases penalties for drug dealers, repeat offenders and others.

Critics attacked key provisions of the legislation as threats to civil liberties, but were overwhelmed

by bipartisan votes in both the House and Senate. The crime package cleared Congress last week attached to a catch-all spending bill.

The critics also fear it will trample defendants' rights and result in more overcrowded prisons.

"It is fraudulent to claim that these measures which undermine fundamental constitutional liberties will reduce violent crime or make this a safer society," said Ira Glasser, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The new measures affect only federal law, not the state laws under which 95 percent of all crimes are prosecuted. The House Judiciary Committee had bottled up the Senate-passed crime package for months because of civil liberties concerns, but Congress passed it as part of a \$470 billion catchall federal spending bill.

Open Line

How many blacks registered?

Open Line is a weekly feature designed to answer consumer questions and help citizens cut through government red tape. If you have questions about local government or the black community, write to Open Line at P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101 or call 723-8428.

Q: How many new black voters were registered for this year's presidential election?

A.B.

A: Kathie Cooper, the county elections supervisor, said accurate data will not be available until the week before the November election, when the state Board of Elections certifies registration totals.

However, unofficial totals as of Oct. 5 indicate there are 139,722 registered voters in Forsyth Coun-

ty. Of that total, 108,115 are white, and 31,458 are black. Officials have not categorized how many are newly registered voters.

Cooper said the county received 12,000 registration cards on Oct. 8, the last day of registration for the presidential election. The county still is receiving voter registration cards, she said, which were stamped before the deadline date.

Q: Whatever happened to the Otesha Dance and Music Ensemble?

C.K.

A: Amatullah Saleem said the group is alive and well. Saleem said the group conducts modern dance classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from

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Teen pregnancies pose social problems

By Dr. M.L. CLARK
 Wake Forest University

Teen parenthood brings with it a number of social, economic and educational problems that may alter teen life.

Many teens fall victim to the unplanned pregnancy while others will cope and overcome these problems.

The Guttmacher Institute reported that teen-age pregnancy decreases educational opportunities and limits career possibilities. Their data indicate that the majority of teen-age mothers do not finish high school and teen-age parents have even a lesser likelihood of completing college.

Teen-age pregnancy, however, should not be seen as the greatest cause of the high school dropout. Almost one-fourth of black adolescent girls are not enrolled in high school by their senior year. Thus, many have left because of a dislike for school, desire for a job or plans for marriage and not because of pregnancy. Furstenberg found that the best predictor of school completion for low-income black adolescent mothers was their educational ambition (which included how much they liked school, their career plans, the plans of their friends, their self-assessment of their school abilities), in addition to the amount of support they received from parents and the availability of day care.

Girls who are educationally ambitious are less likely to have premarital sex and more likely to use

birth control if they do. It is possible that building strong educational ambitions for black teens can help reduce early pregnancies and also promote a return to school for teens who do give birth. Although early pregnancy does make it difficult to finish high school, those who do finish are girls who achieve well in school, have adequate child care and have an opportunity to continue their education.

The statistics indicate that teen-age parents are more likely to separate or divorce than couples who marry in their 20s. Forty-four percent of teen spouses are either separated or divorced 15 years after marriage, when this rate is only 14 percent for the nonteen population. This information should be interpreted with care.

Marriage is not necessarily the best solution for the unmarried teen-ager. These mothers are more likely to finish schooling if they remain unmarried and live with relatives. Black families have traditionally given the type of support needed for teen mothers to return to school. In addition, mothers younger than 16 are less likely to possess the maturity needed to raise a child. Thus, staying within a cooperative family network is better than being separated from the family by marriage.

Teen mothers react to their unplanned motherhood in a number of different ways. Some hastily marry the father of the child. Others use different coping strategies and put off marriage to continue their education.

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Talc is the softest mineral. Diamond is the hardest.

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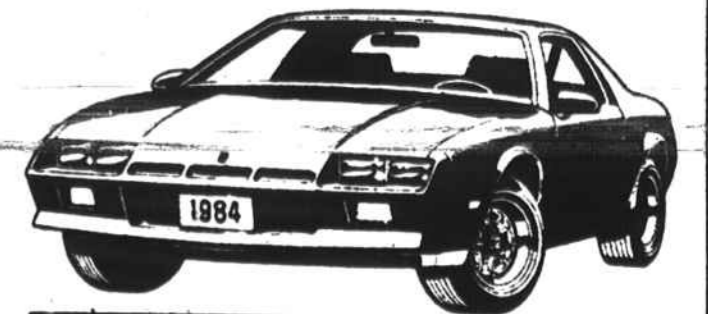
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