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modulated, he is the perfect television-age candidate. At 43, Gephardt seems like the Eagle Scout he once was."

"Conservatively dressed ... television-age ... Eagle Scout" -- you don't need a psychic to know what's being said.

It's hard to accuse the white Democrats of racism because they are appealing to whites, who

outnumber blacks by 10 to 1 and vote more heavily than blacks.

But you have to have enough common sense to know that Gephardt's "social conservatism" is the Democratic Party's New White Frontier, racism notwithstanding.

A poll says Americans have moved "right of center," with more Americans than ever claim-

ing affiliation with the Republican Party -- including many Democratic white members of Congress who are, in fact, Republicans.

The bottom line is that blacks who are Democrats don't have to become Republicans, but they owe it to their constituents to avoid exploitation in the name of party loyalty.

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tial prospects of Brother Jesse's "Rainbow Coalition."

Electoral politics is obviously a numbers game. Thus, we should not be naive enough to believe that an independent entity could be successful as far as electing candidates at the national level. However, who knows what kind of potential force an independent, mass-based party could have on local or statewide races?

Clearly, we would be in a position not only to run our own can-

didates, but also in a much better negotiating position to determine which Democrat or Republican deserves our endorsement.

So, let us not despair, sisters and brothers. Rather, let us utilize this time wisely to brainstorm, strategize and mobilize.

We are resilient, creative people, who have come too far to become mixed in the quicksand of hopelessness. We have too much at stake socially, politically

and economically to sit idly by while others plot and plan our collective future.

(Clifton E. Graves Jr. is assistant corporate counsel for the City of New Haven, Conn.)

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they will eventually be solved. Of the 21 murders committed in 1984, 18 have been solved.

Perhaps the most disturbing comment in the article was the statement quoting Mr. Johnson as saying, "I have roots here and it's not like I'm someone who has been imported here." A number of our citizens in the Northeast Ward, including myself, were born in other communities, but we have made Winston-Salem our home, we work here, we have reared our families here, and we have just as much interest and investment in this community as

those citizens who were fortunate enough to be born here.

I have lived in Winston-Salem long enough to have very long and meaningful roots in this community. A person's potential to be an effective leader should not be based upon where he is born, but where he lives and the contributions made politically and otherwise to that community.

I appreciate your giving me an opportunity to share this information with your readers.

Vivian H. Burke
Northeast Ward Alderman

Grandparent can help teen in trying years

political and social issues, broadening the youth's perspective.

- work with a grandchild in volunteer community service.
- talk with the child about

your own values and share stories about your life that represent these values. Be a good listener, and encourage the teen to use you as a sounding board in developing his or her own values.

Plants need winter watering

Among the seasonal problems that come with cold winter weather is what to do about watering plants around the home. Drought is usually associated with summer in the minds of most gardeners, but dry weather can be damaging in winter also.

Although the soil doesn't dry out as fast, plants need water in cold weather just like they do in hot weather, agricultural extension specialists at North Carolina State University remind homeowners and gardeners. This is particularly true for newly planted trees, shrubs and lawn grasses.

If there is a lack of rainfall, it is advisable to soak the soil around plants once a week. Apply water slowly so most of it will soak in and not run off.

When there are few plants to water, or if you are particularly patient, one of the best ways to do the job is to place the hose

near the plant and allow the water to trickle for several hours. This is the surest method of getting the water to soak into the cold soil.

Any time you water a plant, apply enough to soak down into the root zone. A hasty pass with the garden hose won't do much good.

Crosswinds

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There is no room in the black experience for any kind of prejudice which obstructs progress. If anyone should be aware of this, blacks should.

People who are more than 20 percent overweight have three times the risk of heart disease than those slightly overweight. * * *



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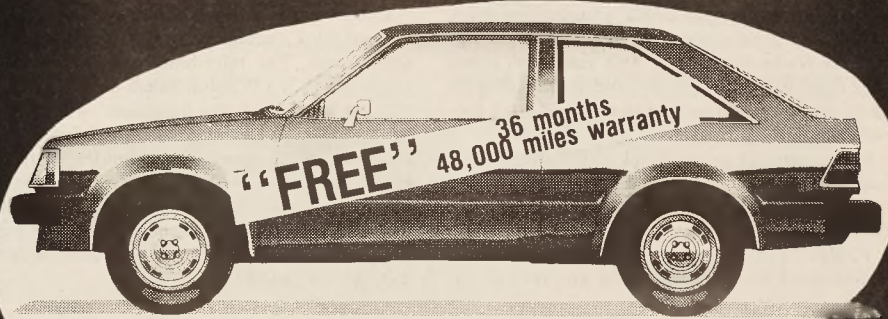
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