

Divorced fathers look at parenting

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Chronicle Staff Writer

Divorced Fathers of Forsyth County plans to hold a workshop that will discuss parenting skills for fathers who are no longer living with their children.

The workshop will be held Monday, Nov. 18 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the East Winston Branch Public Library, with guest speaker Frankie Denise Penn Powell.

According to Tim Jackson, branch manager of the library, the workshop "is to look at making family-friendly situations."

During the workshop, a number of topics will be discussed, including divorce and its effects on the children and parenting assignments.

Powell, who is currently working on a Ph.D. in education, was chosen as the guest speaker because of her knowledge and studies in the area. "She is a very good resource person," stated Jackson.

Jackson also said that the workshop will not only focus on parenting skills for divorced fathers, but anyone who is divorced or going through a divorce.

"Save the children is the key

function," he said.

Divorced Fathers of Forsyth County was organized earlier this summer by Shedrick Adams to make it easier for fathers to play an active role in the parenting of their children. The group contends that children are adversely affected when fathers do not participate fully in their growth and development. The organization's members are working to have the courts adopt "family-friendly" policies in custody and child support cases.

For more information, contact Tim Jackson at 727-2203, or Shedrick Adams at 631-5125.

Lock 'em up

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tive approaches and prevention.

"You don't look for another way to punish, you look for alternative types of discipline," says Dr. Irwin Hyman, director of the National Center for the Study of Corporal Punishment. "Emphasize the positive, not the negative. Stop focusing on kids being bad all the time, and catch them being good. You must look at programs that prevent problems. If curriculum is too hard or too easy, that can lead to behavior problems."

Tuesday, when the Discipline Alternatives Committee met, the one concept that all members agreed on was that the manner of disciplining children must be positive, not punitive.

Most members of the school board agreed that discipline, not punishment, is the issue at hand, and most voiced concern that teachers receive adequate support as the new discipline methods are developed and put into place. The ban on corporal punishment goes into effect January 22, 1992. The Discipline Alternatives Committee is to come up with alternatives by that date.

The only African-American who spoke before the board's vote was Walter Marshall, co-chair of the NAACP education committee. Marshall said he was concerned about what would be used in place of paddlings. "Don't eliminate educational opportunities for kids," he said, referring to suspension policies. Marshall also said that the same people who are against corporal punishment are in favor of the death penalty.

Later when Roxanne Grossman, a teacher, suggested that students with the worst behavior be referred for placement in special education classes, Marshall shook his head.

"The lower the special education category, the higher the concentration of blacks," he said. "It's a black male domain."

Marshall voiced the concerns of many black parents who feel that their child was put in special education classes for reasons that have more to do with cultural differences and life situations than academic needs.

What are the alternatives?

The Discipline Alternatives Committee met Tuesday to continue working on their task. About 20 teachers, principals and assistant principals as well as two counselors and two school psychologists make up the committee, which is chaired by Nancy Gibson, principal at Abraham Elementary. The three division directors, Annie Hairston, Ann Shortt, and Elsa Woods, are also on the committee.

There was no shortage of ideas among the group, which divided itself into three sub-groups and ended the day with a plan of what to do next. The alternatives sub-group will meet next week. George Bryan, director of SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Ngw), offered to coordinate the involvement of local agencies. "We want to design a program with the help of the community," said Bryan.

The communications sub-group agreed to ask superintendent Dr. Larry Coble to ask schools to set up a discipline committee, to approve a public convocation and speaker, and to recommend a philosophy of discipline management, not punishment to the school board.

The survey sub-group is developing a survey for teachers that asks them to list behaviors which keeps them from teaching effectively and to describe strategies that have been effective in dealing with students who misbehave. The survey may also ask teachers to list the number of children who require out-of-the-ordinary discipline, and to suggest ways

to make parents more accountable for their child's behavior.

"We've never asked the students what they think the problems are," suggested Larry Fields, assistant principal for Southwest Elementary.

"Some of what we have to do is retrain teachers on what to look for and what to ignore," said Jeanne Daly, a third grade teacher at Bolton.

"Before we can use an alternative discipline plan, we must know how to treat children," said Adolphus Copeland, Wiley Middle School principal. "We must take into account how students should be treated; like they're human beings."

Nancy Gibson noted that part of the problem is that some teachers don't want to deal with discipline at all.

Most of the group seemed to agree that several different approaches to discipline have been tried, but none with consistency or follow-up.

"There's a lack of common terminology," said Dacoma Love-Lane, assistant principal at Moore Elementary.

Discipline with Dignity and Assertive Discipline were two strategies that were discussed off and on throughout the day. Division Director Annie Hairston noted that some teachers and administrators were trained in Assertive Discipline, but some use it negatively, and there is no uniformity in how the strategy is used.

Dr. Hyman, an expert on school violence and aggression, said "children who respond to beatings get that way from being beaten. It works in the short run. It doesn't teach new behaviors. There are kids who won't respond to normal disciplinary measures, and they need special help. But unruly aggressive kids are made that way by aggressive, unruly parents. You must reach the family situation."

Governor's Award

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broaden the ongoing efforts of the local JPTA operation.

In addition to serving as chairman of the WS/FC Private Industry Council, which is conducted out of the Workforce Development Office of the City of Winston-Salem, Davis has also been a successful businessman for the past 21 years.

He is the owner of Davis

Management Services located on North Patterson Avenue.

Davis' term as chairman of the Council will end next month, and he says although he has enjoyed his three years as chairman, it is time for him to step down.

"I feel like it's time that they have a new chairman," explained Davis. "They've kept me on because the programs and things

that I've instituted, and things that we've done. But I feel that sooner or later you stagnate an organization when you have a person staying too long in my opinion, in a leadership position."

Davis will, however, continue to serve on the Council's Board of Directors for the next year, working to help the organization achieve its goals.

Playing politics

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Congress focusing on tax policy in a vacuum, without considering the needs of the total economy.

America is the least-taxed major industrial nation. We also have lower rates of economic growth, compared to other major nations, and the greatest income equality.

So our problems isn't taxes, but what we do with them.

Other nations have invested their tax receipts in building up their economic infrastructures and in educating and training their people for the jobs of the future.

We haven't spent our tax revenues as wisely, pouring over two trillion dollars over the past decade into a massive military buildup.

Some say that tax cuts are a way to jump-start a recessionary economy, but they're wrong. Government spending on programs that create jobs, such as repairing the infrastructure, are far more effective in stimulating economic activity.

Instead of concentrating on politically-inspired tax cutting exercises, Congress should take

steps to build the foundation for national economic growth.

Tax relief for families on the bottom half of the income ladder could be part of that.

But it should also include fresh ways to invest tax revenues in programs that will recharge the lagging economy and lead to future growth and prosperity, such as the Urban League's Marshall Plan for America.

Cutting taxes enlarges the deficit without strengthening the fundamentals of a weak economy. Investing tax revenues in future growth may be more difficult to sell politically, but it is our last, best hope to survive in a world where our economic competitors are surging ahead of us.

Board meets

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The Minority Affairs Committee consists of the three Democrats on the school board: Caridy Wood, Nancy Wooten, and Nancy Griffith.

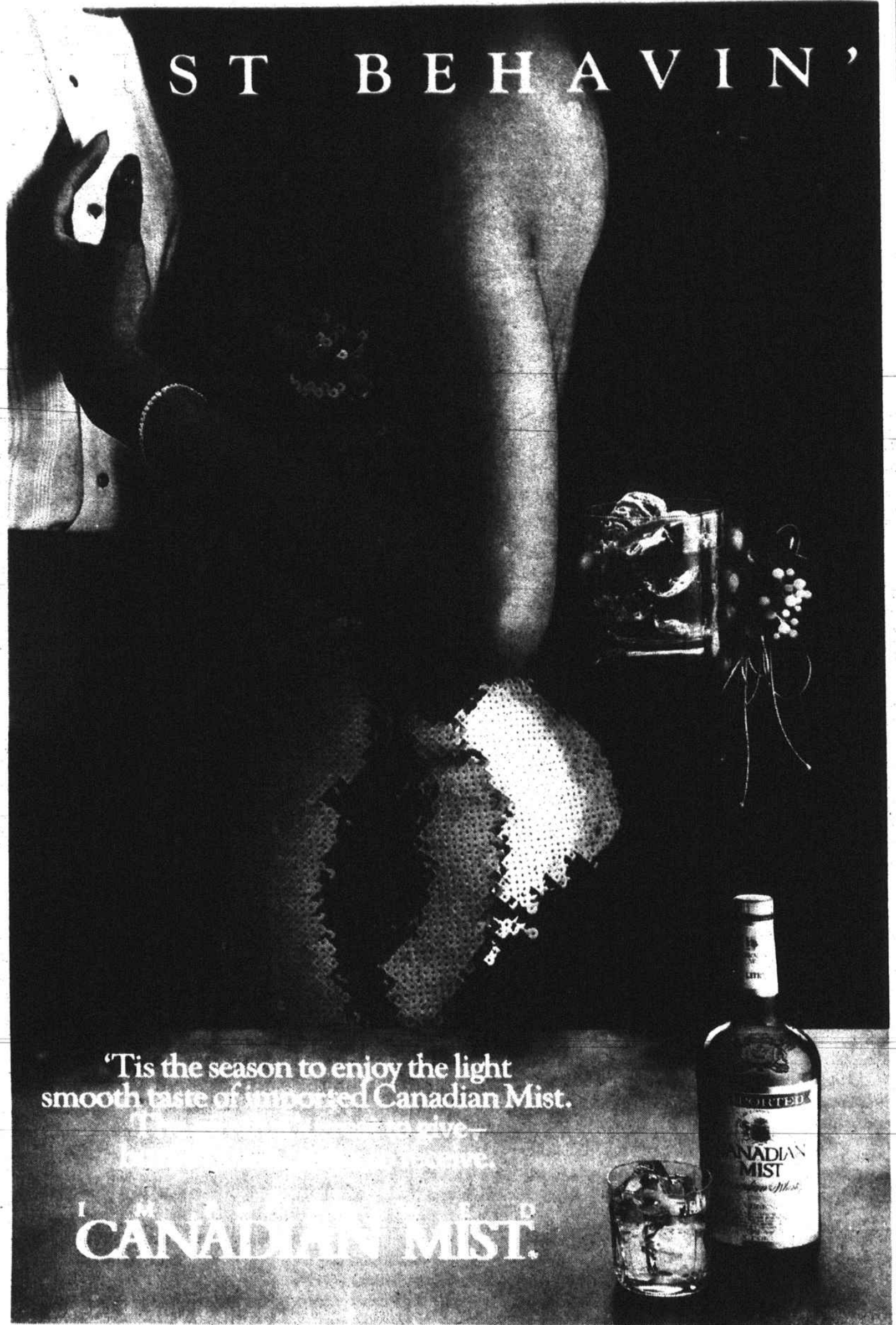
"We are concerned about giving black students a better education, and of all the members on the school board, we are the closest to the black community," said Wood. "We hope they will come and talk to us."

Happy 50th anniversary

The Rev. and Mrs. J.B. Morrison will celebrate their 50th Anniversary by renewing their wedding vows.

The ceremony will take place Saturday, November 16, at

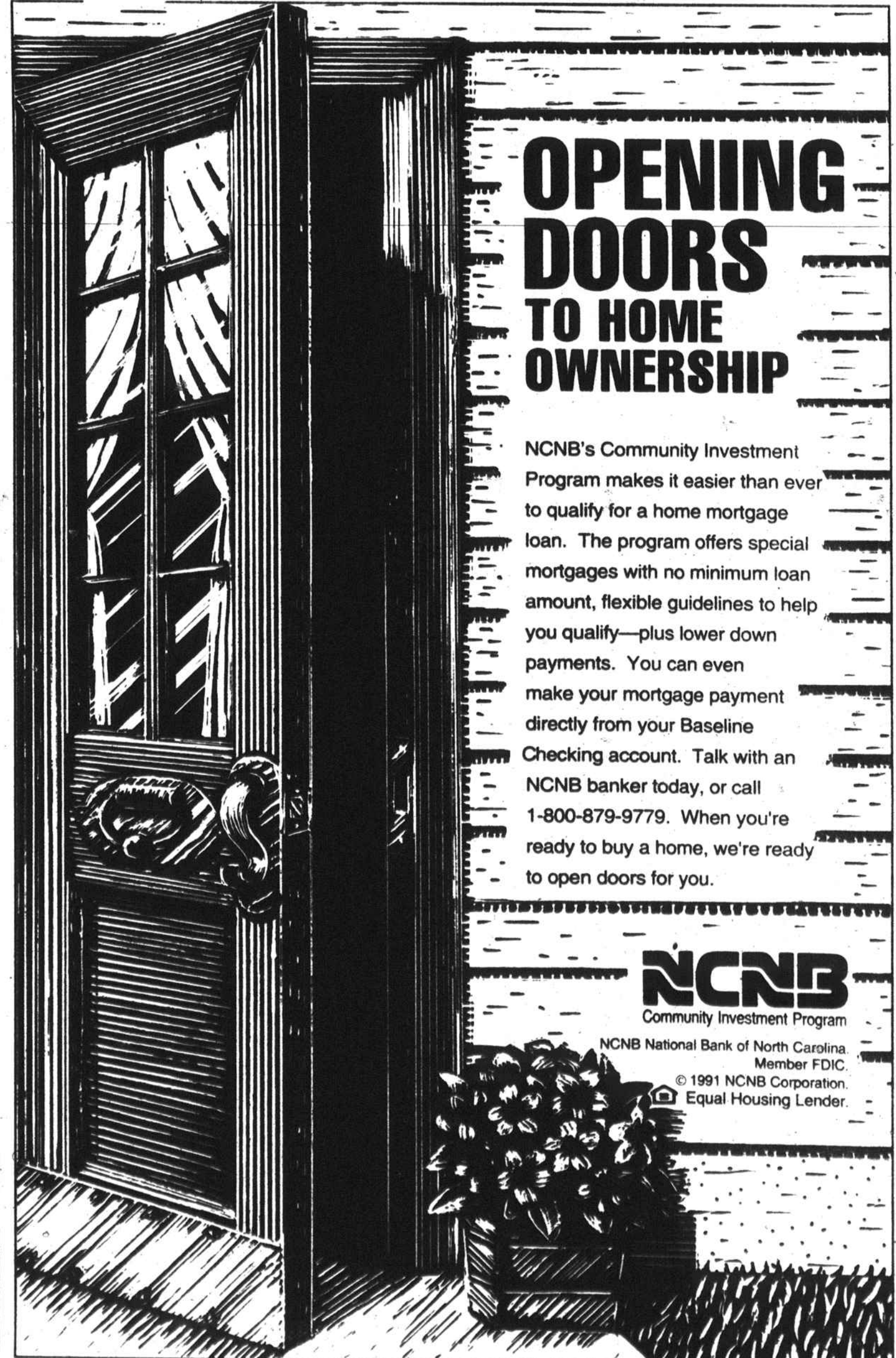
3 p.m. at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church. The Reverend Mark McConnell will be officiating. There will be a reception following the ceremony in the Pilgrim Rest Church Fellowship Hall.



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