

# Norplant Continued from page A1

Reynolds Health Center, who has performed more than 100 insertions and also headed the training session, said he doesn't think the state will offer an incentive to welfare mothers. On the contrary, he said, the demand for the product is being sought after by an array of women. "Right now the demand for the product has been higher than expected. In January 1991 the company had 250,000 kits and by October 1991 it ran out," said Dr. Jennings.

Magovern said the 70 kits provided by the manufacturing company for the spring on-site training session were used on volunteers. Magovern said the center now has kits on order and does not know when they will receive them.

The choice, too, Magovern said, has been equal among both whites and blacks. "It's been used by both whites and blacks. It's a very promising contraceptive," he said.

Sandy Cleary, family planning supervisor and nurse practitioner at the center, said women should be able to make the decision of what contraceptive they use. "I don't think this state would offer such an incentive. Women should be able to choose what they want to use as a contraceptive," she said.

Cleary who counsels women on the new contraceptive, as well as

other options, said some women who have chosen Norplant as a contraceptive have been teenagers who do not want to get pregnant and mothers who want some space between their pregnancies. Women seeking the use of contraceptives, Cleary said, are educated and counseled on all of their choices.

Caroline Goforth, chief of preventive services section, a division of the state Medical Assistance Agency said: "I don't think we should coerce anyone on any choice." Goforth said almost 700 claims have already been filed for the payment of the contraceptive.

### What is Norplant and how does it work?\*

Norplant is a new contraceptive that has undergone testing for 20 years in 44 countries and was first approved in 1983 by Finland, before being approved in the United States. It is a five-capsule under-the-skin implant that is inserted beneath the skin of the upper arm by a physician and is said to prevent pregnancy up to five years. To date, its effectiveness rate is 99.8% and has been used by 55,000 in many countries.

A one-eighth incision is made by a physician on the arm and six capsules, which are approximately one-inch long and the size of a matchstick, are implanted in the

arm. The capsules contain levonorgestrel, a synthetic progesterone (a female sex hormone) found in birth-control pills, but do not contain estrogen, also found in the pill. The capsules disperse the progesterone which makes its way to the pituitary gland in the brain, signaling the gland to stop releasing two hormones that are needed for ovulation. This process takes up to 48 hours and lasts up to five years. Following the implant, a steir-strip is applied and the arm is bandaged until the incision is healed.

After the five years, the level of levonorgestrel runs low, at which time a new system can be implanted in the same location. The capsules can also be taken out at anytime wherein fertility and next menstrual cycle will resume.

Side effects include spotting and irregular menstrual flow that may last for a short time. Like the pill, women with health problems such as heart disease, high blood pressure and blood clotting are cautioned against using Norplant. Norplant can also cause minor side effects, such as, headaches, acne, weight gain and mood changes, but to date, reports indicate no severe side effects.

*\*Material compiled from medical reports and other published material.*



## International Children's Art Exhibit!

The creative entries of 11 local children will be featured when Pentel's prestigious 21st International Children's Art Exhibition (ICAE) visits Rural Hall Elementary School, March 9-27. The 21st ICAE is a 250-piece collection of award-winning art from children around the world with more than 90 countries and territories represented. Thirty-four students from North Carolina received awards in the competition. An opening ceremony will be held from 3 p.m.-5 p.m., March 8. The photo above is entitled "My Town - Pembroke" by Nicole Ryan, age 12.

## Suicide correction

In the article titled, "School suspension prompts suicide?" published in the Feb. 27 issue of the *Chronicle*, certain information provided to the *Chronicle* was incorrect.

According to Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School officials, Alexander Gregory was not an honor roll student at Paisley Middle School, nor was he the president of the student council. Also, Gregory had not been suspended, although proceedings for his suspension were in the process because of his possession of alcohol on school grounds.

Officials also stated that a conference with Gregory, his foster mother, and Linda Hopson, Paisley's assistant principal, had been scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 13, to discuss disciplinary action. School officials say the actions taken by Hopson in Gregory's situation were in accordance to school policy and regulations.

We regret any inconvenience the misinformation may have caused the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, Linda Hopson, and the family of Alexander Gregory.

## Wilco

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change as a streamline of operations.

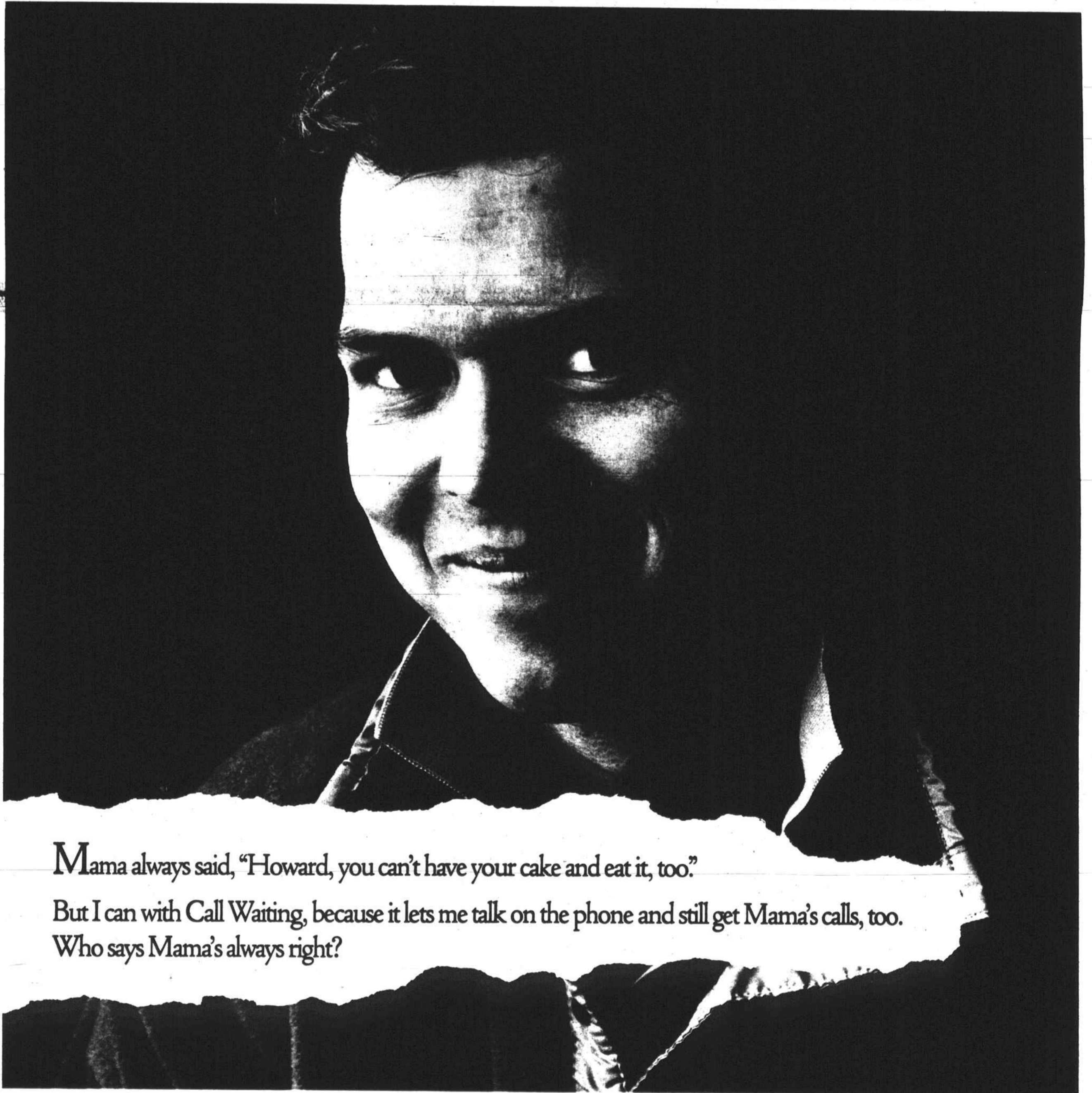
"We are on cake program with Dolly Madison. They are our new supplier. We got better pricing from them, they're a chain, and it's easier to have one contact. If you can get a national name and better pricing, anybody would go for that." Williams could not explain why Siddle was not informed of the change in a more courteous manner.

Siddle says her products wholesale at sixty cents, and are retailed by Wilco and other stores for .89 - \$1.09. "We only went up ten cents in the past four years," she said.

There is adequate business to hire two fulltime employees, but Miller and Siddle still pour most of their time and money back into the company.

"We are living off Social Security. Everything goes back into the company, that's how you start a business," said Siddle.

She hopes to replace the recent loss of Wilco's business with more small business customers.



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