



Jackee' Day

Aldermen name Friday, Oct. 23 as Jackee' Day to honor Local Lady.

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She's Seen It All

Mary Haywood Blackburn has seen it all in her 96 years.

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Mississippi Workers Boycott Furniture Market

▲ Hood Furniture Employees Launch Nationwide Campaign

By TRAVIS MITCHELL
Chronicle Staff Writer

Mississippi furniture workers crashed High Point's furniture market in protest of poor working conditions.

More than 15 protesters, employed by Hood Furniture Co., spent six hours stealing part of the International Home Furnishing Center's spotlight, as they distributed literature, talking to buyer after buyer.

And urging buyers to listen after they made a grueling 14-hour trip by van to the Piedmont last weekend.

"We work in an old plant," said 29-year-old Gregory Jenkins. "Water conditions are bad, facilities are dilapidated. We have rats and stray cats, dry-rotted strings holding light fixtures in the ceiling, and dust so bad that it sometimes burns sores in your nose. You can't even put your lunch down because of roaches."

While workers were outside trying to push the boycott, their boss Robert F. Weber a Thomasville native, was inside trying to sell buyers on his products. When informed about his workers' protest, Weber responded, "We have been in nego-

tiations for some time. We are still apart on some items and we have already made several concessions."

"Mostly all whites make more than blacks," said John Jefferson, a sprayer. "You don't have any whites working on the assembly lines. There are people who have been there since 1983 still making \$4.50 an hour. Their idea of appreciation is to give us each a box of chicken and a Coca-Cola. People are coming to work hungry and can't buy lunch because they don't pay enough. They want to hire people who don't have much education or have criminal records so that they

can exploit them."

"We are asking customers to refrain from buying products that Hood produces because if they continue to make money, they will never respond to our needs," said Willie Rudd, president of the International Union of Electronic Electrical Salaried Machine & Furniture Workers (UIE).

Rudd has been organizing workers in Mississippi. They voted in 1989 for union representation under UIE.

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Mississippi Furniture workers urge furniture Buyers to Boycott Hood Products at International Furniture Market Exhibit in High Point, last weekend during International Home Furniture Market showcase.

Woman Files Legal Suit Against Health Agency

▲ Mother Sues Forsyth-Stokes Mental Health Agency for \$10 Million Dollars

By TRAVIS MITCHELL
Chronicle Staff Writer

The mother of a 23-year-old mentally handicapped woman who charged Michael Ray White with rape is suing Forsyth-Stokes Area Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Authority (FSMH) for negligence.

White plead guilty to two counts of second degree sexual assault last week and was sentenced to 4 1/2 years.

Carolyn Canty, is seeking an estimated \$10 million in damages on behalf of her daughter, Charlotte Lynn.

She filed the lawsuit in Forsyth County Superior Court on Sept. 13, 1992, which listed Raven Ridge Group Home, Area Board of Forsyth-Stokes Mental Health, Ronald W. Morton, LaQuetta A. Davis, Bruce L. Halverson and Michael White as defendants.

"No amount of money in the world will pay for the injustice

done to Lynn," Canty said.

In January 1991, Canty placed her daughter in the Raven Ridge Home for developmentally disabled adults in Kernersville.

"I got sick in October of 1990 and realized that the thing that I was most worried about was Lynn," she said. "After that I thought that she needed to know how to take care of herself."

The lawsuit lists Davis, Halverson and Morton as neglecting to investigate Canty's charge that White fondled her daughter's breasts in February 1991.

Davis is former residential services director for the facility, Halverson is a supervisor, while Morton is area director.

Further, the suit mentions Morton's failure to recognize White's "dismissal or resignation" from the Su-Lynn Residential Home in Guilford County. The suit indicates White's departure

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Asking A Personal Question

Audience member Marisa Hall, right, poses a question to the candidates during the last presidential debate in Richmond, Va. Hall asked the candidates how they were personally affected by the federal budget deficit. President Bush had problems understanding her question.

UNCF Holds First Annual Award's Banquet

▲ Tribute to Angelou, Dudley, Fulton's Efforts to Enhance Community Growth

By NATALIE GODWIN
Chronicle Staff Writer

There hasn't been a better time in history that the importance of the United Negro College Fund's work has been as great as it is today. In the future, educated African-Americans will play a critical role in the effort to keep America competitive and strong.

Founded in 1944, the United Negro College Fund is comprised of 41 private historically black colleges and universities. Each year the UNCF sponsors national fundraisers to support about 50,000 students.

On last Saturday, the Benton Convention Center held the inaugural Maya Angelou Tribute for

Achievement and Scholarship. Joe Dudley Sr., Paul Fulton and Peabo Bryson were special guests for the evening.

The Maya Angelou Achievement Award is named after Dr. Maya Angelou who helped found the "Friends of UNCF." She also accepted the appointment of the North Carolina UNCF Special Gifts Chairperson. The award pays tribute to North Carolinians who have displayed leadership toward the growth and development of the minority community.

Dudley is the owner and founder of Dudley Products, a multi-million dollar hair care and

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During the gala, Maya Angelou, Jackee, Paul Fulton and Joe Dudley Sr. take time to pose with the ROTC cadets from St. Augustine College and Shaw University.



ON THE AVANT-GARDE

BY TANG NIVRI

Were It Not For Us

If it wasn't for Black folks, a whole lot of white folks in this country — especially here in North Carolina — wouldn't know how to vote come Nov. 3.

Every election year, it is quite common to hear white politicians complain that Blacks always vote in blocks; implying of course that Blacks are spineless creatures unable to think for themselves; always putting their special interest before that of the country; entering the voting booth as if they were in a trance, hopelessly controlled by the ghosts of dead "demon-crat spirits" — the party of Roosevelt.

On the other hand, white voters are presented as being far more sophisticated; they are people who enjoy studying the issues, one by one. The white man and his woman evaluate the so-called options facing him and his family. A wise man, he gives great consideration to issues such as character and judgment, and looks carefully at the candidate's past and his service to his country.

In the end, the white man will vote even for an Indian if in his judgment, he knows it is best for his country. American democracy at its best.

The truth of course is that Black folks ain't the only ones voting in blocks: white folks is doing it too, and been doing it for a whole lot longer — A fact white politicians know all too well.

Anyone who has studied southern politics will tell you that the key to winning a majority of the white vote is to convince them that your opponent's plan will do more for Negroes than yours will.

It is that simple.

All that talk about studying the issues, or having to take the time to explain the implications of certain fiscal and social proposals, forget it. White folks don't have time for that. As far as they are concerned, studying the real issues is beneath them; it is a task for those who clean their homes and rear their children. Studying the issues is strictly the business of Negroes.

The way they figure it, once the NAACP and all the other civil rights organizations have sorted through the issues, searched the candidates records, etc., then present their findings to the masses of black folks, then and only then will the white folks know who to vote for and who NOT to vote for. Thus the white man relies upon the work of the NAACP to make up his mind, and in the process saves him from a needless waste of time, worry and finance.

For years the southern white politician's strategy has always been hinged on the three promises: 1) Put the Negro in jail and keep him there; 2) Take care of the old confederate veterans, and; 3) Protect the virtue of white womanhood.

Now that Ol' Reb has finally died, and white women have been acting up talking about liberation, hollering about white men "not getting it," the only song left for the white politician to sing, nowadays is the one about "poor old darkey" and how he is stealing white folks blind. Yes, once again, it will be left up to us colored folks to show white folks the right way to vote come election day.

Unlike in the past when politicians would just holler out and call each other nigger lover, today they have to be far more sophisticated. Instead of using nasty names, you simply imply that your opponent is "opposed to any kind of get off of workfare program." The message to white folks of course is that there are "niggers somewhere out there who are stealing food stamps and then going off and buying gold chains and boom boxes and then laughing

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