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ELLING IT LIKE IT IS.....

It looks as if 1977 is going to be a great year!

After listening to President Ford on television ast week, I became more aware of the fact that Americans have it made. We have new cars in each garage, big, comfortable homes with all the modern conveniences and luxuries and at least one freezer full of food.

It also became crystal clear that the only thing we have to worry about is gas for our cars, heat or our homes and fuel to cook our food. Yes, sir, 977 is going to be a great year!

Bet you didn't know that a recent poll of 1,645 colleges and universities show that the average neight of college basketball players is going up and the number of little men is going down. A reat majority of the players stand between -foot-3, and 6-foot-7. Only 153 were under six feet nd 38 were seven feet and over.

Looks as if we'll have a real dogfight in the ace for the CIAA Championship. Johnson C. Smith, St. Augustine's and Winston-Salem are ging a ding-dong battle for the southern division title, while Norfolk State, Virginia State and Virginia Union appear capable of battling to the wire before the nothern championship is decided.

Charlotte native Ed Roper is coming strong with the Eagles of North Carolina Central. The 6-4 sophomore, who formerly played at Independence High here, has brought his scoring average up to 14 points a game while pulling down an average of 11 rebounds with the Eagles this season. He hit a season high 19 points and 12 rebounds against Delaware State in Durhan last

Would you believe that America was founded to avoid taxation?

Dick Price, the highly successful head football coach at Norfolk State College, is getting a head start in the recruiting war. He has signed seven prep standouts, all linemen, for the 1977 Spartans.

"The Bird" has been grounded for the current basketball campaign. James "The Bird" Sparrow, the classy cager who led A&E to the MEAC. championship and even further down the glory road to the National Invitational Basketball Tournament last winter, did not earn enough credits to participate with the Aggies this semester. MEAC regulations require that athetes earn 24 additional hours between periods of participation, according to a league source and, "The Bird," who was the conference's player of the year last season, earned only 21 during the past two semesters. That's quite a loss!

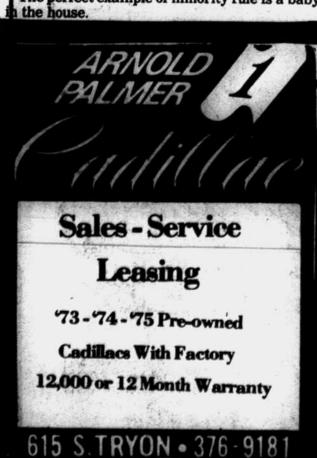
It's back to court for Joe Caldwell. You'll remember "Pogo" as the star of the now defunct Carolina Cougars. He's trying to collect payments on the \$1.1 million contract he signed in

Young Larry Wright, the gifted 19-year-old paseball player, has been drafted by the Los ingeles Dodgers. Wright, who attends Dekalb Junior College in Atlanta, Ga. is a former South Mecklenburg diamond star. A strong righthanded pitcher, Wright also performed during the ummer months for the popular Morris Field Rangers of the Triple County Semipro Baseball eague. He was unbeaten with four victories ith the Rangers in 1976.

Bob Moorman, the able commissioner of the IAA, says the conference basketball tournaent will have many new features this year, and nat it will be even bigger and better this year nan last.

The big event is only five short weeks away. 's later than you THINK!

The perfect example of minority rule is a baby the house.



J.C. Smith freshman

ve Loves Bouncing Roundball

factor to the Bull squad."
Love said he can't help but

be very grateful to two people

he feels were most inspiring to

his career, Les Bundy, a re-

cruiter whom he admired, and

Chuck Robinson, a former

original player for the Balti-

as other guys in the Baltimore area as far as playing ball."

"They both influenced me

more Bullets.

By Arnett Barksdale Post Staff Writer

A decision was made some 22 years ago by a young fellow in the ghetto of Baltimore that he would rather spend his spare time playing basketball than anything else. After hours and hours of practicing, with nothing but net and ball which helped to develop his game, Leon Love made another decision that would be written about in a popular book.

Leon's last name summarizes his relationship with the round ball and his devotion to sharpening his talent.

"It almost became a complete necessity with my leisure time," Love said, "every minute I found I played ball."

Love, who played center in Baltimore at Johnson Junior High, North Western Senior High, and Vo-Tech Senior High, averaged 23 points while in high school.

Upon his graduation from high school, Love attended Bay Junior College in his hometown and continued his play under the basket. During his two years at Bay, the team compiled a 42-6 record

Besides the 21-point average and 16-rebound average he accumulated during his junior college days, Love was rewarded by being selected a member of the "Blue Chipper" organization, consisting of under-rated better than average ball players.

The young athlete at this point wasn't sure where he wanted to go to further his education and continue his love affair with the sport. .Adding to the confusion of choosing a college was the bombardment of offers he was getting from some of the big

universities. "I wasn't ready for major university ball because I was not that confident I could play," Love said, "And all the universities were giving me the mafia style treatment, giving me offers I couldn't

Love added that he received

State University, University of Tennessee, University of South Florida, and Fayetteville State, all promising to do a lot for Love and his family

financially and materially. Len Shapiro, Sports Editor of the Washington Post, had observed Love playing in an all-star game where he was chosen most valuable player. After talking with the young athlete. Shapiro added Love's name to the "athletes for sale

"At the time Shapiro was working on a book that deals with athletes who go to big schools where the main concern is to excel athletically and putting education as a back seat," Love said.

In the book entitled ATH-LETICS FOR SALE, Shapiro makes reference to Love being a typical athlete for sale.

So there he was six feet, seven inches, 200 pounds and just ripe for the big schools, or any school, for that matter. After looking over the consumers and listening to his father's advice, Love chose the University of Tennessee but decided just prior to the basketball season that he wanted a refund.

"I guess I just didn't like the large school's atmosphere," Love said, "so I left two weeks before the season started and went back home to work."

Love who has been at J.C. Smith since January, 1976, had to sit out two semesters of basketball. He came off the bench this month and assumed his old position under the

Although Love has played center for every team he has played on, he feels he is a natural forward.

"I think it's easier for me to manuever facing the basket forward than playing center with my back to the basket," Love explained

Since starting for Smith the Bulls have lost only one game and Love has averaged 7 points. His highest game score was against Shaw which he scored 18 points.

"Although there may be some adjustment problems offers to play from Louisiana 'now," Love said, "I feel that State University, Appalachian I will be a very beneficial

UNCC Library To Display 49ers

UNCC Basketball has been a popular topic of conversation since the Forty Niners represented themselves so well last year in the National Invitational Tournament in New York. Now, it's also the theme of a display in J. Murrey Atkins Library on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Two displays in the main lobby of the library deal with UNCC basketball specifically-one about the 1976 NIT and the other about the current UNCC Basketball season.

Another display on the second floor of the library concerns professional basketball. Read the Charlotte Post

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