

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Hoyle H. Martin Sr.

Congressman Charles Diggs (D.Mich.) a 22-year veteran of the House Of Representatives, pleaded innocent to charges that he received over \$100,000 in kickbacks from members of his congressional staff. Diggs' own staff has denied the charges also. Conviction could bring Diggs fines totaling \$224,000 and five years in prison.

Basketball superstar and former N. C. State University player David Thompson scored 73 points in a losing cause on Sunday as his Denver Nuggets lost 139-137 to the Detroit Pistons. Wilt Chamberline is the only other NBA player to have scored more than 73 points in a single game.

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The North Carolina Black Democratic Leadership Caucus with 150 delegates present on Saturday declined to endorse any of the seven candidates in the party's U. S. Senate primary race on May 2. Caucus chairman Clarence Lightner said, "There were so many factions we decided not to endorse anyone."

The North State Officers Law Enforcement Association will hold its third annual circus on June 16 at Park Center. Association president T. C. Barrett said the 2 p.m. affair will be primarily of youth 12 years of age and under. Small animals, magician tricks and games will highlight the event. Profits from the program will be used to support the association scholarship fund and to pay legal fees for police officers.

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Increasing unemployment among blacks in February raised the nation's jobless rate to 6.2 percent in March. The black unemployment rate, traditionally twice that of whites, rose from 11.8 percent to 12.4 percent, according to Department of Labor. Furthermore, while total unemployment has declined in the past year from 7.4 percent to 6.2 percent black unemployment has not changed.

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Duke Power Co. asked the N. C. Utilities Commission this week to reduce the average customer's fuel charge by 78 cents from \$3.46 per 1,000 kilowatts hours to \$2.78 as a result of a lower coal cost during the recent coal-strike. On the other hand, Piedmont Natural Gas Co. plans to ask the Commission to allow a \$1 a month increase as a part of a new rate structure.

The news media have the knack of keeping us busy looking at everybody else's

..12 Noon Tuesday is the deadline for placing your news items and photos in the Charlotte Post.

WBTV Sets Zoo Telethon

The North Carolina Zoo Telethon will be seen on WBTV, Channel 3 beginning at 11:30 p.m. Saturday, April 15th and continuing until 6 p.m. Sunday, April 16th. The 17½-hour telethon will be interrupted only once, from 11 til 12 noon on Sunday.

The telethon is being held to raise funds to purchase animals for the 350-acre African Veldt, the first permanent exhibit at the North Carolina state zoo in Ashboro. The section will include natural habitat environment for lions, zebras, ostriches, giraffes, elephants, rhinos, baboons, chimpanzees

and cape buffalo. Small animals, birds and plants native to Africa will also be purchased with telethon funds.

As an additional means of raising funds for the telethon, nationally-known American wildlife artist Richard Evans Younger has made 100 limited edition prints of a cougar and her cubs to be presented to individuals or firms contributing at least \$1,000 to the North Carolina Zoological Society, a non-profit group which raises funds and promotes public awareness of the zoo.

Norman Prevatte, producer of the telethon, promises a continuous flow of entertain-

ment by talented performers recruited from across the state. Loonis McGlohon will provide the host orchestra, and nationally-syndicated "Authur Smith and the Crackerjacks" will perform at the zoo site. Emcees will be Charlie Gaddy, Ty Boyd and Lee Kinard. Governor Jim Hunt, who has proclaimed the entire week as "North Carolina Zoo Week," will appear on the telethon.

The North Carolina Zoo is owned and operated by the state. More than 1,000,000 people from all 50 states and 22 foreign countries have visited since the doors opened in 1974.

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