



Women's rights advocates Evelyn Arant and Carrie Graves presented Bella Abzug with a fine-feathered hat during her visit to Charlotte on April 2. Abzug, former New York State Representative to the U.S. Congress, was the keynote speaker for UNCC's "Women's Week." (Photo by Eileen Hanson)

## Over One Million American Children Are Abused Each Year

Special to the Post

**RALEIGH**—Five year old Mark had belt marks on his arms and legs. His mother beat him when he refused to eat his vegetables.

When two-year-old Ellen cried, her father thought she didn't love him. It made him mad so he slapped her in the face.

A young boy misses school regularly. His clothes are soiled, tattered and ill-fitting; his teeth are badly decayed.

All of these children have been abused in some way, and the situations aren't isolated ones. Over one million American children are abused each year; five thousand die as a direct result of child abuse.

"Child abusers are ordinary people who need help," explained Larry Sage, consultant in Protective Services for Children in the N. C. Department of Human Resources. "It is a myth that child abuse is confined to the ghettos. Child abuse cuts across all economic levels, race, ethnic levels and religious faith. Parents who abuse their children often wish they didn't."

According to Sage, the most commonly recognized forms of child abuse are: a) Physical Abuse: When a parent handles a child in such a way as to vent his or her own anger, with no intent to discipline or as an extreme form of discipline, the handling can be considered abusive. One slap can be as abusive as a broken bone if the attitude of the adult is abusive. b) Sexual Abuse: When a parent engages in sex acts or other forms of sexually oriented behavior with a child or when a parent, having knowledge of such abuse, takes no action thereby allowing the abuse to continue. c) Verbal Abuse: Words aimed at destroying the child's image of him or herself. d) Emotional Abuse: All forms of child abuse are also automatically emotionally abusive. A child can be abused without ever being hit or called names. A child who is constantly made to feel worthless or "no good" is an abused child. e) Emotional Neglect: When a child receives neither positive nor negative attention, is never hit but never held close either, he or she will come to think of themselves as unloved and unlovable.

"These are serious problems which require statewide coordination of community activities to deal effectively with them," said Sage. "Their serious physical and emotional effects are finally being recognized and more attention is being paid to prevention. This year during the International Year of the Child celebration, we are intensifying efforts in addressing the prevention of child abuse."

The Statewide Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Advocacy Committee (SCANPAC) currently chaired by Dr. Ronald Keeney, Medical Advisor, Burroughs Wellcome Co., was founded as an ad hoc committee under DHR's Division of Social Services three years ago. It was started to develop and implement a statewide public awareness campaign using media materials developed by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare as a demonstration project. North Carolina was chosen as one of 20 sites. Since that time almost every county in the state has organized a committee to develop support and help for abused and neglected children.

To continue to effectively coordinate local services in

## 1974 Trade Act Provides Adjustment Compensation

by Susan Ellsworth  
Post Staff Writer

Employees who have lost their jobs because the industry or firm they worked for was unfavorably affected by a foreign trade agreement can receive compensation.

The increased sales of less expensive imported goods that compete with sales of American goods have caused businesses to lay-off workers. The Trade Act of 1974 provides for adjustment compensation for people separated from their jobs.

When an industry or firm has been certified by the International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB), as being adversely affected, workers who are laid-off may be entitled to adjustment assistance allowances called "TRA Allowances."

"Under TRA up to 70 percent of a person's wage can be collected for up to one year," according to Merry Hatrick, a spokesman for the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

Employees may claim benefits such as specialized training, job search allowances and relocation allowances.

Thirty-five employees of the Whitin Roberts Company in Charlotte, N.C. filed a petition for adjustment assistance under The Trade Act of 1974. It was approved.

The Department of Labor concluded that increases of imports like or directly competitive with textile machinery distributed from the Charlotte plant of Whitin Roberts Company contributed to the separation of workers at that plant. Therefore, the laid-off employees are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under the Trade Act of 1974.

To qualify, an employee must contact the Division of the Employment Security Commission in their area and give notice of their eligibility for adjustment assistance.

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