

# Ease Up And Save On Gas

Special to the Post

Take it easy: the gas you save may be your own!

These days everyone seems to be in a hurry to get some place, but with fuel prices as high as they are we can't afford to rush.

"Rushing increases your chances of getting into an accident and wastes gas," said Bob Checkley, Chrysler's fuel economy expert.

It is dangerous and costly to drag race the person next to you to an upcoming stop light. The ego boost you get by winning the race will not be as high as the price you will have to pay for the gas you used, or the tickets you get.

When you drive aggressively you waste gas and money.

"Rapid acceleration can cost up to a ten percent loss in fuel economy," Checkley said. "In an economy car like the Dodge Omni which has an EPA city mileage estimate of 25 miles per gallon, this is a 2.5 miles per gallon loss."

Other aggressive driving techniques that should be avoided are jack-rabbit starts, weaving in and out of traffic and tailgating. Eliminating these techniques can improve your gas mileage and save money.

"When you are driving around town be alert to your driving habits," Checkley said. "Anticipate the lights and stop signs ahead by slowing down before you get up to them. Everything you stop it costs you money."

Try to pace yourself with the traffic so you don't have to brake and accelerate as often.

Maintain a steady speed and accelerate gradually from a stopped position.

By practicing these few gas saving tips you can observe an increase in your gasoline mileage.

See for yourself. Fill your tank and record the odometer reading. Drive your car using some of the above gas saving tips. Refill the gas tank and again record the odometer reading and the amount of fuel your car used. Calculate the number of miles driven and divide that number by the gallons of gas consumed. This figure will tell you how many miles per gallon you get when you drive.

Avoid aggressive driving habits and it will save you money.

## Community Staff

## To Sponsor Attic

## Sale Saturday

The staff of Charlotte Community Hospital is sponsoring an Attic Sale on July 14 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., on the grounds behind the Hospital on Mint Street. Free parking in this area will be provided.

In case of rain, the sale will be cancelled and rescheduled for a later date.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase activity materials and furnishings for the newly opened Stroke Unit.

Anyone wishing to donate items for sale (no clothing, please), may bring them to the front entrance of the hospital, 801 South Graham Street, from July 3rd to July 12th, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Saturday, July 14th, is the day on which you can get a bargain at the Attic Sale while, at the same time, aiding a stroke patient in reaching his potential for rehabilitation. Hospital employees will be volunteering their time during the sale to answer any questions about our Stroke Unit and/or about Charlotte Community Hospital.

Our patients need your support! For additional information you may call 377-3641, leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you to answer your questions.

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Samuel Reid and Lonnie Graves of the Vote Task Force provided a voter education workshop at the N.C. Client Council meeting in Charlotte, July 6-7. (Photo by Eileen Hanson)

## For Poor People

# Client Council Seeks Legal Aid

by Eileen Hanson  
Special to the Post

There are 1.4 million poor people in North Carolina eligible for free legal services, but many of them don't even know it.

Last weekend, 60 representatives of local client councils met at the Radisson Hotel in Charlotte to discuss legal problems of low-income people and how to educate them to legal services and their rights.

Workshops ranged from practical discussions on how to conduct a meeting to issues of competency tests, juvenile programs, housing, health care and voter education.

"The central task of the client councils is to teach poor people to know the law and how to use it to their advantage," said Carrie Graves, Chair of the Client Council of Southern Piedmont Legal Services. "Poor people are always running into legal problems with the Department of Social Services, the landlord, the school system, the unemployment office."

Client councils are active in monitoring consumer issues.

## Chauffeur

## Licenses Renewal

## Have Changed

RALEIGH--Renewal of chauffeur licenses has been changed by the 1979 General Assembly.

As of last week, all chauffeur licenses will expire on the birthday of the licensee in the fourth year following the year of issuance. Previously, the chauffeur license expired on the second year after issuance.

The new fee for this license is \$10; previously it was \$8.

Chauffeur license renewal cards for July and August showing expiration dates of two years were mailed prior to passage of this legislation in June. Division of Motor Vehicles personnel will retype all renewal cards presented on or after July 1 at driver license examining stations.

An information flyer is being mailed with the renewal cards to chauffeur licensees to explain these changes.

Keep your out-of-town friends informed on what's happening in Charlotte by sending them a copy of the Charlotte Post each week. The cost is only \$13.52 per year.

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and training clients about the law so they can solve their own problems without a lawyer. The client councils are affiliated with the Legal Services Corporation, a private, non-profit organization established and funded by Congress in 1974 to provide quality legal services for the nation's 29 million poor.

In the Charlotte area, services are provided by Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont (Legal Aid) located at 403 S. Tryon (378-1606). Clients are eligible according to income and family size. A person in need of legal assistance should call for an interview to determine eligibility.

Inability to use the legal system can be disastrous for low-income families where lack of education and job insecurity lead to a marginal existence. For many the law is crucial for survival. Tenant rights, consumer concerns, unemployment benefits, social services and family law are the chief areas of concern of Legal Services. Criminal cases are not eligible.

According to Ms. Graves, the client councils are also active in changing the laws to help low-income families.

"We worked hard on the 1977 Landlord-Tenants bill and the 1979 Retaliatory Eviction Defense bill," she said. Both state laws expanded and clarified the rights of tenants.

Since political muscle is needed to change laws, the voter education and registration session was one of the key workshops last weekend. Organized by Samuel Reid and Lonnie Graves of the Vote Task Force, the message was "your vote does count."

Graves reminded participants, "District representation in Charlotte passed by only 88 votes two years ago. Every vote was important."

The Southern Piedmont Client Council will actively work in voter registration during the coming months.

"This is top priority," said Hattie Harris, local treasurer. "Our main push is to get the 18-year olds to register and to vote."

According to Ms. Graves, there are 25 local active members in the council and they are looking for new members. Anyone eligible for legal services or their "allies" are welcome to join. Contact Carrie Graves at 374-0557 for more information.

# BY THE WAY...

By Joe Black



Throughout the years, countless schemes and outright rackets have deprived the Black community of millions of dollars of gross income.

They've wasted the talents and skills of legions of Black youths.

We've had more than our share of pimps, hookers, grafters, pushers, boosters, and bunco artists.

But, somehow, we've survived.

However, as I travel today to many of the cities in America, I am frightened by what I see happening to Black Americans. Blacks are so busy doing their own thing, they fail to recognize the big rip-off being perpetrated by the power structure.

Not racism. But rather, how our greed and stereotyped self-image blind us to the tricks of "the man." Instead of using our God-given minds, too many Black people shrilled "right on" when the National Administration and certain cities pushed for the decriminalization of marijuana possession. Like lambs being led to slaughter, too many Blacks smiled approval. Because it strengthened their rationale that grass isn't harmful.

I can't give an opinion based on personal experience, but based on statements from former addicts who appear at drug abuse seminars sponsored by my employer, marijuana users can develop a psychological dependence on the drug. Which can lead to harder stuff. And a harder road.

We have a hard enough time getting a first chance. When you leave it to the discretion of the police to arrest or reprimand an individual, how many Blacks do you think will get a second chance.

Let's get smart and resist all programs that will make it easy for any pusher to operate in our neighborhoods.

The life you save may be your son's. Your daughter's. Your brother's. Your sister's.

Or, your own.

Joe Black

Vice President  
The Grayhound Corporation

Here August 3-5

# Belton Family Reunion Planned

by Hoyle H. Martin, Sr.  
Post Editorial Writer

An entourage of approximately 1,000 family members from about 45 states will visit the City of Charlotte to participate in the Seventh Annual Belton Family Reunion to be held on August 3, 4 and 5, 1979.

The 3-day event will be hosted by the Charlotte Belton Family District and will be headquartered at the Sheraton Motel. Highlighting the schedule of events will be a bus tour of the city, a visit to Carowinds, a fashion-talent show, a business meeting, a disco, and religious observances. The keynote speaker for the banquet will be Robert Belton, a professor of law at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

The coming together of the Belton clan is more than a reunion - it is more a unique family institution extraordinaire. There is a national board of directors, family district representatives, a family emblem, a motto, family dues, a constitution and a family chaplain.

Research by Belton family members has traced the family's existence in America as far back as 1825, the year Levi Belton, the grandfather of Joe and Moses Belton, was

born. Joe Belton, 65 and a retired Charlotte-Mecklenburg School administrator, said "The family's origins are unclear due to the slave trade. However, several of the elders in the Belton clan believe the family originated from the tribes of the Songhai Empire in what is now Central Nigeria. It is believed that Soumi Belton was a pure African who is a descendant of Sonni Ali, King of the Songhai Empire from 1464 to 1492. Sonni, we believe, was brought as a slave to Maryland and eventually transported from Virginia to the Belton Plantation in eastern Fairfield County, S.C., in a section called Longtown. From these roots, the Belton Family of over 2,700 has spread to about 45 states today."

Joe Belton added, "The oldest living member of the Belton Family is believed to be my first cousin, Mrs. Annie Jackson of Winnsboro, S.C., who was born in Fairfield County, S.C."

Mark Belton, 55, a Charlotte resident and the arrangements chairman for this year's family reunion, pointed to a statement in the family's 6th reunion booklet program that says, "The late S. B. Belton...remarked many

times before he died, 'It would be a joyous blessing if all of the family members could congregate and just be together and love one another.'" Mark Belton said "From that beginning many years ago informal family dinners were held until the first formal Belton Family reunion was held in Columbia, S.C., in 1973. In 1974 approximately 2,700 Beltons attended the reunion, also held in Columbia."

Mark and Joe Belton told the Post further that the Belton constitution, adopted at the 1976 family reunion, has as its purpose the promoting of the annual reunion, fostering stability and generational ties and developing research records on family genealogy. Albert McDaniel, a 38-year-old Belton family member of Akron, Ohio, said at last year's reunion, "Belton Family Reunions are the epitome of family organization and cooperation."

Among those participating in this year's Belton Family Reunion will be the 35 local or Charlotte area Belton households, according to the Rev. Moses Belton, 69, and former public relations director at Johnson C. Smith University. With a gleam in his eye and a proud expression on his face,



Mark Belton  
Arrangements chairman



Joseph Belton  
Retired educator

Joe Belton said, "The annual reunion is like a convention, we look forward to it to fellowship and see and feel much of our past and a part of our future."

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