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NCAEOP To Fight Tax Credits' Bill

The North Carolina Association of Educational Office Personnel has taken a strong stand in opposition to President Reagan's proposed legislation which would allow parents who send their children to private schools to acquire tax credits for the tuition paid to these private schools.

In its recent resolution opposing tuition tax credits, the North Carolina Association of Educational Office Personnel Board of Directors pointed out that President Reagan's position on tuition tax credits violates this country's democratic goal of affording the opportunity of an equal education to all of its citizens. President Reagan's proposal also threatens our time-honored principle of separation of church and state because the majority of private schools are religion-based.

Martha Prichard, North Carolina Association of Educational Office Personnel's President, remarked, "In North Carolina Governor Hunt has dedicated this year and next as 'The Year of the Public Schools.' As individuals and as an Association, education office personnel across our state should applaud him for his foresight in choosing these times to show his pride in and support for public education. On the other hand, I am appalled that President Reagan has proposed a system of tuition tax credits which would in effect dismantle one of the most successful, democratic educational systems that the world has ever known. Adoption of this federal legislation would constitute one of the most dangerous, yet subtle, attacks on our democracy since its creation. Ultimately, President Reagan's plan would create a caste system in our country based on socio-economic status - a vicious segregation of staggering proportions. I and my colleagues stand unalterably opposed to President Reagan on this issue."

Black Democrats

Plan Fundraising

Dinner

The Second annual Mecklenburg Black Democrats Fund Raising Dinner will be held March 10 at the G. A. Grimes Student Lounge on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University at 7:30 p.m.

The Mecklenburg Black Democrats is sponsoring the \$25 per plate dinner in an effort to raise money to contribute to the Mecklenburg Democratic Party. Ralph B. Everett, a former staff assistant to Senator Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, will be guest speaker.

Tickets can be purchased from any member of the Mecklenburg Black Democrats. The public is invited.

Unique Woman

Stories inside.....

TURTLE-TALK



You can win more friends with your ears than with your mouth.



SPARKLING SHAWN PHIFER
...11-year-old beauty

Shawn Phifer Is Beauty Of Week

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
There's a ray of sunshine that seems to constantly surround our 11-year-old beauty, Shawn Phifer. Even her personality sparkles with the same intensity of the sun.

A sixth grader at Hidden Valley Elementary School, little Miss Phifer has already formed many spiritual values. Together with her family members she enjoys attending church, Greenville Memorial AME Zion, and participating in various church-oriented tasks.

She is a member of the choir, Buds of Promise, Girl Scouts, the Usher Board and is captain of the basketball cheerleading squad. At Hidden Valley Elementary School Miss Phifer also extends her talents into worthwhile areas. "At school I am in the band, the Student Council, and I work on the school newspaper," Miss Phifer commented. Also during awards day our beauty received a "Super Attendance" recognition.

With a variety of interests there are several stand out hobbies Miss Phifer refers to when she talks about having fun. "I like to skate, sing and cook, especially cookies and pancakes."

Within the musical arena Michael Jackson has stolen Miss Phifer's heart with his song and dance. And what's this? Miss Phifer says she enjoys attending school. "It's fun; I meet people at school and I enjoy language, math, reading and social studies," she related.

Another of her pastimes includes jazz, ballet and tap lessons at the Miss Donna School of Dance. Being involved in dancing has given our beauty an edge on physical fitness.

Curriculum Fair

Night Scheduled

Olympic High School, 4301 Sandy Porter Rd., will sponsor "Curriculum Fair Night" on Monday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m. The fair will include displays of student work in all areas of the curriculum.

There will be a brief PTA meeting and student presentation prior to the fair, held in the school auditorium.

which seems to be the norm these days.

Miss Phifer is the daughter of Rev. R. B. Phifer and Geraldine Phifer. "My mother is the person I most admire. She is very nice. When I'm bad she corrects me and she doesn't fuss a lot."

From the religious training Miss Phifer has received from her father and mother she has adopted a sentiment from the Bible: "I feel that we should do unto others as we would have others do unto us."

The one area Miss Phifer would like to see changed is vandalism. "Especially the vandalism school buildings have gone through," she continued.

With the gift of intelligence, the desire to become involved in worthwhile projects and the essential belief in one Supreme Being, our beauty has started down the enlightening road of life. Perhaps she is bound to become a positive entity along the way.

Beginning March 13

Rev. Smith To Conduct Temple Chapel's Pre-Spring Crusade

Thoreau once said "If a man does not keep pace with his companion, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

"Twenty-nine years of being the pastor of New Pilgrim Baptist Church," this is what the new Pilgrim family fondly thought of as they observed their pastor's anniversary. Many compare Rev. Nelson H. Smith Jr. with the man who heard a different beat. The beat or messages that Rev. Smith hears is of a religious and sacred tone however. A tone that he shares with his congregation.

At the precious age of 22, Rev. Smith accepted the challenge of becoming New Pilgrim's pastor.

Today Rev. Smith is still full of the same energy and vitality, only now with added spiritual strength. He will conduct Temple Chapel Baptist Church's Pre-Spring Crusade. Temple is

Auto Insurance Rate Reduces

Special To The Post
Raleigh - The North Carolina Insurance Commissioner's Office announced this week that following hearings, auto liability property damage and medical payment coverages along with physical damage insurance rates, will be reduced.

According to the two orders issued February 18, one order reduces rates for property damage for policies ceded to the Reinsurance Facility by 13.7 percent, and reduces medical payments coverage ceded to the facility by 9.4 percent.

The second order reduces rates for comprehensive coverage by 8.4 percent and collision coverage by 11.8 percent.

The order came following a second set of hearings. According to Ingram's staff the second set of hearings were scheduled to be reduced, however, it was not possible to reduce those rates in the first hearings on the Rate Bureau's filing.

The second set of hearings allowed the Insurance Commissioner's staff more time to produce additional evidence. Actuaries were able to develop calculations which showed that the Rate Bureau's loss projections were grossly inaccurate, over a period of four to five years. The Insurance Commissioner's actuaries were able to compare the Rate Bureau's predictions of losses to what actually occurred.

These reductions will mean a savings to North Carolina motorists of more than \$32 million.



Mrs. Mihri Mavaddat
...Teacher of Baha'i religion

Of Religion Guaranteed

Americans Should Send Up Special Prayer For Freedom

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer
Americans, perhaps, should send up a special prayer for freedom of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

They can be Protestants, Jews, Moslems, Baha'is, etc., without worry of torture and execution. For the last religious group mentioned above, a different opinion is held by the Iranian government.

Mihri Mavaddat, a native Iranian and staunch believer of the Baha'i reli-

gion, has witnessed representatives of the government exercising late-night house raids, demolition of books and papers, and attacks on the House of Bab (birthplace of the Baha'i faith).

Perhaps the most difficult of all these tragedies for Mrs. Mavaddat to accept was the death of her husband, Farhang Mavaddat was executed before a firing squad, June 13, 1981.

Now and then closing her eyes, seeming to recall a vivid image, Mrs. Ma-

vaddat remembered her husband as "bright, a good manager and chemical engineer, and as someone always willing to help others through their troubled times."

In fact, according to Mrs. Mavaddat, the teachings of the Baha'i religion promote the oneness of God, the oneness of religion, the oneness of mankind, love, peace and unity. Baha'is are non-political, though they obey the laws of their respective country. "Education is also very important to us," Mrs. Mavaddat noted.

Why then is such a peaceful religious sect facing hardships that Mrs. Mavaddat views as indescribable? "The Baha'is in Iran, A Report on the Persecutions of a Religious Group," explains it as religious prejudice. The report states: "From its earliest days, the aims and purposes of the Baha'i faith have been misrepresented in Iran, where it has been portrayed as a heretical sect of Islam, actively engaged in designs to overthrow Islam in its existing form."

Mrs. Mavaddat, who is travelling to several American sites to publicize the Baha'is' experiences, denies the religious community wants to overthrow the Moslem religion.

Yet, the over three million Baha'is in Iran continue to be arrested and often executed for not rejecting the religion they believe in wholeheartedly. Since July, 1978 many Baha'is have been kidnapped, burned, imprisoned, executed and assassinated for their belief and support of the Baha'i community.

The numbers of such incidents reportedly increase each day. "The Iranian media will report that the victims See AMERICANS Page 14

Lawmakers Hurt Whites And Blacks

By Andrew V. McCorkle
Post Staff Writer

The time is politically right for the Charlotte chapter of the NAACP to expand its membership rolls, said Kelly Alexander Jr., president.

The Reagan Administration, coupled with far right U.S. Senators John East (R-NC) and Jesse Helms (R-NC), have hurt both blacks and whites by their ultra conservative policies, explained Alexander.

"Reagan is willing to tolerate high levels of unemployment when 50 percent of the black community is unemployed. That's too high a price to pay to slow down inflation," Alexander said in a telephone interview.

Alexander also lambasted Senators East and Helms, calling Helms "inept" and saying that neither lawmaker represents the majority of North Carolinians because they are too extreme.

People who are moderate in North Carolina have no representation in the Senate, he emphasized.

However, Kelly said that his organization would not endorse candidates at election time nor tell voters who to vote for.

"What we try to do is educate people," Kelly explained. "We think an informed voter will draw his own conclusions and make the right decisions."

His office receives calls daily, Alexander pointed out, concerning jobs and alleged discrimination in layoffs.

"In different economic times the black community disproportionately suffers," he said, "because we were the last to get equity in the system, we tend to be the first ones to go."

One of the concerns of the NAACP is a national economic program that would aid in black economic development, he explained. Alexander said that organization officials will participate in a conference in Charlotte on April 15-16 focusing on the issue.

Alexander said that the local chapter wants to increase its basic membership by 2,000 members. There are about 1,000 members currently.

"Sure it's a high goal, but I don't think it's an unobtainable goal," he said. "It's probably the largest effort in the state."

Organization officials have contacted businesses, churches, and social and fraternal groups to help boost membership.

Alexander said the response has been positive. "One of the local club owners is donating an evening every week in March as a night when an NAACP member can come free, as a way to encourage people to join," he explained.

Long having a reputation for championing the causes of black people through the courts, the civil rights organization is not targeting its campaign at blacks See ALEXANDER Pg. 3



Rev. Nelson Smith Jr.

A man of action located at 900 September Lane and is pastored by Rev. Gene E. Gilmore, D. D. Minister. Services begin March 13 at the church.

Rev. Smith carries with him years of experience and the desire and willingness to help others. He is president of Corporations and sits on the Board of Directors of several colleges. A civil rights advocate Rev. Smith has been on the front lines of the movement as far back as the 60s. Even today he

offers his time, finances and New Pilgrim's facilities to worthwhile organizations.

During the seventies he taught and preached about the economic base. This decade he is teaching about our economic base as a people.

Over the years he has placed New Pilgrim on the national and international scene. From \$11.25 in the treasury and a huge debt, Rev. Smith has led a discouraged and mostly afraid congregation to a growing and inspired flock. Many programs have been initiated under the leadership of Rev. Smith including an Educational Foundation, Church on Wheels, a licensed Day Care and more.

Traveling abroad Rev. Smith enjoys proclaiming the Good News of the Bible. He has attended the Baptist World Alliance Congress, Stockholm, Sweden; the World Council of Churches in Nairobi, Ken-

ya; visited the Holy Land; served as president of the prestigious Progressive National Convention from 1974-76 and has received numerous honors and awards.

You are invited to participate in the Pre-Spring Crusade at Temple Chapel Baptist Church to share the knowledge with Rev. Nelson Smith and Rev. Gilmore that there is a God.

Space Leased

For North

Charlotte P.O.

The U.S. Postal Service has awarded a contract to lease space on North Davidson for a North Charlotte Station postal facility in Charlotte, Postmaster Walter E. Crowe said here.

The contract was awarded to Mrs. Robbie N. Wilkes, 3318 Bernard Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28206.