

Will Social Security Be In Force When Younger Generation Retires?

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Women Haven't Had It This Good In Years!

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City Should Explore Possibilities For Expanding Job Opportunities

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AFDC Recipients Assured Services To Continue

Raleigh - A change in state Medicaid policy, which went into effect November 1, will ensure that many AFDC recipients will receive Medicaid coverage after their AFDC (Aide to Families with Dependent Children) assistance is terminated. In the past, Medicaid benefit were automatically cut off when individuals were terminated from AFDC.

The policy change is the result of a civil lawsuit which challenged the previous procedure of automatic termination of Medicaid when AFDC was discontinued, according to Barbara Matula, Director of the Division of Medical Assistance.

She said that eligibility specialists in the county departments of social services will now automatically determine continuing Medicaid eligibility for most AFDC cases that are being terminated. These families will not be required to re-apply or sign a new application for Medicaid benefits.

"We want to make sure that all families that come under the changed policy receive the Medicaid services to which they are entitled," Matula said. "Citizens who had had their AFDC cut off in the past may still be eligible for Medicaid services. Those individuals who are in need of medical assistance should contact their local social services department for more information about their eligibility."

Medicaid provides health care for low-income elderly, disabled and blind people, or to families with dependent children. North Carolina's Medicaid program is administered by the Department of Human Resources, Division of Medical Assistance. Financed by federal, state and county funds, Medicaid services are rendered by medical care providers across the state. These services include immunizations for children, hospital and physician care, dental services, and long-term care for the elderly and disabled.

Jesse Jackson

Returns To Helm

Of Operation PUSH

The Rev. Jesse Jackson will return to Operation PUSH and will redirect his efforts to "refocus and reinvigorate" the PUSH International Trade Bureau, it was announced this week.

According to associates in Operation PUSH, while continuing his political endeavors with the Rainbow Coalition, Jackson is determined at the same time to have a major new economic thrust in the private economy.

His re-entrance into the economic arena will be announced at a meeting to be held at the PUSH national headquarters in Chicago on November 15. At that time members of the PUSH International Bureau along with corporate officers of companies who have signed trade agreements, will be convened. Also invited will be other businessmen who are interested in involving themselves in the movement.

The Rev. Willie T. Barrow, who has been serving as interim national director of PUSH, stated, "While the relationship between politics and religion is being hotly debated these days, the relationship between politics and economics is very clear. There is a direct relationship."

DIRTY-TALK



Faith is believing that after the winter comes the spring.



Melonie Irvin
.....17-year-old beauty

Irvin's Dreams Are To Become Top Model

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Melonie Irvin's dream is to one day be such a high-ranking model that modeling agencies, ad-men and P.R. people will be falling over each other exclaiming, "We have to have Melonie Irvin."

She laughs when she tells of this wish, but Melonie is serious about a modeling career. All her thoughts and most of her time are directed towards achieving this goal. And with her qualifications of being slim, attractive and six feet tall, Melonie's determination may take her right to the top of the glamorous profession.

A native New Yorker, Melonie had lived in Colorado for 10 years before recently moving to Charlotte. Her aspiration to become a model began while she lived in Colorado. "I had a chance to sign with an agency there," says Melonie, "and I was also a semi-finalist for Teen Magazine." Yet, before these two opportunities were realized Melonie's family moved to Charlotte.

Now the 17-year-old beauty is attending West Mecklenburg High School and also Harding High

School night school. "I go to night school to get extra credit so I can graduate early," she explains. Melonie spends whatever spare time she has exploring the modeling avenues open to her in Charlotte. "I'm trying to get to know people who can help me in modeling."

She's found a photographer who is composing a portfolio for her which she plans to show to agencies after high school graduation. She now looks to audition for fashion shows in Charlotte. Melonie has considered modeling school but she claims, "It's so expensive and many people tell me that I really do not need to attend school."

Though the modeling opportunities in this city are not overwhelming, this well-traveled young lady states she likes Charlotte a lot. Melonie has been everywhere in the U.S. She and her family have traveled to the many destinations with her father who is a truck driver. "He's put us in the truck and off we'd go," she recalls. Melonie enjoyed living in Colorado - as long as the snows didn't last too long. Since coming to Charlotte, she can See MELONIE On Page 2A

Reign Of Murdered And Missing Children Left Indelible Mark!

Special To The Post

"No one realized how massive a problem it would be," reflected Getchel Caldwell.

The "problem" was that children were missing and later found murdered for a two year period of time in Atlanta, Ga. As the numbers and the time grew without a trace of who was responsible, incalculable psychological damage set in affecting all Atlantans and many children and parents well beyond the city's northwest Georgia boundaries.

Caldwell was hired as a Business Liaison Representative-Crime Prevention Coordinator for the Atlanta Department of Public Safety's program S.A.F.E. (Safe Atlanta For Everyone) in 1979. He had just finished graduate school at Atlanta University where his thesis, "A Disfunctional Planning and Research Unit, Its Causes and Effects," developed as a criminal justice intern, drew the attention of Jacobyn Vickery.

Vickery was the director of S.A.F.E., an experimental program funded by the now defunct Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. On its staff were 14 communication and planning specialists. S.A.F.E. was planned as a vehicle for Commissioner of Safety Lee P. Brown to address the thrust of a crime prevention program for Atlanta.

Caldwell was responsible as a liaison for the Chamber of Commerce, the Central Atlanta Progress (uptown merchants), the Travel and Tourists Bureau and the Metro Atlanta Crime Commission. A great deal of planning was called for as the Department of Public Safety, which included police, fire, ambulance and taxi regulations services, was undergoing a reorganization.

As America's third largest convention center, Atlanta's public image was critical to the multi-million dollar convention trade. The image of uptown Atlanta as a safe area for its many visitors was being battered by a perceived increase in assaults and crime in 1979. When a Cleveland, Ohio, doctor was shot dead during a street robbery while attending a national medical convention, the ensuing outrage heightened sensitivity and placed the Department of Safety under pres-



Getchel Caldwell

sure to increase security.

It was under the unfavorable gaze of such national publicity that the disappearance and subsequent discovery of black inner-city children found dead in counties outside of Atlanta began to emerge. The discovery of a pattern of such murders was recognized on the grassroots level as the number of bereaved mothers increased in the predominantly black communities. By January, 1980, the Murdered and Missing Children's Task Force was formed from pressure exerted by ministers and community activists. The Task Force was comprised of officials of the counties outside Atlanta where the bodies were found (Cobb, DeKalb, Clayton, Gwinnett, and Douglas) along with Atlanta's home county of Fulton.

"A number of immediate problems arose, jurisdiction being the foremost at the time," recalled Caldwell. "Although the murdered children were from Atlanta, their bodies were found in surrounding police jurisdictions."

Coordination of the investigation, the manpower and overtime costs were Task Force problems. Each police force donated a certain number of manpower hours. As the list of murders grew, their physical

ability to handle it decreased.

"The business community volunteered time, equipment and expertise by this point," explained Getchel. "IBM provided a computer bank to keep track of evidence, Southern Bell provided an elaborate phone system to handle calls."

Parents and concerned citizens pitched in.

"While people willing to help created greater community awareness, it also created additional problems," cited Caldwell. "Whenever a body was discovered, huge numbers of volunteers would comb the area trampling what could have been valuable evidence and clues looking for additional bodies."

How to communicate to the public how to get information to the police was one of S.A.F.E.'s multitude of crises management projects. The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) provided advertisement space for messages produced by Chevron and the Jack Thrift Company. Information and appeals appeared on billboards and were broadcast as public service announcements (PSAs) by area radio and television stations. Celebrities appearing in Atlanta and well-known residents were asked to cut PSAs along with a series of crime prevention tips.

As time continued without any break in the case, the costs began to mount. The economic damage was measurable in decreasing convention trade, the overtime payrolls and the price of operating the complex control centers that were now handling offers of help from all over the country.

"It was decided at one point to establish an award fund for information in resolving the case," stated Caldwell. "Appeals for money went out, but soon got out of hand. While Muhammad Ali's \$100,000 donation and Frank Sinatra and Sammie Davis Jr.'s benefit concert spurred needed money coming in, a greed factor also rose as non-sanctioned groups took advantage of the crisis for profiteering."

An accounting firm was called in to coordinate the handling of monies. Guidelines had to be established as to who would get awards and how much. Use of money also split groups in the city. Stop Children's Murders (STOP), a mother's organization, eventually came to believe that the city had an obligation to pay mothers for their loss. The Atlanta business community became visibly upset that the city "had gone begging for reward fund money."

Still the ordeal wore on and was to grow harsher in time. The intense pressure to crack the case would bring about a bizarre element. As a measure of desperation, the police tried innovative, investigative techniques, including the use of psychics. "One such psychic that was flown in demanded a police escort from the airport and a bodyguard at all times," illustrated Caldwell. "That did not sit too well with police chief George Napper (now Commissioner of Safety)."

Normal police professional techniques were being destroyed by an army of amateur sleuths. The media became a major problem as each competing news service fielded its own investigative reporters conducting their own search, critique and conclusions on the tragedy. The murdered and missing children of Atlanta became a prime opportunity for a young journalist to make a name for him or herself. Reporters arrived in Atlanta from the national media and as far away as Europe and even New Zealand. The minimum number of media at news conferences numbered 150.

"Some reporters developed a

Too Few Black Attorneys Are Willing To Gamble And Initiate Law Firms

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Since graduating from North Carolina Central University Law School, Attorney Donnie Hoover has worked for eight years in Washington D.C. with the United States Department of Justice in the Attorney General's Honor's program and also as the Assistant Branch Director in Commercial Litigation branch of the Civil Division.

Recently, Hoover returned to Charlotte. He's set up single practice sharing a suite in the Lawyers Building, 730 East Trade Street, with attorney Rosha McGill.

The offices of Hoover and McGill are spacious and efficiently run. Their aura of progressiveness lend credence to Hoover's claim that he is heading in the direction of starting a law firm in the future.

The law firm, considered the bastion of law practice, until recent years, was unheard of in terms of being run by blacks. The major firms across the country were established in the 1900s and earlier by whites who subsequently admitted few blacks among their ranks.

Black lawyers pursued success via other avenues. They worked with government agencies, corpora-



Donnie Hoover
.....To start firm

tions, in solo practice and shared arrangements with other attorneys. In the last 20 years, a few black lawyers have joined with white firms but their numbers are small and their positions precarious. As stated in the November, 1984 issue of Black Enterprise, "The National Law Journal reported that the number of black attorneys at the 100 largest firms in the country - already abysmally low - is steadily declining."



Paul Hemphill
.....Partner in law firm

Hoover's prediction of starting a law firm is an option that black lawyers are considering in the face of this predicament. However, according to Humphrey Cummings, president of the Charlotte Chapter of the Black Lawyers Association, most black attorneys are still working in the mentioned areas. He describes, "Out of the 48 black lawyers in Charlotte, 19 are solo practitioners, 15 are with government corporations or institutions,

and 15 are with firms." He reports that only one black attorney in Charlotte has entered an all-white firm while there are several black attorneys who are members of integrated firms, one of which is Ferguson, Watt, Wallace and Atkins and the other Casey, Bishop, Alexander and Murphy.

To be a partner in a law firm is considered by most lawyers as the pinnacle of success. And, as Hoover states, and Cummings concurs, "There is a need for more black lawyers who are currently in single practice or in shared arrangements to aspire to open their own firms."

"The law firm," Hoover comments, "is the only way in which an attorney can really succeed."

Paul Hemphill of the firm Martin, Hemphill and Miller, agrees. Stating that Martin, Hemphill and Miller is currently the only totally black firm in Charlotte, Hemphill explains, "The law firm offers many advantages."

The advantages arise in the areas of ability and profits.

Firms are more stable and efficient because of the combined efforts of several attorneys working jointly. "For instance," says See BLACK ATTYS On Page 19A

See REIGN On Page 28A