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Held Fast To Principles



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# THE CHARLOTTE POST

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

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## FHA Interest Rate Drops To Lowest In Eight Years

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Samuel R. Pierce Jr., has announced that average interest rates on FHA fixed-rate 30 year mortgages have dropped to 9 percent, the lowest rate at which FHA

mortgages have been available since the spring of 1978. "The drop in interest rates and the continuing economic recovery in this nation, are the result of policies which this administration has

implemented. It is now possible for more Americans to achieve the dream of home ownership, since they can qualify for a mortgage at such a low fixed rate."

Secretary Pierce, as HUD's top

official, oversees the FHA (Federal Housing Administration), and has long predicted that interest rates on home mortgages would continue to fall, even as some industry analysts predicted otherwise.

The FHA, created in 1934, to stimulate home ownership opportunities for moderate-income, first-time home buyers, offered an interest rate of as high as 17½ percent

in its Section 203 (b) program in the fall of 1981. The FHA rate is no longer set by HUD, having been deregulated in November, 1983, but follows the current market rate.

## J.P. Stevens To Settle Discrimination Suit

In a Settlement Agreement made this summer, J. P. Stevens has agreed to make cash payments to approximately 180 claimants, as well as to any women or other minority workers who were victims of the company's discriminatory practices between January 1, 1973 and June 30, 1978.

In 1973, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission offices received numerous inquiries and charges of discrimination from J.P. Stevens employees. The charges covered loss of wages and denial of employment and promotional opportunities based on racial or sexual discrimination.

EEOC investigations continued until a "Commissioner's Charge" was filed against Stevens on November 7, 1974. The charge had approximately 180 specific claimants, but was filed also as a class action on behalf of all employees or potential employees.

This summer, a negotiated settlement was finally concluded between the EEOC and Stevens. The settlement provides for monetary payments to the 180 individuals and payments to any other minorities or women who were victims of the company's discriminatory practices.

The number of people affected by this settlement may be tremendous. The settlement covers 55 Stevens plants in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama that were in operation during that period—over 40,000 employees at any one time.

To be eligible for a claim, workers must be members of a minority (Black, Native American, or other racial and religious minorities), or women. They may still work at Stevens; may be former employees; or someone who applied to work but was turned down.

The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Worker Union (ACTWU), is working with other community, religious, and civic groups to assist in the location of possible discriminatees. People who believe they may be eligible to receive part of the settlement can get a claim form from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 127 W. Hargett St., Suite 500, Raleigh, NC 27601 and from the EEOC at 5500 Central Ave., Charlotte, NC 28215. Telephone 800-USA-EEOC.

All claims must be filed with the EEOC by January 15, 1987.



Inspired by her aunt, Romenia Austin has decided to major in sociology when she finishes high school and continue her education.

## Romenia Austin Has Interest In Sociology

By Russell Clark  
Post Staff Writer

An abused wife, a black child suffering from discrimination, a homosexual asking for understanding. Romenia Austin plans to help stop these psychological needs by using social work. "I have a lot of patience and I think social problems need attention, especially family problems," says Austin, a senior at Harding High School.

"I got interested last year by listening to my Aunt Frances Jackson who is a social worker. She has patience and she listens to people's problems and helps them to deal with them."

Although English is Romenia's favorite subject at Harding, she plans to major in sociology next year at Winston-Salem State University. "After I graduate from college, I want to move to a bigger city—maybe Washington, D.C., because my sister, Anderia Thomas, lives there and there seems to be more job opportunities there," mentioned Romenia, the daughter of Robert and Mary Austin.

The youngest of nine, this week's beauty works at the One Price Clothing Store on Freedom Drive. "I got the job with help from my fashion teacher Peggy Wright. By

## NAACP-Iredell Chapter To Meet

The South Iredell Chapter of the NAACP will hold its monthly meeting Sunday, December 14, at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church (USA), Mooresville, NC. The election of new officers will take place.

All members are asked to be present.

## NCAFP Fights To Get Insurance Rates Lowered

Raleigh, NC - After months of intensive study and deliberation, members of the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians have officially decided to take whatever actions are necessary to get malpractice insurance rates rolled back to an affordable rate for family doctors who deliver babies in North Carolina (FP-OB).

FP-OBs in North Carolina have declined during the past two years exponentially from 500 to about 100, which represents an 80 percent attrition. This creates a void for delivering babies in the state and deprives citizens access to cost effective, convenient health care.

People no longer have a choice in some areas as to who will deliver their babies. Rural areas are the most affected by this decline and families having babies are finding that their deliveries cannot be done by their family physicians. In some cases pregnant women must travel considerable distances to receive treatment during their pregnancies. This ultimately creates a financial and personal burden on couples wishing to have babies.

This 357 percent increase for family physicians doing obstetrics has caused many doctors to give up

their OB practices rather than to pass the unaffordable costs on to their patients. Family physicians are finding it more and more difficult to practice their specialty because of increased insurance premiums.

During the three-year residency training program, family physicians are trained to treat 85 percent of the medical problems for the entire family from birth until death.

Family practice training programs are being altered and family practice residents are giving up obstetrics (85 percent in eight programs) all due to the fact that premiums on liability insurance have skyrocketed this year. 44 percent who want to do OB have considered moving to another state. This will ultimately affect the placement of family physicians in underserved areas of our state.

The N.C. Academy of Family Physicians feels the liability insurance crisis created by Medical Mutual Insurance Company is unjust and is creating an unnecessary dilemma for their patients who ultimately bear the burden personally, emotionally, and financially.

## NCCU To Host Education Of Black Children Conference

Durham, NC - North Carolina Central University's Health Sciences Building will be the site of a day-long conference on "The Education of Black Children," Wednesday, December 17.

Three organizations coordinating the conference include the North Carolina Health Manpower Development Program, headquartered in Chapel Hill; the Health Careers Regional Center at NCCU, affiliated with the Health Manpower Development Program; and the NCCU Department of Education.

Principal speakers for the conference include U.S. Rep. Major R. Owens of New York; Dr. Faustine C. Jones Wilson, a Howard

University professor of education and editor-in-chief of the Journal of Negro Education; and Dr. Vijaya Melnick, professor of biology at the University of the District of Columbia and director of the Center for Applied Research and Public Policy.

The conference begins at 9 a.m. and is scheduled to end at 4 p.m.

A general public invitation to attend has been issued. Further information is available from the North Carolina Health Manpower Development Program, in Chapel Hill, at 919-966-2264 or 966-2265; the NCCU Health Careers Center, 919-683-6050 or 683-6347; and the NCCU Department of Education, 919-683-6466.

## Funding Is Available For Youth Groups

If your youth group has been needing money to accomplish a worthwhile project, this may be your chance.

Funding is available to assist youth groups or organizations in

Mecklenburg County in developing innovative community projects. If your youth group is planning a worthy project for young people, you may be able to receive a mini-grant from the N.C. State Youth Council to assist you.

Youth organizations throughout the state have a total of \$5,000 available to them again this year. Compliments of the Youth Advisory Council and the State Youth Council.

The deadline for accepting applications for mini-grants is January 9, 1987.

Applications will be screened and approved at the State Youth Council Board of Directors meeting in Charlotte January 23-25. Awards are reviewed by the Youth Advisory Council before being granted.

The N.C. State Youth Council awards grants to organizations three times each year. This is the last chance for applying for a grant during the 1986-87 fiscal year. All applications must be received and/or postmarked by January 9.

Interested persons should contact the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office, 121 W. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27603-1334 or phone 919-733-9286 for further information on the mini-grant program.

The State Youth Council is a component of the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office of the N.C. Department of Administration.

## NBNA Awards Ann Hall A Scholarship

The Charlotte Chapter of the National Black Nurses Association held its second annual luncheon at McDonald's Cafeteria with approximately 140 nurses and guests in attendance.

Dr. Clarence O. Ellis was speaker for the occasion. He spoke on the theme, "Violence, A Threat to the Survival and Future of Black America."

A \$500 scholarship was awarded to Ms. Ann Hall. Ms. Hall is a mother of seven children, and is presently enrolled at Central Piedmont Community College continuing her education in nursing. The group's aim is to increase the scholarship to be awarded each year.

Officers for the new year were installed by the group's founder, Ms. Linda Striggles. Ms. Mary A.

Freeman is president. The Charlotte Chapter received its national status one year ago and is now in the process of becoming incorporated with the State of North Carolina.

The Charlotte Chapter is one of 35 chapters across the USA. The National Convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, August 8-9. Ms. Linda Harris Striggles is a candidate for national president.

The chapter was organized to unify all black nurses and concerned persons to aid and improve the health status of the black community.

If you are interested in joining the organization, call 392-3656, Oreetha Bridges-secretary or 527-0068, Mary A. Freeman-president.

## "Beyond War" Award To Be Presented Saturday

Charlotte, NC - A live satellite telecast, "Spacebridge of the Americas," linking 70 cities across North and South America will take place on December 14 in the Charlotte Latin School Auditorium. During this historic program, the 1986 Beyond War Award will be presented to the four nations known as the Contadora Group - Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela.

The presentation of this prestigious award is the largest, single public event organized each year by the Beyond War Foundation. The annual presentation is made to honor an individual, group, or nation that has made a significant contribution toward building a world beyond war. This year private citizens will be traveling to the capitals of the Contadora countries to present the award personally to the Presidents. At the same time, the four Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Group will be honored guests in the host cities of Boston, Des Moines, Denver, and Los Angeles.

"The Spacebridge of the Americas" has special significance to the hundreds of Beyond War participants in the Metrolina area. Representing North Carolina and the Southeast, Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Buck of Charlotte will present the Beyond War Award to President Eric Arturo Delvalle in



Steve Buck



Bettie Buck

Panama City, Panama. Steve and Bettie Buck are the area coordinators for Beyond War activities in the greater Charlotte area.

For tickets and more information regarding the 1986 "Spacebridge of the Americas," call 704-372-0099.

TURTLE-TALK



A friend is a fellow who walks in when all the rest of the world walks out.