

Brief notes...

Helton Manor Care has acquired the former Dogwood Manor and reopened it as Helton Manor-West.

An open house is planned Sunday afternoon at the renovated 120-bed long term care facility at 1700 N. I-85 Service Road. The open house will be from 3-6 p.m.

Helton Manor-West was licensed on Aug. 1 with private and semi-private rooms.

For more information, call Bishop Charles L. Helton or administrator Willie Ann Helton at 393-2824.

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Registrations are being accepted for the Charlotte Chamber's 4th Annual Business Spelling Bee, which will be held Aug. 29 at Ericsson Stadium.

The bee is sponsored by Allstate, Duke Power, KPMG Peat Marwick, LAW Engineering and NationsBank. Proceeds benefit business/school partnership which provide workshop activities and additional funding to our public schools and other Chamber education initiatives.

The unusual competition does not have the typical format one might expect of a bee. Teams of four will work together on the spelling of words. If they make a mistake, they can buy back words at \$25 each and remain in the competition until the third round. There are easy, intermediate and difficult word rounds.

More than 40 teams have already registered for the bee. To join in, each team pays a

tax deductible \$200 entry fee.

Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. The competition begins at 5:30 p.m. All cheerleaders must be registered prior to the event. Get your team signed up today by calling Steffanie Widener at the Chamber at 378-1323.

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First Union Corp. celebrate's Education Week Aug. 26-30 with parenting seminars for employees and recognition and recruitment of volunteers.

New Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Supt. Eric Smith will keynote a breakfast honoring volunteers on Wednesday at 7:45 a.m. in the First Union Atrium. The volunteer of the year will receive a \$1000 grant from First Union.

100 Black Men tap director

Continued from 7A

spent two years with the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast, where he also achieved record fundraising results as a campaign manager.

He graduated from Wiley College in 1989 with a bachelor of science degree. He received a master's degree in governmental administration from the University of Pennsylvania Fel's School of Government. In 1993, Ashley was named one of "50 Leaders of the Future" by Ebony magazine and was listed as "40

Leaders Under 40" by the Philadelphia Business Journal in 1994.

Ashley has served on the board of directors of the Philadelphia Chapter of The National Society of Fundraising Executives, and has authored a number of fundraising and educational articles. Ashley is an outspoken advocate for the nation's youth and is a sought after lecturer and motivational speaker. He has addressed professional, youth and parental groups across the

country.

100 Black Men America, Inc. is a confederation of 64 affiliate chapters operating in over 250 cities across the country. The first chapter was formed in 1963 to marshal a force of outstanding men whose collective training, skills and experiences could achieve meaningful gains for the African American community.

The mission is to improve the lives of African American men and women with a special emphasis on youth through mentoring, education-

Money management jump

Continued from 7A

minus any surrender charges. Cash values vary depending on the policy's duration.

Two popular types of whole life insurance are universal life and variable life, both of which build up cash value. With variable life, you can choose to invest a portion of your premium in vehicles such as stocks, bonds or money market accounts. The cash value of the policy will then vary depending on how your investments perform. Typically, a minimum death benefit is guaranteed. Universal life (UL) enables you to increase or decrease your death benefit annually and to increase or decrease your premiums. This flexibility, along with the fact that the cost for universal life is typically lower than that for other whole life policies, provides options some people need. However, unlike traditional whole life, which offers a guaranteed cash value accumulation, UL offers you a minimum return rate, usually around 4 percent; above that it varies. As with variable life, the performance of your investments will affect your return. The benefits of whole life policies come with a hefty price tag: as much as several thousand dollars more for

some whole life policies than similar coverage under a term life policy. However, the extra cost doesn't mean they offer greater benefits to you. For starters, if your month-to-month cash flow is not that good, it may not be wise to tie up money in a whole life policy. Also, CPAs say if you're younger and haven't socked away money in any other investment vehicles, like Individual Retirement Accounts, 401(k) plans or

even mutual funds, it's wise to do so before investing extra money in a whole life policy.

How Much Is Enough?

Remember, life insurance is designed to protect your family financially should you suddenly die.

Money Management is a weekly column on personal finance prepared and distributed by the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants.

Leasing contracts will vary

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by bringing the car to the dealer for an inspection a month or two before the lease ends. If there are any problems, you can get them fixed before returning the car instead of waiting and letting the company charge you for them.

But what happens to you in the extreme case where a leased car is stolen or totaled? Your insurance company should pay the leasing company the car's market value, but you will owe more than that on the lease financing. You can probably buy insurance to cover this difference from the finance company; it's call gap insurance.

Where You Drive and How Far

Freedom. That's what having a car is all about, right? Your car leasing company doesn't think so. A provision that's frequently overlooked in contracts

sharply restricts the places you can drive. Some may forbid you to go out of state, or even out of your area for more than 30 days at a time. If you violate these conditions, you may be considered in default.

You'll have to pay the difference between the balance on the lease and what the company can get for the car at auction, plus any mileage or wear-and-tear penalties.

The other thing to watch out for is mileage. When you sign the leasing agreement, you have to agree to a mileage limit. If you pick a low limit to lower your monthly payment, be aware that there are stiff penalties for exceeding the limit which can add thousands of dollars to your lease.

Best Time to Lease

You may think that the worst time to lease a car is at the beginning of the model year,

when it has just hit the show room. Surprisingly, that may be the best time. Some manufacturers raise prices during the year so that they can drop them back at the end of the year and lure buyers with seemingly low prices.

Here's another surprise. Even after your lease agreement is signed, it may not be written in stone. Try to negotiate with your dealer about any penalties or fees, especially if you decide to begin another lease. If you're thinking of leasing again, many companies will waive security deposits and lease acquisition fees, or even throw in a couple of free months. Leasing a car can be complex. Don't sign a lease until you read and understand it.

Charles Ross is host of the nationally syndicated radio program, "Your Personal Finance," and author of Your CommonSense Guide to Personal Financial Planning.

Computers 101: Write down system information

By Lisa Doggett
At the Office

If while using a computer regularly at your office, you find yourself relying heavily on a "help desk," please read on. Most of today's businesses offer help in the form of a technical support phone line. You call this number when your project is over due and you're about to "go postal" on your computer.

Many of you have been frustrated with the busy signals and "hold" times of most user-support lines. And when you finally do get through, you are often told to re-boot (re-start) your computer and lose a half-day's work. It might have helped if you were offered adequate or better training at the start. But such is the climate in "do-it-yesterday" corporate America.

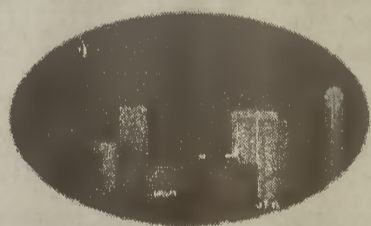
Remember: Your computer or workstation (as they are often called at the office) is nothing more than a tool. Make it work for you, not vice-versa! Think minor problems through before you reach out and touch user-support. If you are working on a stand alone PC, trouble-shooting can be a little easier. Try to find out everything about that computer. You should know: What type of processor it has (286,386, 486 or Pentium); how much RAM (Random Access Memory) is available to run programs and the amount of hard-disk storage and what programs are currently installed there.

Don't worry, I am not asking you to keep track of this information in your head. Don't try to remember everything-- just write it down, and put it in a file or on your rolodex. Keep a record of any (hardware or software) changes made to your system. This will help you avoid conflicts or figure out the source if there are problems in the future. Those of you who work on a computer network are subject

to a few more difficulties. You not only have to worry about what is loaded on your workstation, but also what services and resources you share and have access to on the file server (the super-computer in that locked room down the hall).

Don't torment yourself thinking that I am going to ask you to grasp all of that

information. I only want you to be aware that you are accessing files and printers remotely. You will have more to consider while you are working. If your PC freezes and you are at a loss, think about the last action you took. Are you getting error messages? Write them down.



CHARLOTTE MBA PROGRAM

Wake Forest University offers a new evening

MBA program in Charlotte designed for

experienced managers. Join us for an

Information Session
Wednesday, September 5 • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
(Formal remarks begin at 6:00 p.m.)
One Morrocroft Centre, Suite 150
6805 Morrison Blvd.

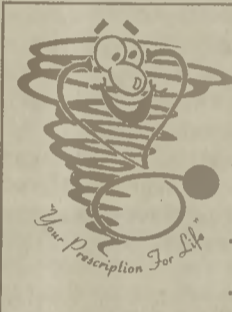
Information on our weekend
executive program in Winston-Salem

will also be available.

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

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For more information about Wake Forest's MBA programs,
call (704)365-1717 or 800-428-6012

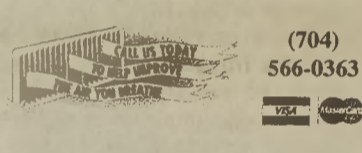
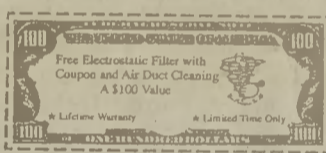


Air Doctor

Air Duct Cleaning

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- 9 out of 10 heating, ventilating and air conditioning system failures are caused by dirt and dust.
- 50% of all illnesses are either caused or aggravated by polluted indoor air.
- 1 out of 6 people who suffer from allergies do so as a direct result of the fungi and bacteria in air duct systems.
- Children are more likely to be affected by polluted indoor air. They breathe faster, inhale more air and are closer to the ground where concentrations are higher.
- Indoor air has been found to be up to 70 times more polluted than outdoor air.



NO LEDGE

MONEY GROWS ON IDEAS

The wonderful thing about doing business in our society is that ideas are color blind. good ones make you money, the great ones make you rich. At First Citizens Bank we appreciate the value of good ideas. That's why we make it our business to provide you with the financial resources you need to make your business ideas a reality.

From setting up manufacturing loans to establishing lines of credit, First Citizens wants to say "YES" to the plans you have for growing your business. Because we believe the only bad idea is not listening to new ideas.

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You're Always First.