

# Black MOUNTAIN NEWS

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Poll finds . . .

## 76% opposed to merger

by Priscilla Hopkins

"For or against: Charter proposed by Asheville-Buncombe Charter Commission" is the third item that will appear on the Nov. 2 ballot. This past week, the News polled the mayor, aldermen and a number of Black Mountain residents on how they felt on this issue. In addition to asking for a response of "for", "against", or "undecided", each poll participant was asked to state the principle reason for his position. A summary of the responses follows.

Mayor Tom Sobol is opposed because he sees the number one problem of such a consolidation as Black Mountain's loss of community closeness. "Citizens couldn't pick up the phone and call a commissioner as they could call me if something goes wrong or needs to be talked about."

Alderman Gay Fox is opposed because she feels that since the two most expensive budget items, education and law enforcement, would be deleted from the effects of the merger, "real savings just would not be realized by the taxpayer."

Alderman Carl Bartlett is opposed because he believes that country residents would not benefit as much as those in Asheville. He thinks the concept is good, but "just doesn't see a practical application of it as being possible."

Alderman Doug Stafford has mixed feelings about the issue. While he sees consolidation as a more equitable way of financing public services and he believes that an eventual reduction in taxes would be realized, he feels that there would be a loss of quick response by local leaders to local needs.

Alderman Michael Begley favors

consolidation because he believes that it would be best for the most people. But, he pointed out, that even if the charter is passed, residents of Black Mountain and other townships within Buncombe County would hold a second election to decide if the township should join the newly formed governmental unit. On that issue, he favors Black Mountain remaining a self-governing body.

The News was unable to reach Alderman Steve King for comment.

The results of the "man on the street" poll was 76 percent opposed, 18 percent undecided as yet and 6 percent favor of the proposed consolidation.

Those who oppose the merger gave a variety of reasons, but the three most frequently cited were the feeling that Asheville had more to gain than Buncombe County, a fear of additional taxes, and a strong opposition to a larger, more impersonal unit of government.

Those who said that they were still undecided felt that sufficient information was not readily available to voters so that they could make a thoughtful decision.

Those who were in favor hoped that such a merger could eliminate the "petty bickering" over the control of small towns and other issues such as have taken place concerning a city-county water system. Others believed that the consolidation would bring about more efficient and economical government.

The Rev. Edgar Ferrell was appointed by Mayor Sobol to serve on the 21 member Asheville-Buncombe Charter Commission as a representative of the Town of Black Mountain. The question concerning consolidation that will appear on the Nov. 2 ballot comes as a result of 11 months of study and public hearings held by that group.



Sharing sunny smiles with a scarecrow are four happy second graders from Mrs. Begley's class at the Black Mountain Primary School. Shown are [l-r] Richard Burgh, Kara Bennet, Ami Bartlett and Monica Clark.

## Black Mtn. gets award for excellence

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., has announced in Raleigh that the town of Black Mountain is a winner of the Governor's Community of Excellence Award for the first time. The Governor will present the award to Mayor Tom Sobol at a statewide economic development conference on Wednesday, Nov. 3, in Raleigh.

This award goes to the communities with under 15,000 people which have met requirements designed to make them more attractive to economic development. Department of Commerce representatives visited Black Mountain in Sept. to assure that the standards had been met.

Also, the community will be given special promotional attention when the N.C. Department of Commerce representatives are working with industries looking for a plant site in North Carolina.

Others planning to accompany Mayor Sobol to Raleigh for the ceremony include all five Aldermen, Chamber of Commerce President Bill White, Jr., Chamber Executive Secretary Andy Andrews, Wendell and Vickie Begley, George Venturella and Bob and Claudia Watts.

Susan Garland, President-elect of the Chamber, said that she is enthusiastic about the award and thinks that the co-operation among representatives of local government, industry and the Economic Development Committee of the Chamber that has culminated in the community's winning this award has been "the best thing that has happened to Black Mountain in many years."

As a winning community, Black Mountain will receive highway signs designating it as a winner. The signs will be placed at the town limits.

## Yoga: for both mind and body

by Priscilla Hopkins

The Black Mountain Recreation and Parks Department is sponsoring an informal Yoga workshop, "Yoga for Well Being," from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23. It will be held in the Education Room of the Black Mountain Public Library. Anyone 13 and older is welcome to attend. There is no charge.

The workshop will be led by Linda Tighe, a certified Yoga instructor, and Dr. Murray Greenspan, a chiropractor whose office is located near Swannanoa. Ms. Tighe will give an informal talk

about what Yoga is and Dr. Greenspan will speak on the correlation of Yoga and the care of the spine.

The third part of the workshop will be an abbreviated Yoga session with a final relaxation. It is suggested that participants wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring a towel or floor blanket to use as a mat.

Ms. Tighe said that she first became interested in Yoga nine years ago when she was living in San Diego. Until then she had been "the world's greatest skeptic," but she began by reading, got interested and was fortunate to have some good teachers.

Yoga, she explained, is a Sanscrit word that means "union" and Yoga's principle purpose is to make possible the union of mind and body. Yoga's intention is to keep the spine flexible and healthy so that the energy that flows through it can affect all the parts of the body positively.

Yoga is a series of slow, gentle exercises, she stressed, that are designed to stretch, then relax.

There are numerous benefits: Yoga tones the entire body, improves circulation, release tension and improves co-ordination and posture.

By helping to focus the mind, Yoga improves both concentration and memory.

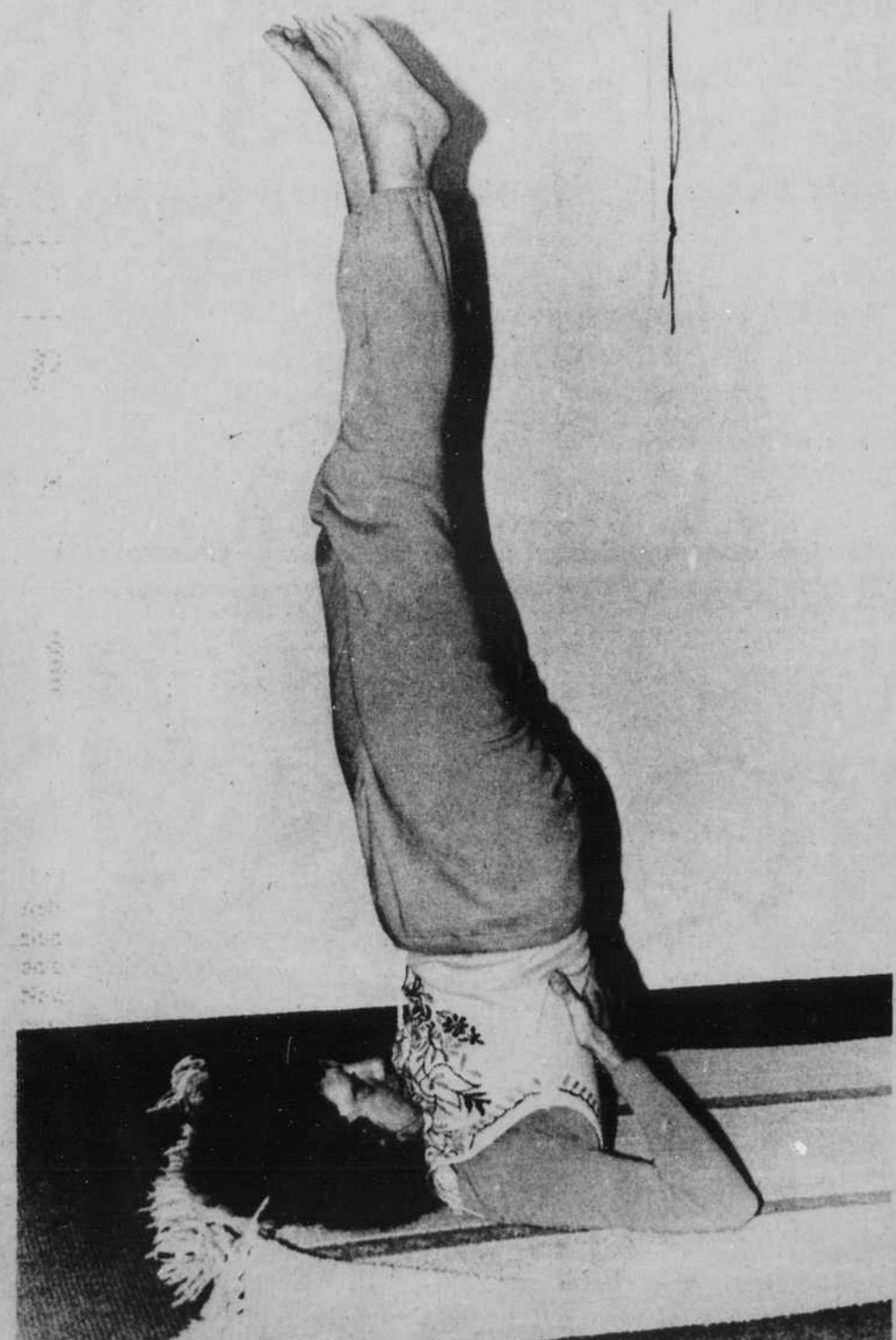
Ms. Tighe said that it also "enables one to become a more peaceful person, to be at one with self."

Yoga is a system whereby the mind controls the body so that one becomes more aware of one's spirituality. However, she said, that Yoga is neither a

religion nor does it involve religious practices as some people have been led to believe.

Two sessions of classes will be taught by Ms. Tighe. Each will last for six weeks. The morning session will meet on Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m. beginning on Oct. 26. The evening session will meet Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. beginning on Oct. 28. Tuition is \$20 a session. Call 669-2052 to register.

There will be a called meeting of the Black Mountain Aldermen on Monday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall. A public hearing will be on the proposed amendment to the Black Mountain zoning ordinance which would allow a mobile home park in an R-20 zone.



Some Yoga exercises have descriptive names such as "the dancer," "the cobra" and "the fish." Ms. Linda Tighe demonstrated great serenity and flexibility in the "shoulder stand" which is designed to improve circulation while strengthening the muscles of the back.

## Leaf pick-up in two weeks

The Town of Black Mountain will begin picking up bagged leaves by following the same schedule as the garbage pick-up. The leaves should be placed on the curb, apart from the garbage.

The vacuum truck will be in operation in approximately two weeks to pick up loose leaves raked along the curbs. It is important that these leaves are free from twigs, branches or any other debris so that the vacuuming equipment will not be damaged. The Town street crew will now follow any schedule for leaf vacuuming, but will go from one end of town to another systematically. Unless you feel that your leaves have been overlooked by the crews, there will be no need to call City Hall to have your leaves picked up.

## Newspaper carriers are saluted Saturday

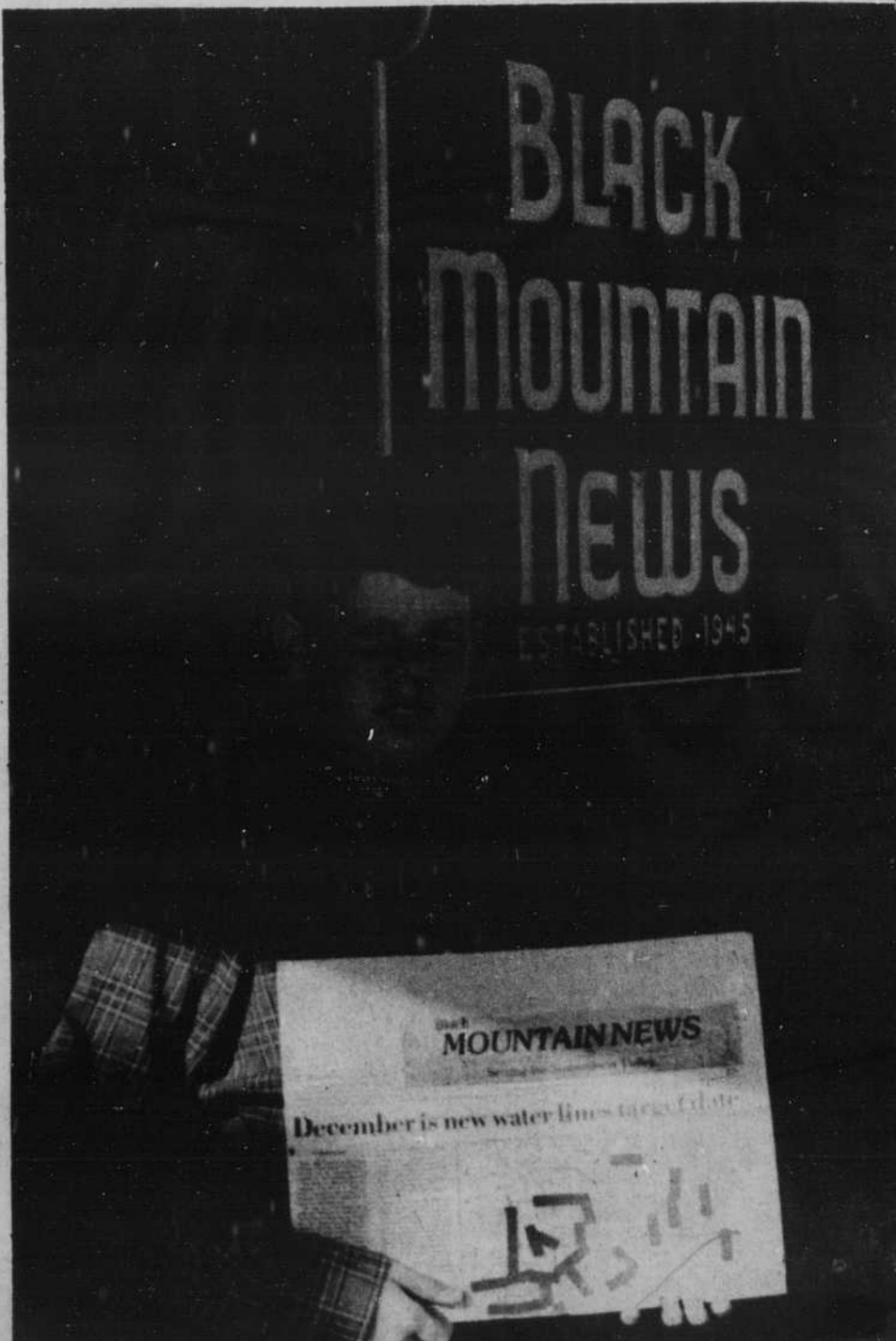
by Priscilla Hopkins

Saturday, Oct. 16 was International Newspaper Carrier Day and the Black Mountain News would like to acknowledge the hard work of all those who sell our community paper "hot off the press."

One of the most recent News carrier is Hugh Thomas who started selling 50-75 papers weekly about the time this

school year began last August. He sells in the central business of Black Mountain on foot, but favors a stop at the post office as a place where sales are brisk.

Hugh is saving his money to buy an Atari home video game and already has made about half of the money he will need to do that. He is twelve years old and in Miss Reeves' sixth grade class at the Black Mountain Middle School. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Hugh B. Thomas of Black Mountain.



Oct. 16 was International Newspaper Carrier Day. Hugh Thomas, one of the newest carriers of The Black Mountain News.