

VOTERS

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and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, along with local residents, began to move forward, Alabama state troopers viciously attacked the unarmed group.

Chavis said, "Only this time it was different—the brutality was televised. Television viewers throughout the nation watched, horrified, as the evening news showed troopers relentlessly clubbing the fallen, many of them women. Movement organizers had endured countless acts of violence over the years during the voting rights struggle. However, this one act of senseless brutality, fed to America with its TV dinners, meant that the violence could no longer be ignored."

"As a result of intense public pressure, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act which was signed into law by President Johnson on Aug. 6, 1965. The act cleared the way for registration of hundreds of thousands of African-American voters throughout the South."

This year, a national committee has been formed, based in Selma, Ala., which plans to commemorate the historic voting-rights struggle there. The main celebration takes place on March 6 in Selma.

The National Celebration of the Right to Vote was initiated by attorney Rose Sanders, the dynamic activist attorney from Selma. She and her husband, state Sen. Hank Sanders, have long been in the forefront of voter mobilization and education in the Alabama "Black Belt."

She speaks of the importance of beginning this yearly celebration throughout the country, saying, "Rather than every 20 years, we need to celebrate our voting rights victories every year—in our classrooms, our churches and our homes. We must keep uppermost in the minds of the community, and particularly our children, how many of us died for this precious right. And if we don't use it, we'll surely lose it."

Albert Turner, still a tireless civil rights worker in Perry County, Ala., echoes these words in an inspiring television documentary, produced by WNYC-TV in New York City. Titled, "Somebody Marched for Me," the film is about continuing voting rights struggles in the Alabama Black Belt. Turner is shown pointing to the bullet-riddled gravestone of Jimmie Lee Jackson. He explains, "White racists still shoot at Jimmie Lee's grave. They keep trying to kill what he stood for but it won't die. And every time we vote, he lives again through us."

Rev. Chavis says, "As the presidential primaries and elections draw near, we would all do well to remember his words, and to remember, too, the blood which was shed throughout the years for the right to vote."

POLICE

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that people cross the creek without using the nearby footbridge.

Some people interviewed by police said Thorb might have been drinking Tuesday, Lewis said. An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death, he said.

Thorb was drinking wine Tuesday evening near the gym, said a friend, Larry Johnson, Jr. Johnson said, "We were just drinking. We told him to go with us but he never said anything. He just headed down that way" toward Heritage Park, he said.

Thorb's mother, Lucille, said James was the fourth of her seven children. He was raised in Raleigh and attended Broughton High School. Ms. Simmons described her brother as kind and thoughtful.

In other developments, a Bladen County couple was sentenced to life imprisonment Thursday morning for the torture murder of a foster child in their care.

Ann Phillips, 68, and Sylvester Phillips, 57, of Bladenboro, had been convicted Tuesday of first-degree murder in the beating death June 15, 1987 of 11-year-old Tameka Lehmann. The couple also were convicted of felony child abuse in the beating of their adopted son, 14-year-old John Phillips.

The prosecution had asked the six-man, six-woman jury to recommend the death penalty for the Phillipses.

In addition to the life terms, Ferrell sentenced the Phillipses to 10 years each for the child-abuse charges. Ferrell ruled that the sentences will run consecutively.

The Phillipses had brought the lifeless body of Tameka Lehmann to Bladen County Hospital about 3 a.m. June 15. An autopsy indicated that the girl had died as a result of blows to the head by a broad, blunt instrument.

She had gouge marks on her ankles that were indicative of binding, according to the doctor who performed the autopsy.

Children living near the Phillipses' home testified during the trial that Tameka Lehmann and John Phillips had been subjected to a battery of punishments the day before her death. According to testimony, John and Tameka had been beaten as they were forced to perform oral sex on one another.

They were made to eat large amount of foods and liquids, witnesses said, including red pepper sauce. They were hung by their wrists from a bedroom door and

beaten by other children in the household as their parents watched.

While the jury was unanimous in its opinion that Tameka had died during torture, jurors said they were hesitant to impose the death penalty because of doubt about who was responsible for certain acts.

The Phillipses were ordered to fulfill their life terms at state prisons in Raleigh. They will be eligible for parole in 20 years.

NCSU STUDENTS

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to English assignments. They asked for a minor program in Afro-American studies and that Afro-American courses be considered core courses rather than electives.

They said more black faculty need to be hired to increase moral and academic support for black students.

The students also were concerned about practices in the Athletic Department. Several said that they were concerned about practices in the Athletic Department. Several said they were concerned that Athletic Director Jim Valvano's plan to educate, graduate, train and hire former black athletes for coaching and administrative positions would merely create token positions.

Valvano, a member of the forum, said it would not be a token job. Ray A. Martin, a black assistant basketball coach who will be the first to achieve an administrative position, offered his assurances even though he wasn't a member of the forum.

Valvano responded to the question about the number of graduating athletes. He said the number is "woefully low," but added, "The issue is not just the graduation rate of student athletes, it's the graduation rate of students."

FORMER ATHLETE

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Amaker credits McCrae who also owns Fevers, a Raleigh nightclub, for showing him firsthand what a modern-day black businessman can accomplish.

"He took me under his wings shortly after I arrived in Durham," Amaker says. "Since that time, he's always been available to listen and give me advice."

"Tommy is not your typical athlete, he has always been concerned about his academics in addition to being a good athlete," says McCrae, who described Amaker as a "fifth son." "The thing that I find most impressive about him is that he graduated on time from a very good university," he added.

But before Amaker's love of business, there was basketball. His idol growing up was another Durham man, basketball star John Lucas. Amaker was a fifth-grader when he first met Lucas at the University of Maryland basketball camp.

"John and I hit it off from the start. For years after that first meeting, he was an influence in my life. He helped me get into other basketball camps. He also helped keep me in shoes," says Amaker, who also received help from Lucas with his tennis interests. "It meant a lot to me as a kid," he added.

Because of his early experiences, it wasn't easy for Amaker to walk away from a sport that has brought him so many good memories and good times. In fact, it was pretty difficult.

"When you've done something for as long as you can remember, you have to find a way to face the fact that no matter how hard you've worked, things sometimes don't come through," Amaker reflects.

Amaker was cut from the Seattle SuperSonics after spending less than a month at their camp in Seattle. "I found out that the NBA is a business just like any other business. It's hard and cold," Amaker said.

"I'm glad I had my education and my dreams for the future to fall back on," he added.

Amaker has realized one of his dreams by coming back to Duke to work as a manager trainee. Another dream is to earn his MBA from the Fuqua School of Business. His application to the school is under way.

But the dream that's closest to his heart is the basketball academy he is organizing for this summer. This project combines his interest in basketball with his business aspirations.

The camp will be held at Durham Academy July 17-22, says Amaker, who himself began working at camps in the seventh grade. It will be open to youngsters from 8 to 18.

Over the years Amaker has worked at some of the top basketball camps in the nation in many positions.

"I started out as a referee and worked my way up to coach, counselor and guest lecturer," Amaker says. Amaker has worked at Northern Virginia Basketball School, the University of Maryland Basketball Camp, Achievements Unlimited in Greensboro and Duke University Basketball Camp.

"My memories of camp are the most fun days I can recall having," Amaker says.

"This is the kind of atmosphere I want to have at my camp," he says. In addition to the skills of basketball, Amaker wants to teach kids the character of basketball.

"There are things that helped me get to the ACC that I can share with youngsters. Skills and good timing are important, but so is character, hard work, and just being a good person," Amaker says.

PIA

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agencies presenting information to those attending on what the drugs are and where to go for help. At this time Wake Drug Action, the Wake County Sheriff's Department and representatives from Charter Northridge, CHAPS, the March of Dimes, Haven House, and SADD have committed to participate.

The Drug and Alcohol Expo will be co-sponsored by the Whitley Middle School PTA, Wendell Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Wendell Police Department.

Tom Sulter, WRAL-TV 5 sports announcer, and Terry "The Cannon" Gannon, former NCSU basketball great, will be making a special appearance to help promote saying no to drugs.

On March 1, Gov. Martin will be presenting a proclamation to Ms. Mitchell and Robert Winston, principal of Whitley Middle School, proclaiming March 6-12 as Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week at Whitley.

Youngsters who attend the academy will be immersed in an environment of learning.

"I will insist on high standards, good values and education," Amaker says. "Top players and coaches, such as Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski, will teach guest lectures in the fundamentals of basketball."

Participants will be exposed to role models and will learn the importance of nutrition, good grades, and restraint from drug abuse. After completing the one-week camp, Amaker hopes participants will have learned to live by Amaker's Creed:

- To create an environment of learning.
- To build self-esteem by eliminating fears.
- To learn the fundamentals and techniques of basketball.
- To learn from positive role models.
- To share one positive thought each day.

"It takes a lot to be a student and an athlete," Amaker says. "You don't have time to be a regular student. You don't have the vacation time like regular students." But still, he says, you get out of it what you put into it.

While Amaker realizes that all the youngsters attending the camp may not go on to play college ball, he thinks that learning to live by Amaker's Creed will give every participant an advantage in basketball and in life.

For Amaker, the basketball academy will be the fulfillment of one more dream. At 22, this may be the first of many dreams come true.

BANK

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weekly trips to the bank to deposit the pennies they received from selling their good and services at market. Depositors also included black professionals—mainly lawyers, doctors and teachers.

Throughout the years Mechanics and Farmers grew steadily, if slowly. In 1921 it acquired Fraternal Bank and Trust Co., another black-owned institution. Now with nine branches, Mechanics and Farmers has offices in Durham, Raleigh, Charlotte and Winston-Salem.

Mechanics and Farmers is also moving in a new direction in an attempt to cultivate a new clientele. The bank has cultivated ties with Fortune 500 companies such as Kellogg, CBS, Inc., Gulf and Western and Avon Cosmetics. In addition, Mechanics has joined 47 other minority banks in developing a \$25 million revolving credit for Sears, Roebuck and Co.

At the same time, it is reaching out to black businesses by offering small-business loans, developing new accounts with black educational institutions and cementing a new relationship with black professionals by offering low-rate consumer loans. The success of this new direction is reflected in the numbers. In 1986, Mechanics and Farmers posted a strong 16.19 percent return on equity as earnings jumped to \$1.1 million, or \$3.73 for each share of outstanding common stock. In 1983 the bank earned only \$469,274, or \$1.65 a share. Return on equity was 1.47 percent nearly double the 0.98 percent average for North Carolina state banks.

The progress hasn't gone unnoticed. In 1985, the bank was rated by Veribank, Inc., a banking industry research firm in Woburn, Mass., as one of the most profitable and stable of the 46 state banks in North Carolina.

A year later, Sheshunoff and Co., an Austin, Texas-based bank consulting firm, rated Mechanics as one of the safest in the nation, based on Dec. 31, 1985 and June 30, 1984 operating results and balance sheets.

Mechanics' new direction has come under the leadership of Julia Taylor, the soft-spoken, 51-year-old chief executive officer. Viewed as conservative and aggressive, this native North Carolinian has a sense of banking that comes partly from being born and bred in a banking family. Taylor's father, the well-liked J.H. Wheeler, was the bank's president from 1952 until he died in 1978. Her maternal grandfather, Warren, served a short stint as president between 1920 and 1921. Other presidents of this distinguished institution have included William R. Fitzgerald, John Merrick, William G. Pearson, Dr. Stanford L. Warren, Charles C. Spaulding, and J.J. Sansom, Jr.

Nevertheless, Taylor did not limit her banking career to this familial bond. She began in banking at Mechanics and Farmers in 1955 as a 180-a-month trainee. But she was soon to move on. Although her father

was the bank's president at the time, Taylor regarded opportunities for women in the tobacco-dominated North Carolina town as limited. In 1960, she moved to Los Angeles, where she worked for a year as a teller for the Bank of America Corp., and then as an assistant secretary to the chairman at the black-owned Broadway Saving and Loan.

Satisfied with her stint in California, and figuring that the opportunities for promotion might be better in Durham, Taylor decided it was time to return home.

Her decision was a sound one. She began a fast-track rise to become Mechanics' chief executive. Returning as a teller in 1965, she was promoted two years later to vice president and manager in charge of one of the bank's two Raleigh branches. By 1978, Taylor was made senior vice president and city executive for Raleigh—the institution's top position in the city. In 1983, she was promoted to president and chief executive officer, becoming one of a handful of women in the nation to head a commercial bank.

Unlike her patient predecessors, Taylor hopes to expand Mechanics and Farmers more rapidly—either by opening additional branches or by acquiring other black-owned banks—while keeping the company's return on assets under one percent.

Mechanics and Farmers Bank holds the distinction of being the first lending institution in North Carolina to receive a certificate as an authorized lender from the Federal Housing Administration in 1935. The number of this certificate is 35001 and the second FHA loan on a private dwelling made in the state of North Carolina was processed and disbursed by the bank.

The bank has also been a pioneer in stimulating and financing the construction of low-income housing in North Carolina. Prior to the activation of the Small Business Administration's Equal Opportunity and Project Own programs, this bank was a dominant force in stimulating black entrepreneurship in North Carolina and up to the present time, this participation in the various programs of the Small Business Administration has provided an even greater stimulus for those who wish to take the risks of free enterprise.

With this rich heritage and its proud and determined leadership team, this bank is hoping to continue with its successful ways and to become involved in new and enterprising endeavors. But it has no intention of changing its name. "The name has done well for many years," Taylor says with a laugh. "That's one of the things we're in no rush to change."

JESSE JACKSON

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to us as "black leaders," they are not describing our skin color, which is self-evident. They are defining our domain. When people can define you, they can confine you. The world is our stage."

For two decades Jackson has participated in demonstrations against media bias and power. In Chicago, Jackson and EXCELL organized a turn-off-the-tube boycott, a teenage boycott against the degeneracy in TV. The degeneration of TV culture in the Reagan years—the jingoism, the anti-communist hype, the Rambo racism, pornography and violence—all have terrible effects on American youth. Jackson believes that TV has even helped to put young kids into premature heat and spawned a rise of teenage pregnancy.

In his popular speeches at high schools, Jesse urges youth to take the future into their own hands, to fight media cynicism and the media culture of self-indulgence.

Recently, candidate Jackson joined the picket line of NBC strikers in New York, where he gave a pointed speech on the General Electric takeover of NBC. The concentration of corporate power in the media today exceeds all former administrations.

The GE takeover means that the world's largest network is owned by the U.S. government's second-largest war supplier. GE produces nuclear subs, F-16 fighter aircraft, Minuteman missiles, and some of its weapons are used by regimes in South Africa and Chile. How can the biggest arms merchants of the world, corporations with direct interests in U.S. domination abroad, provide fair TV coverage of candidates who call for world peace and empowerment of the poor?

While he has not written a point-by-point program for media reform, no other candidate has dared to frame the media issue as sharply as Jesse Jackson. His campaign is not only a



FUTURE STARS—Could these youngsters be the future Doug Williamses of America! These three young athletes from the Garner Road Y Coed teen club, enjoyed the opportunity to travel to Johnson C. Smith and take a first hand look at college life and the impressive athletic programs. From left, these athletes are Steve Smith (entering the van), Cliff Smith and Steve Watson. All three men are athletes to watch.



NO WAY SCOREKEEPERS—Caigary—Coach Alex McGowan holds his nose in reaction to the scores given to his skater Debi Thomas (r.) by the judges for her performance in the women's short program tonight in the Saddledome arena. (UPI)

Precinct Meets Scheduled By Democrats

crusade for peace and full employment; it is a campaign for democratic media and real freedom of speech.



TAKING ALL HONORS—Recently, Essence paid special tribute to award-winning legend Sarah Vaughan, who has been captivating audiences for over 40 years. The extraordinary jazz vocalist talked to host/executive producer Susan L. Taylor about her celebrated teenage singing debut at Harlem's famed Apollo Theatre. She described how her lifelong friend and mentor Billy Eckstine got her started in show business, and she proudly admitted that the renowned Ella Fitzgerald was her idol.

Wake County Democrats have scheduled precinct meetings for Thursday, March 3, Wake County Democratic Chairman Henry W. Jones, Jr., announced last week. Precinct meetings will be held at regular precinct polling places and will begin at 8 p.m.

"We want to encourage all registered Democrats to attend these precinct meetings," Jones said. "Super Tuesday is right around the corner and we need to have a strong showing at the polls."

Chairman Jones noted that precinct meetings are the most basic ingredient for Democratic success. Delegates to the county conventions are elected at the March 3 meetings and political and public policy resolutions are voted on.

"The more people that get involved, the better the party can represent the views of all Democrats," Chairman Jones said.

Make-up precinct meetings will be held March 10. For further information, call Henry Jones, Jr.

Ninety-two percent of the nation's 12.5 million college students hold part-time or full-time jobs, according to the 1985 Simmons National College Study.

March 6-12 Proclaimed Severe Weather Awareness Wk. By Gov.

These three agencies join forces each year to alert North Carolinians to the effects of lightning, thunderstorms, and tornadoes and how to prevent injuries from these storms.

The main focus of the week will be a statewide tornado drill on Monday, March 9. In the event of inclement weather on the 9th, the drill will be held on Friday, March 11.

Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Joe Dean said, "I encourage all citizens to take part in this important emergency drill. Knowing how to protect yourself and your family is the key to surviving severe weather."

For more information about "Severe Weather Awareness Week," and the March 9 drill, contact your local Emergency Management Coordinator.