

BLACK PRESS

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that reaffirm the economic and political realities of the black community. The black population continues to increase. From 1970-1980 the population increased by 17 percent, or three times the white population increase. Between 1980 and 1982, black median income (while still lagging behind that of whites) increased by 215 percent while white median income increased by 200 percent.

The education gap between blacks and whites from 25-29 years of age has virtually been eliminated. In 1984, 19 cities with populations of 100,000 plus had black mayors. Six of the top 10 consumer markets currently have black mayors. While these statistics do not negate the socio-political problems that the black community continues to experience, they also cannot deny the continuously growing "clout" of the black community.

That clout is a direct benefit of an important community institution, and the role it has played in the progress of the black community. The status of the black community has been recognized, and nurtured through one of the country's oldest and most loyal institutions, the black press.

The black press represents some of the first and most consistent businesses in the black community. It is the only national medium truly considered by blacks to be "our own." That credibility of the black press in reassuring our community that the message is strictly "for us," is unmatched. The black community has historically known that their newspaper is "free" and "unbought."

Recognition of the black press during Black Press Month is important because just as other mainstays of the black community are often taken for granted, the black press is no exception. A steady, dependable source of news with a black perspective can easily be found in the black press. The black press carries our church news and reports on social activities. Black businesses and the corporate sector often rely on the black press to reach potential black employees. Economic and political analyses from the black community perspective are featured regularly in the black press. Black politicians and civic leaders have their columns in the black press because they know the black community relies on these papers for its information.

Acknowledging the independence and advocacy of the black press, the corporate sector has identified the black press as an imperative to marketing to the black consumer. For example, in 1980 the black food dollar was estimated at \$16.4 billion. Black newspaper associations and organizations have successfully put forth the position that as some of the oldest black businesses in the country, they deserve their fair share of the corporate advertising dollars used to market one of the most loyal consumer markets, the black community.

The historical and future strength of the black press can also be gauged by some of the associations and organizations that support the black press. For example, Amalgamated Publishers, Inc. is a newspaper advertising agency representing 90 of the country's leading and oldest black newspapers. Founded in 1961, API now has a total circulation of 1.4 million weekly with a reach of more than four million people in 34 cities of the top 50 markets nationwide. Black Media, Inc. represents more than 120 black-owned newspapers, five magazines and the National Black Monitor. BMI's whole thrust is toward black community building and enablement, primarily through its commitment to the national Assault on Illiteracy Program. The National Newspaper Publishers Association is a 48-year-old association that has provided fellowship and mutual self-help to improve the quality and circulation of member publications. The NNPA has assisted a number of aspiring journalism students through a scholarship program.

COMPLAINT

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who lives next door to her sister. Wingate charged that an officer pulled her down some stairs, "grabbed me by the hair and then kicked me between the legs," and that a second officer kicked her in the stomach and used racial slurs against her. After the incident, Wingate was taken to Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital, where she remained overnight for observation. She claims she bled sporadically from her vagina after the incident, and that she sustained bruises. Wingate also contends police never told her what she was being arrested for until after they took her to the city jail. Wingate was charged with misdemeanor counts of resisting arrest and obstructing governmental administration.

BUSINESS MENTORS

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organizations, this year's "Mentors of Distinction" were Ms. Barbara Allen, Dr. Richard Atelman Ms. Anne Dahle, N.C. Secretary of Human Resources Patricia Dorsey, Ms. Peg Fisher, Ms. Catherine Hargrove, Ms. Eleanor Harward, Ms. Peggy Howe, Ms. Jean Hunt, Ms. Patricia Juby, Ms. Bonnie Kurz, Ms. Helen Martikainen, Ms. Susan McClintock, Carey Stacey, Dr. Thomas Stafford, Ms. Janice Still, Dr. Carolyn Turner, Ms. Betty Wiser and Ms. Fran Woodward.

Special WIBAC awards went to Ms. Emma Goza, owner, E.G. Hats, Etcetera; Dr. Wilmoth Carter, former vice president, Shaw University; Dr. Linda Dillon, Dr. S. David Frazier, William Gobble, Ms. Ruth Mary Meyer, Ms. Patricia Roswell, Ms. Julia Taylor, president of Mechanics and Farmers Bank; and Dr. Sandra Thomas.

Ms. Annette Barskile, former public affairs director for WPTV-TV, continues as board secretary with WIBAC.

The sponsoring organizations, which represent the "third partner" in all mentoring, for this year's honorees were truly diversified: Boy and Girl Scouts, Black Women Entrepreneurs,

Women's Forum, Civil Air Patrol, Motherhood, Inc., Church Women United, Home Economics Association, Raleigh Sales and Marketing, Women's Council of Realtors, American Society for Training and Development, Alpha Delta Kappa, Women Business Owners, Wake Schools' "Career Beginnings" Program, Meredith College's student WINGS and NCSU "Professional Growth" N.C. Equity, American Association of University Women, and N.C. Retired Government Employees.

Women in Business Advisory Council, based in Raleigh, is a non-profit volunteer, education group which encourages men and women mentors serving as resources for women to avail themselves of education and training, in order to perform exceptionally and to advance in professional and business careers.

TEENS

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stances each could must discover their special God-given purpose.

The program included a presentation by the graduates emphasizing skills learned during training. In vocation was given by Maurice Graham, a 1986 graduate of the Peer Counselor Training Program. Comments were provided by the executive director of the YWCA of Wake County, Ms. Jean Williams, and Hargett Street Branch director, Ms. Shirley Nimmons.

Saneva Riddick, a 1986 Peer Counselor graduate, entertained the audience with a touching vocal selection. Certificates were presented by Erika Wortham, a 1986 graduate. Closing remarks were made by Ms. Lynice Williams, chairperson of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program Committee.

The graduates of the 1988 Peer Counselor Class are Warren Bennett, Patrick Dewberry, Cassandra Echols, Stacy Grier, Donna Hayward and April Love. Another training session for Peer Counselors is scheduled to begin the last week of March. Anyone ages 14-17 interested in becoming a Peer Counselor should contact program director Montina Lee or assistant program director Khalif Ramadan at 834-7386.

COUNSELORS

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"do not understand and accept their children's feelings of helplessness and vulnerability. The urge to drink or use drugs is still there, but some parents think treatment removes all desire for these substances, making their children almost superhuman."

"Young people won't go to parents who expect them to be perfect," he said. "They internalize their desires for so long that they may fulfill the prophecy and return to alcohol and drugs."

The second obstacle, according to Warner, is peer pressure.

When teenagers come back from treatment to their peers, and non-using friends, they find recovering friends hard to accept.

One high school sophomore explained, "My old drug-using friends want me to do drugs with them. When I won't, they drop me. My new friends are the ones in AA and NA. That's it. I have to change friends, lifestyles, everything. It can be rough."

Warner said in addition to this lack of understanding by parents and peers, a negative public attitude makes it even harder for teens to stay sober.

Demaret agreed. "We have pigeon-holed many of these youngsters because they don't conform to our standards of respectability—dress, hair, etc.—and we keep believing that their drug addiction hasn't changed," she said.

"If one of our drug-free support group members has a relapse for the first time, that person is suspended from the group until we receive a signed slip from an adult member of

the support group confirming that the teen has attended at least one meeting.

"It's not intended to be punitive," she said. "It's just based on the fact that long-term sobriety is virtually impossible without support."

Above all, Warner said, parents must be especially careful to avoid talking with their recovering children in sentences that start, "If only you had..." or "Why can't you be more like...?" A positive attitude from teens' parents can help them over at least one of the three stumbling blocks and perhaps better navigate the obstacle course they are facing.

SWAPO LEADER

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other journalists of color from major media, minority press and alternative news organizations.

Academicians, activists and communications professionals are also expected to attend Nujoma's keynote speech at the Atlanta University Center on April 23.

The Capitol Hill hearing, held May 2-4, also coincides with the 10th anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Resolution 435, considered the Namibian peace plan. The mineral-rich country has been illegally occupied for 20 years by South Africa, which maintains an estimated 100,000 troops in the country.

SWAPO has waged a war of liberation since 1986. According to a recent war communique, SWAPO's military wing announced that it killed more than 150 South African troops and downed two military aircraft during the first two months of 1988. SWAPO's strikes against South Africa are being scored at the same time the Botha government intensifies its raids into southern Angola which borders Namibia.

Nujoma had announced in the beginning of the year that SWAPO combatants would "make Namibia one huge battlefield."

MINIMUM WAGE

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been raised since 1981. In the interim the cost of living has shot up 30 percent, eroding basic wages by a similar 30 percent. This has been due to inflation, Hawkins points out.

In another incident, Hawkins assailed a reported statement by Bruce M. Carnes, a deputy undersecretary for planning, budget and evaluation of the Department of Education. Carnes was quoted in the Wall Street Journal as criticizing student bodies of black colleges as perhaps containing "a high level of thieves" in student loan defaults.

Hawkins asserted that Carnes' racist remarks should warrant his dismissal if he refused to resign, adding that Carnes should also apologize to all black students "he has so outrageously offended" and that Carnes' remark "is repulsive to me personally and an affront to all college students in this nation."

HELP POOR

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poor and delinquent, there's a program for you. And on it goes. If you happen to be poor, not on drugs, not committing a crime, not sexually active, you obey your parents, and you're going to school, there's no program for you. The message we're sending to poor people is that if you want to receive some support, you must have a problem, and you must act in an antisocial or self-destructive way. As a consequence, the poor are discouraged from helping themselves.

The time is at hand to start focusing on the many success stories that can be found all across poor America.

Let's not go into a public housing complex and interview a woman with five children, two on drugs, two in prison and one a prostitute. Let's go next door to a woman, like Kimi Gray, in Washington, D.C.'s Kenilworth-Parkside housing project, who was abandoned at 19 with five children. Kimi Gray got off welfare in five years and sent all five of her children to college. She proved that with a little self-determination and hard work, poverty can be overcome.

Look at 13 public housing projects in other U.S. cities, where residents are engaged in a self-help renaissance, defying the so-called experts with their definitions of those communities as cesspools of society. The people in these projects disprove the notion that low-income people are deficient of values, that they're incapable of establishing standards for themselves.

What the poor need is not more government programs and funding, most of which doesn't get to them anyway. In New York City, for example, 60 cents of every dollar earmarked for social welfare does not go to the poor, it goes to those who supposedly serve the poor—the bureaucrats of the poverty Pentagon.

The poor need innovators and innovation. They need to learn how to create wealth, not undermine it.

America needs to encourage and reward self-reliance in its inner-city schools and communities. Tomorrow's competitiveness depends on how well equipped today's poor become and how they're taught to succeed—on their own.



CAMPAIGN TRAIL—Dan Bell, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the office of Secretary of State is pictured here on the campaign trail with ardent supporter and worker Tony Jackson. Bell has served as Deputy to Secretary of state Thad Eure for over six years. It is Eure's office that Bell is aiming for. (Photo by Telle Sabir-Calloway)

American Lincoln Homes To Become AmerLink

ROCKY MOUNT—American Lincoln Homes, a leading national manufacturer and telemarketer of log and conventional homes and commercial buildings, officially changes its name to AmerLink. This announcement was made public by Richard Spoor, president and chairman, during a press conference at AmerLink's sales office in Gold Rock.

"Since I founded American Lincoln Homes in 1982, the company has experienced tremendous growth through state-of-the-art telemarketing, production of a superior product, and a substantial customer referral business," explains Spoor. "We feel the name AmerLink exemplifies our high-tech dominance in the industry, as well as

encompassing the variety of choices and services we offer our customers."

Sales growth and positive cash flows have been attributes of the company since its inception. AmerLink, as American Lincoln Homes, reported selling \$2.5 million worth of homes in just its first year, earning more than \$300,000 before taxes. Sales topped \$4.1 million in the second year and continued to double.

"In 1987, our company reported another outstanding year with approximately \$10 million in recorded sales," Spoor says. "And we are forecasting sales for 1988 to reach \$20 million."

Sales of log homes are growing steadily. The trade journal Log Homes Annual pegs 1988 North American sales at \$416 million in a market estimated to be only 50 percent mature.

AmerLink's conventional home package division and commercial business are also operating with positive cash flow. The conventional home package division, launched in May 1986, has recorded almost \$2 million in sales in less than two years. According to Spoor, commercial log building projects, such as AmerLink's 1987 win of a 50-unit, \$1.3 million project with the state of Pennsylvania, Bureau of State Parks, will be a primary market for AmerLink to achieve or surpass its projected sales for 1988.

Spoor also reveals two major announcements for AmerLink this year. "In view of our outstanding growth and potential future growth, we are making initial plans to take AmerLink public, tentatively during the fourth quarter of 1988," he says. "We are also making plans to add a West Coast telemarketing center, possibly through acquisition or merger."

AmerLink's fully integrated telecommunications system places it on the leading edge of companies using telemarketing to sell products. Only about 15 percent of U.S. companies using the technique incorporate computer-based data systems into their programs.

In the area of community service, AmerLink has held preliminary meetings with Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit national and international renovation charity taken on as a pet project by former President Jimmy Carter.

"Although plans have not yet been finalized, we are exploring the possibility of launching a community service project to support the cause this year," Spoor says. "If negotiations are successful, project details will be released soon."

AmerLink, founded as American Lincoln Homes in 1982, is headquartered in Rocky Mount and operates a manufacturing plant in Gold Rock.

AmerLink manufactures log home weather-tight shell packages, conventional frame home packages, custom-designed homes and commercial log buildings. One of the nation's five largest log home manufacturers, the company offers a diverse selection of homes, with 101 standard designs and custom designs available in six different log styles and three wood species—white pine, cypress or western red cedar.

COMMENT SOUGHT ON EXPRESSWAY

Wake County residents again are being asked to help state transportation planners with the location of the Northern Wake Expressway.

DOT representatives and engineers from Wilbur Smith and Associates will hold a series of three public meetings next week to get reaction to several alignments for the expressway. Wilbur Smith and Associates is a consulting firm hired to do the Environmental Impact Statement for the expressway.

The expressway is the northern part of Raleigh's Outer Loop, extending from NC 85 near Apex on the west side to US 54 at Knightdale on the east side.

The public is invited to attend one or all of the meetings and ask questions, make comments or submit material about the pro-

Woman Claims FBI Forced Her To Tell Falsities

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (AP)—The FBI tried to force a woman to make false statements against a black FBI agent who has filed a racial discrimination suit against the agency, the woman's lawyer said last week.

Rosemary Coleman Peszko was interrogated for 20 hours over a three-day period earlier this month regarding her relationship with agent Donald Rochon, attorney Stefan Presser said.

Two FBI agents from Philadelphia apparently tried to convince Ms. Peszko to say that Rochon first hit her in a violent quarrel March 4 at the apartment they shared in Pennsauken, N.J., then broke his own nose to convince investigators both had been acting violently, Presser said.

"We're considering filing a lawsuit against the FBI," said Presser, who is also legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania. "She's obviously furious about the way she's been treated."

The FBI said in a statement that the questioning followed normal procedures any time allegations of impropriety or criminal wrongdoing are leveled against an FBI employee.

The questioning was "professional and in keeping with FBI policy and in no way interfered with anyone's rights guaranteed under the Constitution," according to the statement released in Washington.

Rochon said the March 4 argument was precipitated by his attempts to break off his relationship with Ms. Peszko. He was critical of the questioning.

"The FBI knew she was having emotional problems for a month or so," Rochon said. "She was requesting psychological help and counseling. They didn't leave her alone. I told them her state of mind before they went down there, and instead of being compassionate, they seized on her weakness."

Rochon and Ms. Peszko filed simple assault charges against each other in Camden County, N.J., then dropped them.

Rochon filed suit Nov. 5, 1987 in Washington against the FBI and the Justice Department, alleging racial discrimination, harassment and death threats from fellow agents and supervisors when he worked at FBI offices in Omaha, Neb., and Chicago.

The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has upheld Rochon's racial discrimination allegations in connection with his stay in Omaha in 1983 and 1984.

The case has been closely watched in Washington, where President Reagan has been reported as "very upset" about Rochon's reports of discrimination and U.S. Rep. John Conyers, R-Mich., accused FBI Director William Sessions last week of stalling on an internal investigation.

Health Officials Ask Parents To Do Assessment

State health officials are urging the parents of children entering public kindergarten in the fall of 1988 to have their child's newly required health assessment completed before school starts in September.

Two years ago, the N.C. General Assembly passed legislation requiring children who enter kindergarten in the public schools in the 1989-90 school year to have a health assessment. This assessment includes a medical history and physical examination with screening for vision and hearing, and if appropriate, testing for anemia and tuberculosis, according to Marilyn Asay, nursing consultant for the Maternal and Child Health Branch of the N.C. Department of Human Resources' Division of Health Services.

"While the immunization rate among children entering kindergarten and the first grade has been extremely high for a number of years, we have not known the overall health status of these youngsters," Asay said. "The results of this assessment will give us an opportunity to locate those children who may have undetected or possibly untreated health problems that might interfere with their success at school."

She pointed out that the health assessment must be conducted between Jan. 1, 1988 and the end of December. However, health officials are strongly encouraging parents to have the assessment completed before school begins so that any special needs of the child can be determined and appropriate action taken to meet those needs. The action may range from further evaluation to actual medical treatment, or even the development of educational plans to address each student's individual strengths and needs.

poned location of the expressway. Additional material may be submitted to James M. Greenhill, manager of planning and research branch, division of highways, NCDOT, P.O. Box 25261, Raleigh 27611.