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# NEWS BRIEFS

## CITY LINE

Raleigh Mayor Avery C. Upchurch will be at WSHA-FM 88.9 every month as the guest of "City Line," a news program developed by Dr. Emeka Emekawa. The mayor will take call-in questions, to address issues, concerns and suggestions from the people of Raleigh and surrounding areas. The program will be hosted by Ms. Margaret Rose Murray with assistance provided by Kenneth Murray Mohammed.

## MINISTERS UNION

The Ministerial Alliance and Ministers Union of Raleigh and Wake County will sponsor a city-wide revival April 10-15 at 7 p.m. nightly at First Co-Operative Baptist Church, 1515 Cross Link Road. Guest minister for the revival will be the Rev. Gus Roman of Berean Missionary Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y. He is a graduate of Howard University School of Religion in Washington, D.C.

## CAREER CELEBRATION

Gospel singer Bro. Ed Hall is celebrating his 31st year with the Baptist State Convention. Hall is a member of the Gary-Debnam TV Choir, seen on Sundays at 6:30 a.m. on WRAL-TV. Hall is the business manager of the Sensational Evening Five and has a new gospel recording, "When I Think of God's Goodness."

## GANG OF THREE

A man who would like to win the state's No. 2 job says he is not happy with the back-room dealings he's witnessed in the Legislature. Much of North Carolina's government is controlled by what he calls the "gang of three" and if a Republican is elected as lieutenant governor they'll immediately strip him of all the power they can, says Wendell Sawyer of Greensboro. Sawyer, a former state senator from Guilford County, is one of the three GOP candidates for lieutenant governor and says he expects to have a difficult job if he wins.

## WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

The number of women-owned firms continues to grow, according to new government figures. Internal Revenue Service statistics show that between 1984 and 1985 the number of female operated sole proprietors increased 11 percent and their receipts increased 16 percent. IRS figures show that in 1985 there were 3,738,000 women-owned sole proprietorships, 28 percent of all such businesses, with receipts of \$85 billion or 12 percent of sole proprietorship receipts. In 1984, 3,383,000 women-owned sole proprietorships generated \$56 billion in receipts.

## EDUCATION AWARD

CHICAGO, Ill.—Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan received the American School Counselors Association's award for the Year Award during the association's annual convention recently. The American School Counselors Association recognized the lieutenant governor as "a true champion of education..." and cited his willingness to chart the course for education.

## APPRECIATION PROGRAM

There will be an appreciation service for Elder Dean Parchia and his companion on April 24 at 3:30 p.m. at Grace Tabernacle World Outreach Center at 416 W. South St. The Rev. Purdie Elliott of Fayetteville will be the guest speaker.

## FAIR HOUSING

The month of April will be observed as National Fair Housing Month and will be celebrated as the 20th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, a legislation designed to lessen discrimination housing practices.

## NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

National Library Week will be observed April 17-24 and public libraries throughout Wake County will provide special services and events. All libraries will have bookmarks, balloons, and bumper stickers promoting libraries, library users and the love of reading as it is found in the county's public library facilities. Richard E. Harrison on New Bern Avenue will offer an adult program and display

### Accountability Factor

# Candidates Face RWCA Forums

BY K.P. CORNWALL CHUNN  
Staff Writer  
Political candidates seeking local and state posts are appearing this week and next week in forums before the Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association in preparation for that organization's endorsements prior to the May 3 Democratic and Republican primaries.  
Edward T. Smith, chairman of the RWCA political action committee, said in an interview this week that he

expects 80 percent of the Democratic candidates to appear and 50 to 60 percent of Republican contenders to be present at the forums.  
The first RWCA session was scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Augustine's College, and a second forum will be held on Thursday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church.  
The RWCA regular and endorsement meetings will take place at the Hargett Street Branch of the YWCA

on Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m.  
"We're expecting it to be a good community forum with an opportunity for people to have better and more informed views on the candidates," Smith said.  
He said that it is traditional that the people do not turn out "in large numbers" for a primary. However, he sees the presidential candidacy of Rev. Jesse Jackson and the presence of key issues as stimulating greater interest.

"The forum is designed to focus attention on all of those races and hopefully we will generate more and better interest," Smith said.  
The national issues and agenda which should attract black interest include public housing, public health, education, crime, drugs, all of which Smith says "signals much-needed attention."  
"We must get ourselves back on track to better respond to the needs of the black community," he said.

At the state level, Smith said he had seen a recent rise in incidents involving racial undercurrents.  
"Society is being polarized," he said. "We must come together on all of these community problems if we are to continue to exist around this state."  
Smith said he sees a need for voters to closely evaluate officeholders at the local and state levels.  
"Our leadership must be closely scrutinized. We cannot turn back the hand of time. These elections are very critical for they will determine the directions that must be taken for the 1990s."  
"It is absolutely incumbent upon

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## Shot In Head

# Man Charged In Slaying

## Witnesses Say Money Was Taken

A Raleigh man was charged with the murder of a New York City man who was shot to death recently in East Raleigh. Police said Thomas Lee Morris, 26, of 220 E. Cabarrus St., Apt. 2 was charged with the murder of Donnie Persons. Persons, 39, was shot once in the head and collapsed in the 700 block of East Davis Street.



NEW PROPRIETORS—Raleigh Mayor Avery Upchurch talks concerns as proprietors in the City Market. (Photo by Talib with Bertha Young (left) and Wilton Jones about their Salt-Coffaway)

Morris was charged with armed robbery also, after allegedly taking \$45 from Persons. Witnesses to the shooting told police that money was taken out of Persons's shirt pocket after he had been shot.

In related events: William Bryant Polite, 19, of 7508 Ray Road, and Portael Thorpe, 21, of 929 Friar Tuck Road, have been charged with armed robbery and second-degree kidnapping.

Three men were charged with the robbery of the Six Forks Station Cinema in North Raleigh last week. The theater was robbed by a man who fired a shotgun blast into the theater's ceiling to scare employees, then fled with a trashcan filled with cash, Raleigh police said.

Police said the man with the shotgun had fled in a car that was stolen at a shopping center.

## "Stop Singing The Blues" And Raise \$20 Billion Cosby Says

BY LARRY STILL  
Capitol News Service  
WASHINGTON, D.C.—Television star/comedian Bill Cosby used his humor last week to seriously urge presidents of the nation's 117 historically and predominantly black

colleges and universities to stop "singing the blues" and try to raise \$3 billion to \$20 billion from their alumni and supporters to redevelop their institutions.

"We've got to stop and reassess our priorities in terms of begging... We've got to stop singing about 'Woke up this morning'... all those sad songs are dragging us down... It's time to call in the money from the blues singers, the people drinking all the Scotch, the people doing crack... the people with the Geri curls... all those people who graduate [from the black colleges] and send us only \$20 and say they can't afford more. That's bull..." Cosby said in his opening monologue.

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## Who Killed Martin Luther King Viewed As Unsolved Conspiracy

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—It is the evening of April 4, 1968. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. leans over a balcony railing at the Lorraine Motel. The crack of a single shot from a high-powered rifle shatters the air. Suddenly, he's gone.

James Earl Ray, the small-time thief who pleaded guilty, has spent the past 20 years trying to prove he didn't do it. He talks of a shadowy "Raoul."

Other principals in the case hold widely varying opinions: Ray's attorneys disagree on whether he was the triggerman; the prosecutor acknowledges he wasn't confident about the case; the chairman of a congressional committee that studies the assassination says he still thinks Ray was part of a larger, unsolved conspiracy.

Speaking at the annual black-tie leadership awards dinner of the 13th National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education, he told the HBCU presidents and their 3,000 guests, "Martin Luther King is dead... He said, 'We shall overcome...' It is time for us to start singing 'We have overcome.' We're tired of singing the blues. Jesse Jackson is not singing the blues."

## Robeson County Stirs Tri-Racial Paranoia

LUMBERTON (AP)—Robeson County, a house divided against itself, shudders and heaves with the tremors of a power struggle 150 years in the making.



VERNON BELLECOURT

The week-old murder of Julian Pierce, lawyer, judicial candidate and Indian activist, has shaken this troubled tri-racial county, where minorities are in the majority but whites are in control.

After coming into The CAROLINIAN office at 518 E. Martin St. and (See APPRECIATION, P. 2)

Amid anger and grief, amid rumors of official corruption and public paranoia, amid the blooming of syphilis and the early spring heat, residents of Robeson County—black, white and Indian—bury the dead and wonder when there will be peace for the living.

"We're either going to pull ourselves apart, or we're going to pull ourselves together," said Eric Prevatte, a local businessman, his eyes red-rimmed after delivering a eulogy for Pierce. "And we all have a common interest in pulling ourselves together. The alternative is just unthinkable."  
The unthinkable has become almost inevitable in Robeson, 944 square miles of tall trees, hot summers, and a history of unhappiness. It is one of the state's largest counties, and one of its poorest. On a spring day, Lumberton, the county seat, is deceptive: beneath the serene facade of stately brick homes and wide verandas, the quiet streets named for the trees that shade them, a stew of racial suspicion and fear simmers. (See ROBESON COUNTY, P. 2)

## Appreciation Money Claimed By Three Here

There were three winners in last week's Appreciation Money Feature, sponsored by The CAROLINIAN and participating businesses. The winners who found their names hidden on the Appreciation Page this week were Ms. Wilhelmina Brown, 1420 Calvary; James H. Adams, Rt. 2, Raleigh; and Michael Williams, 805 Elkhart Drive.

Later, urging the audience to support Jackson's campaign for president of the United States, Cosby added, "When he is elected, we won't have anybody else to blame for our problems..." Low-income people are inspired when black leaders raise funds to solve their problems, the comic emphasized.

Calling for an end to the "old project mentality" of "It's their world, man," the keynote speaker bluntly declared, "We want \$1,000 from each of you... and \$20,000 from some of you. You can do it, tonight, if you want," he told the \$200-a-plate guests. (See BILL COSBY, P. 2)

## Judges Bench

MAN ROBS PIZZA INN  
A man armed with a pistol robbed the Pizza Inn at Brentwood Square Shopping Center, police said. The man approached an employee and demanded money, said Sgt. D.A. Weingarten. The man fled with an undetermined amount of money, he said. The police have no leads to the identity of the robber.

FUQUAY ROBBERY  
Authorities searched recently for a Raleigh man in connection with the armed robbery of a Food Lion grocery store in Fuquay-Varina in January. Fuquay-Varina police drew out a warrant for the arrest of Jerry Edward Seaberry, 24, charging him with armed robbery. Seaberry is a black male, about 5'7" tall, weighing from 170-175 pounds, with a muscular build.

CHARGED WITH ASSAULT  
A Raleigh man was charged with assault on a child after he went to an elementary school and struck a youngster who reportedly had been in a fight with his child the day before. Kenneth L. Branch, 45, of 1514 Crest Road, was charged with the misdemeanor after the incident at A.E. Combs Elementary in West Raleigh. Branch was charged with assaulting an 11-year-old by striking the child with a belt four times on the back and left arm, said the warrant filed with the Wake magistrate. Branch is to appear in court on May 10.

RAPE SENTENCE  
A Raleigh man was sentenced to eight years in prison this week after pleading guilty to raping a woman friend he had dated. Willie L. Smith, 27, of 3029 Dornier Circle, pleaded guilty. (See JUDGES' BENCH, P. 2)

### "VOTE | BE HEARD |"

PRESENTING AWARD—Ms. Portie Brandon, president of Raleigh Area chapter of the NAACP presents the president's award to Dr. David Forbes, pastor of Martin Street Baptist during the Freedom Fund banquet held recently. A monthly meeting will be held April 10 at 4 p.m. at Martin Street Baptist Church open to the public.

## SPOTLIGHT

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