



CRIME IN HOUSING—Ronald E. Smiley (second from right), corporate affairs central region manager for Anheuser-Busch Companies, presents a contribution to support a recent conference in Charlotte on crime prevention in public housing. Accepting the contribution is Richard Martin, chief

of youth and community development for the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. Joining the presentation are (left to right) James Esaw and Bill Fox, area managers for Anheuser-Busch, Inc., and Rob Barnett, vice president and general manager of Dealer Distributors.

Tyson Attorney Shows \$2 Million Check Allegedly Signed By Robin

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (AP)—The estranged wife of Michael Tyson has dipped into the heavyweight boxing champion's personal checking account for \$2 million which proves she is trying to take his money, an attorney says.

Howard Weitzman, Tyson's divorce attorney, produced a copy of a \$2 million check written on Tyson's account and signed by Robin Givens during an appearance last Friday on KABC-TV's "A.M. Los Angeles."

Propping an enlarged copy on an easel, Weitzman pointed out how the \$2 million check, bearing a "Robin Givens Tyson" signature and written after the couple separated, looked when it entered the bank, and afterward, when the word "gift" was written in the memo area.

"These are blow-ups of checks on Mike's account for which Robin—this is Robin's signature—had the authority to sign on," Weitzman said. "There's a check written to Robin Givens Productions for \$2 million signed by Robin. Notice the memo here is blank. Mike's indicated that he knew nothing about the check nor why it was written or that it was writ-

ten at the time." Weitzman said Ms. Givens and her mother, Ruth Roper, had possession of the check.

"When the check was written and cashed, all that you had was the Robin Givens Productions and Robin's signature and no notation here at all. After the fact, when I believe there were problems arising, somebody took the liberty of writing the word 'gift' in here, I guess to make the allegation that Mike had written to Robin a check or authorized a check for \$2 million as a gift, which is preposterous, and Mike, of course, denies."

In the latest round in the couple's divorce battle, Weitzman also said he believes Tyson never hit his estranged wife, as she has alleged, and she deserves what she asked for in settlement: nothing.

"I think she's entitled to what she's

now asked for... she wanted no money," Weitzman said.

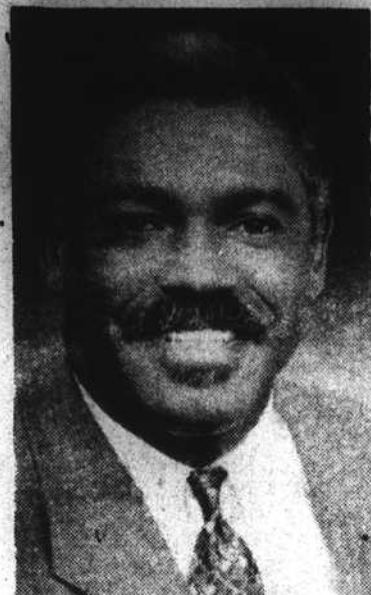
Ms. Givens telephoned the TV show Thursday when her attorney was a guest and denied she wanted her husband's money.

"I did absolutely nothing. You know what I did? I happened to fall in love with Michael," she said.

"I don't want any money. I want to be left alone. That's the only thing I want," she told the show's hostess, Christina Farrare, whose ex-husband, John DeLorean, was successfully defended by Weitzman on cocaine trafficking charges.

"And Christina, you more than anybody should know... Who cares about money? When you've got a lot of it, who cares? When you're going through a lot of pain and anguish, all you want is some peace and quiet. All the money in the world cannot buy

(See MIKE TYSON, P. 18)



JAMES E. GRIFFIN, JR.

James Griffin Named Program Manager At TV-5

WRAL-TV 5 announced the selection of James "Jim" E. Griffin, Jr., as program manager, effective Dec. 12. Griffin was previously with WJLA-TV, Washington, D.C., where he was vice president/director of broadcast operations. Prior to his Washington position, Griffin served as operations manager for WPLG-TV, Miami, Fla.

WRAL-TV Senior Vice President and General Manager John Greene said, "We are indeed fortunate to have someone of Jim Griffin's caliber to join us as program manager. We are confident that his wide knowledge and versatile experience will continue our tradition of programming excellence."

Griffin is a native of Port Deposit, Md., and attended Notre Dame and American University, majoring in engineering and business administration. He and his wife, Bernice, have two sons.



Congratulations to Rev. H.B. Pickett, Jr., the newly elected president of the Raleigh-Apex of the NAACP. Pickett has worked in the branch for a number of years, serving as vice president for religious affairs and in other positions. Ms. Portia Brandon is the outgoing president.

The Raleigh-Apex Branch was proud to make a \$250 contribution to the UNCF on Saturday, Dec. 17, during the "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" telethon. Presenting the check was the outgoing president, Ms. Portia Brandon.

The Raleigh Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority sponsored a trip for approximately 80 youngsters who visited the exhibit Rameses in the city of Charlotte. These were participants in the DELTA Carousel. The group left on Sunday, Dec. 11, and made a day of it. They returned around 9 p.m. weary but happy for having had the experience. Ms. Annette Watson was the coordinator. Other sorors who accompanied the youth were Helen Best, Catherine Brown, Dorothy Burkette, Phyllis Cain, Charlene Evans, Dorothy Jones, Marjorie Locke, Joy Paige, and Gloria Smith.

Some of the members of Les Cousettes Social Club took a bus trip to visit the historic Biltmore House in Asheville the weekend of Dec. 10 and 11. While en route the group stopped at the Pinehurst Lingerie Store in Asheboro to do some Christmas shopping. Once in the city of Asheville, the group toured the famous Farmers Market and other sites. It was early Sunday morning when they visited the Biltmore House to view the many Christmas scenes and noted historic works contained there. The group returned on Sunday evening. The following club members took the trip: Adelaide Earp, Roger Mae Evans, Willie Petey Hicks, Primrose Jackson, Cora Lamb, Glodene Taylor, Catherine Wilkins, Blonnie Williams and Natalie Wimberly.

Best wishes to those persons who have birthdays during the Christmas season. One of those is our daughter, Elaine, who was born on Dec. 24. Dr. and Mrs. P.R. Robinson hosted a lovely Christmas party on Friday, Dec. 16, at the Martin Luther King Student Union for faculty and staff. This is an annual affair when Santa Claus has a gift for all.

The Omicron Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority held its annual Zeta Santa meeting on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 11 a.m. at the K&W Cafeteria in North Hills. At this happy season, it is a custom that the basileus present a gift to each soror. This year, Alice Garrett presented Zeta stationery to each person. The basileus presented a gift to Soror Doris Best, the oldest soror in the local chapter. Gifts were presented to the two sorors who are mothers of sorors. Receiving gifts were sorors Justine Davis and Amelia S. Peebles. Ms. Garrett presented a gift to Soror Marilyn Fox on her December birthday and to Soror Jean Gaddy on her anniversary. The last gift went to the soror whose native

(See SOCIAL SCENE, P. 18)

Black Family Moves After Attack On Home In White Neighborhood

BY SHIRLEY REED-BLASH
NNPA News Service

A black family living in Baltimore, Md., will find little consolation in the plea bargaining agreement prosecutors reached with two white men who sought to force them to move from their home in a predominantly white neighborhood through tactics that included destruction of property, harassment and intimidation.

Gary Merryman and Joseph Chilcote recently pleaded guilty to a felony charge of interfering with the housing rights of 25-year-old Eric Boyce-Bey, and his wife, Carolyn Denise Braxton-Bey, 21, in U.S. District Court.

Merryman, a construction worker, and Chilcote, who is legally blind and disabled, lived near the Beys in Hampden, a community previously rocked by racial clashes and reportedly used as a recruitment ground for the Ku Klux Klan.

On May 17, the men tossed two large objects—a six-pound brick and a two-pound stone—at living room windows of the Beys' rental home. The brick smashed a window, landing on the living room floor where the couple was standing moments earlier. The stone, which broke another window, did not enter the house, according to a report.

The Beys, who have three small children, moved from the Hampden area soon after the incident.

Merryman, 27, and Chilcote, 21, were indicted in September on two felony charges: one count of conspiring to violate the civil rights of the Bey family; and one count of interfering with the Beys' housing rights, and aiding and abetting. In an agreement with the prosecutor, Merryman and Chilcote pleaded guilty to the second charge, which carries a maximum one-year prison sentence, a year's probation, and a \$100,000 fine.

According to a report, prosecutors

said the more serious civil rights conspiracy charge—which carries a maximum 10-year jail term and \$250,000 fine—was dropped in exchange for the guilty pleas. The defendants, who will be sentenced on March 2, 1989, will likely receive a reduced sentence, as well, for pleading guilty, a federal court clerk informed NNPA.

Susan M. Ringler, the prosecutor,

Commission Studying Public School Policy

A legislative commission studying public school policy decided last week to recommend that North Carolina's teachers of the year serve as advisory members of the State Board of Education.

Each state teacher of the year would receive a two-year term as an ex-officio member of the state education board, as well as serving on one of the board's committees.

The suggestion to put two teachers on the state board was one of 12 recommendations from the Regional Teachers of the Year Commission going into the 1989 General Assembly when it convenes in January.

The commission felt teacher participation on the state board would provide the board with the added perspective of current classroom experience and give teachers an opportunity to have input into education policy at the state level.

The commission also recommended that qualified teachers receive one year of paid academic leave to enroll in a course of study designed to enhance teaching skills and profes-

sional credentials. The commission also made recommendations concerning separate categories of high school diplomas based on subject area requirements, formal recognition of handicapped students' achievement in completing their individualized education program and the inclusion of management and discipline courses in teacher training.

The Regional Teachers of the Year Commission further recommended that the General Assembly continue the Career Development Program.

Twenty-four persons serve on the commission: 16 regional public school teachers who were named regional teacher of the year for their education regions, four senators appointed by the president of the Senate and four representatives appointed by the speaker of the House, Rep. Howard Chapin (D-Beaufort) and Sen. Bob Warren (D-Johnston) co-chair the commission.

The Regional Teachers of the Year Commission was established by the 1987 General Assembly.

Women-Owned Businesses On Growth Trend

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The number of women-owned businesses continues its long-term growth, according to new government figures.

The Internal Revenue Service recently published 1988 figures for women-owned sole proprietorships. Between 1980 and 1988 the number of women-owned sole proprietorships grew from 2.5 to 4.1 million, an increase of 64 percent. During the same period, business receipts doubled from \$36 to \$72 billion.

James Abdnor, administrator of the Small Business Administration, in commenting on the new figures, said, "Women-owned businesses are currently the fastest growing segment of the economy and I believe that what we are seeing today is just the beginning. As these businesses mature, their share of the market and of the total sales is also expected to increase."

Between 1985 and 1988 the number and receipts of women-owned sole proprietorships increased by 10 percent. The number of women-owned firms increased from 3.7 to 4.1 million and receipts increased from \$65 billion to \$72 billion.

Another plus is that women's share of all sole proprietorships and receipts also increased from 1985 levels, from 28 percent to 30 percent and 12 to 13 percent, respectively.

Carol M. Crockett, director of SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership, said, "These figures are very encouraging and illustrate the contribution women are making to the health of our nation's economy. Women are truly participants in the economic mainstream and are succeeding in our nation's dynamic entrepreneurial economy."

Attend Church

Designated Drivers Aid Partygoers

Gov. Jim Martin has again urged partygoers to help reduce accidents and save lives by having designated drivers during the holiday season.

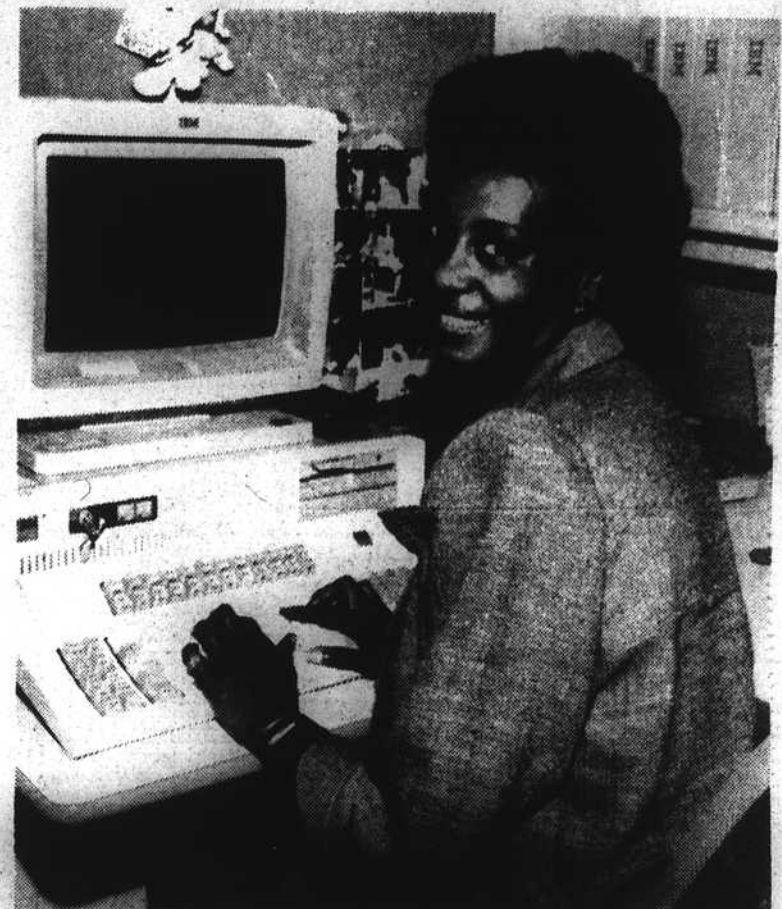
As the designated driver, one member of a group agrees to abstain from alcoholic refreshments in order to drive his or her companions to and from their destination safely.

"We want this holiday season to be an enjoyable time for everyone, a time that is free of alcohol and drug related accidents on our highways," the governor said. "I applaud the team effort being put forth by everyone involved in the designated driver program."

The program is being coordinated by the Governor's Highway Safety Program, the Governor's Highway Safety Commission, the N.C. Restaurant Association and the N.C. Association of Broadcasters.

The purpose of the designated driver program is to get alcohol and drug impaired drivers off the highways. Last year, more than half of all traffic fatalities involved drivers who were impaired by alcohol or some other drug. In all, some 655 people were killed and 19,000 more were seriously injured by such accidents in North Carolina.

Officials at the Governor's Highway Safety Program and the Governor's Highway Safety Commission said the designated driver program will save lives if used consistently. Gov. Martin strongly supported the program last year, and reaffirmed his commitment to it as this year's holiday season gets into full swing.



SUCCESS STORY—In 1968, Berthola Nelson was a member of the first graduating class at the Los Angeles Urban League Data Processing Training Center. At the time, she was a single parent, unemployed and on welfare. Hired by IBM soon after graduation, she's going to observe her 20th anniversary with the company and is in training to be assistant account administrator for the ARCO account, one of the Company's most important IBM accounts.



On The Hill

MISSISSIPPI BURNING FILM POWERFUL, EVOKES MEMORIES

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The film, "Mississippi Burning," is a blockbuster based on the heinous 1964 murders of three young civil rights workers by the Ku Klux Klan.

For all the phony elements employed for "dramatic" effect, the film, overall, is a moving experience conjuring up for those of us who covered the real thing in those turbulent, bloody years in the 1960s, excruciatingly painful memories.

The Alan Parker film, starring Gene Hackman and Willem Dafoe, evokes other emotions—it is a bitter reminder of the many white male murderers of black men who, protected from justice by their insular communities, are still roaming the country free as the breeze.

Of course, a number of the killers of Mickey Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney were rounded up and packed off to prison—these included Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price—but they went to the pokey for relatively short terms. They have long since been back on the bricks, or in this instance, on Mississippi mud and—if still living—enjoying the good graces of their community.

It brings into sharper focus the terrible system on injustice in America—a system that establishes conditions guaranteeing unsocial behavior and then quickly crams its

prisons with black men who are left no other role to play. Meanwhile, an Oliver North who almost succeeded in selling out a nation and brazenly shredded documents in a patent coverup attempt, can tie up the courts for months on end, frustrating justice, squandering your tax money and mine. There is a good chance he may walk on a technicality, that is, if President Reagan doesn't step in and pardon his "hero" before that. A black steals a ham and gets the book thrown at him. An Ollie North shreds the Constitution and may walk. It is a reminder of white contempt too often for black humanity.

To paraphrase British statesman Lloyd George: "There is no greater fatuity than a hero judgment dressed in a military uniform." There has got to be something grossly wrong with a system that programs so many black men for long prison terms or early death and in turn, over-programs its white male citizens with an exaggerated sense of their worth. The system is wrong, unless you are prepared to concede the racist eugenicists' premise: Blacks have flawed genes.

In the South, the Klan wore, and often still wears, many guises: a preacher, a prominent businessman, a mayor, but most scary—a judge, a policeman, a county sheriff, the full range of law enforcement and the

(See ON THE HILL, P. 18)

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