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Spirit Of A Movement

Keep King's Dream Of Equality Alive

President-elect George Bush said this week that he would make it his mission as president to pursue aggressively Martin Luther King's dream of equality.

Bush praised the civil rights leader at a prayer breakfast in Washington as he joined millions around the globe in honoring the civil rights leader who was murdered in Memphis in 1968. Bush said King "lived a hero's life. He dreamed a hero's dream and left a hero's indelible mark on the mind and

imagination of a great nation."

In Raleigh, thousands celebrated with prayers, a parade, a musical celebration and other activities. A program at the Civic Center in downtown Raleigh was cut short after police reportedly received a bomb threat. The center was evacuated and

no bomb was found.

In what some holiday officials believe to have been a related incident, a bus used to transport the Garner Senior High School Choir was ransacked. It was not determined at the scene if anything had been taken. Authorities did, however, check the

bus for other signs of tampering and later, choir members were allowed to return and board the bus.

Joanne Barnes, the choir director at Garner Senior High, said she was sorry about the incident but was glad everyone was safe and no one was hurt.

Bruce Lightner, director of the Martin Luther King holiday, said, "We are taking every precaution to protect the participants in the MLK celebration," and said he believed the incidents were connected.

The observance of King Day was celebrated with a prayer breakfast at

Broughton High School, a march down Wilmington Street and an evening music program at the Raleigh Civic Center.

Two members of Sigma Gamma Rho Fraternity, Dr. Dudley E. Flood and Dallas Foster, were key participants in a program that was sponsored by Blacks United in Government to honor Dr. King. The program, titled "Memorial Tribute," (See DR. KING, P. 2)

Diagnosis Pending

Wake Inmate Dies Playing Ball

Long Wait Before Aid For Victim

David Stewart, 37, an inmate at Wake Advancement Center, located on Rock Quarry Road, was allegedly playing basketball Jan. 17 at 4:30 p.m. and died on the court.

One of the officials at the center met with inmates at approximately 8 p.m. Tuesday and said Stewart died from a massive heart attack.

One inmate, who asked that his name not be used, said no help was available for a long period of time. The guards picked Stewart up and carried him inside the facility.

Some inmates believe the victim had a heart attack, but question the actions of the guards and the availability of help.

Other inmates were at the court on the time when Stewart fell. They said they have been ordered not to discuss the incident.

Wake Advancement Center Superintendent William K. Jones stated that a number of inmates had called local radio stations and talked about the incident. Some of them have stated that there was a long wait before medical help was rendered to the victim.

Jones said that the inmate was believed to be having a seizure, and was removed from the court by two correctional officers to the nursing facility, so he could receive medical treatment.

Officials at the center said they were informed of the incident around 4 p.m. and that at 4:10 p.m., members of the fire department and Emergency Medical Services arrived. Somewhere around 4:30 p.m., the inmate was taken to Wake Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. It appears that he suffered a heart attack, but the final diagnosis is pending the results of an autopsy.

In an interview with Wake Medical Center's publicity department, it was (See WAKE INMATE, P. 2)

State Superintendent Names Task Force To Help Local Flexibility

State Superintendent of Public Education Bob Etheridge has named a task force to develop a plan to ensure greater flexibility and more decision-making at the local school system level.

In making the announcement of the Task Force on Home Rule, Etheridge said that he understands the need for local school systems to be more adaptable and responsive to local conditions and needs.

"Our present educational system, with its focus on top-down management from the State Department of Public Education, cannot be sensitive to the differences from one school to another or from one district to another. Switching to a system of home rule would give local districts greater opportunities to meet their individual needs and improve their education systems."

The state superintendent sees the



SERVING OTHERS—In an event held at the Archives Commission, sponsored a program whose theme was "Living the Dream, Let Freedom Ring Through Serving Others." (Photo by Taha Sabir-Calkaway)

Minority Construction Firms May Lose Federal Set-Aside Contracts

BY SHIRLEY REED-BLASH
NNPA Correspondent

A major effort is underway to head off proposed changes to a law that would limit bonding options for firms doing more than \$25,000 in construction business with the federal government. The move, opponents argue, would exclude many minority firms from qualifying for the only bonding source available to them, and threatens the loss of billions of dollars in contracts.

The Department of Defense, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and General Services Administration are proposing changes to federal regulations under the Miller Act which would eliminate

individual surety bonds, the primary form of insurance protection utilized by many small and minority construction contractors.

The regulations require that all firms awarded a federal construction contract for more than \$25,000 obtain a surety bond which serves as a

The move, opponents argue, would exclude many minority firms from qualifying for the only bonding source available to them.

The agencies claim that tightening the rules would prevent incidents of fraud and abuse by firms submitting those bonds.

Corporate and individual surety bonds are the two federally acceptable bonds. Most minority construction

guarantee to the government that a project will be completed as agreed and that everyone involved in the project is paid. (See CONTRACTS, P. 2)

more home rule, and thus greater responsiveness to local needs, will achieve higher-quality programs in our public schools."

Etheridge named the following superintendents to the task force: (See TASK FORCE, P. 2)

Ms. Funderburk, Raleigh Actress, Lands Role In New "Mississippi Burning" Film

Patricia Funderburk of Raleigh can be seen in the recently released movie, "Mississippi Burning." The film has already been selected as the best American film of 1968. Ms. Funderburk was sought by the film's director, Alan Parker, to perform a cameo role that he had added to the film especially for her. The highly acclaimed and controversial movie, starring Gene Hackman and Willem Dafoe, dramatizes the investigation that took place in Mississippi after the slaying of three civil rights workers during the 1960s.

"Mr. Parker saw a clipping from an audition I performed and he wanted me in the movie," says Ms. Funderburk. "Since all of the roles were cast, he wrote in a short bit of action and asked me to fly out to Alabama to film the scene on location. It's a very small role, but I was pleased that he thought enough of my work to do that. I was treated royally and had a great time."

Ms. Funderburk has a master of fine arts degree in speech and drama from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and a B.A. degree in speech and drama from Hampton University in Virginia. A Wilson native, Ms. Funderburk returned to the state and performed as the first statewide actress-in-residence for the public schools of North Carolina. She has received many awards and recognitions as an actress, both in the United States and abroad. She performed with the National Players Acting Company in a tour that took her to 48 states and 21 foreign countries.

Ms. Funderburk is also nationally recognized for her work as an arts administrator and consultant. In addition, she directs the Community Economic Development Project for East Central Legal Services in Raleigh. She serves on a number of local, state and national boards and is the mother of a 14-year-old daughter, Ebony.



MS. PATRICIA FUNDERBURK

NEWS BRIEFS

LANGUAGE

PROFESSIONALS MEET

The Minority Professionals in Speech, Language and Hearing in North Carolina organization recently held its quarterly meeting in Fayetteville at the Cumberland County Library. Attending were Colette Parker of Kinston, Sharon Wallace of Raleigh, Gale Isaacs of Raleigh and several speech, language and hearing professionals from Fayetteville and surrounding areas.

STATE LABOR POLICY

A sound, pro-growth labor policy is one of the foundations of a state's economic health, according to the American Legislative Exchange Council. ALEC is hosting a special half-day symposium, titled, "Contemporary Issues in State Labor Policy," to be held Jan. 23 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Raleigh, beginning at noon.

CHURCH DEDICATION

All members are asked to be present Sunday, Jan. 22, for the dedication of the new addition to Wendell First Baptist Church. Dedication will take place prior to the regular 11 a.m. worship service. Rev. J. Lee is pastor.

KING CULTURAL FESTIVAL

All activities of the fourth annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Festival are open to the public Jan. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Jane S. McKimmon Center on the campus of North Carolina State University. Admission is free.

Preregistration is strongly recommended but not mandatory. Some of the activities will include workshops, seminars, literature, drama, dance, relationships, and economics.

NEW CO-OP PROGRAM

A new program has been started in Wake County that shows outstanding educational cooperation between schools and the community. The co-op program, designed by Wachovia Bank, locates top-caliber rising seniors and places them as part-time tellers in area branches.

CABLE FRANCHISE ADMINISTRATION

The Raleigh Telecommunications Commission has contracted with a Washington, D.C. communications firm to conduct a telephone survey of Raleigh residents on cable television service as part of the City of Raleigh's five-year review of its franchise with Cablevision of Raleigh.

The telephone survey will gauge the opinions of both cable subscribers and non-subscribers on issues related to Cablevision.

Bush Praises King; Vows To Help Blacks

BY DR. ALBERT JABS
An Analysis

When George Bush spoke to 500 members of the American Bicentennial Presidential Inaugural African-American Committee, he tried to send some clear signals that he will be responsive to civil rights. He spoke about the meat of the matter when he promised to do more for the poor children in the inner cities. He was separating the sizzle from the steak when he indicated that his administration would work to improve the lot of the poor. Bush was batting a long ball when he promised to match performance with promises. He wanted to get beyond mere symbolic gesture fluff to the real stuff of concrete initiatives.

Smart cookie he is. Knowing full well that people are tired of shucking and jiving, the new president has got to think and talk significantly about the bread-and-butter issues: One out (See GEORGE BUSH, P. 2)

Judges' Bench

BREAKING AND ENTERING

Geoffrey C. Raynor, 16, of 10453 Leslie Drive, was charged Tuesday with breaking and entering and damage to property. Raynor and an unidentified juvenile—a 15-year-old boy—were charged with the same two offenses for their alleged part in causing \$20,000 damage to a new unoccupied home in northern Wake County.

Raynor lives several doors from the damaged house, where about 35 teenagers gathered for a New Year's Eve bash. The two-story brick house is located at 10449 Leslie Drive in the Stone Creek subdivision.

The partygoers knocked holes in the wall, tore doors off cabinets, pulled fans and a chandelier from the ceiling and shattered mirrors. They also beat the controls off a whirlpool tub, causing it to flood the bathroom. The water from the tub seeped (See JUDGES' BENCH, P. 2)