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N.C.'s Semi-Weekly

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NEWS BRIEFS

LIBRARY FUNDS

The Shaw University Student Library Committee recently raised funds which were used to purchase reference books for the library. The committee, organized by Carolyn Y. Peterson, media librarian, and Dr. Benjamin Williams, library director, was formed to help promote the library and to serve as a fundraiser.

ASSAULT RIFLE BAN

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Bush administration banned imports of semiautomatic assault rifles indefinitely Tuesday, pending a review of whether the military-style weapons are being used for sport purposes.

The step, announced by William J. Bennett, the new director of national drug policy, is effective immediately and was taken after officials learned that requests this year from importers to bring in the weapons already had nearly tripled those for all of 1988.

AIDS STRAINS

RESISTANT TO AZT

Burroughs Wellcome Co. said on Tuesday it had discovered strains of the AIDS virus that are resistant to AZT, the company's anti-AIDS drug.

Experts are not recommending any changes in the use of the compound, which is the only drug approved in the United States to treat the deadly AIDS virus. AZT, or azidothymidine, is manufactured under the trade name Zovirax by Burroughs Wellcome, which has headquarters in Research Triangle Park.

SCHOOLS COULD BAN SPANKING

Up to 16 North Carolina school systems could ban spanking as part of a two-year experiment that supporters hope will lead to an end to corporal punishment statewide.

Rep. Marie W. Colton, D-Buncombe, filed the proposal Tuesday, saying an outright ban would be impossible to get through the General Assembly. But she said she hopes lessons learned in the experiment would generate support for alternative measures.

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Caucuses Attest To Growing In Clout, Power Decentralization

(AP) Another sign of power dispersal in the General Assembly, especially in the House of Representatives, is the way caucuses are growing in numbers as well as clout.

Simply put, caucuses are associations of legislators who have something in common: party affiliation, race, gender or interest in a particular subject or constituency.

Unlike committees, caucuses are not official bodies and therefore aren't required to meet in the open, although some do. But the word brings to mind the stereotypical gathering in a smoke-filled room, where informality and bluntness replace the forced civility of floor debate.

Officially, there have always been Democratic and Republican caucuses. But for many years they seldom made news. When Liston Ramsey was undisputed king of the House of Representatives and powerful lieutenant governors such as Jimmy Green reigned over the Senate, a tight leadership circle often decided the Democratic position on major issues and put out the word to the rank and file. Meanwhile, there were too few Republicans for their caucuses to mean much.

The shakeup in the House, swelling GOP ranks, and Republican Jim Gardner's election as lieutenant governor have changed all that.

Suddenly, Democrats and Republicans seem to be caucusing all the time. And by most accounts the meetings are more than window-dressing. They are genuine quests for consensus and, sometimes, no-holds-barred family quarrels.

Majority Leader Dennis Wicker, D-Lee, presides over the House Democratic Caucus. He says the group's meetings have been particularly useful as the majority tries to mend fences trampled in the speakership fight.

"It's been good therapy to put all the feelings on the table and deliberate," Wicker said. "It's had a positive effect on the healing process." Controversy erupted last week when the House Democratic Caucus voted to endorse a slate of candidates for the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. About a dozen Democrats protested that the board election was not a partisan matter, but were overruled.

Wicker said the caucus will not establish party positions on every issue. But on matters that involve the

(See CAUCUS, P. 2)

Sheriff Baker Speaks

NAACP Sets Local, Nat'l Issues

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports
The NAACP has two significant events on the agenda from the national and local levels that address legislative mobilization and salute 80 years of service.

The Raleigh-Apex Branch of the NAACP will hold its annual Freedom Fund Banquet with Wake County Sheriff John Baker, Jr. addressing the theme, "1909—Needed Then; 1989—Needed Now."

Former Raleigh-Apex Chapter president Portia Brandon recently at-

tended on the regional level a two-day legislative conference in Washington, D.C. that briefed members of Congress and legislative advocates on the NAACP's legislative agenda.

Ms. Brandon attended the conference as a lobbyist to Fourth District Congressman David Price to address issues including affirmative action, AIDS legislation, the budget, capital punishment, catastrophic health care, child care, civil rights litigation, hate crimes statistics, judicial nominations, low-income and

affordable housing, minimum wage, parental leave, racial justice act, taxation and voter registration.

Each year the Washington Bureau of the NAACP holds a legislative conference to provide an opportunity for voters to lobby congresspersons and strengthen the association's network to maximize quick response on the issues of grave concern to the African-American community.

The NAACP prepares a civil rights report card on each of the 535 members of Congress which shows

how legislators voted on key selected issues important to the African-American community.

The Washington Bureau is the legislative arm of the NAACP, translating the association's policies and resolutions into a legislative program. The bureau monitors Congress, the president and government agencies and seeks to protect the rights of African-Americans in all government decisions. Working with

(See NAACP, P. 2)



SHERIFF JOHN H. BAKER, JR.

Relief Agency Warns of Crisis In The Sudan

BOSTON, Mass. (AP)—Starvation in the Sudan, Africa's largest country, is so severe that it may dwarf the misery of the Ethiopian famine of 1984, relief officials said last week.

One million people have died since 1983 of a famine created by a bitter civil war in which both sides have prevented food from reaching starving people inside war zones, said John Hammock, executive director of the Oxfam America.

The conflict has claimed more lives than the Armenian earthquake but so far has attracted little world attention, Hammock said.

The problem is not a shortage of food. Rains have produced a good harvest this year. But the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, or SPLA, has shot at civilian and military flights, claiming the army was using relief planes to transport its supplies. And the rebels have accused the government of withholding food from the south as a form of genocide.

"The problem is you can't just say, 'Send food and a starving child will eat,'" Hammock said. "It's a very

(See SUDAN STARVING, P. 2)

Judges' Bench

LAWYER SAYS JUDGE HAD HIM HANDCUFFED

District Court Judge Stafford G. Bullock, who is under disciplinary review for a 1986 confrontation with a police officer, has made the news again for ordering Richard N. Gusler handcuffed to a chair for not answering a question.

The incident occurred when Gusler, the attorney for Thomas Coble, the suspect charged with the Valentine's Day break-in of a dollar bill change machine at a Raleigh car wash, asked to be removed as Coble's lawyer.

Gusler felt that a yes or no answer would violate the canon of ethics regarding client-attorney confidentiality.

GUNMAN NEGOTIATES BEER BUY

Some people just can't take "no" for an answer. Especially when they are packing a pistol and want beer. Shortly before 2 a.m. Monday, a

(See JUDGES' BENCH, P. 2)

Symbol Of Power

Protest Ousts Atwater

Quality Of Education Questioned

BY CHESTER A. HIGGINS, SR.
NNPA News Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The presence of Chairman of the Republican National Committee Lee Atwater on the school's board of directors appeared to be the only reason that Howard University students aroused from their long state of torpor and seized the administration building.

An administration building is a universal symbol of power and control and this revolt by hundreds of Howard University students was about symbols.

But it was also about real and concrete things: establishment of African-American graduate program and promotion of an Afro-centric curriculum; establishing a university-wide program that would allow students to receive academic credit for community service; straightening out the snarled mess in the financial aid office so that applications can be processed by deadline, and in the meantime, eliminating hostile treatment of students by that office; striking out the proposed 15 percent tuition increase; guaranteeing improvement in the general maintenance of Howard University housing and increasing campus security by hiring more officers and raising their wages.

Of the seven listed demands, "immediate removal of Harvey Lee Atwater from the Board of Trustees... because his interests are not consistent with the mission of Howard,"

(See PROTEST, P. 2)



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD—Area gospel music personality Bro. James Thomas (second from left) was cited for his service to the local community by Smith Temple's pastor, Rev. Theodore McAllister. Ms. Jeffries, who made the presentation, also presented courages to Ms. Mack and Ms. Shears, who assist Thomas in gathering and getting information out over the radio and in the CAROLINIAN. (Staff photo by P. B. Jerry, Jr.)

Leaders Develop Agenda For N.C. Blacks, Aim At Survival Of Family

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports

A statewide conference on "Developing an African-American Agenda for North Carolina" has been planned after several working sessions. The conference will focus on "Keeping the Dream Alive" with workshops ranging from the African-American family, political empowerment and educating the black child.

The first working session was held

at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Union Building on the campus of Saint Augustine's College. This was also a luncheon meeting and Dr. Prezell B. Robinson, president of the college, was the host.

The Rev. H. Hartford Brooks, presiding bishop of the Second Episcopal District of the AME Church, during a luncheon hosted by William J. Kennedy, III, at North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co. in Durham, challenged leaders to work on a common agenda for African-Americans in North Carolina. Leaders will meet at the statewide conference to share, study research and discuss the agenda for implementation.

William W. Easley, Jr., pastor, St. Joseph's AME Church in Durham, will be chairman of the conference, with W.B. Lewis, pastor, First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, as co-chairman.

The conference will be held March 31-April 1 at North Carolina Central University and St. Joseph's AME

Church in Durham.

"Keeping the Dream Alive," the conference theme, is an agenda on the occasion of the observance of the 21st anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Moreover, the conference will focus on "The Gathering of the African-American Family in North Carolina."

The chairpersons, in a statement, said, "Martin Luther King, Jr. articulated and embodied for us the American dream. His life and message set in bold relief the vision, hope, aspiration and quest of all people in these United States.

"The dream is a society unshackled by racial prejudice. The vision is brotherhood. The hope is peace. The aspiration is equal opportunity. The quest is empowerment.

"The dream is real, but unrealized; our challenge is to keep the dream alive; our responsibility is to help make the unrealized real."

Workshops will include "Political

(See AGENDA, P. 2)



SPEAKING OUT—Ms. Lonnie Bliss, the mother of the late basketball star Len Bliss, campaigns against drugs across the country. Above, she is seen speaking to the Governor's Task Force. She made an impassioned plea for the task force to stress the dangers of drug use. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)



ARTISTIC AFFAIR—Terri Lynn Bradley, left, and her husband, Dr. Thomas Bradley, are seen with two of the many works of art this local art dealer has available for the general public. Terri Lynn's Specialties Art Show was sponsored by the Raleigh Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and held at the New Dorm on the St. Augustine's College campus. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)