

THE CAROLINIAN

RALEIGH, N.C.,
VOL. 48, NO. 46
THURSDAY,
MAY 11, 1989

N.C.'s Semi-Weekly
DEDICATED TO THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST

SINGLE COPY 25¢
IN RALEIGH
ELSEWHERE 30¢

Shaw Players Strike
Poignant Chord With Play
Page 16

Ring King Tyson Reigns
Supreme With Big Bucks
Page 19

Groups Alienate Blacks Movement Dominated By Whites

"Who are these pro-life people? They are the people who supported Ronald Reagan and Jesse Helms and whose heroes are Jerry Falwell. These are people who blacks perceive as being racist and trying to set civil rights gains back, and the perception is oftentimes more important than the fact," said Pat Funderburk, North Carolina director of Black Americans for Life, to about 100 participants at the annual convention of N.C. Right to Life at Southside Baptist Church in Greensboro.

For black Americans, many of whom she believes personally oppose abortion, identifying with a movement dominated by conservative white people requires too much compromise, she said.

"When you're a black American who still feels the effects of racism and hatred, you really have a distorted perception," Ms. Funderburk said.

The national organization of Black Americans for Life, an anti-abortion group, was formed two years ago and Ms. Funderburk claims it has 7,000 to 10,000 names on its mailing list.

Many blacks, she said, distrust motives of pro-life members: "What do they care about me and my children? They don't want to socialize with me, live by me, and God forbid,

have one of my people marry one of theirs. There must be a hidden agenda there when they say they support my unborn baby."

Ms. Funderburk, 39, a Republican who lives in Raleigh, acknowledged that racial divisions weaken the movement. To combat this, she speaks to black pro-life and white audiences about becoming politically involved in the abortion debate.

"I don't try to win them over to the pro-life group," she said of the black audiences. "I don't try to change their position or party, but I try to help them focus in on the issue of abortion and what it means to us as a people. I try to get them to understand the devastation of abortion itself on us as a people."

(See PRO-LIFE, P. 2)

Societal Problem

Blacks Dying In America

"Rise Up And Change Lot of Poor"

BY CONNIE BENNETT CAMERON

NEW ORLEANS, La.—The African-American Summit was held in this lovely southern city recently, with people coming from all over the country to represent political ideology and set an agenda up to the year 2000. They came because they were concerned about the African-American communities here and abroad.

Congressman Ron Dellums, who heads the Congressional Black Caucus, said the responsibility of African-Americans is global. "Our sisters and brothers all around the world look to us. They must join this struggle. This is a global responsibility," he said.

Specifically, Dellums zeroed in on key issues affecting African-Americans. He talked about education, crime and an alternative to the federal budget—one proposed by the black caucus, which was presented to Congress recently. He said the majority press downplayed the budget.

Dellums was a keynote speaker during the summit's opening ceremonies. Receiving standing ovations throughout his speech, Dellums blamed the Reagan administration for being more concerned about building weapons than ensuring that

(See BLACKS DYING, P. 2)

Bush Asked To Recognize U.S. Black Health Crisis

BY CHESTER A. HIGGINS, SR.

NNPA News Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Louis Stokes' National Summit on Black Health, a one-day meeting involving more than 40 black national organizations, ended with a call for President George Bush to convene a White House Conference on Minority Health, declaring black health a national crisis.

The Ohio Democrat, who is chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus health Braintrust and has taken the lead in the struggle to ensure access to quality health care for the African-American community,

told NNPA that black health "is a stark situation when you look at the statistics."

"We suffer 60,000 excess deaths per annum," he said. "These include deaths from cancer, heart attack/strokes, cardiovascular diseases, infant mortality, AIDS and related diseases, homicides, suicides, accidental deaths and infant mortality."

Stokes declared, "We are in a crisis situation," and the Black Health Summit attendees, after spending a full day in the Caucus Room of the Cannon Building on Capitol Hill, also agreed to set up a coalition of groups

to attack the problem. The summit group hopes to persuade Bush to declare the crisis in black health care a national problem at a proposed White House conference.

Stokes said that national health data has shown that blacks suffer disproportionate rates of death and illness. A 1985 report of the Secretary of Health and Human Services Task Force found that blacks and other minorities are dying at rates well in excess of those of whites. Last year, Stokes pointed out, the National Center for Health Statistics found that the life expectancy for the black (See HEALTH CRISIS, P. 2)

Form AAAA To Help Eliminate Spread Of AIDS

BY LENWOOD G. DAVIS
Special To The CAROLINIAN

Presently there is a lot of attention devoted to acquired immune deficiency syndrome; yet little attention is devoted to the effect that it is having on the African-American community. Little do most people know that more African-Americans are dying from AIDS at a faster rate than whites.

Two segments of society make up about 90 percent of AIDS cases in the United States—male homosexuals/bisexuals and intravenous drug users. African-Americans are at a double disadvantage since some assert they are at a higher risk than whites of having a sexually transmitted disease and are at greater risk of being intravenous drug users. It appears that the African-American community has not realized the gravity of the problem of AIDS and the potential catastrophic effects it can have on the community and its institutions. While AIDS may not be the number one health problem in the African-American community, it is serious enough that immediate steps must be taken to help stop the disease from spreading further. The questions must be asked: Where are African-Americans Against AIDS (AAAA)? When will we take some action to prevent and stop the spread of this deadly disease?

Many African-Americans charge (See AIDS, P. 2)

Shaw University Gives Honorary Degrees To 3

Three prominent black educators will receive honorary degrees from Shaw University Friday, May 12, at the 124th convocation for the conferring of degrees.

Dr. Christopher F. Edley, president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree. Dr. Edley has become widely known and greatly admired for actualizing the educational dreams of many young black Americans whose intellectual aspirations would be otherwise thwarted. In his own (See HONORARY DEGREES, P. 2)

NEWS BRIEFS

KING STATUE, GARDENS

The Raleigh-Wake Martin Luther King Celebration Committee, Inc., in conjunction with the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, will hold a joint press conference Monday, May 15, at 2 p.m. in the Chamber of Commerce Board Room, 200 S. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

The purpose of the conference is to unveil the state's first public shrine in honor of the slain civil rights leader. The North Carolina Martin Luther King Statue and Memorial Gardens, slated to be constructed in Southeast Raleigh and dedicated Jan. 15, 1990, will also have a "Memorial Wall" honoring many other North Carolinians, black and white, who have made significant contributions to the advancement of human rights and social justice.

Speaking in support of the \$180,000 project will be Greg Baramore, president, General Electric Mortgage Corp.; Daniel T. Blue, Jr., N.C. General Assembly; Ralph Campbell, Jr., Raleigh City Council; Frank Daniels, Jr., publisher, News and Observer; James F. Goodman, president, Capitol Broadcasting Co.; William E. Graham, Jr., vice president, Carolina Power and Light Co.; Robert L. Jones, president, Davidson and Jones Corp.; R. Marc Jordan, president (See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)

Will Fathers Rescue Them?

Black Children Suffer In Vietnam

BY JOHN THOMPSON MOORE, JR.

Recently, the news media released some pictures and commentary about the children of American servicemen now living in Vietnam. It showed pictures of children who resembled their white or black fathers and comments were made that many of these children are living in poverty and some are beggars, thieves, prostitutes, etc. in Saigon (now called Ho Chi Minh City).

Also, there have been news releases of Vietnamese children ridiculing those Vietnamese who were fathered by black soldiers. Im-

Was the reason that black American fathers are not aware of these procedures? Or was it due to the financial condition of those fathers?

Furthermore, many may feel that the U.S. government should aid these Vietnamese children by providing some sort of educational training for them in their home or by transporting them to the United States to be with their natural fathers. Also, one must know that Army chaplains counseled soldiers about the problems involved in international marriages, such as differences in cultures, etc. Many soldiers became angry with

chaplains for interfering in their so-called Southern plantation owners gave financial support to their mulatto children. Many of those children became doctors, teachers, ministers, etc. But, on the other hand, the greatest help to the freedmen came from the Freedmen's Bureau, which provided food, clothing, jobs and education for these ex-slaves. Blacks came out of slavery as landless people and had to resort to

the share-cropping system. What a problem.

Finally, many African-Americans would be very glad to have these black-Vietnamese children brought here to the United States as their white counterparts are doing for their children. North Carolinians should set a model for this nation and the world to go by by accepting children of mixed African blood into our fold. Do you agree?

NC Council On Homeless Lays Plans To Help House Street People In Our State

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports

The cut in the poverty rate has been powered by the U.S. economic expansion, an expansion that is not reversing the plight of the homeless across the country, according to citizens petitioning members of the federal government, the private sector and local governments to join in making available affordable housing for people who are homeless or surviving in substandard housing.

A non-profit statewide organization, the North Carolina Council on the Homeless, is extending an invitation and a challenge to the Triangle and to the state to join in an effort in "participatory democracy."

Leo Oates, executive director of the North Carolina Council on the Homeless, said he previously worked with the homeless in New York and has been increasingly concerned for the past five years as he has watched the homeless crisis escalate. "I see the problem as escalating," he said. "I had a few friends from the military who ended up homeless."

There is a difference between street people and the homeless, he said. Some street people are employable and with other complex problems such as alcohol, drugs and even mental illness. Some homeless people are employed and in this state are "bunking." "It comes down to affordable housing," Oates said.

"Bunking" is when an individual or family lives with someone and does not have a permanent address. "Some people elect to be homeless and choose not to have a permanent residence. There are a

(See HOMELESS, P. 2)

agine seeing a child with yellow skin and coal-black, straight hair and slanted eyes laughing at a black child with woolly hair, thick lips and a black skin? What do physical features mean when both children had the same mother and were born and reared in the same culture? One would like to know. What a pity.

Moreover, this commentary showed where many white American fathers are now working with the U.S. State Department and the present Vietnamese government in trying to bring their offspring back to the United States to be reared with their white children. There were no comments made about any black American fathers doing the same.

called "romantic lives." There are more problems involved in "international marriages" than in conventional marriages. Ask any marriage counselor.

Moreover, during the World War II period (1943-45), the "top brass" in the Pentagon were hesitant about sending too many black units to Europe. Why? Because they felt that blacks would fraternize with white girls. But in the Korean conflict and Vietnam, the situations were different. Can't one see that?

Professor E. Franklin Frazier, an eminent black sociologist, has written many articles on interracial children in his lifetime. He stated that after the American Civil War, many,



MOTHERS' MARCH PARTICIPANTS—Participants in the NAACP annual Mothers' March pose with the president. From left: Ms. Carolyn Beckwith, Ms. Luana Bell NW, 1988 participant; Rev. H.B. Pickitt, branch

president; Ms. Minnie Flagg and Ms. Carolyn T. Carter. The local contest will be held on Sunday, May 21, at 3 p.m. at Martin Street Baptist Church. (See story)

NAACP Branches Planning Annual Mothers' March And Competition

BY ALLIE M. PEEBLES

The annual Mothers' March sponsored by the Raleigh-Apex NAACP will be held Sunday, May 21, at 3 p.m. at the Martin Street Baptist Church. Participants will represent the churches in this area, and the winner will compete in the North Carolina Con-

ference of Branches annual Mothers' March, which will be held at the Raleigh Civic Center on May 27 at 3 p.m.

The following ladies will participate in the 1989 contest: Ms. Sandra Baker, Martin Street Baptist Church; Ms. Carolyn Beckwith, First Baptist Church; Ms. Fannie Byrd, St.

Mary AME Church of Apex; Ms. Carolyn T. Carter, Cokesbury United Methodist Church; Ms. Minnie Flagg, Rush Metropolitan AME Zion Church; and Ms. Sarah Morgan, First Cosmopolitan Baptist.

This annual event, sponsored by each of the more than 100 branches in the state of North Carolina, is unique. The late Kelly M. Alexander, Sr. started the event as a fundraiser, and it met with instant success. As a result, the North Carolina State Conference of Branches contributed more than any other state conference to the national office.

The mother raising the largest amount of money will be crowned queen of the Raleigh-Apex Branch. The branch wishes to express its gratitude to the participants and churches for their support. Dr. Maxine Highsmith and Ms. Audrey Stanfield are serving as co-chairmen of the local contest.



HELPING THE HOMELESS—Members of the North Carolina Council on the Homeless extend an invitation and challenge to the Triangle and state to join in helping ease the plight of homelessness in America. Members include, front row, from left: Pam Carmichael, field manager; Amy Rozen, Kimberly Butler, canvass director; and William Spencer, senior canvass representative.