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Church Policies, Audit

Deacons Plan Secret Ballot On Pastor

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports
Many of the deacons and members of the congregation at one of the largest churches in Raleigh after proceeding to develop and put in place a comprehensive set of policies and guidelines encountered opposition from the pastor and later asked for his resignation. A temporary restraining order was

issued recently at the request of the Martin Street Baptist Church Board of Deacons that barred the Rev. David C. Forbes from holding a congregational meeting. Judge Joyce A. Hamilton issued the restraining order for the deacon board composed of 35 regular members and two emeritus members. The 1,200 member church

located on East Martin Street is 120 years old and in 1988 voted to proceed to oust the pastor. Dr. Forbes has a long history of opposition to the deacons. He was expelled from the church in 1973 by the Firm Thigpin with the Firm Thigpin, Blue Stevens and Fellers. A statement from the attorney revealed that the legal aspects of the situation would be handled properly. However, The

CAROLINIAN has obtained the following information addressed to members of the church from "concerned deacons", text: "This letter to provide you with information relative to a series of events in the life of Martin Street Baptist Church." "These unfortunate events have led the Deacon Board by a vote 15-9-1

abstaining to request the pastor's resignation. If the resignation is not received, a meeting to vote by secret ballot will be held on September 8, 1989 for the sole purpose of determining the future status of Rev. David C. Forbes, Sr. as pastor of Martin St. Baptist Church." "Some of you are relatively new members of this church and some are

not new, but may be uninformed and may wonder why we find ourselves in such a state of disharmony. Please allow us to share some facts with you. Hopefully your level of consciousness and concern will be heightened by this dialogue." "Our pastor over a period of years

(See PROTEST, P. 2)

Children In Crisis Need Foster Homes

Keisha, a smiling three-year-old, rocks back and forth on her rocking horse. Her dark brown eyes sparkle as she moves. "Whoops!" she cries out with a smile and looks at her foster mom.

This scene is played out every day in Wake County as foster parents accept children into their homes. These youngsters, ranging in age from birth to 18 years, have been, through no fault of their own, separated from their families. Some, like Keisha (not her real name), have been victims of sexual abuse. Other children cannot live at home because of neglect, physical abuse or a family crisis.

Foster parents provide these youngsters with the care and attention they need until they can return home to their parents. Be-

ing a foster parent is not an easy job. The children come into your home frightened and confused. Many are angry. They need families that can offer them attention, love, and nurturing care. Families that can help them heal wounds and offer the support they need to survive physically, emotionally and socially.

"Wake County is faced with a critical shortage of African-American foster families," according to Tina Martin, recruiter with Wake County Department of Social Services. "Every one of our licensed foster families is filled to capacity. Families just don't have the space to care for more children. We need at least 20 more foster homes if we are going to adequately meet the needs of these youngsters."

The greatest need is for families able to care for older children and sibling groups. According to Martin, many times sibling groups must be separated because there is not an available family able to take more than one child. "The children in foster care have suffered so much less in their lives, it makes it even more difficult for them when we cannot place children in one family in the same foster home." It is also very difficult to find families to care for babies and preschoolers.

Foster parents can be married or single and can be working outside of the home. Foster parents do need to have adequate bedroom space for a child and although there are no income requirements, they must have a stable source of income. Foster

(See CHILD CRISIS, P. 2)



KEISHA



Residents Protest Toxic Drugs

N. C. Joins Fight Against Burning Waste

Citizens from across North Carolina joined with the National Toxics Campaign and thousands of toxics activists nationwide to protest a plan to burn toxic waste as an answer to the nation's toxics crisis and called on Gov. James G. Martin to support a five-year moratorium on the construction and licensing of any new toxic waste incinerators and disposal facilities.

Plans by federal and state officials to authorize new toxic waste incinerators were blasted recently in a 50-page report released by a coalition of citizens' groups which charge the facilities will poison the air, the environment, and violate federal laws. The National Toxics Campaign Fund report, "From Poison to Prevention," estimates that new incinerators could generate up to 10 billion pounds of toxic ash and more than 400 million pounds of highly toxic air emissions nationwide by the year 2000.

The report charges that officials have been reaching decisions in favor of burning waste behind closed doors and have been making little effort to first reduce toxic waste generated by industry. A 60-day notice to file suit against EPA in federal court was also announced by the National Toxics Campaign Fund. The suit will challenge EPA policies that encourage states to promote incineration over toxics reduction, and without full public participation.

(See SECRET BALLOT, P. 2)



NAACP SPEAKS OUT—The Rev. H. B. Pickett, president Raleigh-Apex chapter of the NAACP speaks out against the recent racially motivated murder of Chinese resident Ming Hai Loo who was killed by two men in an attack in a pool

room in North Raleigh. The murder has led to an outcry from citizens and condemnation from officials and some leaders protesting the rising tide of bigoted violence directed against minorities in this country. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

Back-To-School For Some Means Back To Health Hazards, Dangers

For far too many of America's schoolchildren, back-to-school also means back-to-daily-contact with a series of hidden environmental health hazards.

So notes Keith Geiger, the incoming president of the nearly two million-member National Education Association. NEA represents the men and women who work in America's public schools.

The hidden dangers facing our nation's students aren't as chilling as the threat of random violence from an assault weapon. Nor are they as obvious a danger as a dilapidated school building with a crumbling roof.

These hidden dangers are all the more alarming because they can't be seen or heard. Our students are facing three invisible threats as they return for the 1989-90 school year: asbestos, lead, and radon gas.

Each of these environmental hazards affects everyone who works, studies or visits America's schools. But America's children are especially at risk.

Here's a brief description of all three of these hazards—and the effort to shield our children from them.

Asbestos, the silent killer, strikes its victims many years after exposure to the fibers. Breathing in asbestos fibers can cause lung cancer and other fatal lung diseases. Children, because of their smaller size and more rapid breathing rate, are more susceptible to asbestos than adults.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency estimates that there are

asbestos-containing materials in almost all of the nation's 107,000 elementary and secondary schools. More than 44,000 schools retain friable asbestos, which can easily crumble and release breathable fibers.

Over the past decade, NEA and other concerned groups have pressed repeatedly for action to rid schools of deadly asbestos fibers. And progress is being made—slowly.

In the 1989-90 school year, for the first time ever, schools will be mandated by federal law to start removing any threat posed by asbestos. The same statute had required all schools to inspect their buildings for the presence of asbestos and put a plan in place to prevent any asbestos present from posing a health hazard.

The new law for '89-90 also mandates that each district must identify one person to oversee the implementation of its asbestos program. Any citizen or school employee can contact this district employee to find out the program's current status.

The health hazards of even low-

level exposure to lead are dramatic: damage to the nervous system, hearing impairment, learning disabilities, stunted growth.

Last spring, the EPA released a list of water coolers known to contain lead-lined tanks. An estimated one million water coolers nationwide may have hazardous lead compounds. Steps are now under way to identify these dangerous coolers and remove them from schools.

But water coolers are not the only source of lead contaminants in school drinking water. Drinking water can also be contaminated by the corrosion of lead pipes, fixtures, or solder. Water that sits in these pipes will absorb more lead. And water use patterns in schools, which are closed overnight, on weekends, and on vacations, mean that water often remains stagnant in the interior plumbing.

Schools should identify the sources of lead leaching into their school water supplies—and take steps to fix them.

(See HEALTH HAZARDS, P. 2)



MEALS ON WHEELS—Lherrie Rhea, Meals on Wheels volunteer is seen busy distributing food to residents in Southeast Raleigh. Meals on Wheels is one of the most recognized organizations focusing on community aid and extending a hand to the needy. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

INSIDE AFRICA

BY DANIEL MAROLEN

The African group of nations at the United Nations in New York has expressed a strong concern over South Africa's continuing interference with the impending Namibian elections due in November.

South Africa is intransigent and refuses to disband Koevoet, a murderous police squad which has killed and imprisoned many Namibians.

Besides, South Africa remains bent on thwarting the role of UNTAG in its efforts to implement Resolution 435 of 1978 to free Namibia from South Africa's illegal occupation.

South Africa also continues to violate the provisions of Resolution 435 in various other ways, and impedes the release of SWAPO's political prisoners and detainees who, according to previous agreement, should have been released when the independence process began in April.

Furthermore, there has been only partial, but not total, repeal of apartheid laws in Namibia. South Africa should have scrapped those laws last April when the independence process began.

On the other hand, South African interference has forced the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to halt its air flights that brought into Namibia the refugees returning home from exile. The Koevoet squad intercepted and waylaid and killed the returning Namibian refugees.

In addition, South Africa hasn't stopped threatening SWAPO's leaders. The regime continues to hinder SWAPO's participation in the forthcoming poll.

The African Group at UN hopes that the visit of the Secretary-General to Namibia recently will force the UN to rise up to its responsibility. (See INSIDE AFRICA, P. 2)

United Way To Expand Campaign In Triangle

BY ANITA MURPHY

Special To The CAROLINIAN
A flavor of the Triangle becomes metropolitan each day as the cities of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill grow still closer together. With 1-40 making each town more accessible than ever, people travel between the towns without a thought. In fact, some 30,000 people commute daily between the three cities and the Research Triangle Park.

It is just this trend toward a more metropolitan market that prompted United Way officials from the three communities several years ago to begin coordinating some of their fundraising efforts, according to Ron Drago, president of United Way of Wake County.

"The concept of the United Way organizations in Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill working together really came about as the need to gain better coordination and scale in supporting efforts for our fundraising campaign," Drago says. "Our initial effort was to develop campaign materials that could be used in all three communities and to consolidate our fund-

raising activities within Research Triangle Park."

This year the cooperative efforts have expanded to a combined campaign kickoff event, scheduled for Sept. 7, as well as joint publicity efforts.

"The Triangle has evolved into a major metropolitan market area as far as the media are concerned and a combined kickoff and publicity effort will give us opportunities for better, more widespread media exposure," Drago continued. "This should translate into a stronger message about the importance of supporting United Way agencies and therefore increase giving."

A consolidated publicity effort also means greater cost efficiency in publicizing campaign needs, which in turn frees up fund allocations as well as time available for the staff to support the service agencies.

A Triangle-wide task force of United Way representatives and civic leaders from each community, created several years ago to look at

(See UNITED WAY, P. 2)

Jewish Community Says Leland Was Bond Between Blacks & Jews

One of the last letters Mickey Leland signed was a fundraising appeal for the Ethiopian refugee-aid program of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

"Because of the urgent situation in Ethiopia," he wrote, "the first \$50,000 netted through this appeal will be used immediately for the immunization and inoculation program in Gondar... where some 15,000 black Jews still remain."

In April, immediately after his return from Ethiopia, the Houston congressman said he had "great hope" for early progress in the effort

to help the remaining Jews in Ethiopia emigrate to Israel. He spoke in accepting the first Kovler Award for Black-Jewish Relations of the Washington-based Religious Action Center. The award included a cash grant to help support his innovative internship program that has sent 10 minority students from his district to Israel each summer since 1980 for six weeks.

"We have lost a true friend and an outstanding advocate for social justice," said Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center. "Mickey Leland was a living

symbol of the bond between the black and Jewish communities of America."

"Through his work and his words, he helped unite these communities in their shared vision of universal justice, human rights, equality and freedom."

Rabbi Saperstein said that the Houston congressman had an especially close and warm relationship with the Religious Action Center and the movement of Reform Judaism. During the early days of the

(See MICKEY LELAND, P. 2)