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N.C.'s Semi-Weekly
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Largest County Construction

Baker Wants More Jailers For New Jail



NEW JAIL FACILITY—As the new Wake County Public Safety Center goes up across the street from the Wake County Courthouse, Sheriff John Baker meets with the public to give details about the more than 400-bed facility, as well as enlist support for his plan to increase his staff. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

The Wake County Sheriff's Department has broken ground for a new 400-cell Public Safety Center, which will be located approximately behind the Wake County Court House.

The new facility will actually replace the present jail at the courthouse. The state will decide what to do with the old jail facility.

While the new Public Safety Center is not scheduled to open until well over a year, Sheriff John H. Baker has already issued a request for 249 new jailers and other staff, including nurses, food-service workers and maintenance workers.

The new Public Safety Center will have almost five times as many employees as the current jail on the fifth floor of the Wake County Courthouse.

The cost of the proposed employees would be equivalent to an increase of nearly four cents in the tax rate, budget officials told a committee of the Wake Board of Commissioners.

"We would request that each and every one of these positions be approved," Sheriff Baker told the committee. "Each and every one of them is very vital for the safety of the men and women that are placed in our custody."

The Wake County Public Safety Center is proceeding well under schedule. The Center was originally designed to open in the early Summer of 1991.

"This is basic—cut to the bone," said Danny L. Alford, deputy director for policy for the Sheriff's Department.

"The facility we have now is centered on one floor," he said. The Public Safety Center "is a lot larger

and it's going to be spread out," and therefore will require more staff.

The center, under construction on Salisbury Street, is the largest building project the county has undertaken. Besides providing space for 400 inmates on the five floors, the center will house the Wake County Sheriff's Department, City-County Bureau of Identification, the magistrate's office, rescue and other emergency-related departments, and a district courtroom.

Commissioner Merrie R. Hedrick said she thought the Sheriff's Department employees "really backed up [their] position that he needs these officers and employees."

"It was very well-documented," she said.

Commissioner G. Herbert Stout said the county "is not going to have much choice" except to fund a significant increase in employees for the center.

"There probably will be a tax increase to take care of that jail," Stout said. "It may be the full four cents over time, but it won't be immediately."

UNCF Weekend Benefits Schools

BY E.H. HINTON
Staff Writer

An investment in the United Negro College Fund returns valuable dividends, educating young men and women who want to enrich their lives and make significant contributions to society.

Kenneth Wilkins, chairman of the Raleigh-Wake UNCF Committee, along with other committee members, are planning a UNCF Weekend that, it is hoped, will generate the enthusiasm and interest needed to achieve the 1989 campaign goal.

Wilkins said the weekend will cost less than you would expect to spend on dinner for two at a restaurant. The \$20 investment will cover activities on Friday, Sept. 29, and Saturday, Sept. 30.

On Friday starting at 7:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn-State Capitol, participants will have an opportunity to meet celebrities such as "Bonecrusher" Smith, a graduate of a UNCF institute; Miriam Thomas of WTVD; Rufus Edmisten, North Carolina Secretary of State; and a number of radio, television and air personalities.

There will also be an opportunity to meet local golfing enthusiasts who will participate in the golf tournament to be held at 8 a.m. at Pine Hollow Golf Course in Clayton.

After the festivities Friday night and Saturday morning, the celebration returns to the Holiday Inn in downtown Raleigh for another reception, commencing at 7 p.m., with a fashion show and dance, the music (See UNCF WEEKEND, P. 2)

HURRICANE WATCH

Hurricane Hugo, packing winds of more than 125 miles per hour, could threaten the North Carolina coast as early as Friday, say some weather forecasters. The hurricane, which devastated some portions of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, is already responsible for more than 20 deaths and hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage in those U.S. islands.

Forecasters say the storm is traveling in a northwesterly direction and could come ashore on the South Carolina or North Carolina coastline. Voluntary evacuation has already begun on the Outer Banks of the North Carolina coast, with coastal residents keeping a wary eye on the approaching storm. The storm is traveling at about 20 miles per hour and could bring heavy showers and strong winds to portions of the Piedmont section of the state.

Wachovia Bank Plans Specialized Mortgage Program For Homeowners

ORAL ARGUMENTS—Members of the Raleigh Community Reinvestment Committee look on as Raleigh Federal Savings and Loan make their case before federal regulators looking into the lending practices of that bank.

The reinvestment committee says the bank fails to make loans in low-income and minority neighborhoods. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. on Wednesday announced a new and specialized mortgage loan program to encourage home ownership and housing renovation by homeowners in targeted neighborhoods of Raleigh and four other North Carolina cities. The Neighborhood Revitalization Program will focus the energy and resources of residents, community organizations and Wachovia personnel on neighborhoods that the city of Raleigh has selected for revitalization, said Eugene B. Hardin, Jr., Wachovia regional vice president in Raleigh.

Funding for the loans will be provided by Wachovia, with participation by the city through programs it currently operates in the selected neighborhoods.

The other cities where the program is offered are Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro and Winston-Salem. It will be expanded statewide in the near future to other North Carolina communities Wachovia serves.

The loan program offers favorable interest rates, high loan-to-value ratios, reduced closing costs and flexible credit guidelines. New underwriting rules allow a homeowner to devote a higher portion of monthly income to the mortgage payment than is permitted in traditional mortgage lending.

"Home ownership is an essential (See LOAN PROGRAM, P. 2)

Wachovia Bank Plans Specialized Mortgage Program For Homeowners

and the school system, claiming that the system discriminates against black teachers.

Roberts was a physical education teacher at Sanderson High School before his suspension in June for reasons that have not been disclosed.

In the past few weeks, Roberts has openly aired his complaints in letters

to Dr. Bridges. In one of those letters, Roberts claimed that Bridges was cooperating with "white racism." Roberts also said that if this were South Africa, Bridges might be given a "necktie," a burning automobile tire placed around the neck of persons considered "traitors."

Bridges said he has contacted a lawyer concerning the violent content of the letter.

Roberts said the letter was not meant to be taken personally by Dr. Bridges, but Bridges said he did take it personally because he is considered a public official.

"As a public official, I'm vulnerable to his critique of me as a superintendent," said Bridges. "I just hope that the community, especially the black community, has enough of a feel for me to assess the situation."

Many black leaders declined to comment on the dispute, but some agreed to speak.

"Some people think Frank is treating Dr. Bridges unfairly," said Edward Smith, a leader in the Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association, a black community organization. "It has yet to be determined to what extent any of Frank's contentions have any factual basis. Dr. Bridges has made it clear that he thinks he has nothing to apologize for. It's an honest disagreement between two very well-meaning gentlemen."

In his arguments, Roberts said that 80 percent of the black teachers in Wake County have 15 years experience. This circumstance, he contends, opens the door for a trend—as the black teachers retire they are (See TEACHER, P. 2)

New Miss America Blends Brains, Beauty; Also Is A Christian Rapper For Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Debbie Turner, Miss America 1990, kept her religion behind closed doors during much of pageant week. But at her first public appearance as America's unofficial sweetheart, she wowed the crowd with a religious rap song and promised to motivate the nation's young people to excellence.

Sunday, the 23-year-old was asked to share the song she gave the other 50 contestants before Saturday's pageant finals.

She hesitated for just a moment, then asked reporters to keep the beat by clapping.

"Well, I love the Lord... with all I know... gonna sing his song... wherever I go. Gonna sing about the love... sing about the faith... sing about meeting him face to face," Ms. Turner sang, continuing with seven more verses.

Pageant officials clapped too, including 91-year-old Adrian Phillips, a retired pageant official who traditionally escorts the new Miss America to her first news conference.

"This new Miss America is exactly what I anticipated," pageant director (See MISS AMERICA, P. 2)



MISS DEBBIE TURNER

NEWS BRIEFS

BROOKLYN WHITES PLEAD NOT GUILTY

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Five white defendants pleaded not guilty Monday to murder charges in the killing of a black youth in Brooklyn's Bensonhurst section. Four were allowed to remain free on bail, prompting an angry outcry from the victim's father.

"You should have kept them in here," Moses Stewart, father of Yusuf Hawkins, shouted at Justice Thaddeus Owens at state court in Brooklyn. The judge accepted the pleas from James Patino, 24; Keith Mondello, 18; Pasquale Raucci, 19; Joseph Ferrano, 19; and Joseph Fama, 18, who is being held without bail.

KOOP SAYS TEENS IGNORING AIDS THREAT

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, urging a return to "old-fashioned morality," said Monday the government must find a better way to warn teenagers about AIDS.

"We know that sexual activity is rampant and that people of the group I'm talking about are not listening to us," he told the National AIDS Commission, which was holding its first day of expert testimony. Dr. Koop also urged the panel to combat the "mean-spiritedness" in some Americans toward people with AIDS.

Claims Of Discrimination

Suspended Teacher Fires Salvos

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports

Frank Roberts, a veteran Wake County teacher and longtime education activist and advocate, believes that all is far from well in the Wake County Public School System.

Says Roberts, "I'm determined to continue a commitment to our Wake County public school teachers whose

employment status and conditions are less than professional at the workplace and who continue to be the victims of inhumane treatment, harassment and intimidating acts by school officials."

Roberts, a high school teacher, is waging a dispute with former Wake Superintendent Robert E. Bridges



COMMUNITY FORUM—Members of the Southeast Raleigh community hold a meeting at St. Ambrose Church to denounce the Wake County Public School system's treatment of minority students and educators. MS. Dell

Let, a former Wake teacher, recounts her experiences while Brad Thompson, center, and Frank Roberts, right, look on. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)