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'Commit' Aims To Help Kick Smoking Habit

Smoking Policies In Public Places

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports
Tough antismoking policies and striking statistics on attitudes toward smoking restrictions in public places and workplaces have helped encourage COMMIT To a Healthier Raleigh to literally pay smokers to stop smoking.

Len C. Stanley, field director for COMMIT, said, "We feel these are pretty striking statistics, especially for smokers' attitudes. And, given the referendum results from the vote in Greensboro, these survey results should be very interesting and encouraging to Raleigh citizens."

This month, the "COMMIT to Quit" campaign will make smokers who quit for one month eligible for a \$1,000 cash prize.

Stanley said the survey, sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, which funds the COMMIT To a Healthier Raleigh Project, shows Raleigh may be ready to follow Greensboro's footsteps during the campaign which is distributing literature to help smokers quit the habit.

A national survey released by the Tobacco Institute contends that three of four Americans oppose smoking bans in workplaces and restaurants, and instead favor current arrangements that accommodate both smokers and non-smokers.

"While American adults would favor tightening federal regulations in some areas—notably on (See STOP SMOKING, P. 2)

INSIDE AFRICA

BY DANIEL MAROLEN
NNPA News Service

Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO, is all smiles these days. After 23 years of grueling fight against South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia, SWAPO last November won the United Nations-sponsored election for that former German colony's independence. SWAPO won 41 seats out of the contested 72 seats, followed by the South African-sponsored Turnhalle group which won only 21 seats. The other 10 seats were shared by five smaller parties. But SWAPO needed seven more seats to make the required two-thirds to enable it to dictate Namibia's new constitution. However, SWAPO commanded a dominant position which it is now using to bring about Namibia's final independence. Hence Sam Nujoma's broad smile.

Since the November election, Sam Nujoma has steered SWAPO toward consolidating its leadership role in Namibia. Using wise diplomacy, Nujoma has influenced the constitutional assembly of 72 members to agree in principle on a Westminster-type constitution—a democratic one—in contrast to a Marxist one as (See INSIDE AFRICA, P. 2)

Property Visitation Rights

New Program Looks At Child Custody

In this era of high divorce rates, how many Tar Heel children become emotionally and psychologically battered "bargaining chips" in court battles over such issues as alimony, child support and a division of marital property?

No court expert knows exactly. But bitter fights between divorcing parents over the custody of children and visitation rights are a common occurrence in domestic relations courts across North Carolina.

To alleviate damage to children caught in the middle of divorce litigation, the 1989 General Assembly authorized the Administrative Office

of the Courts to begin implementing a statewide program of mediation in child custody and visitation disputes prior to trial.

As a result, Franklin Freeman, Jr., director of the AOC, announced plans recently for putting the new program into effect in Cumberland County, where the need for it is clearly the greatest because of a disproportionate number of domestic relations cases on court dockets there.

Successful experiments have been conducted by the AOC with child custody mediation in judicial districts 26, which is Mecklenburg County; and 27-A, which is Gaston. In

addition to Cumberland, which is District 12, the mediation program will be expanded to another as yet undesignated district in the current biennium with funds approved by the 1989 Legislature.

"The greatest value of the program is that at the beginning, it will remove children involved in custody fights from the hammer-and-tong adversarial process and lessen the likelihood of children being used as pawns in a fight between two adults disputing their marriage breakup," Freeman said. "It enhances the likelihood that the best interests of children are going to be paramount."

In Fayetteville, Chief District Court Judge Sol G. Cherry welcomed the innovation. "When you have two angry parents fighting each other in court, they'll use the child as a weapon against each other," he said.

Child custody "is the area where you get the most anger or hostility" between adults in divorce cases, Judge Cherry said, "and this increases the danger of physical abuse as well as emotional and psychological damage to children involved."

Under the program, custody and visitation disputes are separated from other issues tried in contested

divorce cases and referred by the courts to professionally trained mediators with post-graduate degrees in a human relations discipline. Agreements reached during mediation typically become orders of the court before other issues are contested before a judge.

Judge Cherry and other district court judges across the state agree with Chief Judge Larry Langston of Gaston County that "Getting families out of the courtroom, where the focus is on winning, and into mediation, where the focus is on the child, is

(See CHILD CUSTODY, P. 2)

Money For Informants

Reward Breaks Up Theft Ring

STAR Fights Burglaries, Auto Thefts

Money talks—it also helps break up theft rings.

The insurance industry has given a confidential informant \$2,000 for information that led to the conviction of six persons and cleared more than 60 burglary cases in three Southeastern counties.

"This is the first money to be paid through the industry's STAR Reward program and we believe this is only the beginning of a very effective program to assist North Carolina law enforcement agencies in fighting burglary rings," said William L. Pollard, chairman of the reward



NEW ACTIVISM—During the late 1960s Black activism was met with violence by and sometimes unethical response from local and federal agencies. This photo shows Black Panther Party leaders Fred Hampton addressing a crowd, and Mark Clark, who were both killed

In a pre-dawn raid by police acting on information supplied by an FBI informant in Chicago. See related accounts in The CAROLINIAN's Special Martin Luther King, Jr. Edition Thursday, Jan. 11th.

The target for STAR is the thief or theft ring that commits 10 or more burglaries or steals 10 or more vehicles, or high volume thieves.

committee.

The \$2,000 was turned over to Brunswick County Sheriff John C. Davis for delivery to the person whose information helped put six persons behind bars. Detective Lindsay Walton, who made the nomination, said 103 charges were brought against the six.

STAR, acronym for Stop Thefts, Assist Recoveries, was created by the property and casualty insurance industry to target exactly the kind of theft ring broken up by the Brunswick County investigators. The North Carolina Rate Bureau, which includes all property and casualty insurers in the state, will provide up to \$20,000 each year for rewards. The program is co-sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Police Chiefs and the North Carolina Sheriffs Association and each group has a representative of the committee that acts on reward nominations.

"Our target for STAR is the thief or (See STARR, P. 2)

Drug Dealers Facing New Tactics That Will Land Them Behind Bars

Jan. 1 brought the dawning of a new day for drug dealers in North Carolina. From now on, crime is going to cost them... plenty.

In addition to four new laws increasing the penalties for trafficking in cocaine and other street drugs, the General Assembly has put an excise tax on all illegal drugs.

Drug dealers will now be required to pay an excise tax on any illegal drug they wish to peddle in North Carolina. Similar to the cigarette tax, the new drug tax will be paid through the purchase of tax stamps which must be affixed to the drug in some way to show that the tax has been paid.

The new law is intended to provide additional deterrence and punishment for illegal drug dealers, as well as an economic disincentive to trafficking in drugs.

Purchasing the tax stamps does not, however, give dealers any kind of immunity from drug possession. The

tax stamps only prove that an excise tax on the drug has been paid.

The new excise tax is payable within 48 hours after a dealer acquires the illegal drugs. Dealers who fail to pay the tax commit a felony punishable by up to five years and/or a fine, as well as a penalty of 100 percent of the tax owed. Dealers would then still owe the tax, as well as any interest that might accrue.

Placing an excise tax on illegal drugs authorizes the Secretary of Revenue to go after a drug dealer's profits, as well as his real or personal property, in an effort to collect taxes owed to the state. The state Department of Revenue can obtain any taxes due but not paid, as well as penalties and interest, by certificate of tax liability, tax warrants on real (See DRUG LAW, P. 2)

Old Problem Enters New Year, Overcrowding Triggers Prison Cap

North Carolinians start the 1990s dealing with one of the most persistent problems it faced in the 1980s: prison overcrowding.

State Correction Secretary Aaron Johnson last week informed Gov. Jim Martin and State Parole Commission Chairman Lou Colombo that special provisions of the Emergency Prison Population Stabilization Act, the so-called Prison Cap, were triggered during the New Year's holiday weekend. As a result, the Parole Commission will have until March 28 to reduce the total population of the state's 90 prisons to no more than 17,460.

The population, as of 12:01 the morning of Dec. 30, 1989, when the special provisions were triggered, was 17,681. That marked the 15th consecutive day the state prison population had been above the legislatively mandated cap of 17,460. Those figures were not tabulated until Jan. 2, when state government offices reopened after the holiday weekend.

This is the ninth time these special provisions have been triggered since the law was first ratified March 11, 1987, and the fourth time since the General Assembly amended the legislation on Jan. 31, 1989. This is also the fourth time these provisions have been triggered during 1989.

These retulations operate independently of a separate cap of 200 on safekeepers, persons awaiting trial who are sent to the state prison system under court order for health or security reasons.

Under the prison cap, the Parole Commission can release only those inmates who are eligible for parole. Certain offenders, such as misde-

meanants and some Fair-Sentencing Act felons, have their parole eligibility advanced. However, drug kingpins, drug traffickers, sexual offenders, those convicted of kidnapping/abduction, and those convicted of driving while impaired or other DWI-related offenses are excluded from

these early release provisions.

With last week's declaration of a population emergency, the state's prisons have stopped accepting short-term misdemeanants, those with sentences of 30-180 days, from local confinement facilities.



WTVD DOES ITS SHARE—Aside from providing the Annual Back-A-Child Campaign television promotional, Ms. Janice R. Crump, Community Relations Manager of WTVD, makes a financial presentation on behalf of the department heads of the area television station to Mrs. Regland, chair of the Back-A-Child Campaign. Seen here are Mrs. Nilda Pinnix-Regland (left) accepting the presentation from Ms. Janice E. Crump.

61st Anniversary King Holiday Observance

KING CAROLINIAN
BUSINESS



In communities throughout the state from Wilmington to Asheville, the Martin Luther King holiday will be observed this month.

Monday, Jan. 15, marks the 61st anniversary of Dr. King's birth and also the first time since the enactment of the holiday that the birthday and the holiday will coincide.

Marches, plays, speeches, a songfest at Davidson College, oratorical contests at libraries in Fayetteville and Durham and many other events are planned to honor the memory of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

In Asheville, outstanding achievement awards will be given to deserving students during a Youth Celebration scheduled for 1 p.m. Jan. 12. The following morning, 1,300 people are expected to attend the annual Living the Dream Breakfast at the Asheville Civic Center.

In Wilmington, a commemorative march is planned for Jan. 15, beginning at 2 p.m., followed by a program at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center.

In Raleigh a statue of Dr. King will be unveiled during noon ceremonies at the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center on Jan. 15. Later the statue will be placed in the N.C. Martin Luther King Memorial Gardens, located at the corner of Rock Quarry Road and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

The N.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, established by executive order of Gov. Jim Martin, works to promote awareness and appreciation of Dr. King's life and work, provides advice and assistance and encourages appropriate ceremonies and ac-

(See KING ACTIVITIES, P. 2)