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Coping: Blacks Find Ways To Manage Life The Struggle Leads Many To Seek New Survival Methods

BY W. MASON, JR.
Staff Writer

It's when life becomes unbearable, or when people can no longer deal with disappointment or hardship, that many turn to an outside source for solace or peace of mind.

It's called coping. And African-Americans, particularly, have found many ways to cope with life's problems because of the barriers they face by being black in white America.

Religion, astrology, numerology and even television have provided a source of strength for many African-

Americans who may be finding it difficult to attain the American dream of success.

But as the American economy weakens and more African-Americans realize the dream will never be theirs, they will turn to even more methods of coping with barriers such as racism, discrimination, unfair housing laws and prejudice.

Finding that source of strength, however, is important, said Raleigh psychologist Dr. Theresa Edwards Hayes. Although many people find strength in self-improvement television shows or one of the many

self-help tapes entering the market, some people may find it difficult to maintain a balance between following their own instincts and following a set of rules and patterns they may not understand.

"Once you get into a situation where you're not processing your own choices, you may be in danger of losing the right to have control over your own life," she said.

That balance, however, can be obtained if the person knows what he or she is looking for, she said.

"People seek the church for many different reasons," said Ronald

Avery, pastor of St. Matthew Baptist Church.

Some people join because of their parents, others like the image of the church while others may be seeking the salvation of self through Christianity.

Still others, he said, join the church at times when they may be experiencing domestic problems or financial problems or some crisis such as death or illness. Instead of seeking religion as a way to avoid dealing with problems, many use religion as a way to bond with God, the pastor said.

"Through the message they may hear at a church sermon, they may hear something that addresses their problem," Rev. Avery said. By being in that environment, God may send a message that may help them cope, he said.

There are, however, some who seek religion as a way to relinquish their responsibility in life and turn their life over to a source outside of themselves.

"Sometimes people come to church because it releases them of the burden" of dealing with their own lives, the minister pointed out.

It's maintaining a sense of self-control and finding strength through God that brings most people happiness, he added.

Muriel Love, an astrologer, said the stars also help people cope by connecting them with self.

Most people who are not coping are not God-centered," she said. Astrology brings you back into point one—which is self. "Those of us who are up on astrology are truly high beings," she said.

The stars help some find their true

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Missing Girl

Mother Held In Child's Death

Body Was Found By Police

An 11-year-old girl is dead and her mother and two other friends have been charged in her death.

Josephine Oramus, 30, and Darnell Joyner, 29, were arrested on charges of first-degree murder late last week after a continuing investigation into the disappearance of Elizabeth Collazo. The girl's body was found last Thursday in a wooded area of Nash County about four miles from Rocky Mount, authorities said.

The cause of the girl's death has not been determined, authorities said. A pathologist said there were a number of injuries on the body but medical examiners could not say how the injuries were related to the death. The pathologist said additional studies would be done and results should be available soon.

Authorities said police suspected that the child was not a runaway but had been abducted because there was no trace of her.

The authorities said police launched a search after Oramus reported the girl had gone to a rest room at Rocky Mount's Golden East Crossing shopping center and failed to return.

Authorities said police suspected that the child was not a runaway but had been abducted because there was no trace of her. Photos of the girl were distributed in the area and broadcast on the local media. As the investigation continued, detectives became suspicious of the story by Oramus and Joyner.

Authorities declined to discuss the statements from the defendants. They said police searched a wooded area where the couple had been

(See CHILD MURDERED, P. 2)



HISTORIC ELECTION — Douglas Wilder as the nation's first black governor is a new entry for Black History focus along with David N. Dinkins as mayor of The Big Apple (New York City). Celebrating his gubernatorial victory.

Wilder, 58, the grandson of slaves said he has traveled a hard road to the Governor's Mansion and the big responsibilities it carries.

Duke Releases Study On Dealing With Classroom Discrimination

The incidences of racial intolerance are growing across the country as blacks struggle to grasp the economic pie that whites have eaten for years.

But according to a Durham study, the incidents of discrimination are not limited to the corporate setting, but also extend to the classroom and college campus.

In recent months, three black students at N.C. State University were threatened, one of many incidents that demonstrate the tensions for both races on the campus.

A committee established by Duke University President H. Heith H. Brodie to address the problem of discrimination in the classroom has presented a series of recommendations aimed at eliminating such discrimination at Duke.

The committee based its

conclusions about discrimination at the university on the results of a poll of students taken in the spring of 1989. The poll revealed that black and white students at Duke have wide differences in their perceptions about race relations in general and about

specific acts of discrimination in particular.

White students responding to the poll generally viewed race relations and attitudes at Duke as good, while blacks were much less likely to think

(See CLASSROOM, P. 2)

Inside Africa

Working For Peace In South Africa

BY DANIEL MAROLEN
NNPA News Service

Although both the African National Congress and the ruling Afrikaner Party seem to be in agreement that peace can only come about in South Africa through negotiation between black leaders and the regime, the final solution of the racial problem seems to be a mirage. Both ANC and AP seem to agree to a negotiations table to solve the future of South Africa.

But ANC will go to the negotiations table only to defend its stand—racial equality. On the other hand, AP will go there only to defend its own stand—racial separation, now euphemized as "group separation." ANC's stand is for universally accepted free, nonracial democratic statehood. Contrarily, AP's stand will be for a conglomeration of ethnic states—another form of apartheid which all nations on earth abhor.

Nelson Mandela's prison release will bring the prospect of negotiations nearer. At that indaba, Mandela will reaffirm his time-held belief that only the Freedom Charter of South Africa, drawn up in the 1960s, can solve the racial problems of the country. The charter's main stipulation states: "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people." But the spirit of the Freedom Charter is anathema to President de Klerk and his AP.

In the envisaged black-white leaders' indaba a stalemate will certainly ensue. ANC will uphold the concept of a unitary state, democratic and non-racial, which AP will oppose with might and main. (No Afrikaner prime minister or president of South Africa has ever ruled the country without racial

segregation. Afrikaner rulers know only apartheid as a solution to racial problems).

What, then? Neither ANC nor AP will tilt from its stand...

But ANC and AP do not represent all South Africans, black or white—40 million all told. Hence, the envisaged indaba will only be between representatives of two nationalisms, African nationalism and Afrikaner

nationalism. But the bulk of the country's population belongs to several other black organizations and white and Asian ethnic groups, to say the least. Neither AP nor ANC can claim to represent the majority of South Africa's population per se.

In view of this, another problem arises, the problem of fair and equal representation of every "group" during the negotiations process.

Every individual, black or white, must feel that he/she gets satisfactory representation. To give every individual this satisfaction, a national referendum or plebiscite must be held, permitting the people an equal choice of what form of government or which party they desire. Standing on the sidelines, the community of world nations would

(See INSIDE AFRICA, P. 2)

Wake Superior Court Determines Forbes Must Go

FROM CAROLINIAN STAFF REPORTS

The congregation of Martin Street Baptist Church has won the approval of Wake Superior Court to have the Rev. David C. Forbes removed from the pulpit.

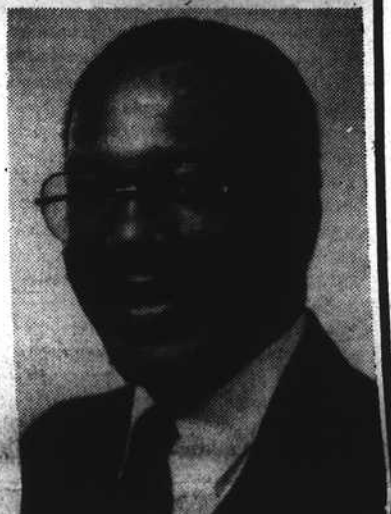
The congregation, some said, will now take up the business of restoring order to the church and falling out of the public eye.

At a packed courtroom last week, a superior court judge ruled that the vote of the congregation to terminate the pastoral position of Forbes would stand, despite the fact that members of the congregation voted to rehire him and then fired him again.

The judge also said the restraining order placed on the church by the court, which allowed Forbes to stay in the pulpit although some members wanted him out, had been lifted.

The judge also said that if Forbes continued to pursue a lawsuit against several members of the congregation for firing him, that he would not be likely to win, since the vote to terminate his position with the church was within the policy statement of the church.

Members of the church, who refused to give their names, said they're not sure how long it will take before the church can get back to the business of providing healing through God.



REV. DAVID FORBES

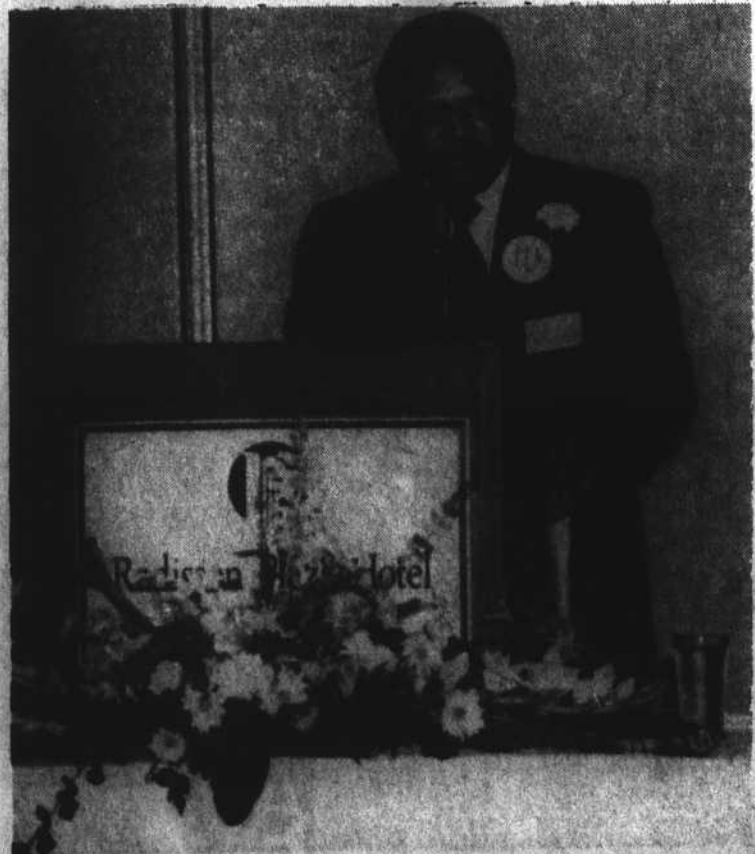
But many said they hoped the episode was over.

The problems at the church were twofold. Some members thought Forbes' style of leading the church was dictatorial and did not allow the congregation to have direction over the church, particularly where finances were concerned.

Other members of the congregation believed Forbes had become the social conscience of the church and they wanted him to stay.

After the initial vote by the

(See MUST GO, P. 2)



DELIVERING ADDRESS — Melvin J. Ford, president and general manager of International Loan Network, Inc. was on hand to address attendees of the North Carolina Anniversary Celebration last week at the Radisson Plaza Hotel.



CONSORTIUM OF COLLEGES — The North Carolina Consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities has been created with the support of the administration of Gov. James G. Martin. The consortium, which will meet twice a year, has elected Dr. Prezell Robinson, president of St. Augustine's College, as its president. The members

include Barber-Scott College in Concord, Bennett College in Greensboro, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, Livingstone College in Salisbury, N. C. A&T State University in Greensboro, N. C. Central University, Durham, St. Augustine's College and Shaw University, both in Raleigh and Winston-Salem State University.