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City Improvements

Redevelopment Ignites Housing Concerns

BY W. MASON, JR.
Staff Writer

The city's downtown redevelopment plan, part of a push to renovate and put life back into the downtown district, has ignited a number of hot debates, including the issue of low-income housing in southeast Raleigh.

Part of the plan includes uprooting businesses and possibly forcing some residents to move out of their homes. The city is rapidly buying property to attract new businesses to the city market area and give the area a new look.

And the city's sweeping plans to change the look and commerce in the downtown area are drawing attention, because some people who may be forced to leave their homes may not be able to find other affordable housing options.

A recent survey by the state

Department of Public Instruction revealed that at least 6,166 North Carolina families are homeless, with Raleigh leading the list.

The survey questioned 100 social service agencies, 284 agencies serving the homeless and 134 local school systems, although fewer than half of the agencies contacted responded to the survey.

The cities surveyed were Raleigh, Burlington, Monroe, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Statesville, Jacksonville and Charlotte.

To stem a roaring tide of concern over housing issues, the North Carolina Low Income Housing Coalition and the North Carolina Housing Now Network are planning a statewide Low Income Housing Sleep-out and rally in Raleigh on June 1st and 2nd.

The purpose of the event, which

coincides with the short session of the General Assembly, is to keep the issue of homelessness and affordable housing before local and state lawmakers and to demonstrate public support for increased state and local involvement in affordable housing programs. Participants can call 833-6201 for more information.

Another group, the Intraproject Council, Inc. is planning several events for local residents facing housing problems.

The council, whose goal is to improve the quality of life for people living in housing projects in the city, recently held a fashion show and will use proceeds to award scholarships to outstanding students living in public housing projects.

Because redevelopment affects residents in the southeast Raleigh area, many of them poor, the thought

of housing and the problems with either getting it or maintaining it are frightening, some have said.

A study of the working poor was recently published by the Monthly Labor Review and found that in 1987, when the poverty line for a family of four was \$11,611, about 6.4 million workers nationwide age 16 or older fell into this category.

Over half were men and three quarters were white.

About 40 percent were high school dropouts and only 20 percent had attended college.

About one-third, or 1.9 million, worked full time year-round and about 2.4 million were married, 1.2 million were single heads of families and about 1.9 million were single people living alone.

Redevelopment already has created a problem for a number of

southeast Raleigh residents who depend on the Helping Hand Mission, a social service agency at the corner of Martin and East Street which provides food, clothing and other services for the needy.

Because that agency provides activities for area children while parents are working, many parents who don't have money for activities may have to shoulder the burden of finding other employment as a result of changes in the area, which compounds existing housing problems.

"We're trying to provide a better

way of living for people with housing problems," said Jeannie Bell, a spokeswoman with the Interproject Council. "We're putting together a number of events that will meet their needs," she said.

Sylvia Wiggins, director of the mission, said she is still working with the city to get funding or other types of assistance so that she can locate another building to operate her mission.

"Not too much has happened so far," she said. "We'll just have to wait and see what happens."

Historical Tragedy Tells Of Suffering Through Injustices

BY DR. ALBERT E. JABS
An Analysis

Nations like Japan, Russia and East Germany are issuing statements of regret/apology for roles in World War II. With this confessing tone of expiation for reconciliation and the future, why should not the East Bloc and Western democracies face up to their complicity to another historical injustice and tragedy: the mass expulsion of 16 million ethnic German elderly men, women and children from central European homesteads during the years 1945-48?

As a result of this transfer of population, 1.5 million to 2 million people perished, largely due to policies of nationalism, indifference, and revenge.

Leaders and historians can face up to another largely unopened chapter of historical injustice concerning the ethnic Germans of Central Europe.

With the recent revelations of the Katyn massacre of 1940 where 15,000 Polish leaders were murdered on the direct orders of Joseph Stalin, and with official acknowledgement by the current Soviet government of complicity in that crime, perhaps leaders and historians can face up to another largely unopened chapter of historical injustice concerning the ethnic Germans of central Europe—my ancestral people.

The massive migration of these country folk came out of shortsighted policies rooted in Article VII of the Potsdam agreement of 1945 and nourished by narrow nationalism and vindictiveness. To be sure, there were crimes of the Hitler regime, but one injustice cannot excuse another injustice like that of the ethnic Germans.

Alfred de Zayas, in his classic commentary, "Nemesis at Potsdam," has documented this sad and largely forgotten injustice with copious primary and secondary sources that unequivocally support the contention of historical injustice which has paradoxically been ignored by historians and the national press. With the exception of a few specialists, this painful past has not been understood or even recognized as an injustice.

Additionally, as a historian, I have collected letters, files, and first-person accounts of many relatives and others who went through that experience. Their stories and the accumulated evidence strongly supports the thesis of de Zayas, and other chroniclers like Robert Murphy and George Kennan. Indeed, a dark episode had occurred with the ethnic Germans of 1945-48. The evidence is convincing.

The roots of those ethnic Germans went back for 700 years and like the transfers of other peoples (African-Americans: 5-15 million died in the Middle Passage, says John Hope Franklin), the American Indians in the Jackson administration, and the foreign workers in the Third Reich, there always is a price of suffering when "transfer" of population takes place.

(See ETHNIC, P. 2)

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROBBERY

Murder Charge Reduced

A Raleigh man pleaded guilty last week to armed robbery in the death of a Raleigh news carrier nearly two years ago.

Billy Ray Cole accepted an agreement after the state agreed to drop a murder charge against him.

Cole will be sentenced to 25 years in prison. An assistant district attorney for the state agreed to drop a murder charge after stating that the 25-year sentence was appropriate for Cole's involvement in the crime.

Lenwood E. Buchanan was sentenced to death after he was convicted of robbing and killing Jerry E. Combs. Ringo Gregg has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and armed robbery.

Cole has been charged in connection with the robbery and murder of Jerry E. Combs, who died June 10, 1988 outside Crabtree Fast Fare after two men robbed him of \$10.

Another man, Lenwood E. Buchanan, was sentenced to death after he was convicted of robbing and killing Combs. Another man, Ringo Gregg, has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and armed robbery and has not yet been sentenced.

Authorities said Cole drove the two men to the store to commit the robbery.

In other news, authorities arrested an N.C. State University student last week and charged her with robbing the Big Lots store on Western Boulevard.

The woman, a former employee of (See ROBBERY, P. 2)



COMBATING AIDS—Social work intern Carleton Rutherford and program director Chris Woody, left, help infants with AIDS through the Duke Pediatric HIV Volunteer Program. (Photo by Taim Sabir-Calloway)

Volunteers In Critical Demand At Duke Pediatric AIDS Clinic

BY W. MASON, JR.
Staff Writer

A pediatric clinic at Duke University Medical Center is in desperate need for volunteers to help staff the clinic and care for families and children infected with the HIV virus.

"Many of the children that we serve are black and we just don't have any volunteers to help the children and their families cope," said Carleton Rutherford, a spokesman at the clinic.

Of the 105 children the Duke Pediatric Infectious Disease Clinic has served since it opened in 1988, about 85 percent have been residents of North Carolina.

And about 70 percent of the patients have been black, 78 percent of the infections as a result of perinatal care.

About 83 percent of those who have come through the clinic have lived at

home and about 35 percent of those coming through get much of their funding source from the federal government's Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

The center gets children who have come through Duke University Medical Center who have been diagnosed as either having AIDS or the HIV virus that leads to AIDS.

"About 10 children have died since the clinic opened," Rutherford said, referring back to the figure of 105 pa-

tients who have come through the center.

The center's staff is trying to run a play area and begin services to help the families of these children cope with the illness and the treatment that they must undergo to keep the virus under control.

The university has not mandated that support services be offered to these parents and their children, but

(See AIDS, P. 2)

An All-Ages Event

Artsplasure Marks Fun, Festivals

Raleigh Mayor Avery Upchurch, Artsplasure's honorary chair, will officially launch Artsplasure at Mordecai Historic Park on the afternoon of April 29. The celebration at Mordecai will center around Heritage Day, which this year marks the 128th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. Mordecai Historic Association will sponsor a Civil War fashion show, a demonstration of period cooking and an exhibit of Civil War flags and postage stamps. An encampment of Confederate soldiers in full regalia will be on hand to enjoy the party.

On the performance side, PineCone, the Piedmont Council of Traditional Music, has assembled a lineup of talented entertainers that includes noted fiddler and Smithsonian folklorist Alan Jabbour, a former member of the Hollow Rock String Band; black string-band musicians Joe and Odell Thompson, recent winners of the North Carolina Folk Heritage Award; the County Commissioners (an old-time string band); and a group of area shape note singers. Musicians of all skill levels are encouraged to bring their instruments and join the picking sessions around the grounds.

Visitors can peruse the fine selection of herbs available during the second day of the annual Mordecai Historic Park herb sale. The sale and Heritage Day action begin at 10 a.m., while the PineCone portion of the kickoff commences at 1

p.m. The park is located on Old Wake Forest Road downtown near Peace College.

Artsplasure's other key opening day activity is Capitol Gallery Afternoon, a self-guided tour of Raleigh's most prestigious art galleries. Most

of the 15 participating galleries are hosting openings with receptions or other special events in honor of the festival. The show runs the gamut from experimental to more conventional works.

It should be noted that although

April 29 is the "official" opening of the festival, Artsplasure is helping to promote a special performance of "The Chocolate Soldier," an operetta in three acts performed by the National works.

(See ARTSPLOSURE, P. 2)

Students At Ligon Meeting Soldier In War Against Drugs

Eighth graders at Ligon Middle School were treated to a visit by Lt. Montel B. Williams on Tuesday, April 17. Lt. Williams resigned his commission in the U.S. Navy in 1988 as a special intelligence officer to become a soldier in the war against drugs and dropping out of school. One of the most highly decorated lieutenants in the Navy, Lt. Williams is a much sought-after speaker who demands and receives a fee of upwards of \$3,500 per appearance.

His appearances on national television include "The Today Show," "NBC Nightly News," "ABC's Incredible Sundays," "The Home Show," "PM Magazine," "Connie Chung's Summer Showcase" and "USA Today," the television show. He has appeared on many local public affairs and news programs. He is soon to be featured in Parade magazine.

He heads a nonprofit corporation, REACH the American Dream, based in Denver, Colo., and travels some 28

days a month each year. The concepts he presented included:

(See DRUGS, P. 2)



LT. MONTEL B. WILLIAMS



CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS—In a joint appearance at Saint Augustine's College last week, Sir Lynden Oscar Findling, the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Bahamas emphasized with college president, Prezell Robinson the close relationship between the college and the Bahamas.

Findling spoke during the college's annual Honors Convocation and also called for world unification during a period when countries are seeking freedom. (Photo by Taim Sabir-Calloway) (See story page 8)