



**New Ep**  
Tony Terry  
with a br  
video, "He  
Pe

**um**  
the groove  
album and  
feels."

**Time To Improve?**  
John Thompson's basketball pro-  
gram is in question. Can George-  
town win?

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**THIS WEEK**  
In James Weldon Johnson's  
Autobiography of an Ex-  
Colored Man, published in  
1912, the author noted: "It  
is a struggle; for though the  
black man fights passively,  
he nevertheless fights; and  
(See THIS WEEK, P. 12)

# THE CAROLINIAN

N.C.'s Semi-Weekly

DEDICATED TO THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST

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## Construction Begins Opponents Fail To Stop Amphitheater

**From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports**  
A Wake Superior Court Judge ruled last week that the city had followed the proper procedure for granting a special-use permit for an amphitheater site in Walnut Creek Park where the Beltline meets Interstate 40.

Some Southeast Raleigh residents asked Judge Howard E. Manning, Jr., to review the case last month,

raising concerns that the 20,000 seat outdoor entertainment center would bring unwanted traffic, noise and drunken vandals to the area.

Following the court's decision, the city council began taking steps toward the opening of the performance center and awarded contracts for the project. Contractors for the projects were also a key concern by residents observing economic development.

Citizens have said as a spinoff it is important that black and minority businesses receive contracts and jobs

that will be a fair and/or equitable distribution of bond money. Economic development in Southeast Raleigh should mean jobs, business and contracts for community-based residents.

Mayor Pro Tem Ralph Campbell said the facility would be beneficial to the community and calls it a "positive move."

An opponent of the project, Maxine Alexander, community education director for Southeast Raleigh Community Development Corporation, said it this way: "I would like to ask

the question, what economic benefits do the supporters of the amphitheater perceive of as going to the African-American community? To our understanding the construction, the company, the concessions are all controlled by people outside the community. So, the only jobs that could possibly be left are selling hot dogs, and then, not even as an owner, but another level of low paying jobs."

Ms. Alexander also said noise and traffic would be a problem. "It seems contemptuous for that size amphitheater in a residential communi-

ty. The noise and traffic is too much for a residential community to bear."

Tom McCormick, city attorney, said he did not know any key positions that would be held at the facility. Rodney Eckerman, executive vice president of PACE Entertainment Group has announced major staff positions with Wilson Rogers, who previously was the general manager at Coca-Cola Star Lake Amphitheater in Pittsburgh, Pa., as general manager Bob Klaus as marketing director. Walt Lederle, formerly general manager of Mud Island Am-

phitheater in Memphis, Tenn., has been appointed director of the operations.

Sterling Goodwin, chairman of Southeast Raleigh Community Development Corporation said what the city and private developer have done is legal. "However, the concerns I have are what impact economically the facility will have on Southeast Raleigh. That has not been sufficient."

(See AMPHITHEATER, P. 2)

**Black Group Urges Court Save Gun Law**

**Prohibit Sales Of Machine Guns**

BY CHESTER HIGGINS, SR.  
Declaring that "America's young Black men are under the gun," Moses Ector, president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, has called on the United States Supreme Court not to consider the National Rifle Assn. request to unfreeze a law prohibiting private citizens from selling or owning machine guns manufactured after May 19, 1986.

Flanked by officials of several other law enforcement organizations, Ector made the announcement at a news conference, called in Washington, D.C. He emphasized that "unfreezing this gun law would increase the availability of weapons of death" that are devastating America's Black communities.

The suit, J. D. Farmer v. Stephen E. Higgins, is an NRA-supported litigation on behalf of a machine gun manufacturer against Higgins, the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco

(See GUN LAW, P. 2)

## False Returns Filed Man Convicted On Tax Charges

**Inflated Refunds, Credits**

A local income tax preparer pled guilty to two counts of aiding and abetting in the preparation and filing of false income tax returns in U.S. District Court in Raleigh on Wednesday.

According to U.S. Attorney Margaret Person Currin, the defendant, Rudolph A. Sharpe, of 917 Seabrook Road, Raleigh, admitted inflating the tax refunds due clients by fraudulently claiming earned income credits. As a result of the scheme, Sharpe fraudulently obtained thousands of dollars in tax refunds.

Sharpe's scheme included having his clients sign blank tax documents and paying them a portion of the refund to which they were entitled. However, the tax returns filed for the clients falsely claimed credits and refunds which the clients were unaware of and did not qualify for. The refund checks were mailed directly to post office boxes controlled by Sharpe around the Raleigh area.

At the time of the fraudulently filed returns, Sharpe owned and operated the offices of Professional Income Tax Service, Suite 7, 817 New Bern Avenue.

"Sharpe knowingly took advantage of a tax credit for the low-income taxpayer for personal gain," said Paul Machalek, chief, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.

U.S. Attorney Currin said, "At sentencing, Sharpe could receive up to \$500,000 in fines and/or a six-year prison term."

An April 1 sentencing date has been

(See CRIME, P. 2)



**DISTRESS CALL**—The Health Professionals Coalition has proposed a \$600 million loan-and-grant fund to aid the hospitals over a five year period. Congressman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) agreed with members of the coalition that this may well be their only hope for survival. Pictured, (l. to r.) Dr. David Satcher, President of Meharry Medical School; Congressman, Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) and Joseph Lowery, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

## Private Black Hospitals Sending Financial Distress Call To Bush

**NEW YORK, N.Y.**—Health professionals from 11 historically private black hospitals sent a financial distress call to the Bush administration last month.

At a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, 11 black hospital professionals, members of the Coalition on Black Hospitals and Health Services, said their institutions were in terrible financial trouble and would not be able to continue operating much longer without financial help. The hospitals predominantly service the "poor." "The present health care

system fails in that it rewards [hospitals] who ignore the poor and offers no encouragement or support to health care providers who treat them," said Dr. David Satcher, president of Meharry Medical School.

Hospital administrators are concerned that Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, a major source of income, does not pay the cost of providing health care today. Hospitals are also faced with having to care for increasing numbers of uninsured patients. "These black institutions take in the poor, the homeless and some of the most needy people without hav-

ing the adequate financial resources to service them," said Joseph Lowery, distinguished civil rights leader and president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The coalition has proposed a \$600 million loan-and-grant fund to aid the hospitals over a five-year period. Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) agreed with members of the coalition that this may well be their only hope for survival.

"The loan-and-grant would be used to help black hospitals develop ways

(See HOSPITALS, P. 2)

## Study Shows U.S. Has High Lock-Up Rates

**Policy Shifts For Commission**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The United States now has the highest recorded rate of imprisonment of any nation in the world, according to a new report by the Sentencing Project. With more than one million inmates in prison and jail, the United States surpasses both South Africa and the Soviet Union, the previous leaders.

The study also found that black males in the United States are imprisoned at a rate four times that of black males in South Africa: 3,109 out of every 100,000, as compared to 729.

The annual cost of incarceration for the United States was estimated at \$16 billion, and for the estimated 454,724 black male prisoners, almost \$7 billion.

"Despite all the claims, the same politics that have helped make us a world leader in incarceration have clearly failed to make us a safer nation" stated Marc Mauer, assistant director of the Sentencing Project and author of the report. "We need a fundamental change of direction, toward proven programs and policies that work to reduce both imprisonment and crime."

The study, "Americans Behind Bars: A Comparison of International Rates of Incarceration," found that per 100,000 population, the United States incarcerates 426 people, South Africa 333, and the Soviet Union 268. A doubling of the U.S. prison and jail populations in the last decade has moved this country into the leading position. The report contends that U.S. criminal justice policies have unnecessarily contributed to the world-record imprisonment rates.

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) stated, "This report illustrates the long-term effect of the draconian criminal justice policies the United States has been implementing over the past decade, and is indicative of policies that have failed our people."

The Sentencing Project report calls

(See PRISON RATE, P. 2)

**INSIDE AFRICA**

Representatives from more than 40 African-American organizations with interest in Africa gathered recently at the Africare House in Washington, D.C., to meet with representatives of the Organization of African Unity, and to consider strategies for building a constituency for Africa in the United States. Groups represented at the meeting included Alpha Kappa Alpha and Sigma Gamma Rho sororities, Delta Research and Educational Foundation, the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, Jack and Jill of America, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Links, National Council of Negro Women, the African Development Foundation, TransAfrica and Africare.

Representing the OAU, a coordinating body for African countries, was the executive secretary, Ambassador Ibrahim Sy from Senegal, and the political advisor, Dr. Solomon Gomez from the Cameroon.

Presenters providing African-American perspectives were Dr. Samuel Myers of the National Alliance for Educational Opportunities, Luci Thomas representing the National Council of Negro Women, Rev. Jonathan Weaver, the executive director of the Service and Development Agency of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Melvin Foote, the director for constituency development for Africare.

Much of the discussion focused on the importance of cultural, economic and informational linkages between African-Americans and Africans on the continent. Attention was also given to defining the role the African-

(See INSIDE AFRICA, P. 2)

## 200-Year-Old Bill Of Rights Comes To Raleigh By Caravan

**NEW YORK, N.Y.**—A 200-year-old original, scribed copy of the Bill of Rights will arrive in Raleigh on Jan. 13, transported in a 20th century, high-tech caravan, as part of a 50-state tour of the priceless document presented by Philip Morris Companies, Inc.

Virginia's original copy of the Bill of Rights is the centerpiece of a 75,000-square-foot multimedia exhibit which will be on display free of charge at the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center Jan. 13 from noon to 10 p.m. and Jan. 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Steeped in history but interspersed with contemporary issues, the sights and sounds of the exhibit surround visitors with a sense of the document's past and an appreciation of its ever-changing nature in modern-day society.

"Without question, a tour of this

(See BILL OF RIGHTS P. 2)

magnitude is a major logistical undertaking," said Guy L. Smith, vice president of corporate affairs for Philip Morris Companies, Inc. "Just to move this mammoth exhibit and provide complete security, a caravan of vehicles—tractor-trailers, vans, buses and a custom-built secure transport vehicle—is required. To our knowledge, no exhibit or special event of this proportion has ever visited all 50 states."

The space-age pavilion, designed by the award-winning producers of special effects and display technologies, Associates and Ferrin, presents a dramatic montage of graphic displays, contemporary video segments and film clips from movie classics such as "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "Twelve Angry Men" and "The Grapes of Wrath."

(See BILL OF RIGHTS P. 2)



**CONCERN FOR INMATES**—Pictured here are Soprano Coppedge at Triangle Correctional Institution, Raleigh, Willie Jordan receiving presentation from Assistant Superintendent Raymond C. Perry and Chaplain Luther inmates. (Photo by Chris Hinton)