

END WAR

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against Iraq. Protesters say the money could be better used to fight domestic woes such as affordable housing, AIDS, drug abuse and teen pregnancy.

A handbill released by the Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East which organized a march on Washington over the weekend declared "our fight is here at home to create peace, end U.S. military expenditures, stop racism, and for jobs, education, health care, housing and to end AIDS."

Many activists are careful to declare their support for U.S. troops in the war zone, but not the policies that placed them overseas. Some say the U.S. was not necessarily wrong to go to war, but too hasty.

Critics of the military spending point out that U.S. foreign policy and its defense industries helped create Saddam Hussein in the first place because of his war against Iran.

According to a Washington Post-ABC News poll, there is a considerable difference in black and white support of the United States' presence in Saudi Arabia. The poll showed that 45 percent of blacks approved of Bush's handling of the crisis compared with 62 percent of whites. Many saw the armed forces as the only positive option for themselves. Howard Wesley, a Duke freshman, said some blacks had limited opportunities and served in the armed forces as a way to earn a college education.

"If you don't go to (work for) McDonald's, you have to go to the service, and now President Bush has sent our black troops over to get killed. That means we won't have any black men left who are trying to make something out of themselves."

Eric T. Dozier, 21, president of the Black Student Alliance, said the group would not repeat the actions of some Vietnam-era protesters who had lashed out at soldiers returning from battle. "I refuse to criticize the troops for something they have to do. We support the troops. It's the policy we don't."

In Washington, President Bush, worried that further missiles fired at Tel Aviv and Haifa would bring Israel into the gulf war and complicate holding the allied coalition together, said the effort to knock out the missile launchers was "the dandiest search-and-destroy operation ever undertaken."

In a news conference statement, Bush said, "I want to state here publicly how much I appreciated Israel's restraint from the outset, really from the very beginning of the crisis. Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Shamir and his government have shown great understanding for the interests of the United States, and the interest of others involved in this... coalition."

Bush also sought to prepare the nation for a prolonged Persian Gulf war against Iraq, with many casualties. "We must be realistic," he said. "There will be losses. There will be obstacles along the way. And war is never cheap or easy." "U.S. troops are facing an Iraqi war machine built up over a decade," said Bush, "and we can't expect to overcome it overnight, especially as we want to minimize casualties to the U.S. and coalition forces and minimize any harm done to innocent civilians."

Bush's cautionary remarks were a clear effort to prepare the American people for the ground war almost certain to follow the massive air strikes.

IRAQ

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for it."

That action did indeed come that night when at least seven Iraqi SCUD ballistic missiles were launched against targets in Israel and one was targeted at a city in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Arabian missile was destroyed by one of the Saudis' new anti-aircraft missile batteries.

Meanwhile, with the intelligence that has been gathered about the willingness of Saddam Hussein to inflict pain and suffering on those around him in order to achieve his objective, the U.S. State Department says in a published report that it will pay for information that "frustrates or prevents" this strategy. According to news sources, the State Department is willing to pay \$2 million.

It has also been reported that the FBI is seeking to find approximately 3,100 Iraqis in the United States with expired visas. During the early stages of the war, at least, some analysts think the Iraqi threat has been overestimated.

Vincent Cannistraro of the National Strategy Information and the CIA's Counter Terrorism Center, however, thinks the United States is ripe as a potential target for terrorism.

DR. KING

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would denounce them. I disagreed. Sad stories do provoke guilt but guilt doesn't change behavior if there are also rewards that result from the behavior. A substance abuser may feel guilty after he's engaged in a drugging weekend but he is motivated by the high until he has an understanding of the underlying "sickness" that causes him to risk

death in order to feel good.

For this reason there was an exodus from the civil rights movement on the part of liberal whites when African-American people began to talk about black pride, power and beauty. The guilt created a missionary mentality that was motivated by sympathy rather than a consciousness of the illness of believing that one is better by virtue of skin color. Unwilling to give up the position of superiority, many whites began to see the Malcolms, Stokeleys, H. Rap Browns, Kathleen Cleavers and Angela Davises as outside agitators bent on destroying the peaceful climate of the '60s.

What was missed on the part of these people, later to be called liberal racists or paternal racists, was that the '60s represented non-violence only on the part of the demonstrators. People were hosed, spat upon, jailed and beaten, killed and bombed not because they were violent, but because they marched and sang to protest equality.

The '60s were unsuccessful in squelching racism not because of Vietnam, equal rights for women or gay protesters, but because the hearts and minds of people refused to change. Black people never did become violent against racism. Even the Panthers were armed against attack and even they were violently assassinated.

Though I continue to hold to the principles of non-violence, I also continue to hold to the principle that racism must be extinguished in the hearts and minds of those who hold the views and behaviors. For this reason my answers were different to the two questions I began this article with.

I agreed to discussing and presenting Kwanaa as a demonstration when the teacher agreed that in ensuing years she would continue it. I did not agree to the second request because the teacher who asked had asked for a second time after agreeing that she would seek a Caucasian to speak this year. Bless her heart, she cajoled, "Please... No. 'But you did such a good job last year.' 'Yes I did but there surely are others... Listen," I said, "I love you but I will not confuse children on the issues of racism. You see, if the only people who revere the dream of Martin Luther King are black people, injustice is what continues to pour down like mighty waters.

"Martin Luther King's Day becomes in the minds of white children a holiday for black people and they, being more affected by what they see than what they hear, can't figure out what this all has to do with them. If there are no white people who are willing to take on the responsibility of teaching their children how bad for them that it is to hold racist views, then they are teaching these children that racism only affects black people and it's only half bad.

"The only thing I can do under these circumstances is to be the best person I can be and in my relationship with them directly show the ridiculousness of racism."

After Mandela's visit, a surge of tee shirts sprang up in African-America. The words, "Martin, Malcolm, Mandela and Me" are splashed all over them. I know what this phrase means. I hope our children do. It's a daily commitment, folks, not the sentimentality and excitement of one day off. Two of these men gave their very lives for speaking the truth of human equality. One man gave up 27 years of his life for it. Even that is not true. These men died and the other was jailed not because of what they did but because of what others did to them. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "I think the greatest victory of this period was something internal. The real victory was what this period did to the psyche of the black man. The greatness of this period was that we armed ourselves with dignity and self-respect. The greatness of this period was that we straightened our backs up. And a man can't ride your back unless it's bent." These words were spoken prior to 1968. I wish we could say them today with the same conviction.

Too often I see evidence that too many who rose to opportunity on the straightened backs of our people have chosen to use those same opportunities and positions to bend over and expose their rears to the communities that nurtured and supported them. Unfortunately because of our "compassionate, non-violent natures, they've not felt the "kicks" that their positions invite.

Frankly, even now, my energy continues not to be wasted on what it would take to educate them into the position Martin spoke of, but there still remains hope in teaching those who sport the tee-shirts, "Martin, Malcolm, Mandela and Me."

CRIME

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house arrest is a complex and inter-related process. For that reason, he said it will take several months before the effects of the expansion will be felt.

According to Pateavouras, the shifting of offenders from electronic house arrest to regular supervision, the next less restrictive level of supervision, has created a temporary drop in the number of persons under electronic supervision. The total number of persons under electronic supervision has dropped from a high of approximately 1,100 in September

to just 850 at the start of the new year.

With the opening of regional monitoring stations in Raleigh and Winston-Salem, more than 3,000 offenders can be electronically supervised statewide. Pateavouras said he doesn't expect the program to reach capacity until the second half of the year.

Pateavouras added that the problem of prison overcrowding continues to undermine efforts to fill alternative programs. Under the state constitution, participation in community-based punishment programs is voluntary. Because of the pressure placed on the state Parole Commission to stabilize the prison population, many offenders are choosing incarceration over alternatives in the belief they will be released from supervision earlier.

Gov. Martin has noted that a constitutional amendment permitting the imposition of alternative punishment programs would be useful, but only if there is sufficient prison capacity to make the consequences of failing to follow the rules credible. Without what the governor has called "an alternative to the alternatives," he believes offenders have little motivation to follow the conditions established by the courts or the Parole Commission.

This problem has been most in evidence in the IMPACT program, which has never reached its full capacity since it began operation in October 1989. With some misdemeanants spending a little over a month in prison, there is little motivation for them to choose to participate in a tough, three-month boot camp experience.

In an effort to better utilize this program, IMPACT recently has been converted from an inmate to a probation program. It is scheduled to accept its first class of probationers on Jan. 21. It will continue to be operated by the Division of Prisons under contract with the Division of Adult Probation and Parole.

"North Carolina has expanded its alternative punishment programs further and faster than any other state," Pateavouras said. "It is only natural that we will have to make adjustments to these programs as we gain experience in their operation.

"We will continue our efforts to educate about these expanded programs," he said. "They provide the judiciary with statewide sentencing options they have long sought."

PLANS CHANGES

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under the Environment Committee.

According to House custom, a speaker can increase or decrease the number of House committees, but the changes are subject to the approval of the House Rules Committee and the full House.

The new committee structure retains some parts of the system put together by Mavretic and also returns in part to an order structure used under former Speaker Liston B. Ramsey.

In the last session, when Mavretic was speaker, the five Judiciary subcommittees handed out 422 bills, of which 179 were ratified. Each of those bills first had to win the approval of a subcommittee and the full committee before going to the floor.

In replacing all of Mavretic's staff, Blue will be exercising his prerogative as speaker. "It's basically just to have the flexibility to start anew and analyze what the speaker's staff should be," Blue said.

Two of the employees, Jean Mims and Nan Z. Mobley, are administrative assistants who had worked for Ramsey. Ms. Mims handles correspondence and the speaker's appointments to state boards and commissions, while Ms. Mobley handles correspondence and coordinates House pages.

With his educational background, loyalties and support in both black and white communities, and his determination to "help all North Carolinians," Blue is considered "the individual" who can bring together both blacks and whites. He demonstrated his diplomatic skill when two warring groups stalemated on the election of the House speaker, and he was picked to fill the void. In the overwhelming win, he gained all 78 Democratic votes and the promise of an additional 30 GOP votes.

In his acceptance speech, Blue promised to "bring together young and old, urban and rural, coastal and plain, piedmont and mountain, and rich and poor." But he didn't mention "black and white." He maintained that some politicians have used race to divide rather than unite people.

Blue and his wife Edna have been married for 19 years and have three teenage children.

INSIDE AFRICA

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equities and underdevelopment.

Makoni also stressed that the U.S. constituency—especially the African-American community—which played a pivotal role in the anti-apartheid struggle—could be a vital force in the development and economic liberation of the region.

Evidence of that is the successful push by members of the Congressional Black Caucus to address the disparity in U.S. foreign assistance. The 1991 appropriation for African development was increased from \$573 million to \$600 million.

The entire African continent still

receives a tiny fraction of U.S. foreign aid. For example, the small country Israel receives more than \$3 billion annually in economic and military aid, compared to the \$50 million slated for the 10 SADCC countries. That allocation is less than the current U.S. covert aid given to UNITA, the movement fighting to overthrow the Angolan government.

"With or without apartheid there is still the enormous need for support and solidarity for the development movement of Southern Africa," Makoni insisted.

FOSTER PARENT

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home with their family. Many of the children in foster care have been victims of abuse and neglect. All have suffered tremendous losses in their lives and need to live with caring people who can give them a safe and loving home.

Anita's interest in foster care was sparked in several ways. Anita felt she had a special love that she wanted to share with children in need, and she also felt that she had an obligation to be a role model in the black community. When she first heard about foster care, Anita said to herself, "This is just what I am looking for." She attended an informational meeting and later went on to attend an additional series of meetings in order to prepare herself for the job of caring for children in foster care.

Now 26, Ms. Weatherspoon is busy changing diapers and revolving her life around an active little two-year-old. Life is more hectic, but Anita says the joys and rewards far outweigh the difficulties. "I gave up many things to become a single foster parent, but I don't feel that I could have made a better choice," she said. "I want to make a difference in my community and in the lives of the children I touch. Just seeing the children smile and laugh, getting their hugs is so special. This is what keeps me going in my heart."

Anita wants to be a positive role model for children and parents who are going through a difficult period of time. She says, "I am here to give support and guidance to those that enter my life."

Anita is one of about 110 foster parents in Wake County. At any given time there are more than 300 children in foster care. The youngsters range in age from infants to teenagers. The one thing all have in common is a need for foster parents who can provide them with stable and nurturing homes. Foster parents come from all walks of life. Some are single like Anita, some have children at home, others are childless. All are special people who care about children and have the ability to help youngsters during a difficult period of time.

Anita is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Weatherspoon of Gary, Ind. She has a sister, Tanya, and a brother, Davey, who is now serving in Saudi Arabia. Anita is a graduate of St. Augustine's College in Raleigh.

For more information about foster care, call Tina Martin at 856-7474.

ARTS AWARD

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Mooney, McLeod is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric McLeod of 1913 Barwell Road in Raleigh.

McLeod, along with five other arts contest award recipients, was a guest of honor at the annual NCAE Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet held in Raleigh on Friday, Jan. 11. He was presented with a plaque during banquet ceremonies for his first-place entry.

The Arts Contest is sponsored annually by the NCAE Minority Affairs Commission. Competition is open to all students in grades K-12.

USS Raleigh Says Thanks For City Caring

The City of Raleigh recently received a letter of thanks from the USS Raleigh, now stationed in the Persian Gulf.

The letter came after the City of Raleigh sent mugs and label pins to the ship to show support for the 400 officers and crew aboard the city's namesake. The city also sent greetings and good wishes from citizens.

Capt. R.J. McCarthy, commanding officer of the USS Raleigh, wrote:

"Nothing can raise the spirits of the crew more than to receive support from home. Your gifts helped us all to realize that, during this time of national crisis, we are not forgotten. Raleigh fever is running high aboard ship, and the crew feels a stronger tie to our namesake city."

In response to Capt. McCarthy's comments, Raleigh Mayor Avery C. Upchurch said, "We are proud and supportive of all our forces serving in the Middle East. But we are especially proud of the crew of the USS Raleigh. And we are glad we were able to send these expressions of our pride and caring to them."

WILLIAMSTON WHISTLINGS

BY JOYCE GRAY

WILLIAMSTON—When we start to settle down after a big holiday and think we've heard from everyone we had upon our mailing list to send greetings, it is always a delight to open a letter or greeting card from that person whom we thought of, but didn't know an address to send a greeting.

In any case, it was back in 1988 that I last heard from Rev. Melvin Williams who stated he was on his way to New York from East St. Louis and moving onwards after then. Since then, I, too, have moved. So it was indeed a pleasure when the post office forwarded this letter because there were so many uplifting words within... praising God for individual ministries, being richly nourished by families and friends... Prayers for insights that are revealed in different ways which can be shared with others.

Both husband and wife, Virginia, have been in the field of ministry for years and have worked across the United States sharing their knowledge of God with those who need someone, whether it be the elderly residents of a housing complex, a person who just needs someone to talk to or visit them. Rev. Williams volunteers at a children's center near his home and Ms. Williams serves as an outreach person to the Filipinos in the Tri-City area. She holds three Bible study classes, assists newcomers to find jobs, helps children who have just come from the Philippines and are having difficulties in school.

The Williamses' daughters, Ruth and Lydia, are both adults now. Ruth is married and adding a third grandchild to the family tree while Lydia works in a school district in Austin, Texas.

I love hearing from folks who lead meaningful lives trying to share God's love. It was a prayer answered as I saw the letter's return address—Yes, God does answer prayer.

Another person in Williamston whose heart was made glad beyond Christmas Day was Ms. Shirley Respass. She and her husband Gilbert celebrated their wedding anniversary on Christmas Day quietly at home with family, but one grandson was missing because of his college schedule.

Christopher J. Respass, a sophomore at Morehouse in Atlanta, Ga., found he could stay at home a little longer if he waited until after Christmas. So he added joy to his family's heart with his visit. Of course, being a concerned person, he called to let them know he arrived back to school safely.

With an average of 4.0, this young man has made the Dean's List twice. His parents are Harry and Gloria Respass of Williamston. His maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Taylor of Durham.

New officers and chairmen of committees in each North Carolina State NAACP branch are urged to attend the winter meeting on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1-2.

This year's meeting will consist of a seminar series on Friday and Saturday titled "Workforce 2000 and the Black Family." This is a time for getting some of these questions about branch operations answered. Following the seminar will be the Kelly M. Alexander, Sr. Humanitarian Award Banquet starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Sheraton Hotel, Greensboro. Persons planning to attend should make their reservation with the state executive office immediately.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Taylor, Delaware residents, were in Roper visiting Ms. Taylor's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Stokes, and other relatives. It was another big holiday festival on New Year's Day as they rejoiced in being together and on Jan. 2 celebrated Ms. Stokes' birthday also.

Serving in the U.S. military now, Ms. Taylor, the former Ms. Menina Stokes; Taylor and son Anthony were very much missed at the Christmas dinner table with all of the other younger generations within the Stokes/Wilkins family.

Folks are reminded that those young men and women recently sent overseas in Operation Desert Shield now need some support from those back home—letters, letters, letters. They love the mail call time and a cheerful letter from home can be uplifting. Of course, those still within the States need to know they are being thought of, too. Facing the unknown can bring about fear, so those of you who can—do your share in writing during these trying days.

Hyde County contact person has asked to host the next First Congressional District Black Leadership Caucus meeting on Jan. 26. For location, please contact Ms. Ida Murray at (919) 925-1021.

Students interested in applying for one of the NAACP scholarships should submit a written request for an application with an indication of scholarship name on their envelope. Deadline date for applications and accompanying documents is April 30. Students interested in becoming a

member of the NAACP should contact their local branch or the membership department at the national headquarters.

Scholarships now available are: the Agnes Jones Scholarship, awarded to undergraduate and graduate students who have been current regular members of the NAACP for at least one year or fully paid life members. Applicants must not have reached the age of 25 by the deadline of April 30. Undergraduate students must possess a grade point average of at least 2.5 and graduate students must possess a 3.0 or B average.

The Roy Wilkins Scholarship is awarded to graduating high school seniors only who are members of the NAACP. They must possess at least a grade-point average of 2.5 or C+.

The NAACP Willemas Scholarship is awarded to students who are majoring in engineering, chemistry, physics, computer and mathematical sciences. Applicants must possess a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.0 or B and must be members of the NAACP. Undergraduates will receive a maximum award of \$8,000 to be paid in annual installments of \$2,000. Graduates will be awarded a \$3,000 scholarship which can be renewed.

The contact person in the National Education Department is Gaynell Guice.

Ms. Barbara J. Reed and sons, Erik and Jaymea of Aurora, visited her parents and their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jones on Carolina Avenue, in Williamston during the holidays. Also visiting were Jones' sisters, Ms. Evelyn Outlaw, Philadelphia, Pa.; Ms. Annie Marie Jones of Fayetteville; Ms. Ernestine Woods of Greenville; and a nephew of Jones, James Staton, Ladon, S.C.

Happy birthday greetings to Maj. Annie Daniels, John Shannonhouse, Ms. Mildred Jones, Ms. Mary J. White, Ms. LaTaya Bownes, Hayward Harris, Samuel Lee, Sr., Ms. Cleo R. Lee, Ms. Sherilyn L. James, and Ms. Artie L. Manson.

Congratulations to Mt. Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church on the completion of its life membership in the Martin County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. I'm sure that the pastor, Rev. Kenneth Hammond, the officers and members all feel very good about taking such a major step. We are very grateful for this added and much-needed support.

New business is about to line the right side of Hwy. 13 North. Of course that mailing address shall be known as East Boulevard in Williamston. One of those businesses, according to signs, is Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Doors are to open early this year and there has been a commitment by Wal-Mart's founder and chairman, Sam M. Walton, to buy American-made merchandise. Seems that's a step to help keep Americans at home and in a job.

Over the past several years, it has been a task when shopping to find items made in these United States. Maybe this store will give those who want to support the Buy American program a fairer chance to support their neighbors, friends and relatives who want to work. Hopefully, other stores will see the light also.

On the recovery list since some surgery is Ricky Grimes of Route 3. Recovering also is Ms. Annie "Eula" Perry at home now.

On the sick and shut-in list: Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Winburn, Bertie County; Ms. Grace P. Smithwick, Mr. and Mrs. George T. Hyman, Ms. Armaza C. Roberson, Frederick Bennett, Ms. Zara Chance, Ms. Rachel H. Lyons, Ms. Mattie H. Perry, Ms. Marie Biggs, Ms. Roxie West, Alton Bell, George A. Perry, Sam Brown, Joe Biggs, Mr. and Mrs. James Marriner, Ms. Annabel Best, Ms. Rose Mary Biggs, Ms. Mammie Keyes. Busy taking some therapy in Pitt County lately is Lee E. Slade. Calvin Rodgers, Ms. Ida J. Rodgers, Ms. Betty S. Lanier, David B. Figgins.

In Plymouth are Ms. Pauline Brown and Ms. Esther Roberts. In Roper is Rudolph Wilkins.

The First Congressional District Black Leadership Caucus was saddened on Thursday, Jan. 10, when they received news that their third vice president, James Pugh, Lewiston's wife Juanita had departed this life, suffering a heart attack suddenly. Ms. Pugh's remains were entrusted to the services of Cherry's Funeral Home, East George Street, Windsor.

Services were conducted Sunday, Jan. 13, at 2:30 p.m. at Spring Hill Church on Indian Woods Road.

People must eat—some, once a day, others, twice a day... So, why then is Williamston's most recently opened restaurant in trouble? Why would fellow church members not make it a habit to eat at least one meal a week there? Is the pastor encouraging the membership and/or congregation on Sunday mornings to "remember our sister over there by

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