



**A \$15.5 MILLION OFFER**—Reviewing the terms of the \$15.5 million job corps contract with AKA officials is Gordon Carlson (c), director of Region V for the Department of Labor. Attending the briefing (l.-r.) were Alison A. Harris, executive director; Mary Shy Scott, president; Eva Evans, first vice-president; and Joyce Jackson, center director, effective Feb. 1.

## AKA's Get Contract To Operate Cleveland Job Corps Centers

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., a 120,000-member service organization, has received a \$15.5 million federal contract to operate the Cleveland Job Corps Center (Ohio) for a two-year period beginning Feb. 1.

AKA is one of only four black and two female contractors chosen to operate one of the nation's more than 100 centers, which provide basic education, vocational training, housing and work experience for disadvantaged youths.

With slots for 530 corpsmembers, the Cleveland Center is a mid-size facility. While there are four centers with slots for more than 1,000, the size of the others ranges from 125 to 735.

AKA first received a contract to operate the Cleveland Center in 1985, but for the past 10 years has survived strong challenges from giant corporations which operate most of the centers.

Mary Shy Scott, AKA international president, said she was particularly pleased to have received the contract at this period in history. "It is critical now more than ever that these at-risk youths be given a second chance, and despite federal cutbacks and the recession, this contract ensures that AKA can continue to provide that second chance and make a positive difference in their lives," Ms. Scott said.

In addition to offering vocational training in career areas from child

care to accounting, the program provides the opportunity for corpsmembers who do not have a high school diploma to earn a GED and gives those who have a diploma the chance to earn college credit.

While all centers provide a core curriculum and basic services, Ms. Scott said that corpsmembers at the Cleveland Center receive an additional benefit because AKA members are actively involved in the center. "We provide special, personal touches," Ms. Scott said.

Such touches include celebrations and events which are held at the center, care packages, scholarships which AKA sets aside for corpsmembers, and social and etiquette workshops and/or experiences.

fake \$100 bill from say, a friend as payment for some service, you are out of luck. Your only choice would be to press charges against your friend for passing bad bills and then seek to collect payment through small claims court.

There are ways to spot counterfeit bills, however, and just as the banks and merchants are protecting themselves, so should the average citizen.

Here is what to look for:  
 • Check the serial numbers on the bill. The serial numbers on counterfeit bills sometimes are improperly spaced and aligned.

• Beware of odd coloring on the bill. Red and blue fibers are imbedded in authentic bills. Counterfeit bills may have red and blue fibers simulated by surface printing.  
 • Check the Federal Reserve seal, which has a large "J" in the middle. If the bill is counterfeit, the saw-tooth points on the circumference of the seal likely will be uneven, blunt or broken off.

• Examine the portrait of Ben Franklin. The portrait should be clear and vivid unless the bill is obviously worn through years of use. The portrait on counterfeit bills appears to be lifeless and merges into the background, with the hairlines indistinct.

## AKA Celebrates Founders Day In January

Sunday, Jan. 13, marked an extraordinary Founders' Day program celebrated by Sigma Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., of Cary.

Chapter members and guests united in worship service at the historic St. Paul AME Church in the city.

The affair was held at the Velvet Cloak Inn in Raleigh. Basileus Robin D. Whitaker conducted the program and rededication ceremony. The sorors then listened to an inspirational message from guest speaker Soror Lucille Piggott, a former Mid-Atlantic regional director for the (See FOUNDER'S DAY, P. 18)

## \$100 Bills Become Stare To Store Clerks

BY BARRY COOPER

If you walk into a grocery store to buy, say, a carton of eggs and a gallon of milk with a \$100 bill as payment, you can expect a mighty strong stare from the sales clerk. That is because the \$100 bill has developed a bad rap. It has become a good way of drawing attention to yourself.

Merchants are so afraid of taking in counterfeit bills that many are reluctant to accept \$100 bills. In South Florida, where the drug trade is heavy, some banks are requiring customers to have an account before cashing \$100 bills. Other banks are

forcing customers to sign affidavits declaring that the bills aren't fake.

Even some post offices are requiring driver's licenses before taking the \$100 bill.

This paranoia over the \$100 bill could be wide-ranging as more and more merchants seek to help cut losses, what with the country apparently headed into a recession.

The issue could affect the average man or woman, too. "If the bill is bad, whoever holding it is stuck," said an official with the United States Postal Service.

That means that if you take in a



**RENEWED VIEW**—At 72 years of age, Josephine Holland firmly believes it's never too late to learn. In spite of health problems which include a hearing impairment and poor vision, Holland enrolled in a new literacy program at the Opportunities Industrialization Center of South East Texas (OIC/SET). Ms. Holland, whose formal education had only taken her to the eighth grade, saw a poster advertising the "Literacy Pass It On" program.

## Scams On Rise With New Advertising

BY BARRY COOPER

There are some folks out there who are spending a lot of time these days trying to think of ways to separate you from your hard-earned dollars. Here are some scams to look out for:

• "One-shot" credit cards. Some companies have begun marketing credit cards that may seem just like the major credit card issued by your bank. But be careful before paying any fee for these cards. Consumers around the country who have paid as little as \$35 for the cards have discovered that the cards are good only to buy products from a specific department store or catalog. And often the merchandise made available for sale is at an inflated price, and the credit card carries a higher interest rate than other cards. Companies marketing these "one-shot," "guaranteed approval" cards

generally aim their advertising at consumers who have credit problems or low income.

If you are looking around for a credit card, stay with the names you are familiar with. Even consumers with poor credit can obtain one of the major cards. You will have to place some money in a bank—at least \$500—for collateral, and the interest rate likely will be slightly higher. But you will have a legitimate credit card that is accepted worldwide, and by making your payments on time, you will be improving your credit.

• Bogus health-care products. Some ripoff artists are targeting elderly people, promising them that a cure has been found for various ailments such as arthritis or impotence. Some senior citizens have fallen for these scams, only to find themselves having purchased \$600

worth of vitamins. See a doctor before buying any expensive health-care items.

• Work-at-home schemes. Consumers should carefully investigate any work-at-home offers that seem too good to be true. There are many such scams today, ranging from advertisements seeking housewives to address envelopes at home for \$10 an hour, or for people to assemble kids' toys on commission.

One recent advertisement offered \$10 an hour for people who would agree to stay at home and take credit applications for a company. In nearly every case, all such offers should be avoided. Consumers end up paying fees to the company for materials, and that is the extent of the scam.

For example, in the case of the toys scam, consumers are asked to buy hundreds of dollars worth of toy parts

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## Reinvestments in the Community

### GROUPS TOLD TO USE SAVINGS IN SELF-HELP PLANS

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports  
 National black organizations across the United States are being urged to either scale back or cancel their 1992 conventions and use those dollars in a self-help economic development plan.

The proposal is being advanced by television journalist Tony Brown, who is the host of "Tony Brown's Journal" on Public Television.

"Each year, 150 national black organizations spend \$3 billion in white hotels discussing white racism and black poverty," said Brown.

He pointed out black groups should redirect convention dollars that would have been spent on travel, meals, lodging and entertainment to form a capital base for new business enterprises. Buying hotels would be a start.

"This is a self-initiating wealth creation program. In effect, we are rechanneling our own wealth back into the community," Brown said. "We can't rely

any longer on government programs to stimulate our business economy."

Brown said he selected hotels as the first phase of the plan, "because there is a definite need on our part to use them and they could create an immediate cash flow."

In 1993 black organizations would resume national conventions in those black hotels.

Economists and black organizations say Brown's convention plan is a progressive alternative to government programs for tackling social problems and promoting black financial independence. To date, no major black organization has canceled convention plans for 1992.

The National Association of Black Journalists, with 2,000 members, the Black Data Processing Associates, 500 members, the Tuskegee Alrmen, 650 members, and the Progressive National Baptist Convention, 10,000 members, are among groups that plan to hold '92 conventions in Detroit at the (See REINVESTMENT, P. 18)

"Reinvestments in the Community" is a weekly column appearing in API publications throughout the USA.

## NEA Conference Opens Up Major Planning, Tool

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Education Association will open up its two major conferences in 1991 for the first time to the full education community and to others who have an interest in technology and partnerships in education, announced NEA President Keith Geiger.

In the past NEA conferences, which explore new dimensions and trends in the education field, have been restricted to participation by its members.

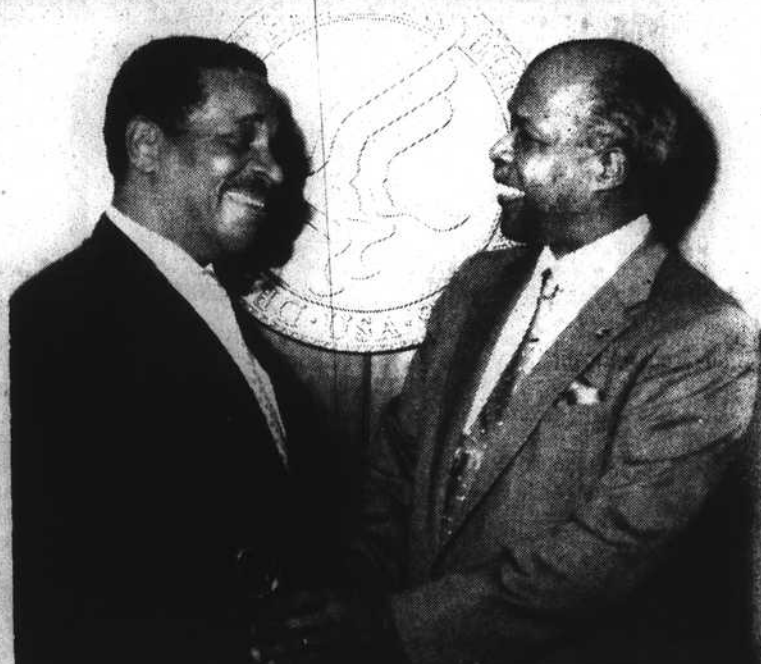
"If genuine education reform is going to happen, everyone has to buy in to it—from the planning stages to accepting responsibility for its implementation," Geiger said.

The first conference, set for San Francisco March 8-10, will examine public education's access to and use of technological advances.

"It's a revolution limited to the business sector so far. All segments of the public, our schools and our classroom teachers, must be acquainted with its dimensions and be allowed to participate," said Geiger.

The second conference, set for Pittsburgh April 19-21, will consider how all of the nation's resources can be mobilized to address the governors' national-education agenda goals.

(See NEA MEET, P. 18)



**CONFERS WITH AFRICARE**—Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., secretary of health and human services, conferred with C. Payne Lucas, executive director of Africare, before leaving on Jan. 4 to conduct a 17-day mission to eight African countries to assess child welfare and AIDS programs for President Bush. Africare is a Washington-based non-profit organization which works to improve the health, agriculture, water and environment throughout Africa.

## Host Families Needed For Foreign Students

The International Friendship Program at North Carolina State University has put out a call for volunteers to serve as host families for international students.

An orientation course for new hosts is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Jan. 24 in the Green Room of the NCSU University Student Center.

The IFP program has been a catalyst for cultural exchange since the 1970s. Host families help international students adjust to life in the United States, says IFP coordinator Louise Eiswirth.

Each semester she recruits volunteer hosts willing to make a one-year or one-semester commitment to befriend a student or student family. About 20 new hosts are needed to meet requests from international students arriving at NCSU for the spring semester.

"There are 1,100 international students at NCSU, representing 93 countries," Eiswirth said. "About 125 of them request host families each academic year. The first year far away from home and family is always the most difficult for them."

Hosts, who include single people, couples, people with children or retired people, are asked to help the students understand the American way of life, the language, customs and community.

Special events sponsored by the IFP help "break the ice" for hosts

and students alike, Eiswirth said. A Valentine social, planned for the NCSU University Student Center on Feb. 10, will introduce students to a slice of pure Americana—square dancing.

Ordinary activities can be mutually rewarding for host and students, Eiswirth added. One student helped her host pick strawberries at a local farm. Another helped put in a row of tomato plants in his host's backyard garden. Later, they all enjoyed the fruits of the harvest American-style—strawberry shortcake and tomato sandwiches.

Don Roberts, director of the NCSU International Student Office, said the IFP experience "always turns out to be a surprise" for the American hosts as well as the international students.

(See NEEDED, P. 18)

**INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT**—Eva M. Clayton, President of Technical Resources International, Ltd., and Commissioner of Warren County, with William Gibson, Center for Religion, Ethnic and Social Policy, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York will represent the Presbyterian Church (USA) as an international consultant on environment in Bern, Switzerland.

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