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**SPARC Program To Aid Students
On Academic, Athletic Skills**
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**Booze & Sports: A Losing
Combination**
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Pyramid Scheme Alleged

Dream Of Wealth Lure To Minority Investors

Melvin J. Ford, a former encyclopedia salesman from North Carolina on tours across the country has promised mainly blacks, Asians and other minorities that their dreams of riches can come true if they would invest their money with him and recruit their friends to do the same.

In less than three years, his international loan network (ILN) of Lanham has recruited about 45,000 members and taken in more than \$40 million, according to a report in the Washington Post.

At pep-rally like investmet seminars, Ford, a dynamic speaker, is often joined by other motivational speakers, such as the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, to enhance the organization's credibility.

This credibility is now under question by federal authorities and the State of North Carolina Justice Department who have temporarily shut down what they say was a pyramid scheme.

In an attempt to keep out of legal trouble, ILN recently entered into agreements with several states

where regulators have investigated whether his sales tactics violated laws governing investment activities.

"It is ILN's policy to fully cooperate with any regulatory inquiries," Andrew J. Sherman, an attorney for the firm said.

At least seven states have investigated ILN and the firm has agreed to give back more than \$1 million to Wisconsin and North Carolina investors, state officials said.

A federal judge in Washington, D.C. recently granted the request for

a temporary restraining order to freeze all of ILN's assets, to prohibit it from accepting funds from new investors, and to require it to return all monies it has deposited abroad.

The judge also ordered profits to be returned to investors.

The Securities Exchange Commission took the action against ILN of Lanham, Md., which claims 40,000 who were enticed by extravagant but allegedly fraudulent promises of financial gain.

The complaint named ILN

President Ford and ILN Vice President Odell Munday as the chief architects of the alleged fraud.

The Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Section in North Carolina received calls and letters of inquiry concerning ILN as early as October 1, 1990.

Attorney General Lacy H. Thornburg replied that ILN cannot offer its Property Acquisition Certificate (PAC) membership program in North Carolina until ILN is registered to sell securities in this state.

"Of the other services and benefits supposedly offered through the ILN Benefit Plan, its discount buying service has not as of this date met the statutory requirements to do business in North Carolina, and ILN is not bonded and registered to offer loan or mortgage services here," the office stated.

"North Carolina has a statute making it a criminal offense to offer, promote, or participate in pyramid or chain distribution schemes. The

(See PYRAMID, P. 2)

16-Year-Old Girl

Stabbed By Boyfriend

Victim In Critical Condition

A brought High School student was listed in critical condition Wednesday at the Raleigh Community Hospital following a stabbing incident.

A 21-year-old male has been charged with the attack.

Johnny Antonio Stewart is being held in the Wake County Jail on a \$50,000 secured bond.

According to officials at the jail Stewart is being held on the following charges: breaking and entering, assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill and inflicting serious injuries.

The arresting officer, D.K. Keith was not available for comment concerning the motive for the attack.

Jail officers said that the court date is set for June 3, at 9:00 a.m.

In other related news: Raleigh police have arrested two men in connectin with separate bank robberies in Raleigh last week, Police Lt. W. L. Baker said.

Anthony Jeffries, 31, of 416 N. Allen Drive, Wake Forest, was arrested Friday and charged with felony armed robbery in connection with the May 14 robbery of a Central Carolina Bank branch on Calumet Drive.

In that robbery, three men entered the bank and one demanded money. Police later received three baseball caps, a pair of rubber gloves and a

(See VICTIM, P. 2)

The North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus has announced plans for the sixth annual North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Weekend focusing on the theme, "New Horizons—Challenges for the '90s."

Special guests at the conference will be Rep. Daniel T. Blue, Jr., first black speaker of the N.C. House of Representatives, and Gov. Lawrence Douglas Wilder, first black governor of Virginia.

This year's conference will examine the issues affecting the African-American community and set guidelines for community leaders and the legislative delegations representing those communities to follow in addressing the issues.

Speaker Blue has served in the North Carolina House of Representatives since 1980, when he was elected as one of four legislators for Wake County. He has thus far served five terms, and has chaired several committees, as well as chairing the Legislative Black Caucus. Among the many awards he has received are the Outstanding Legislator Award from the N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers and from the N.C. Black Lawyers Association.

Wilder made history in the state of Virginia in 1989 when he was elected the first black governor by the voters. The election was the zenith of a long political career wherein it is understood that he earned the recognition he now has. Wilder is also being considered as a possible Democratic candidate for president in 1992.

Gov. Wilder's career spans 20 years of public service to Virginians, and as well, he is an established attorney, having been a founder in the firm of Wilder, Gregory and Martin.



BLUE

WILDER

Among the offices he held leading to his present position are: lieutenant governor of Virginia; chairman of the National Democratic Lieutenant Governors' Association; member of the Virginia Senate; chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation; chairman of the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services; chairman of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; chairman of the Democratic Steering Committee.

Both of these history-makers will highlight the conference. Community leaders are especially encouraged to attend.

As the problems in the black community appear to be worsening in the nation, the caucus has the potential to focus local attention on the urgency of the matter to develop and plan action strategies and policy initiatives among public and private organizations. The caucus involves policy makers on public health, politics and social policies.

Location of the conference will be the North Raleigh Hilton at 3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh.

Famine, Suffering In North Africa Increases As Warfare Continues

Famine is affecting more than 21 million people in the Horn of Africa this year and unless relief efforts are immediately launched, the picture for the Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia is one of tragic suffering from starvation and warfare, according to Bread for the World president Arthur Simon.

Simon said this year's famine could be worse than the one in 1984-85, and the governments of Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia have never been in greater disarray.

War and famine are affecting more than 21 million people reports the U.S. Committee for Refugees; Africa Watch and UN World Food Program.

Far from being fatigued by the crisis, hundreds of local churches of all dominations are holding offerings of letteres services, which is not money, but letters to members of Congress to address the structural causes of this crisis by passing the Horn of Africa Recovery and Food Security Act, said Bread for the World director of organizing, Kathy

Pomroy.

Many Americans are seeking answers to ending the crisis of hunger in Ethiopia where war, not crop failure is the primary cause of the famine. Military conflict makes it difficult to raise and distribute food.

In the past two months, thousands of people have been writing members of Congress in support of a new approach to end the famine. The bill calls on the United States to promote peace and development in the Horn of Africa region in three ways: by providing effective emergency aid to civilians in government, and opposition, held areas; by giving more development assistance directly to grass roots organizations by-passing the military governments; and by mobilizing international pressure for peace in the region.

While the Horn countries are among the poorest in the world, their governments spent over \$6 billion on military expenditures between 1977 and 1987. In Africa, the cost of one modern tank could provide 1,000 classrooms for 30,000 children; the cost of a helicopter, the salary of 12,000 school teachers.

Recurrent famine and war killed an estimated 2 million in Ethiopia and Sudan since 1985 and 50,000 to 60,000 people were killed by the Somali government from 1988 to 1990.

Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous nation with a population of 47.4 million, nearly 6 million of whom are affected by war and famine; 4 million of them are in northern Ethiopia and Eritrea and 1.3 million are refugees in Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Kenya.

Local Coalition Blasts Fed's Budget Urges Monies Go Toward Needs At Home

Leaders of Raleigh SANE/FREEZE charged that President Bush's proposed federal budget neglects domestic problems, and mistakes high levels of military

spending for national security.

"While there is talk of a 'new world order' based on U.S. military might, it is increasingly clear that we need to invest more resources in putting our own house in order," said Roger Manus on behalf of Raleigh SANE/FREEZE, a peace group whose major concerns are to stop the nuclear arms race and to reorder federal budget priorities from the military to community and human needs.

A Wake County Board of Commissioners meeting Monday and the Raleigh City Council meeting Tuesday saw the group requesting the commissioners and the council to pass a resolution urging Congress and the president to work and vote for new national budget priorities by redirecting federal tax dollars from military spending toward critical

domestic programs such as education, housing, health care and other human needs.

Raleigh SANE/FREEZE presented a detailed local analysis of federal taxes paid to finance accelerated military spending over the past decade, along with projections of tax dollars that would flow back to Wake County if federal budget priorities were shifted.

Some of the major findings of the study were:

•The average household in Wake County paid \$4,030 in federal income taxes in 1989. Of this amount, \$1,730, nearly half, went for the military and military-related expenses.

•In 1989 Wake County's taxpayers paid more than half a billion dollars in federal income taxes to the

(See COALITION, P. 2)

Durham City Councilman Brown Stabbing Victim

A Durham city councilman was stabbed with a wood-handled steak knife on the steps of his home early Tuesday and police are still looking for an assailant and motive beyond robbery.

Clarence Brown, 42, was in stable but serious condition Wednesday at Duke Medical Center, where he had undergone surgery on his liver.

No motive has been established for the assault, which occurred shortly after midnight as Brown arrived home from a Monday council meeting. Although his wallet was missing, police have ruled out robbery as a motive.

"We don't think that was it," said Durham Police Captain Eddie Sarvis. "The person was obviously waiting at his house for some other reason."

Brown, an assistant professor of public administration at N.C. Central University in Durham, is co-chairman of the council's finance committee and has been a vocal



CLARENCE BROWN

advocate of affirmative action. Police spent Tuesday and Wednesday searching for clues in the puzzling stabbing which happened on Brown's 42nd birthday, and exploring

(See STABBING, P. 2)

NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CAUCUS

N.C. House Speaker Daniel T. Blue, Jr. and Gov. L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia will be the main speakers at this year's sixth annual weekend conference of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus from June 14-15 at the Raleigh Hilton, 3415 Wake Forest Road. The theme is "New Horizons—Challenges for the '90s."

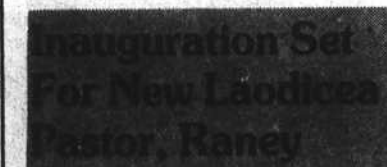
M&F REPORTS INCOME

Mechanics and Farmers Bank has reported its net income after taxes of \$704,404; earnings per share of \$1.24 and total assets of \$97,898,080. The bank has continued its growth in total assets as well as shareholders equity. Total assets increased 6.29 percent and shareholders equity, which represents 10.19 percent of total assets, increased 4.21 percent for the year as of Dec. 31, 1990.

NEW PRINCIPALS

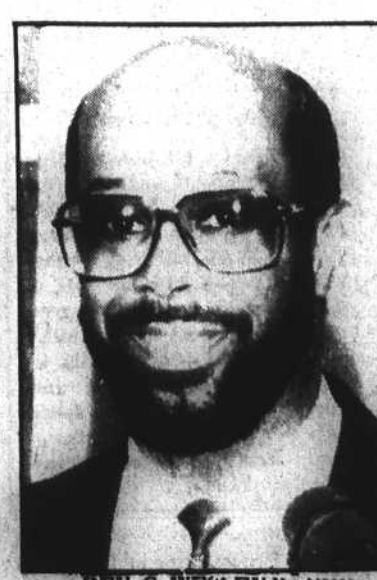
The Wake County School Board has named principals for two Wake County elementary schools. Mary Ferguson, who has been acting principal at Combs Elementary School since January, has been named the school's principal, and Peggy W. Holliday, who was once principal at Combs, has been named principal of Kingswood Elementary.

(See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)



The Laodicea United Church of Christ will install its new pastor, the Rev. G. Wesley Raney, on Sunday, May 26, during a special installation service at 4 p.m. The Rev. Isaac McDonald, pastor of the Wesley Grove United Church of Christ, Newport News, Va., will be the guest speaker, along with his choir, the United Voices of Christ, providing the music.

Other participants in the service include the Rev. Yvonne Beasley, Eastern North Carolina associate conference minister; the Rev. Raymond Hargrove, associate conference minister for black church development; the Rev. George Hawkins, secretary for local church finance advisory services; Rev. James Morrison, retired UCC minister; Rev. Charles Brooks,



REV. G. WESLEY RANEY

pastor, Poplar Springs United Church of Christ; the Rev. David Dolby, president, Raleigh Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; Vernon

(See LAODICEA, Page 2)