

Black Theater Agenda

Writer-poet Maya Angelou will be among the performers during the National Black Theater Festival.
Page 9



Bookstore Champ

Muhammad Ali takes the title after Singing over 1000 copies of his new book, "Muhammad Ali: His Life and Times"
Page 5



This Week
In 1948 President Harry Truman issued an Executive Order that ended segregation in the Armed Forces. The last all-black military unit was disbanded in 1951.

THE CAROLINIAN

RALEIGH, N.C.,
VOL. 50, NO. 69
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1991

N.C.'s Semi-Weekly
DEDICATED TO THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST

SINGLE COPY **25¢**
IN RALEIGH
ELSEWHERE **30¢**

Leadership Caucus Examines Health Care

BY GROVER BAILEY
Managing Editor

The most important issue and fundamental subject facing African-Americans today that will without a doubt take on the question of survival as we near the year 2000 is health care and all its ramifications and tributaries from hospitalization to clean drinking water to toxic waste in

depressed communities. It must be accepted without argument or question: the African-American community is in serious trouble and at the root is disease stemming from the lack of health care and branching into sickness, dependency, poverty and death. Aspects of this vast problem emerged as a topic for the N.C. Black

Leadership Caucus over the weekend in a serious attempt to evaluate the health care crisis in America for blacks that is growing with a relentless intensity. Fred D. McQueen during the three-day gathering of workshops said it straight: "I think we need to educate the voters and let them know this is a political issue." McQueen is the past

president of the Old North State Medical Society, a prestigious collage of fine, dedicated African-American physicians. "Medicine is political," he said. McQueen is right and so is Dr. Louis Sullivan, secretary of Health and Human Services who says the most pressing problem in the African-American community can be

characterized under two major scions: "access to health care and cost of health care." Here are the facts: Some 33 million of our citizens are without health insurance, roughly 15 percent of our population. Some areas of the country, primarily rural areas, (See LEADERSHIP, P. 2)



CAMPBELL TOWNS

Blacks Challenge Bush

Leaders Seeking Summit

BY LARRY A. STILL
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As major civil rights organizations and black community leaders debated the next move in blocking President George Bush's apparent "turn back the clock" conservative agenda, the political Congressional Black Caucus assumed leadership by "pledging to vigorously fight the confirmation" of federal Appeals Court Judge Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court and still seek passage of a 1991 Civil Rights Bill.

The 27 predominantly Democratic Party House of Representatives members "went on record... to make clear to the people of this nation and those we serve... our irrevocable stand on this matter... We will not shrink from our responsibility to challenge this president to bring before the American people, and the Congress, a fit and appropriate nominee who will do justice to the legacy of [retiring Supreme Court Justice] Thurgood Marshall," said the CBC statement released by Rep. Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.), CBC chairman.

"Our preliminary findings show that Clarence Thomas does not meet (See SUMMIT, P. 2)



UNDERAGE CIGARETTE BUYING—in a ground-breaking purchase operation for a tobacco-producing state, 28 teens aged 12-15 attempted to purchase cigarettes at 100 stores and 25 vending machines, to determine the availability of cigarettes to minors. The teens along with COMMIT will release the results of the operation on July 31 at 10:30 a.m. in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building

Legislature Funds Legal Services For Poor Despite Budget Problems

The 1991 General Assembly, despite unprecedented budget constraints, has appropriated \$1 million for civil legal service for poor people. This continues the financial commitment begun by the legislature in the last biennium to Legal Services of North Carolina.

"The courthouse doors should not be closed to the poor because of the tough budget times," said Rep. Milton F. (Toby) Fitch, Jr., the principal sponsor of funding for Legal Services. "Justice should be available to everyone, not just to those who can hire a lawyer. The General Assembly continued to support this valuable program to meet the mandate of our state Constitution—that the courts be open to all."

The state funds are targeted for six specific groups of people most urgently in need of these services: domestic violence victims, children, older adults, disabled persons, farmers facing foreclosures, and persons seeking to move off welfare and into the job force. Legal Services of North Carolina, created by the N.C. Bar Association in 1976, administers these funds through 15 local Legal Services programs serving all 100 counties.

"The General Assembly has recognized the vast unmet legal needs of poor people in our state," says Richard M. Taylor, Jr., Legal Services of North Carolina's executive director. "This support is very important to our overall funding

effort. We want to make access to the justice system available to every North Carolinian."

In 1988, Legal Services of North Carolina began a three-pronged campaign to double the program's funding. Funding had declined sharply during the 1980s, when federal funds for Legal Services were cut severely. At the same time, the number of poor people in North Carolina increased to 1.2 million eligible for free legal services.

"In addition to the \$1 million in state funding, Legal Services is now laying the groundwork for the second part of our overall fundraising effort," says Taylor. "This is an Ac-

(See FUNDING POOR, P. 2)

Toxic Waste Eyes Poor Communities For Storage Sites

Money For Rich, Refuse For Poor

BY CHARLES E. BELLE
An Analyst

If it is true that the meek shall inherit the earth, then they better check the underground tanks. The African-Americans who are becoming increasingly unemployed are gathering into growing geographic sectors of American society. African-Americans are increasing their unemployment rate, disproportionately represented among the unemployed. African-Americans are almost 24 percent of the unemployed or nearly one out of every four. Nearly twice their representation in the national population of 12 percent. Placing them among the poor and low-income communities in the country. The very places where they dump most of the toxic waste.

A study of location of "commercial hazardous water facilities" and "uncontrolled toxic waste sites," as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, puts these "dumps" next door, under the floor and all around the houses of a vast majority of ethnic communities. It is reported that "three out of every five African-American and Hispanic Americans live in communities with uncontrolled toxic waste sites." Since also "approximately half of all Asian Pacific Islanders and American Indians lived in communities with uncontrolled toxic waste sites," it can be concluded that the country has been committed to this sinner policy either overtly or covertly.

The nonhazardous waste disposal business is \$25 billion a year, while the hazardous business is almost too big to put a number on. By ignoring this pollution problem or rather putting it on the back and front porches of the poor, the president and his policymakers allow profits to be made at the expense of a majority of poor people of all colors in low-income communities.

(See TOXIC WASTE, P. 2)

Residents Exposed To Chemicals In Shiloh

BY RACHEL A. HARDY
Special To The CAROLINIAN

The Shiloh Coalition for Community Control and Improvement recently completed a health survey and screening with help from the N.C. Student Rural Health Coalition. The survey and screening addresses health concerns of workers and community members who have been exposed to dangerous chemicals by the local Koppers Co. plant (now owned by Beazer).

The health screening was an important political step for the workers and community. It represents one of the demands raised with the Environmental Protection Agency, the N.C. Department of Human Resources and Beazer/Koppers Co. by the workers and the community, according to Justice Speaks, a newspaper published by Black Workers for Justice.

Since 1968, the Koppers Co. operated a factory which treated wood with pentachlorophenol and isopropyl ether. The waste was dumped in an adjacent pond; from there it seeped into the groundwater. The pond is now a Superfund site on the priority list for waste cleanup by the EPA. It is one of the most dangerous toxic waste sites in North Carolina. PCP has been banned in eight countries and can cause cancer, skin rashes, breathing difficulties and liver damage, according to animal studies.

Residents of this predominantly black community in western Wake County have not been able to drink the water from their wells since 1968, when the contamination was discovered. (See EXPOSED, P. 2)

INSIDE AFRICA

BY WILLIAM REED
An Analyst

Black Americans' interest in Africa and our limited effectiveness as Africa advocates can best be illustrated through the current issue of sanctions against the African country of South Africa. The truth may well be that African-Americans, and our leadership, are so preoccupied with our own domestic affairs that we have confused our problems with foreign affairs. In the case of South Africa, we illustrate little understanding of the geo-economic-political process and how to use traditional and cognitive techniques to build wealth programs to help black South Africans and even ourselves. In the sanctions issue, directed to harass whites, we've not shown any advocacy efforts to directly help blacks there.

In a forthcoming Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies report, authored by Ambassador Walter Carrington and Edward Dorn, black American leaders' attitudes toward international affairs and Africa were examined. In the report, 80 prominent black Americans were interviewed, and virtually all of these black leaders said they were "strongly interested" in international affairs. In spite of their own high level of personal and/or professional interest, the respondents felt that blacks as a group were not greatly involved in foreign affairs. Eighty-seven percent of the total study stated (See INSIDE AFRICA, P. 2)

Black Community Still Knocks On Bank's Door

BY MICHAEL G. WALTON
Special To The CAROLINIAN

When Jesus told the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), the basis of the story is that the man who had large sums of money placed it in the hands of others to use for a time. Two of those he gave the money to put it to work, and when he returned to collect he received interest, while one man just buried his in the ground. In the black community, one often does not get the chance to display good or bad money management skills because the financial system is closed. Rev. Charles R. Stith, a Methodist pastor from Boston, is actively pressing the money-lending industry to open its doors and hands to the black community.

Rev. Stith is the founder and national president of the Organization for a New Equality, which is an advocacy organization dedicated to helping people who have historically been shut out by the banking industry get their fair share of the billions of dollars lent to Americans yearly.

Court cases, government records, and just a ride through most inner cities show that there is a lack of basic banking services in most black communities, and that this is a direct result of specific discriminatory

The U.S. Department of Commerce reported that the average net worth of a white family in America is approximately \$40,000 and the average net worth for African-American families is less

policies of most banking institutions. Because of discriminatory banking practices, this is the picture in most inner cities:

• There are few bank branches or automatic teller machines in the inner city. Instead of free or low-cost bank services, inner-city residents must often rely on the exorbitant fees of private check-cashing outlets and money exchanges.

• Very few mortgages are granted to residents of inner-city housing. Mortgages are more often given to people outside the inner city, who then rent the homes to inner-city residents. This creates low rates of

than \$4,000. Net worth is the difference between the value of all your cash and assets and the amount of your debts and liabilities.

home ownership occupancy and high rates of absentee ownership, which creates depressed property values and a lack of the pride that comes with home ownership.

• The U.S. Department of Commerce reported that the average net worth of a white family in America is approximately \$40,000 and the average net worth for African-American families is less than \$4,000.

Net worth is the difference between the value of all your cash and other assets and the amount of your debts and liabilities. Lack of home ownership was listed as one of the key factors in the difference.

than \$4,000. Net worth is the difference between the value of all your cash and assets and the amount of your debts and liabilities.

• A 1988 study released by the Atlanta Constitution newspaper suggested that a white high-school dropout with a job had a 80 percent better chance of getting a mortgage loan in some markets than a black person with a graduate degree.

The federal government recognizes the consistent pattern of discrimination by the banking industry that has caused these conditions, and Con-

gress has passed acts to address these problems. In 1977 Congress passed the Community Reinvestment Act and in 1989 it passed the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act. The focus of these acts is to fund financial institutions reinvest money in previously shut-out communities, through such measures as home loans, small business loans, and opening more full-service banks in the inner city.

The Organization for a New Equality works to get institutions to comply with the CRA and FIRREA. Rev. Stith says that communities need to make banks responsive to their needs, and that these congressional acts are the tools needed to make the banking industry respond to the black community.

"Historically," said Rev. Stith, "the struggle for equal opportunity has been defined by the Civil Rights Act. While enforcement of the old Civil Rights Act and passage of a new (See FINANCIAL, P. 2)