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State Fines Counties Over
Service To Welfare Clients
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First Cosmopolitan Site Of
Family Mission Meet
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Church Leaders Urge

Senators To Vote For Civil Rights Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—National leaders of the United Church of Christ are encouraging the denomination's members to join an ecumenical lobbying campaign and write to key senators in support of the proposed Civil Rights Act of 1991.

The bill, expected to come before the U.S. Senate in late September, would restore rights lost in a series of recent Supreme Court decisions

limiting employees' ability to sue for discrimination.

The 1.6 million-member United Church is among several mainline denominations whose Washington offices are encouraging members to go to the nation's capital on Thursday, Sept. 19, for a civil rights lobbying day sponsored by two ecumenical organizations—the National Council of Churches and

Interfaith Impact. Among the day's activities will be visits to senators from 2 to 5 p.m.

Lobbyists will target four lawmakers who could be leaning toward support of the bill: Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., Sen. John W. Warner, R-Va., Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., and Sen. Warren Rudman, R-N.H.

United Church of Christ leaders

also mailed materials to 17,500 members of the denomination's Peace and Justice Network, urging them to write their congressional representative in support of the legislation.

Among the materials was a letter from the Rev. Dr. Paul H. Sherry of Cleveland, president of the church, saying that President Bush is "providing a profound disservice in

misleading the public by labeling this a quota bill" and commending Sen. John C. Danforth, R-Mo., for offering a compromise version of the Civil Rights Act.

Sherry wrote his letter, dated Sept. 1, in behalf of a Civil Rights Act task force of United Church national staff members. The task force was authorized this summer by the denomination's central deliberative

body, the General Synod, which passed a resolution supporting the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

"With the Supreme Court on the President trying to cut back on civil rights, we are depending on Congress to keep this nation moving forward toward racial justice," the Rev. Jay Lintner, a task force member, said.

(See LOBBY, P. 2)

Raleigh Bus Station Scene

Cocaine Cookie Box Seized

**\$46,000
Of Crack
Cocaine
Inside**

Local authorities seized \$46,000 worth of crack cocaine suffed in a vanilla wafer cookie box at the Raleigh bus station Tuesday.

Charged in the incident was, Alberto Rodriguez, 25, of 1162 Washington Ave., Bronx, N.Y.

Rodriguez was charged with drug trafficking, along with trafficking crack cocaine by possession and transportation. Authorities seized 310 grams of the drug in a box inside of Rodriguez luggage in the Greyhound-Trailways bus station, records show.

The bus was said to be part of a periodic sweep made by the city, state, and county drug interdiction unit.

Rodriguez was enroute from New York to Winston-Salem when he was picked up, according to records. He is being held in the Wake County Jail on a \$200,000 bond.

In other news: An inmate serving a 15-year sentence for second degree murder was captured 22 hours after he escaped from a minimum custody prison in Tillery, a state correction spokesman recently announced.

Mingo Gregg, 23 of Raleigh, was arrested by a Halifax County sheriff's deputy near the county courthouse at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Gregg was taken to Halifax Memorial Hospital for treatment of cuts he sustained in scaling a prison fence at 3:30 a.m. Monday.

Gregg was convicted in Wake Superior Court and began serving his prison term on April 27, 1990.



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION—Various organizational representatives and concerned citizens recently met at the Women's Center to encourage positive parent involvement in the public schools. Pictured left to right: Deborah Elliot,

Dorothy Whitaker, Seanne Winters, Leroy Mitchiner, Marilyn Miller and guest panelists Joanne Miller/ACRE, Dorothy S. Thompson, Project Enlightenment. (Photo by James Giles)

Two Receive Honorary Degrees At Shaw Divinity Fall Convocation

Virginia Businessman Emmitt J. McHenry and the Honorable Ralph Campbell, Jr., will receive honorary degrees at the Shaw Divinity School Fall Convocation to be held at 11

a.m., Saturday, Sept. 21st in the Divinity School Chapel. The public is invited.

McHenry is President and CEO of Network Solutions, a Herndon, Virginia based Computer Service Company specializing in network professional services and systems integrate.

Network Solutions is one of the fastest growing minority owned firms in the nation with annual revenue jumping from \$12,600.00 in 1989 to \$50,000.00 in 1990. And just last year, his firm received a \$12,000,000 contract from AT&T, the largest contract ever granted to a minority firm by AT&T.

McHenry has a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Psychology from the University of Denver and a Master of Science degree in Communications at Northwestern University, where he later completed additional graduate work in Communications and Organizational Behavior.

McHenry was an Assistant Dean at Northwestern University before founding Network Solutions, where

he has been Chairman since its inception in 1979 and president and Chief Executive since 1986.

Prior to 1986 he held management positions with IBM, Connecticut General, Unionmutual and Allstate Insurance Company, where he served as regional vice president before rejoining Network Solutions as President.

He currently is a member of a number of business associations and civic organizations which include: Virginia Regional Minority Supplier Development Council, Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, Advisory Board of Northwestern University's graduate program in communications, Agency for International Development Business Advisory Council, Black President's Roundtable Association, and the National Association of Minority Business of which he is a member and past Chairman of the Board of Directors.

(See CONVOCATION, P. 2)



RALPH CAMPBELL



EMMITT MCHENRY

BY ALLIE M. PEEBLES

Contributing Writer

When members of the Raleigh Apex Branch of the NAACP held their Sept. meeting at Martin Street Baptist Church, they were inspired by House Speaker Dan Blue. Following devotions led by this writer, remarks by the president, and several committee reports, Blue was introduced by board member, Collins Hinton.

Speaker Blue was born in Lumberton and received his early education in the public schools of Robeson County. He received his bachelor's degree in Math from

North Carolina Central University in Durham. He received a full academic scholarship to attend Duke University Law School.

In 1973, Blue received his law degree and worked as an associate in the law firm of Sanford, Adams, McCullough & Beard.

Blue began his speech by stating that his purpose for appearing on program was two-fold. First, he wanted to stay in touch with the members. Second he wanted our input. "It is very important that your representatives know what the concerns and needs are," Blue stated early in his message that this would be an informal talk.

He stated that the session of the General Assembly that had just ended was the shortest one in forty years. He reminded the audience that the state's budget was in bad shape at the beginning of the session, January 30, 1991. There were stacks of bills, enough to fill a football field.

He emphasized the fact that the direction that the state would take was set ten years ago.

"There are concerns about the SAT scores across the state," stated Blue. While Wake County's scores were above the average, Warren County's scores were far below. Something must be done.

The underlying theme throughout the talk was that resources must be made available to all. This includes education, health care, housing and jobs. There must be equal concern.

He talked about poverty and the homeless. The income of the rich has more than doubled in the past ten years. The average income of the rich has jumped from \$240,000 to more than \$500,000 in ten years.

In contrast, the average income of others has remained the same at \$31,000.

Affirmative action is being challenged. He cited the pending hearing for Supreme Court Justice

(See CHALLENGE, P. 2)

NEWS BRIEFS

Body Found In Ditch

The bullet-ridden body of a New York woman was found Sunday afternoon lying in a ditch near downtown Durham. Police said a 9-year-old boy on his way to a store stumbled over the body of Deborah Johnson, about 36-years-old, off Morven Place. Investigators said they had no suspects in the killing, the city's fourth in six days and 22nd this year. Police Capt. E.E. Sarvis said that it was unknown when the shooting occurred, but the woman had been at a party late Saturday night on Angier Avenue, near where the body was found. He said Ms. Johnson, whose mother lives in the area, had been staying with friends at Few Gardens, a public housing development in East Durham.

Grocery Manager Stabbed

An assistant Winn-Dixie Store Manager was stabbed 10-times early Sunday by two muggers as he changed a flat tire on his truck outside the grocery store, Raleigh police said. Leroy Johnson, 53, of 212 Benson Road in Garner, was admitted to Wake Medical Center for treatment. He was slashed once across his stomach and stabbed nine times in his legs, police said. One man has been arrested and charged in the robbery.

Men Held On Charges

A Raleigh man was arrested Saturday and charged with two counts of second-degree rape. David Lonale Burnette, 34, of 1105 Clanton Street, was being held in lieu of \$20,000 bond in the Wake County Jail for rapes involving two women, one of them an acquaintance of Mr. Burnette's, said Dan Nagle of the Wake County Sheriff's Department. The rapes occurred Friday and Saturday.

Former Detective Accused Of Murder

A retired New York City police detective shot and killed his wife's grandson Sunday afternoon after an argument at a backyard picnic, authorities said. Gregory Allan Vaughan, 29, of 444 Firelight Road in Raleigh, died from a single shotgun wound

(See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)

State and Federal government have ignored the safety of workers by engaging in a "conspiracy" of lax regulations at work sites, says the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

A week after a fire at the Imperial Food Products plant in Hamlet killed 25 people and injured 56, Jackson visited with victims and their families Tuesday. While at Carolinas Medical Center before leaving for a prayer vigil in Hamlet, Jackson, a former presidential candidate, said N.C. is to blame for the fire. The state failed to meet its responsibility to inspect plants, Jackson said, and people died as a result. Last week, N.C. Gov. Jim Martin said the state should take responsibility for having a skeleton crew of safety inspectors.

"Those who do not enforce the laws must bear the burden and the blame," Jackson said. "Those who did not inspect the plant, those who turn back health and safety money to the feds rather than hire inspectors in some sense, it's a kind of conspiracy."

With the lack of unions in the South to protect workers, business and government in the region are unfairly taking advantage of them, Jackson said. N.C. isn't alone in leaving workers exposed to dangerous conditions.

"Other workers across the state are just as vulnerable as these workers were. Workers who do not have the protection of occupational safety and health laws are as exposed. This is our time to draw a line in the sand and say 'Never again.'"



Jesse Jackson

"Those who do not enforce the laws must bear the burden and blame..."

Jesse Jackson

Jackson, who has not decided whether he'll seek another try at the presidency, said victims of the fire were recovering at the medical center despite the lack of health care insurance some had. Jackson praised the hospital staff for "giving care first and asking financial questions later."

"They have been so caring and they have offered the patients' being here emphasizes the need for some kind of national health care plan."

As victims and Hamlet try to put the tragedy behind them, Jackson urged government and all concerned to work at preventing industrial tragedies in the future.

"Our concern is now we must pray especially for the bereaved, those who lost loved ones. But we on our feet must make certain that it's within our power that this doesn't happen again."

In Raleigh, fire inspectors visit

most factories once a year to make sure they are free of fire hazards.

But in most other parts of Wake County, fire inspectors might show up at factories once every 10 years—if that often.

The chicken-processing plant in Hamlet had not been visited by a fire inspector during its 11 years of operation. Workers at the plant have charged that fire doors and other exits were locked and blocked off.

Abbie Covington, mayor of the Sandhills town of 6,200, said medical examiners had determined that all of the 25 had died of carbon monoxide poisoning caused by inhaling the thick, sooty smoke.

Eighteen of the dead were women and seven were men. Officials said most of the dead were single mothers. Twenty-four victims were plant workers and one was a vending machine operator.

In addition to those killed, at least 55 were injured. Company officials acknowledged that some doors were locked at certain times but said most were not locked when the fire began just after 8 a.m.

The blaze erupted when a hydraulic line powering a conveyor belt ruptured.

The vaporized, 30-weight motor oil ignited when it encountered flames from the deep-fat fryer.

Survivors described a screaming rush for the doors and said many pounded on them for help when they couldn't get them open.