

lifestyles

CALENDAR

(Continued from page 1)

NCSU North Carolina State University Activities Board Film/Lectures Committee and the Carolina Consortium. Free and open to the public. Call 515-5161 for information.

WORKSHOP SET FOR CLAYTON BYPASS

The N.C. Department of Transportation will hold an information workshop on Thursday on a proposal to build a U.S. 70 bypass of Clayton. The workshop is scheduled from 4-8 p.m. in the Clayton Primary School cafeteria on N.C. 42 west of Clayton.

A four-lane highway from Interstate 40 in Wake County to the intersection of U.S. 70 and U.S. 70 Business in Johnston County south of Clayton is proposed.

Right-of-way acquisition for the project has been scheduled in the Transportation Improvement Program, NCDOT's planning document for highway projects, to begin in fiscal year 1996. Construction will begin after fiscal year 1998.

The public is invited to attend the informal workshop, ask questions, make comments or recommendations and submit material about the proposed project. NCDOT officials are asking interested citizens to meet with them on a one-to-one basis. This will give the department a better opportunity to understand citizens' attitudes about the proposed project.

WAKE STUDENT ASSIGNMENT PLAN

A public hearing on the Wake County Public School System's proposed annual student assignment plan will be held Tuesday, March 3, at 7 p.m. in Sanderson High School's auditorium. The administration of the school system proposed its annual student assignment plan for the 1992-93 school year to the Wake County Board of Education on Monday, Feb. 17.

The proposed assignment plan will affect about 1,600 students and centers on the opening of five new schools. Durant Road Elementary, West Lake Elementary, and West Lake Middle will open as all-voluntary, year-round schools. The opening of these schools eliminates a number of mandatory assignments. Leesville Road and Pleasant Union elementary schools will open as traditional elementary schools.

SPRING WILDFLOWER HIKE SERIES ON THE ENO RIVER

The Eno River Association will sponsor a Spring Wildlife Hike series every Sunday at 2 p.m. starting March 15 and ending May 10. The hikes explore a different section of the Eno River Valley every Sunday with a variety of knowledgeable hike leaders. They are limited to 20 participants. Hikes go out in all kinds of weather and last about 2 1/2 hours. Hikers see spring arrive with the first hepatica and trout lilies and progress through the spectacular display of mountain laurel in May. The purpose of the hikes is to acquaint hikers with the beauty of the Eno River State Park and with the efforts of the Eno River Association to acquire land for the state park. To register, call Leslie at Durham, (919) 490-6335 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or Hillsborough, (919) 644-1806 on Saturday.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORKSHOP

"Families in Pain: The Clergy's Role in Substance Abuse, Prevention, Counseling and Referral," a workshop designed by and for Raleigh clergy and laity, will be held Tuesday, March 17, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Woman's Club, in the Koger Center off Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Registration fee is \$10, registration deadline is Thursday, March 12. Sponsored by COMMIT to a Healthier Raleigh, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Wake County, and Drug Action, Inc. To register, call COMMIT to a Healthier Raleigh at 821-4222.

SENIOR GAMES SCHEDULED

Wake County residents age 55 and over are invited to participate in the 1992 Raleigh-Wake Senior Games, March 30-April 4 at Athens Drive High school. Some events include swimming, golf, tennis, as well as events in performing, literary and visual arts. Deadline for registration is March 2. Call 831-6850 for more information.

CHILD WATCH

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

FIGHTING CHILD SUFFERING COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY

Nationally recognized pediatrician Barry Zuckerman recently led 14 child advocates from religious organizations into the dimly lit pediatric ward of Boston City Hospital. Stopping at the crib of a two-year-old black boy hooked up to tubes, Dr. Zuckerman invited the group to look into the face of child poverty.

This child, he explained, was in the hospital because the conditions of poverty in which he lived resulted in a simple insect bite becoming a life-threatening infection.

The advocates were members of the Child and Family Justice Committee of the National Council of Churches. The committee and five other national organizations, aided by the Children's Defense Fund, are working nationwide to help Americans see, feel—and reduce—child suffering in their communities.

The effort is called the Child Watch Visitation program. Besides the child and Family Justice Committee, the collaborators are the National Council of Negro Women, the Association of Junior Leagues, the American Association of Retired Persons, Kiwanis International, and the National Council of La Raza. Last year I wrote about the pilot project in Washington, D.C. Now similar efforts, developed by local members of these six groups, are under way in about 30 communities across the country.

Local leaders are organizing visits for groups of their fellow citizens to such places as neonatal intensive care units, adolescent detention facilities, shelters for homeless families, and child care centers. For most citizens, the visits are a kind of shock therapy. A minister who participated in a Child Watch visit to the neonatal care ward at Harlem Hospital in New York City said, "It's one thing to read about such infants and quite another to see them. It tears me apart." Out of such experiences, Child Watch organizers hope to forge a group of citizens in each community who are inspired to work for change.

In Jacksonville, Fla., a coalition led by longtime community activist Gertrude Peele of the National Council of Negro Women, held its first visitation program in October. Among the places visited were a neonatal intensive care unit, a foster care home for children with medical problems, a home for unmarried mothers and babies born HIV infected, and a county detention center for juveniles.

Most participants in the group had been child advocates for years, Peele notes, yet "over and over again they said what a learning experience it had been." At the special foster home for two children with cerebral palsy, the group members were "overwhelmed and amazed," says a state official who accompanied the group. "They listened to the foster mother in awe."

In the Washington, D.C. pilot program, participants did follow through with concrete action to help children. For example, a law student from Georgetown University's Black Law Student Association organized a fundraiser for a D.C. tutoring program for homeless children. A publisher's wife contributed \$15,000 to a local hospital and is leading a fundraising campaign for the hospital's new children's center.

Peele says there were also some immediate responses from the Jacksonville group. The National Council of Negro Women, for example, agreed to build a badly needed wheelchair ramp at the foster home for children with special medical problems.

The Florida state official says she believes the program will have a significant long-term effect on child advocacy in Jacksonville. When professionals who work in the system advocate for better services for children, "No one listens to you," she says. "They think it's just your job [to advocate]. But when other people see for themselves what is needed and speak out, others pay attention. These are people who can get things done."

For information about how to start a visitation program in your community, contact Ann Chisholm at CDF, 122 C St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 628-8787.



FAMILY RECORDS—Civil rights legend Rosa Parks, far right, examines family genealogical records at the Mormon Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mrs. Parks is accompanied by her executive assistant, Elaine Steele, center, and library genealogist Jay Roberts, left.

A Group Of Arizona Republican Activists Support MLK Holiday OK

PHOENIX Ariz. (AP)—A group of Republican activists and officeholders has formed a new coalition to support passage of a state Martin Luther King holiday, leaders of the new group announced.

"This is not a black vs. white or Republican vs. Democrat or conservative vs. liberal issue. It is an issue that involves the moral fabric of America," said Victor Washington, chairman of the Republican Coalition for MLK '92 Committee.

The King holiday, which voters rejected in the 1990 general election, will be on the ballot again in November and Washington said the GOP coalition will actively campaign for its passage.

"Arizona can ill afford to drag its feet on this issue any longer," he said.

Washington said the coalition includes the African-American Republican Committee, the Arizona Republican Hispanic Committee, Arizona Chinese-American Republican Committee, Arizona Native American Republican Committee, Arizona State University's College Republicans and the Asian-Republican Outreach Committee.

The Arizonans for a Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Committee, which is spearheading the

drive for passage of the holiday, and several Republican elected officials—including Attorney General Grant Woods and Senate Minority Leader Tom Patterson—also are members of the coalition, he said.

Gov. Fife Symington, a supporter of the King holiday, was not listed among the coalition's members.

"We haven't gotten permission to use the governor's name yet," Washington said. "We would hope that it is forthcoming."

Washington said he used the names only of people whom he has spoken with in person and he has not had an opportunity yet to speak with Symington.

"It's not that he isn't supporting us. In fact, I'm sure that he will give his support," Washington said.

The coalition will also seek the support of the state Republican Party, he said.

"We plan to form a committee to draw up a resolution to take to the floor at the state convention in May," he said.

Washington said passage of the King holiday would "send a message to all minorities... that Arizona is a land of opportunity and equality."

"We have an opportunity to be the first state to recognize the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King by popular vote," Washington said, noting that all other states who celebrate the holiday have created it either by legislative or executive action.

Suspect In Rev. Sharpton's Stabbing Case Claims Wanted To Scare Only

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP)—A prosecutor charged last week that Michael Riccardi viciously plunged a knife into the Rev. Al Sharpton's chest during a Bessie Coleman protest. The defense said Riccardi was addled by alcohol and just wanted to scare the strident black activist.

The opening statements were heard in Brooklyn's state Supreme Court, where Riccardi, 28, who is white, is on trial for second-degree attempted murder, weapon possession, discrimination and aggravated harassment.

The crowd that held a "parade" in Bessie Coleman on Jan. 12, 1991, "was a very mixed group of folks, just like the jury here," said Assistant District Attorney Edward Boyer, who also prosecuted the infamous Bessie Coleman and Howard Beach racial killings.

Riccardi, a neighborhood resident, entered a schoolyard swarming with police and blended in with assembling protesters. "There was nothing unusual about a white man joining the reverend's march," said Boyer.

But instead of marching, Riccardi approached Sharpton with a concealed kitchen knife and "plunged it into his chest," said Boyer, clapping his hand over his heart.

"All hell broke loose," said the prosecutor. It was "potentially a highly explosive and highly charged situation that could have resulted in even more violence."

"Mr. Riccardi, knowing what he had done and that it was wrong," tried to run but was captured.

As police led him away, Riccardi, incited by the kind of onlookers who "bait and feed on each other," boasted of the deed and made racial references, said Boyer.

But defense attorney Joyce David said that race had nothing to do with the incident, and that Riccardi never intended to kill or seriously injure Sharpton.

She said jurors should not consider Sharpton's perceptions of the incident, but instead, "What was on my client's mind."

David said that when Riccardi's cousin told him Sharpton was in the neighborhood, they went to the schoolyard "as a goof... They said, 'Let's go see Al.' Not with hatred, not with malice. It was something to do on a Saturday morning."

"Their comment was, 'He looks like Elvis.' It had nothing to do with a crime of race hate."

Riccardi had consumed a lot of vodka; he even went out without a coat.

And, as for the weapon, explained David, "Mr. Riccardi has had problems before... He always carries a little something with him, like a knife, in case there's a problem."

Riccardi has a lengthy criminal history that includes assaults and fighting.

Girl Scout Cookies Set For March Delivery

Girl Scout cookies, America's tastiest tradition, are now available for delivery. Local Girl Scouts will be delivering cookies during March.

There is still time left to buy those great-tasting cookies for a great cause. Girl Scouts will be selling cookies at area shopping centers in the Triangle during the next two weeks.

The price per box is \$2.50. Funding from the annual cookie sales supports individual troop programs, camperships, camping programs, and other council-wide events for girls in this area.

Local troops are able to enrich their activities and broaden their group experiences. The Girl Scout cookie sale is just one of the many Girl Scout programs offered to girls. Its role is to teach young girls valuable learning skills that can be used throughout their lives.

Pines of Carolina Council offers seven varieties: the traditional Thin Mint, Tefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Tagalongs, Samoas, Chalet Cremes, and Golden Nut Clusters. So stock up on these great cookies, because they are kosher, freeze well, and can be served year-round.

For more information, contact the Girl Scout Service Center at 782-3021 in Raleigh or 1-800-662-7579.

Pines of Carolina Girl Scout Council, Inc., serves 22,000 girls and adults in 20 central North Carolina counties and is a United Way agency.

Jackson To Get NABOB Award

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Megastar Michael Jackson will receive the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters Lifetime Achievement Award March 5 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, it was announced recently by James L. Winston, the organization's executive director and general counsel.

Winston said, "It is a pleasure to include Michael Jackson along with our very distinguished group of outstanding individuals who will receive awards at our eighth annual Communications Awards Dinner."

The other honorees at the eighth annual NABOB Communications Awards Dinner include Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.), Rep. Bill Richardson (D-N.M.), Robert L. "Bob" Johnson, president, Black Entertainment Television; Jheryl Busby, chief executive officer, Motown Records, and Dorothy Height, president and chief executive officer, National Council of Negro Women.

Musical entertainment for the awards dinner will be provided by four-time Grammy Award-winning Warner/Reprise jazz vocalist Al Jarreau.

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