

N.C. Health Rates Could Spiral With Increase In Lawsuits

BY SHEHETTIZI WOODLEY
Staff Writer

North Carolina patients are filing more lawsuits against their doctors and asking for more money, according to the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Co. If the state experiences a surge in malpractice suits, similar to the 1980s increases, physicians will pay higher and higher malpractice insurance rates, and undoubtedly pass the increases on to consumers

through more expensive premiums.

During the early 1980s, premiums rose so dramatically following million-dollar jury awards that some doctors were almost forced out of business.

St. Paul has increased its rates twice in the past six months in response to the increase in malpractice suits filed by patients. High-risk doctors such as brain surgeons will have to pay as much as

\$28,667 per year for insurance.

If this increase is an indication that the malpractice crisis is making a comeback in North Carolina, patients will have to set aside a lot more of their incomes toward health-care costs.

Some of the state's trial lawyers believe St. Paul has exaggerated the new malpractice claims to justify its rate increases. "I would be greatly surprised if they were up more than slightly," said Chapel

Hill malpractice lawyer Grover McCain.

However, Kevin D. Easley, a Greenville obstetrician, believes the growing number of requests from lawyers who call seeking copies of patients' medical records is proof that cases are up.

"I've got to agree," he said. "North Carolina has caught right up and they're following the nation in general," Easley said.

Concern Expressed About Rise In School Racism

BY CASH MICHAELS
Staff Writer

It was supposed to be a joyous, yet solemn occasion. The end of four years in high school, the beginning of looking toward the future with new hope and possibilities.

But for 20 African-American graduates of Cary High School, their graduation ceremony last Sunday became a sad statement they felt they had to make: "Stop racism now!" They made it quietly, and with dignity, by getting out of their seats in Memorial Auditorium and walking out. The target of their protest, class valedictorian David Martin, stopped his speech, stood on the stage, and bowed his head.

Martin had once again apologized for publishing "The Underground Beacon," an unauthorized student newspaper sold at Cary High, that picked up where the racially controversial Broughton Hi Times issue last April left off.

Beyond a variety of sexist and anti-religious jokes and articles, the Beacon targeted African-Americans with a bogus "Application of Employment to Jesse Jackson's staff." On that "application," black are asked if their marital status is common law or

(See RACIST SCHOOLS, P. 2)



HELPING HAND—Thirty interns from N.C. Institute of Government helped Halifax Court Child Care and Family Services with its Spring Cleanup. Terry Laney a teacher of two-year olds is pictured (standing far right) coordinating shapes for the center's tags." The interns have been a big

help, especially with things we just haven't had the time to do," said Ms. Laney, a three-year veteran at the center. The 30 student volunteers selected Halifax Court through United Way of Wake County's Voluntary Action Center. (Photo by James Giles)

Foxridge Residents Join With RPD To Rid Area Of Drugs

BY CASH MICHAELS
Staff Writer

A year ago, if you were a drug dealer, all you had to do was set up shop in the cul-de-sac in the Foxridge Manor apartment complex, and the customers would come to you all hours of the day and night. The Raleigh Police Department called it "an open air drug market," and at one point it got so bad, the people who lived there couldn't get to sleep because of the constant worry, traffic... and gunshots.

This year, the residents and management of Foxridge decided they had had enough. It was time to take their community back from drug dealers, and last Saturday, they invited the community to come out and see how it's done.

The Foxridge Manor "Taking Our Community Back" celebration was a mixture of the old-time family picnic with newfound dedication to combat neighborhood crime, and safeguard the community for children. With the help of the Raleigh Police Department, and sponsored by Joyner Realty, families living in Foxridge came out of their homes for a day-long outing of cookouts, recreation, and safety tips. Officers played horseshoes with the children, and ate hot dogs with residents, all the while developing one-on-one relationships with people who, before now, would never be able to speak to a police officer, except during an emergency.

Bobbie Bass, one of the coordinators of the event, told The CAROLINIAN that the purpose of the occasion was very clear.

"The biggest thing we want to do today is to let these kids see some positive people, and to make the drug dealers aware that we are here, and we intend to stay here.

We also want to keep the people out of our neighborhood who do not belong over here, and let the kids have some fun. We want the kids to be at home. I want it very safe for them."

Ms. Bass agrees that things have cooled down considerably since last year, but says that some dealers are starting to come back. A month-old community watch program has given residents new courage in dealing with intruders, and the police department has pledged to respond quicker to resident calls for help.

"It's been a very community-oriented effort, and we're working closely with the residents and the police," said Barney Joyner, presi-

dent of Joyner Realty Co., managers of the complex. He and his staff were serving the residents food and soft drinks while the children played.

Raleigh Police Sgt. Ralph Strickland of the "Project Phoenix" anti-drug program told The CAROLINIAN that bringing his officers out not only to meet with the residents, but to interact in community-spirited activities, is the kind of policing he likes best. By getting closer to the people, and they to the officers, a trust and a relationship are born that will help residents rid their community of drug dealers.

"We can't do it alone," said Sgt. Strickland. "We need the people."

Rockview Subdivision Keeps Family Commitment In 30th Year Fete

The Rockview Subdivision treasures its commitment to family and community pride. With financial assistance from Carolina Power and Light Co., the community was beautified with blooming flowers which complemented neighborhood. Each mailbox was decorated with the bicentennial colors of purple and green, accented with magnolia.

On May 30, the community family and friends celebrated its 30 years of existence at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lenton J. Williams located on Brenda Drive.

Rockview Subdivision began through the desires of James and Adelaide Earp. The Earps learned of some rural acreage for sale located off Rock Quarry Road. However, purchase of the nine-acre tract exceeded the limit of their budget. The Earps decided to ask

Ransom and Ella Perry and Paul and Brenda Jervay to join them in the purchase of this land. The Perrys and Jervays readily agreed. Thus began the Rockview Subdivision.

The subdivision began to develop and grow. It now consists of 14 families.

A program was planned. The community families reflected on the past and present events during its 30 years of existence.

Rev. Joseph Lovelace and Ms. Adelaide Earp were master and mistress of ceremonies, respectively. Prayer was offered by Theodore Sewell. Greetings and purpose were stated by James R. Earp, followed by recognition of visitors. Ray Debnam, Jr. warmed all hearts with a solo. Ms. Delores Revis gave a presentation of the history of the community. Repre-

N.C. House Speaker Escorted Out Of Side Door At The White House

President Bush has a lot of explaining to do to the folks here in North Carolina.

The African-American community is still abuzz about the way North Carolina Speaker of the House Daniel T. Blue was unceremoniously treated during his visit to the White House on Monday. Blue, the first African-American in modern history to become state House speaker, reportedly was escorted to a side door away from the national press corps after a conference with President Bush, White House officials, and other state leaders about balancing the federal budget.

White House officials were apparently aware that Blue had been critical of the Bush administration's handling of the budget. But despite his public stance, Speaker Blue was one of 20 state officials from across the country who were invited to come to the White House to offer their opinions to the president and his staff.

African-American citizens here in Raleigh were taken aback by what one called "rude" treatment on the part of the White House.

"When the highest-ranking member of the North Carolina House of Representatives is



HOUSE SPEAKER DANIEL T. BLUE

shunned and disrespected as Speaker Blue was, it sends a clear signal that the Bush administration is either cold and callous, or lacks common sense," said an angry Bruce Lightner, Democratic Party activist.

Even well-known non-political

(See DAN BLUE, P. 2)

Rep. Espy Holds Hearings On Proposed Welfare Reform

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Mike Espy (D-Miss.), chairman of the Domestic Task Force of the House Select Committee on Hunger, held his second congressional hearing on welfare reform June 4 in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

Declaring that "States have been taking an active role in efforts to reform welfare," Espy added, "I know that Congress can take some cues from the states, but we also must be sure that these reforms are not meant as punishment to the recipients, but ... that they are aimed at helping recipients become independent. We must reform our welfare system, and the federal government must take the lead in the right direction."

As the sponsor of several welfare reform bills, Rep. Espy has been a longtime advocate for asset-based welfare policy. He is sponsoring several bills that promote independence and address the anti-family, anti-savings structure of the current system.

For example, Espy has introduced a bill that would allow Welfare recipients to save up to \$10,000 in assets, rather than the current \$1,000 limit, so that the recipient can save for education, retirement, business development or for buying a home.

With this legislation, a welfare recipient is encouraged to become independent through education or business development instead of

remaining on welfare, the congressman emphasized. "My hope is that raising the asset limit will allow welfare recipients to keep an eye toward the future rather than being stuck in a 30-day, no-win consumption cycle," the Mississippi legislator said.

Witnesses scheduled to testify at the hearing included Minneapolis Mayor Donald Fraser; Roms Barber, director of the Mississippi Services Agenda; Julia Weaver, a representative of the Mississippi Health Advocacy Program; Iris Lav, director of state and local programs, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; Larry Jackson, commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services; and Sabra Burdick, recently resigned director of the Main Bureau of Income Maintenance.

The very first hearing focused on the myths and realities of the welfare system last April. The final hearing in the three-part series, to be scheduled later this summer, will include testimony from welfare recipients, officials in Espy's office announced.

CRIME BEAT

Editor's Note: This column, a fixture of The CAROLINIAN in years past, has returned to our pages in hopes of deterring crime in our community. The information contained herein is taken from public arrest records and does not necessarily mean those mentioned are guilty of crimes.

ASSAULT ON FEMALE

Thirty-five-year-old George Alvin Powell of "Anywhere Raleigh" was arrested and charged with assault on a female. Police say Powell used his hands to assault Rhonda Renee O'Neal on the 00 block of East Martin Street early Tuesday morning. No injuries were reported.

CAR RECOVERED

William Christopher Furman of 500-B E. Bragg St. was arrested and charged with possession of a stolen vehicle. Police say a 1980 Datsun 280ZX hatchback was recovered from the 1000 block of Garner Road. The car was registered to a Kentucky man.

(See CRIME BEAT, P. 2)

NEWS BRIEFS

MAN HOLDS UP CIRCLE K STORE

A black male held up the Circle K store at 3948 New Bern Avenue Saturday at 2:30 a.m. An employee in the store said the robber was dressed conspicuously. He wore bright clothing and did not bother to conceal his identity.

The robber returned to the store about a half-hour after trying to make a purchase which he didn't have the money to pay for. When he returned, he pulled out a knife and stole money from the cash register.

WOMAN ASSAULTED, ROBBED

A robber hit a Hillsborough woman on the head and grabbed her wallet as she was leaving the Sav-A-Center on Airport Road at about 7 p.m.

Annie Parrish told police the man ran north on Airport Road. After searching the area, police found no suspects.

KIDNAPS MOTHER

A 22-year-old Raleigh man allegedly kidnaped his mother at knifepoint after

(See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)

(See SUBDIVISION, P. 2)