

Clearing

Clearing today with high in the middle 70s. Clear and cooler tonight, with low near 40. Sunny Friday with high near 70. (Map and details on Page 11E.)

Wednesday's temperatures:
8 a.m. 62 12 noon 62 4 p.m. 44
8 a.m. 61 12 noon 61 4 p.m. 43
8 a.m. 61 12 noon 61 4 p.m. 43

4 A

The Charlotte Observer

Foremost Newspaper Of The Carolinas

91st Year — No. 342

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1977

128 Pages Price 15 Cents

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Spring Fever Really Isn't

By ROBERT CONN
Observer Medical Editor

If you would rather head for the golf course than the office this morning, or if you've spent several balmy afternoons staring out the window instead of at the in-basket, the diagnosis may be inescapable: Spring fever.

But don't go to your doctor for an excuse. He won't be much help.

When Dr. David Citron asked several members of the house staff at Charlotte Memorial Hospital for their thoughts about spring fever, the "first thing they did was smile."

Citron defined spring fever as "a peculiar state of mind that occurs at this season."

Dr. Donald Macdonald, a psychiatrist who heads the

Randolph Clinic, said, "It's a happy kind of myth we all like to talk about at this time of the year."

Then he added, wistfully, "I wish I had some of it." Citron, an associate chairman of the department of family practice at Memorial and clinical professor of medicine at the University of North Carolina Medical School in Chapel Hill, said, "Whatever spring fever is, it's not a disease or an abnormality."

For one thing, he said, tongue firmly in cheek, "there's no convincing evidence" the body's temperature actually rises above normal — so obviously there is no real fever.

Macdonald said it occurs when people look outside and see the signs of growth, which gives them "a positive lift after a long winter."

Citron said changes in behavior are induced by the change in season, particularly because people pay much more attention to the outdoors in spring, and the days are longer, encouraging outside activity.

"It may make a person's mind wander, particularly if he's working by a window where he has a view of the outside world."

Citron pointed out there are some potential medical dangers associated with the coming of spring, particularly for those who have spent the winter indoors without exercise — and are in poor shape.

So when the temptation comes to get involved in strenuous exercise, he has this advice to avoid turning spring fever into a genuine medical problem: "Phase it in, slowly."

An editorial on spring is on Page 18A.



Heavy rains flooded some streets in Charlotte Wednesday. A related story is on Page 1B.

Soviets Reject Vance Proposals

Observer Wire Reports

MOSCOW — Soviet Party Chief Leonid Brezhnev rejected American nuclear arms-control proposals Wednesday, shattering the latest effort to sign a new arms-limitation treaty.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who waited three days for a response to his proposals, said both a comprehensive and a limited approach had been offered but the Soviets "did not find either one acceptable."

The action poses the most important global diplomatic test yet for the Carter administration. Each of the two nations repeatedly has cited nuclear arms control as the fundamental issue in the East-West relationship.

In Washington, President Carter said he would be forced to consider a speedup of American weapons development if the Soviets don't negotiate

"in good faith" at another round of arms talks next month.

Carter said he intends "to remain very strong" in seeking a comprehensive agreement to cut the superpowers' arsenals.

"I'm not in any hurry," Carter said. "It's important enough to proceed methodically."

However, he said, referring to a newly scheduled bargaining session in May between Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko:

"If we feel at the conclusion of next month's discussions that the Soviets are not acting in good faith with us and that an agreement is unlikely, then I would be forced to consider a much more deep commitment to the development and deployment of additional weapons."

Meeting with Vance for an hour, Brezhnev rejected the American proposals as "inequitable" and refused to offer counterproposals.

His action raised the possibility of

a serious strain developing in American-Soviet relations, which had been constantly improving through the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations.

Stresses have developed in the past few weeks, especially over Carter's outspoken criticism of alleged human-rights violations in the Soviet Union.

Brezhnev has warned the United States publicly that its criticism of internal Soviet affairs could interfere with arms talks and other efforts to improve relations.

Vance, however, denied the proposals were rejected because of Soviet unhappiness over this issue.

An interim nuclear arms-control accord expires Oct. 3, but Vance said "it is still possible" to reach a Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT) agreement before then.

"I would hope that when they re-

See SOVIETS Page 17A, Col. 1



Plane Crash Survivor

Victor Grubbs, the captain of the Pan Am jumbo jet that collided with a KLM jet, killing nearly 600 Wednesday is a miracle he or anyone else survived the collision. A story is on Page 2A.

Judges Uphold N.C. Grants To Church-Related Colleges

By BILL SEDDON
Observer Staff Writer

A panel of three federal judges ruled Wednesday that tuition grants from the state of North Carolina to students at Belmont Abbey College and Pfeiffer College are constitutional.

The judges said state aid to the two private, church-related colleges does not violate First Amendment separation of church and state because the colleges are not "pervasively sectarian" or operating primarily to promote religion.

Had the judges ruled otherwise, state aid to students at all 38 private North Carolina colleges and universities now receiving it could have been shut off. All 38 are church-related.

The state and the private colleges

contend the aid serves a secular purpose — education. Their reasoning is that private college tuitions have risen to the point that state schools would be overburdened with students if the state didn't help pay private tuitions.

The suit was filed by former Pfeiffer Prof. Michael Smith and supported by Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a national organization based in Maryland. Smith contended the state aid was unconstitutional because "it encourages students to attend colleges where they will be influenced to become or remain religious."

Wallace Bennett of Charlotte, Smith's attorney, said Wednesday no decision had been made on whether to appeal.

The suit challenged the constitu-

tionality of three state laws permitting appropriation of state money to private colleges through grants and tuition scholarships. Besides the colleges, defendants included the state's University Board of Governors and the N.C. Education Assistance Authority, which administers the aid.

Cameron West, president of the N.C. Association of Private Colleges and Universities, said Wednesday he was pleased with the ruling, but declined further comment until he reads the opinion. He had warned in December that 7,000 students attending private colleges might lose aid.

Although all 38 North Carolina private colleges are church-related, Smith did not contend that any ex-

See JUDGES Page 17A, Col. 1

Assassinations Panel Extended

Observer Wire Reports

WASHINGTON — The House gave new life late Wednesday to its select committee on assassinations so it could follow "new leads" in investigating the murders of President John Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The 230-181 vote came after the sudden resignation of the committee's controversial chief counsel, Richard Sprague, the apparent suicide of a witness in the Kennedy inquiry and four hours of stormy debate on the House floor.

The committee, which is asking for a \$2.7 million budget for 1977, may continue its investigations through 1978.

The witness who apparently shot himself, was George De Mohrenschildt, a Russian-born confidant of Lee Harvey Oswald.

De Mohrenschildt, 65, a geologist and professor of French, had been questioned repeatedly by the Warren Commission. Interest in him was revived when the House committee said it would retrace the Warren panel's research and a Dutch journalist reported De Mohrenschildt felt responsible for the assassination.

The journalist, Willem Oltmans, said "He asked me, 'How do you think the media would react if I... said I feel responsible for Oswald's behavior.'"

A House staff investigator contacted De Mohrenschildt at the home of friends in Manalapan, Fla., near Palm Beach. He left a message asking the professor to testify before the House committee. An hour later De Mohrenschildt shot himself in the chest with a 20-gauge shotgun. His body was found by a daughter.

Police officials were treating the death as a suicide, saying he reportedly was despondent, wracked by



George De Mohrenschildt... key witness

marital problems and felt threatened by the congressional probe.

There was disagreement among committee members concerning De Mohrenschildt's value as a witness.

Rep. Robert Edgar, D-Pa., said he thought he was an "extremely significant" witness and quoted a Warren Commission witness as saying,

"If there were any plotters in the assassination, it was this guy." Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., agreed De Mohrenschildt would have been a key witness. (Preyer represents the 8th Congressional District, which in-

cludes Alamance, Guilford and Rockingham counties.)

But a staff investigator doubted De Mohrenschildt's value to the probe. "I find it highly suspicious that De Mohrenschildt didn't say anything for 12 years and then we see motion from him just as the committee was formed, the staff member said. "We have no reason to believe his death was anything but suicide."

The seven-month-old committee, which had long been caught in a feud between Sprague and former committee Chairman Henry Gonzalez, D-Tex., would have gone out of business if the House had failed to renew authorization.

The crucial factor in the renewed authorization may have been Sprague's resignation shortly before midnight Tuesday.

Committee members said a survey of House members showed they would lose by about 25 votes with Sprague as chief counsel, but could swing 40 members to their side if Sprague were removed.

(North Carolina Democrats Bill Hefner, Stephen Neal, Richardson Preyer and Charles Rose voted to keep the assassinations panel alive.)

Democrats like Andrews, Hefner, Fountain, Lamar Gidiger, Walter Jones and Charles Whitely voted against the proposal, as did Republicans Jim Martin and Jim Brophy.

(In the South Carolina delegation, all voted in favor except Democrat Butler Carson Derrick.)

Sprague left immediately for a vacation in Mexico and could not be reached.

In a hastily called morning meeting, the committee members lauded Sprague's integrity, ability and courage, likening him to a sacrificial lamb.

Carter Staff Grows Despite His Pledge

Observer Wire Reports

WASHINGTON — The size of the White House staff has ballooned by 140 persons since President Carter's inauguration.

Richard Harden, special assistant to the president for budget and organization, said Wednesday that Carter's oft-stated goal of reducing the staff by 30 per cent cannot be attained.

Harden said the White House now has 490 full-time employees, just under the 510 employees at the end of President Ford's term.

In addition to the 490, the admin-

istration has hired about 175 temporary workers detailed from other government agencies, so the staff is now 30 per cent larger than under Ford.

Harden blamed this largely on an extraordinary volume of mail, the inclusion of energy experts on the staff before creation of an Energy Department and the need to beef up the White House personnel office while the administration is taking shape.

Even when these problems are solved — and most or all temporary detailees return to their agencies — Harden conceded, the White House is now aiming at a 10 to 12 per cent cut in staff size, not the 30 per cent cut the president said he would impose.

Harden said 30 per cent was an arbitrary figure, originating in a "bull session" during the campaign in Carter's home in Plains.

"We were sitting at his house one day and he said that 30 per cent sounded like a good figure to use when talking about reducing the White House staff," Harden said. "Since then, the realities of running the White House have become apparent."



Observer Photo by PHIL DRAKE

Billie Sloan, owner of Duncan's, enjoys a plate of pinto beans and cornbread Wednesday, the restaurant's last day in business. Mrs. Sloan may open another restaurant.

Beloved Restaurant Closes

'An Old Friend' Departs

By LOUISE HICKMAN LIONE
Observer Staff Writer

It looked like a condemned man's last meal: double orders of country-style steak, boiled potatoes, pinto beans, fresh stewed corn, a heaped plate of biscuits and corn muffins.

"Better eat hearty. It's gotta last you a long time," Richard Jenkins warned Bill Dorn Wednesday, as Jenkins waited for his own double-order lunch.

"I don't know why I don't just set 'all in the kitchen in front of the stove," joked the waitress, Mary Lou Shelton.

It was the last day at Duncan's, a plain little place so beloved for warm welcomes and home-style cooking it's never needed a sign.

The restaurant, famous for country ham, biscuits and fresh vegetables, has been serving breakfast and lunch on weekdays for 21 years at the same stand on New Dixie Road, across from Charlotte's Douglas Municipal Airport.

The family business began in 1930 with a coffee shop on Central Avenue.

Smells floated from the wood-burning stove as Duncan's, fondly called "Mrs. Duncan's" or "Ma Duncan's," got ready for the last lunch.

Billie Sloan, the owner, stood in the kitchen typing the day's menu: Country Ham, \$2.50. Country Style Steak \$1.60. Roast Beef, \$2.00 and Baked Pork Loin, \$1.75. Choice of two from a list of eight vegetables in-

cluding boiled green cabbage, sliced cucumbers and tomatoes.

The regulars, mostly men 30 and older, were sad. "It's like losing an old friend," said Jim Banks, 35, a Delta Air Lines customer service agent who's been dining at Duncan's for 16 years.

All may not be lost. Mrs. Sloan, 51, is looking for another place nearby, something out of the way of bad construction and airport expansion. Something with a little more parking space, but no bigger than what she has now — tables for 30 and seven counter stools — "so you can't do it the way you want to, kind of watch over it."

Mrs. Sloan has worked in the restaurant 11 years and has run it since her mother, Lorena Duncan, died last year.

"I don't think of this as a business," said Jenkins, 33, who's eaten lunch at Duncan's five days a week for 10 years, double-orders regularly and still looks forward to every meal. "It's more like coming home to lunch. Billie treats us special."

As usual, Duncan's served more than 100 Wednesday. Last one out was Bishop Herbert Spangh of the Moravian Church. Bishop Spangh blessed Duncan's when it opened in 1956 and again as it closed.

"I've been following it (the restaurant) around from the time Mrs. Sloan was a little girl, since Central Avenue," said Spangh, who praised both food and fellowship at Duncan's. "I hope she'll find someplace around here, as she can, to carry on the tradition."

On The Inside

Bombuck	10E	Landers	3C
Bridge	10E	Living	1C
Business	6E	Movies	10B
Crossword	14C	Obituaries	7B
Comics	10E	Outdoors	4E
Classified	10E	People	12B
Deaths	14C	Science	3C
Editorial	18A	Sports	1E
Feature Page	12B	TV Listing	9B
Food	10E	Viewpoint	19A
Horoscope	11E	Weather	11E