

Waiting For Justice

BY AISHA I. JEFFERSON

• **A joke.** That's what Lela Mae Moore Dunston, 63, thinks of the offer of a \$50,000 payout for being involuntarily sterilized by North Carolina officials.

But that's how much the Eugenics Compensation Task Force recommends she and other victims be paid for enduring this injustice.

"It's bogus. That's nothing but chump change," says the Raleigh, NC, resident, who was unknowingly sterilized at 13, soon after giving birth to her son. "I don't know who gave consent to those people to sterilize me, but I didn't do it."

Moore, who's been married 24 years, realized she was sterilized after watching a news story six years ago. She is one of nearly 7,600 people the North Carolina Eugenics Board sterilized from 1929 to 1974. The state, in addition to private organizations, targeted those they considered uneducated, poor or incapable of taking care of themselves. About 40 percent of these victims were Black. The youngest were age 10.

But 1500 to 3000 eugenics victims may only receive \$50,000. A higher figure could keep the budget measure from passing, one lawmaker said. Payouts this year could get OKd on May 6.



Lela Mae Moore Dunston didn't know she'd been sterilized until after watching a TV show about the issue. Anyone who believes they may also have fallen prey to this initiative can call the NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation at 877-550-6013.

Breathing Easy?

BY LASHIEKA HUNTER



An occasional tok of **Mary Jane** doesn't have the adverse effect on the lungs that puffing on cigarettes does, according to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. A study published this year observed 5,000 men over 20 years. Weed tokers lit up two to three times a month, compared to the

average tobacco smokers, who puffed eight squares a day. Lung function worsened for the cigarette smokers, but not for those who fired up the cannabis. Why? The more tobacco you use, the more airflow and lung capacity you lose, the study suggests. Score one for groups who want to legalize marijuana. But trust that the tug of war over the issue won't burn out any time soon.