

News

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News
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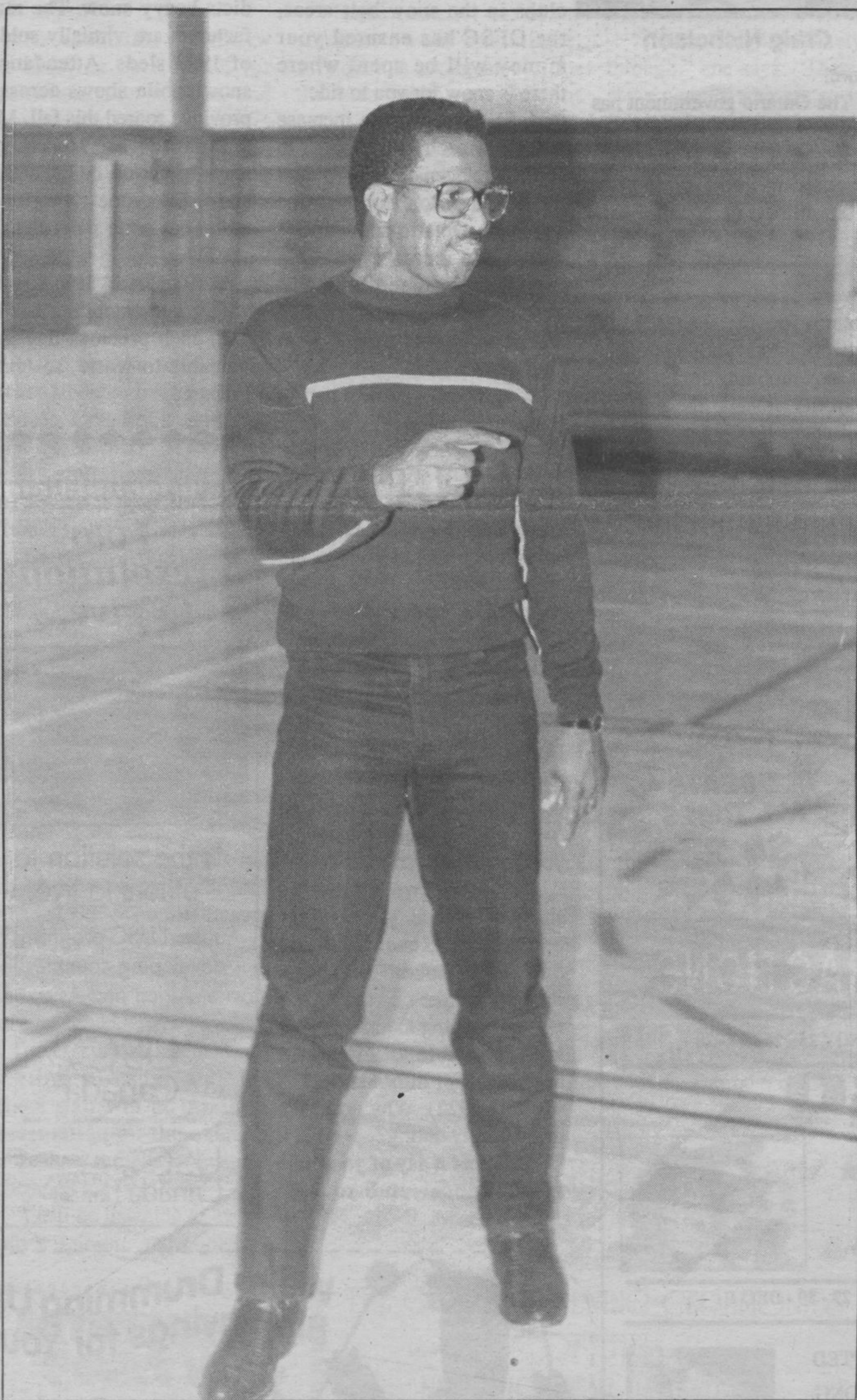
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Larger than life



Former Miami Dolphin Mercury Morris holds court at Lake Superior High School last Thursday evening. Much more on page 11.

KC meets with Chamber to present AOX position

by Darren MacDonald
Staff

Kimberly-Clark presented their case against the province's proposed zero discharge legislation to the Aguasabon Chamber of Commerce at a special meeting held Nov. 18 at the Terrace Bay Recreation Centre.

"A lot of groups use the media as a vehicle to get their message across," said Bob Baxter, KC's Director of Chemical Recovery and Environment.

Baxter showed the 20 chamber members at the meeting an excerpt from a documentary produced by an Australian television news magazine. The documentary was extremely critical of the environmental group Greenpeace.

It outlined cases where the Australian branch of Greenpeace went after Australian companies they alleged were breaking environmental laws and were seriously harming the environment.

However, the group's allegations often turned out to be totally incorrect. In one case, the Australian government forced a company to shut down after Greenpeace held a news conference accusing them of breaking environmental laws.

The company lost \$6 million while the government conducted a \$1.5 million environmental study of the plant.

The study concluded that Greenpeace's allegations were groundless.

In Canada, one of the analogies Greenpeace has used in support of banning chlorine-based pulp and paper production is comparing it to a dripping tap in a bathtub—even a small amount of AOX will

eventually cause the tub to overflow.

In other words, even a small amount of chlorinated organic compounds (AOX) released into lakes and rivers will eventually accumulate and become an environmental hazard.

"That's not a fair analogy, because AOX is a naturally occurring compound," said KC President Lew Grimm, who was also at the meeting.

In a test of the 26 rivers along the North Shore of Lake Superior, all contained naturally-occurring levels of AOX.

"Nature has a mechanism to deal with these kinds of things," said Grimm. "If it didn't, you would be looking at a Dead Sea type of situation in Lake Superior. So the idea of eliminating AOX is unrealistic."

Grimm also said that when the province came out with nine different effluent regulations under the Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) program, "the pulp and paper industry didn't blink."

The MISA requirements were developed in consultation with the industry, Grimm said, and means of achieving them were clearly laid out.

KC meets or exceeds all of the proposed MISA regulations, except for AOX. It has plans to reach the required discharge level of 1.5 kg of AOX per tonne of pulp and paper produced by 1995 at a cost of \$4-8 million.

The provincial Ministry of Environment (MOE) is considering making it illegal for mills to use chlorine compounds in pulp and paper production.

continued on page 3

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