

BLACK INK

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Francine Randolph, Miss BSM

Randolph Miss BSM

Francine Randolph, a sophomore nursing major and Johnston scholar from Kinston, N.C., was named Miss Black Student Movement at the second annual coronation ball on Oct. 13. Before a crowd of 300 students and guests in Great Hall, Miss Randolph pledged "to uphold the honor that this title bestows and to continue as director of the gospel choir."

Other members of the court were: first runnerup - Valerie Batts, second runnerup - Theresa Burnette, and maids of honor - Ruby Fuller, Theresa Whitley, and Sadie Baldwin. A long stem rose symbolizing honor, beauty and service was presented to each member of the court.

Warren Carson acted as Master of Ceremony while Doris Stith, Miss BSM 1971-72, presented the awards. A plaque

was presented to Mae McLendon as honorary Miss BSM for four years of unselfish service to the organization.

In tribute to the court, "Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child" was sung by a freshman vocal ensemble. The Opeyo Dance Group gave a touching and dramatic performance of "I Told Jesus." Ebony Readers, a group made up of freshmen also, did selected readings from a play "Three X Love," by Ron Zuber.

For the remainder of the evening, the audience was thoroughly entertained by "Free People," of Wilmington, N.C., whose musical diversity ran from Jimmy Hendrick's "Purple Haze" to Kool and the Gang's "Chocolate Buttermilk."

The ball ended at two, but its spirit continues.

Power to the people!

Legal lynching in Chavis trial

By Angela Bryant

This is nothing but the same old formula: political activism + Radical Ideology = political prisoner. These arrests are designed to give the impression that political activists have committed criminal acts against the people. This diverts the attention of the people from their just struggle against oppression and powerlessness, to a short term struggle to raise bail or legal defense funds, thus destroying the "will" of the people.

The trial of Rev. Ben Chavis and the Wilmington 16 for states charges began on September 11 in Burgaw, North Carolina. The state alleges that these charges of conspiracy to commit arson and assault occurred during the 'Wilmington Insurrection' of February 4-6, 1971.

The struggle began in Wilmington with a series of racial incidents in the schools for which only Black students were punished. Following these incidents a list of demands were presented to the school administration for Black studies and personnel and for review of the cases of suspension of these Black students. Sporadic fires and sniping ensued. Blacks marched on city hall and asked for a curfew to protect the Black community from white vigilantes.

A Black youth, Gibbs Stevenson Corbett, was killed by the police allegedly in the line of duty protecting a fireman from

sniper fire. A curfew and the National Guard were called in only after a white man, Harvey Cumber, was found killed in a wave of sniper fire. Ben Chavis, organizer for the North Carolina-Virginia Commission for Racial Justice and minister of the Church of the Black Messiah "came down... to mobilize the Black community behind students." He publicly charged "the mayor and city council with conspiracy in setting up the Black community for annihilation."

In December, they began making arrests. They charged Rev. Chavis and Jim Grant, a Black newsman, with 'conspiracy to aid individuals to escape custody, and possession of explosive devices, in connection with a Black rebellion in Oxford, N.C. two years ago.

Both were released on bond. Rev. Chavis was charged, a week later, with accessory after the fact to the shotgun death of Eugene Wright on March 17, with two sisters and two other brothers. Suddenly nine months later, the police uncover that all those in the house conspired to hide the murder of Wright by one of the other brothers, Don Nixon, the murder, was out on \$3000 bond while activists, Chavis and Sister Mollie Hicks had bail over three times as much.

Chavis was arrested for a second time in two weeks on charges of conspiracy to murder Harvey Cumber. Placed under

\$75,000 bond this time, Chavis was arrested with 6 other brothers and a white woman. All were charged with various offenses, ranging from assault on emergency personnel to arson. Wilmington police Chief, H.E. Williamson said, "I'm the happiest damn police chief in the whole country. I think we have the majority of those who made trouble for us last February."

The state's key witness, Allen Hall, who has been in and out of mental institutions for several years and convicted for arson and assault netting him 12 years in prison, was the highlight of the hearing. There were many contradictions in the witness' testimony. There was visible evidence that all defendants had been maced and beaten in their cells.

On April 8, the federal trial of Chavis and Dr. James Grant began in Raleigh on charges of "conspiracy to commit an offense against the U.S. government and aiding and abetting a federal fugitive to escape the country." Theodore Alfred Hood, facing 30 years in prison, and Walter Washington, facing 60 years in charges, had all charges dismissed against them in exchange for testimony against Chavis and Grant. The jury found Chavis innocent of all charges, but mysteriously found Grant guilty of all charges. Chavis was returned to New Hanover County Jail under \$50,000 bond to await state charges on May 1.

The county solicitor's office requested a mistrial, because after the first week of jury selection, the solicitor became ill with "intestinal flu." A mistrial was granted on 12th at which time the potential jury was composed of ten Blacks and two whites. After brilliant representation by attorneys James Ferguson and associates, bail was lowered and on June 14th the prisoners gained their temporary freedom. On October 9, the state rested its case after five weeks of trial in Burgaw.

The Conference on Dual Justice and Political Oppression asks that you "use whatever influence you may have to protest the state's conspiracy to legally hang these defendants." Also protest that another trial after the mistrial is "double jeopardy" which is in violation of the constitution. YOU ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN STOP THIS POLITICAL TRIAL!

Please organize and publicize this injustice and this oppressive dual justice system. "If they take him in the morning, they will be coming for us at night."

Gregory: Youth for peace

By Mae Israel

Speaking to a capacity crowd in Memorial Hall on Sept. 26, Black political activist and former nightclub comedian, Dick Gregory praised the young people of America for being "the most morally honest, dedicated group of people that ever lived."

"Never before has any group had on its shoulders what you have on yours," Gregory emphasized. "Young people have a big job to do, but not too much time. You were left with the problems but the old folks used all the tricks. It is up to you to clean up this sick, slimy, degenerate nation."

According to Gregory, the American youth have to fight the hypocrisy of the older generation. "The old folks left you a bad check with no more cash," he explained.

As freelance humanitarian, Gregory urged the youth to develop peace, harmony, and respect for the right ideals in society. "Man has more respect for flags and songs than he has for one another," he said. "I hope when you get through doing your thing, we'll feel toward another the way we feel about the flag."

Concerning race relations, Gregory called the white students "the new niggers." "America's mentality is such that it has to have a nigger. Black people were not always America's nigger. At one time, we didn't even qualify. Until the 1960's the Jews, Irish, and Catholics were the niggers. Now the qualifications have changed. If you have long hair, wear a dirty tee shirt, no bra and sandals, you are it."

Gregory warned white students about making the same



mistake as the other niggers. "They only wanted to get out. You must insure that after you, there will be no more niggers," he added. "We ex-niggers want

to say to you new niggers, Thank you baby."

As a political analyst, Gregory said the 18 year olds only have "the right to elect but not to select." He criticized the government for playing tricks on the people. Gregory told the youth, "Don't let the super freaks get you into their bag."

For 18 months Gregory has not eaten any solid food in protest of the Vietnam war. He feels that this fast, which will not end until the war does, "serves as a rallying point of the positive forces in the U.S." Gregory has fasted many times to illustrate various causes: America's drug problem led to a 71 day fast beginning August, 1970.

First famous as a professional comedian, Dick Gregory is now a recording artist, author, lecturer, actor, social satirist, critic and philosopher.