



The essence of freedom is understanding

Volume 12, Number 8

BLACK STUDENT MOVEMENT OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill,

January 7, 1980

King stresses voting rights, awareness of issues

Theresa Ann Williams
Co-Editor

Human Rights: Challenge of the Future was the topic of a lecture given by Coretta Scott King in Memorial Hall on December 5.

Mrs. King, widow of Martin Luther King Jr., stated that she has been actively involved in the struggle for human rights for more than 30 years.

King quoted the human rights granted in the constitution. She stated that it has been two centuries since these rights were granted but that they are far from reality today.

In what appeared to be a Carter for President campaign speech, she commended his work in the area of foreign policy, civil rights and the hiring of minorities.

She cited that there is progress, "real and genuine" in the area of foreign policy. She said that for the last three decades our human rights have been violated in the name of national security. "It is our task to see that it doesn't happen again."

Mrs. King stated that she wholeheartedly supported Carter for reelection. "We have the most open White House ever," she stated. "It is not in our best interest to change presidents at this time."

She read a passage from Martin Luther King's February 4, 1968 speech, The Drum Major's instinct. In response to a question from the audience, King stated that Carter's actions exhibited the traits of the servant which her husband spoke of in his speech. "He could not have been elected had he not familiarized himself with King's struggle. He defied the traditional means of running for election. He ran without the support of the Democratic party."

She continued, "he communicated a sincerity and concern for the poor. I'm gonna vote for him. I did when he ran for governor of Georgia."

In reaction to a statement she had heard that we as students are not committed to ideals, King challenged the audience, which was mostly students to not let the statement be true.

"I believe that there is a reservoir of talent in the students today," she stated. "The future will be determined by the quality of your involvement and commitment." She challenged us to decide how we'll use our talents.

King urged the audience to take advantage of their rights by voting. She emphasized that voting once was a privilege and not a right. She commented that her husband did more for voter registration than any of his other activities.

She stated that students must become aware of current issues, and should voice their opinions to their elected officials.

She stresses, "You have no right to complain about the problems of society if you don't exercise your right to vote."



Coretta Scott King strongly supports the Carter Administration. (Photo by Dewese Gilyard).

In response to a question regarding Carter's "silence" on the Wilmington 10 and other political prisoners, King replied that this is an area where we need more help from the people.

"We cannot just leave it to a president or a Congress. We must make it impossible for them not to act."

When asked how she would react as president to the Iranian conflict, she stated, "I do not have the magic answer. Carter has reacted admirably. He analyzed the situation and was cautious before he made a statement."

King is president of the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change. She described it as an active organization committed to nonviolent change.

She is author of the bestseller, "My Life with Martin Luther King Jr.," which has been translated into 16 languages. She has received dozens of honorary degrees and other awards."

King's speech can best be summarized by a quote she recited by Horace Mann, "be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for human rights."

Students rally in support of Sonja Stone

Beverly Shepard
Special Projects Editor

At 1:30 on Friday, November 30, approximately 200 Black students lined the steps of South Building holding signs and bulletins that endorsed tenure for Dr. Sonja Stone, retention of Black faculty, and a diligent recruitment of Black students to UNC.

The central impetus of the protest was, however, the denial of tenure last spring for Dr. Stone, a professor and former co-director of the African and Afro-American Studies Curriculum. The protesting students were angered by instances such as this one which illustrated UNC's lack of commitment to the retention and recruitment of Black faculty and students.

Mark Canady, BSM Minister of Information, pointed out Dr. Stone's

credentials and emphasized the necessity of her presence at the University. Canady commented, "If she goes we will lose the only Black director of the African and Afro-American Curriculum there is. There are not enough Dr. Stones up here and they're trying to get rid of this one."

BSM President William Bynum read a list of grievances that resulted from the members present at the November 29 BSM general body meeting. Bynum read recommendations which included a more intensive minority recruitment program, a yearly workshop for school counselors to emphasize the University's commitment to strengthen minority presence, special consideration for out-of-state Black applicants, an assessment of the validity of SAT scores, a senior Black faculty member to be appointed to the Chancellor's administrative staff, the

recruitment of more Black faculty members, and the guarantee of the sustenance of the Afro-American Studies Curriculum.

Bynum also commented on the creation of an office of minority and disadvantaged affairs for the purpose of promoting "the continued presence of minorities on this campus."

At 2:30, the group marched to Morehead Planetarium chanting, "We're fired up, We won't take no more!"

On the steps of the Planetarium, N.C. Black Student Coalition representative Stella Jones stated, "We are up here to learn so that we can go back into communities and make the Black community of America stronger."

J.B. Kelly, Student Body President, made a statement supporting the Long Report. Wakesa Madsimoyo later introduced two elderly ladies,

friends and supporters of Dr. Stone and the protest, who contributed inspiring speeches and a prayer.

Around 3:00 p.m., the students entered the building to go upstairs to the faculty lounge in order to be closer to the room where the UNC Board of Trustees were to hear Dr. Stone present her appeal for tenure. On the staircase, Morehead Planetarium Director Anthony Jenzano attempted to stop the students on the grounds that they were "inciting a riot," but the group just calmly pushed on past him.

They remained in the lounge along the stairs for approximately 2½ hours, continuing to hold up the signs and singing, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and "We Shall Overcome."

Confrontations with Jenzano continued even after Dr. Stone appeared, but due to the determination of the students, they could not be moved.