

# Black Ink

The essence of freedom is understanding

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## Wright receives life, gets consecutive term

by Kenneth Harris  
Special Project Editor

Sixteen-year-old Maxwell Avery Wright received a life sentence plus an additional 45 years in prison on Feb. 10 in Orange County Superior Court after he pleaded guilty to the murder and attempted rape of graduate student Sharon Lynn Stewart.

Stewart and her roommate, Karla Kae Hammett, were kidnapped at knifepoint by a black male in the parking lot of the Morehead Building on Aug. 24. After the man forced the two women into Stewart's car, he then ordered Hammett to drive to Swain Hall parking lot.

The man and Stewart then got out of the car and Hammett was told to drive away. The man led Stewart away in handcuffs toward Franklin Street.

Wright, who was arrested in Nashville, Tenn., on auto theft charges a couple of days after Stewart's disappearance, was charged with Stewart's murder after leading the police to her body. The body was recovered Aug. 30 at a construction site in eastern Guilford County.

Stewart had sustained several wounds.

Wright received a life sentence for the second-degree murder charge; 14 years each for two counts of armed robbery; 12 years for kidnapping Stewart; nine years for kidnapping Hammett; and six years for the first-degree attempted rape charge.

Excluding the life sentence, Wright has received a total of 45 years in prison. These sentences, including the life sentence, are to be served consecutively, that is, once continued on page 6

## First Black Graduate Remembers UNC

by Shirley Hunter  
Managing Editor

On a warm night in 1952, a lone black man marched down an aisle in Kenan Stadium here at UNC to receive his diploma from the Law School. Harvey E. Beech Sr., was the first black man to receive a graduate degree. Marching by himself, because the white student assigned to march beside him refused to, Beech heard some most important words by the commencement speaker.

"Never in my life before have I seen so many intelligent people sitting in the dark," the speaker said. Beech said he would never forget that statement because it was so profound. He said it was a tough time, then, to be one of the only blacks at a predominantly white institution, and this statement summed up the attitude of the era. Whites were so intelligent, yet ignorant of some things, he said.

"It was a tough time," he said. "What you have now is a sophisticated brand of discrimination, but what you had then, was flagrant." Even though Beech said it was hard attending school where there was so

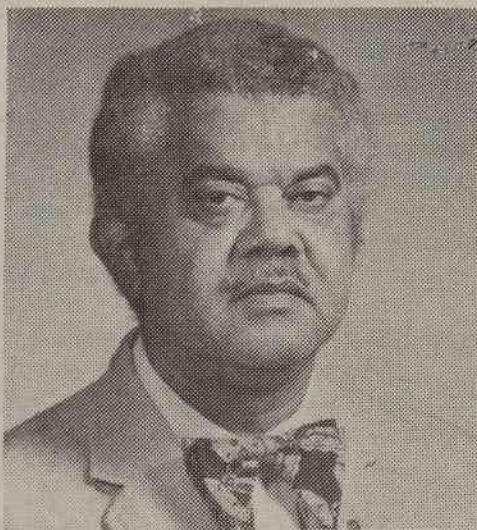


photo courtesy of Harvey Beech

much misunderstanding and ignorance, he did not regret making the decision to come to UNC. Events that occurred in his early teenage years prompted him to be a lawyer, he said.

Born in Kinston, N.C. in 1924 Beech's father was a barber. All of his siblings, two brothers and two sisters, had attended college but none of them had graduated. "My father told me I was going to be a barber," he said. "He was set on it." So, after, Beech graduated from Adkin High School in 1941, his father sent him to a barber's

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Neil Jones and Anette Parker performing at their concert on the 13th of February

photo by Tammie Foust

## Family support helps Hawkins excel

by Laurie Denise Willis  
Editor

When John Wayne Hawkins graduated from Weldon High School in Weldon, N.C., he said he wanted to attend college but circumstances prevented that. Nine years later he entered UNC as a freshman and on April 15 he's scheduled to be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, an honorary fraternity that requires at least a 3.7 g.p.a.

Hawkins, a senior English major from Halifax, N.C., said that during those nine years the desire to attend college never left him. "But when I did get here I was terrified because I'd been out of school for so long and wasn't exactly sure that I'd be able to make it."

Deciding to come to college was a big decision for Hawkins because he has a wife, Mattie, who is a secretary in the school of education, and a son, John Wayne Hawkins Jr.

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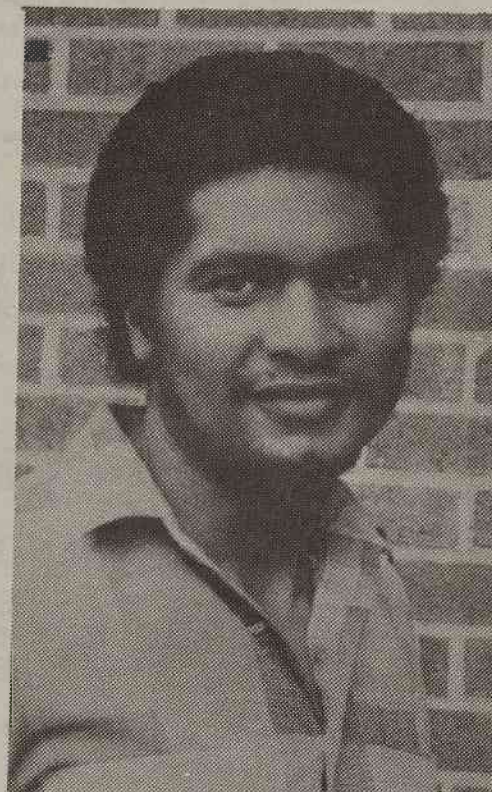


photo by Tammie Foust

John Wayne Hawkins