

# SCLC pulling itself together after King's death

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — Ten months after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the organization which he founded and headed for 11 years is pulling itself together, reorganizing, trimming staff and mapping new campaigns to fight poverty and racism.

It is a "new thrust" for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, under command of the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, the Alabama-born Baptist preacher who succeeded King last April.

Long-range efforts to organize on economic, political and edu-

cational fronts keynote Abernathy's strategy.

The emphasis will be on often undramatic programs, such as housing projects and negotiating for better jobs, rather than headline-getting marches and protest demonstrations.

A pilot project in the organizing stage at Philadelphia, Pa., will concentrate on improving schools for Negroes.

"This is the real hard nitty gritty," said the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery of Atlanta, chairman of the 53-member board of directors. "We recognize the fact

that a larger percentage of our work may not be glamorous, dramatic, attention-getting."

Lowery and other SCLC sources confirmed that the organization, dependent upon contributions, has been in a low period financially but expects to remain solvent. Some staff members, including many hired for the Poor People's Campaign last year in Washington, have been discharged.

Others probably will be released. The staff numbers about 100, trimmed from upwards of 150 during the Poor People's Campaign.

"There will be changes in staff structure and staff responsibility," Lowery said. These changes will be worked out over the next three months. But he said no drastic or major change of personnel is likely. Nor will Abernathy be shifted from the president's job, Lowery said.

It's a matter of streamlining, he said.

Benard Lafayette, 28, program coordinator who joined the staff prior to King's death, said the staff was being tailored to fit program needs.

"We haven't finished yet," he said.

Treasurer Cirilo McSween of Chicago said SCLC was "in pretty good shape" financially. He said there will be more direct fund raising in black communities by soliciting. A "Tag Day" project initiated last year in several cities will be expanded nationwide, he said, with contributors being given tags to indicate their support.

SCLC operates mainly on money from its regular mail appeals. Funds also are raised at benefits by entertainers and at Rallies foundations finance some projects. Last October,

SCLC Foundation received a \$35,000 payment of profits from a King biography.

Little change of direction seems likely. Instead, SCLC will be concentrating on the type of programs begun in recent years, unspectacular programs that have paid high dividends and often go unnoticed publicly.

Most significant of these is Operation Breadbasket, the economic improvement program which in Chicago alone has gained hundreds of jobs for Negroes.

## A 20th Century Miracle

As I complete my 20th year of continuous service to Chowan College, frequently my mind strays back to the early years of reactivation when we had about 130 students and 10 or 12 teachers and administrators.

Visualize our campus 20 years ago. It was a disreputable sight. One would not have dared walk around our campus after dark. The lawn had grown up in weeds. There was trash and debris everywhere. Window lights were out and cobwebs were in evidence in every window. It was a perfect habitat for tramps, snakes, and goats. The rooms on the basement floor were filled with mattresses, bed springs, dressers, and old books. I well recall my first sight of the auditorium. Plaster was down, windows out, curtains in tatters, and at least 50 percent of the seats broken or missing. Much time and money were needed to clean-up the campus and buildings. We take for granted today the sprinkler system, fire escapes, and boiler, but these had to be provided before we could pass a fire inspection.

During the summer of 1949, I, along with two ladies, covered this area seeking students. We had no catalogue, no curriculum, no staff and no teachers. All of the statements which we made had to be predicated by "if." Of course, our work would not be accredited. I clearly remember driving to Virginia to talk to a prospective student. He was in the field at work, so I had to remove my shoes and tramp at least a mile to locate him. We were not too selective then. If a student could sign his name, we accepted him gladly!

However, in September, 1949, we opened our doors again. Finances and students were our major problem. Four small cottages were built with borrowed money from Murfreesboro citizens—for our boys. Girls occupied the Columns.

The strength of the faculty that we got together that first year is amazing. In my opinion, it was one of the best we have had in 20 years. Each teacher constituted his own department. We had no dean or registrar, so each of us was a law unto himself and kept his own records and made his schedule of course offerings and classes. We survived the year. It is perhaps easier to revive an old college than it is to keep it going. Finances were still our main problem. We teachers realized this problem and we solicited funds. Some furniture was bought from War Surplus and we teachers met down by the gym to paint and repair this for dormitory use.

Through the years we have had our problems, but I firmly believe it was the will of God that this institution should survive and grow. This just did not happen. Much work, planning, sweat, and tears have brought about this miracle which you see today.

The McDowell Columns building and the stone cottage are the only buildings which stand today that were here 20 years ago. All of the others have been built during the past two decades.

Even with the problems which we have had, I believe these past 20 years have been among the happiest in my life. I have seen hundreds of young people receive a college education who would never have seen the inside of a college classroom were it not for this institution. I have seen many of our graduates continue their education and earn their Ph.D. degree and become college professors. I see every week former students who are the religious, civic, economic and social leaders in their community. Recently I ran across a student who is the daughter of a former student of mine. I take pride in having had Professors Mulder, Paul, and Sowell as former students in my classes. It is difficult for me to realize that I was teaching French and English here in what is now the Dean's office when most of our present students were born.

Through the years I have received some flattering offers from other colleges, but I have preferred to plant my roots here and take my small part in this 20th century miracle.

—Eugene Williams

## From Dean of Men's Desk

Now that students are required to show identification cards at every meal in the cafeteria, we are more aware of the careless handling and use of them.

Identification cards have been found on cafeteria trays, in garbage cans, and in library books. However, only a small percentage of lost ID cards are ever recovered.

What can a dishonest finder do with your ID card? Bearers of ID cards are admitted to athletic events and concerts. Last semester, lost ID cards were used to cash several forged checks (to the tune of over \$200) in Murfreesboro.

Lost ID cards can be replaced for \$3 by the librarian but a new ID card does not assure you that some person, student or otherwise, is not using your old one as a bookmark in Whitaker Library or identification when cashing a forged check on your bank account.

## "That Commander Bucher Is Doing Pretty Well for a Guy Who Didn't Fire a Shot!"



## Hal Boyle

### Exercising your memory

NEW YORK (AP) — About the only exercise some people get is the exercise of their memory.

But it isn't a bad kind of exercise, when it isn't overdone. It may not build bulky muscles, but it does restore that keystone of health—the mind.

Memory also restores our self-confidence. For it tells us that if we have weathered the ordeals of yesterday, we probably also can survive the turmoils of today and even the terrors of tomorrow.

Feel like a little exercise right now? Well, put on your thinking cap and see if you can remember away back when—

The only way a man could retire fairly early in life was to have 10 strapping sons unafraid of work.

Ladies were supposed to swoon or grow faint when confronted by emergencies, so they carried a small bottle of smelling salts in their purses—just to revive them in case.

During the heyday of the bobbed-haired, short-skirted flapper during the 1920s, girls wore strands of beads long enough to use as a clothesline or to jump rope with.

The postman not only knocked twice, but also delivered the mail to your home twice a day, morning and evenings, and a first-class letter could be mailed for a mere two cents.

When a boy got a job in a drugstore as a soda squirt, one of his big moral problems was the fact that all the other kids promptly expected him to put in a dime's worth of ice cream when they bought a five-cent cone.

If a child dropped to the floor in a screaming tantrum, the father didn't make a hurried call to a psychiatrist for advice. He merely got a pan of water from the kitchen sink, and calmly dashed it into the yowling child's face, and the

screams promptly subsided. Maybe that's where the expression "you're all wet" came from.

You could journey about a modern city for weeks on end and never see a picket's sign.

When a man was sick, he said, "I feel poorly." If he remained home merely because he had a bad cold, he could lose his job. Nobody had heard of the "one-day virus," and if you told your boss you had such an ailment he would automatically put you down as liar and a gold-bricker.

Money was so scarce in most communities that if you were

seen coming home in a cab, everyone in the block wondered if you had inherited some.

Butchers practically gave liver away as it was thought fit food only for cats, health nuts, and people too desperately poor to afford anything else.

The key word in the American dream was "opportunity," not "security." The land was full of "go-getters," each of whom honestly felt that if he were given "a fair chance," he could become as rich as Rockefeller.

Those were the days! Remember?



"Not only do we have the crisis of 'crime in the streets'—these 'chuckholes in the streets' are getting worse, too!"

## Teacher pay raise sought

By RICHARD DAW  
Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH (AP) — Sen. Ger alpine Nielson, R-Forsyth, introduced a bill in the North Carolina Senate Thursday to bring the pay of public school teachers up to the national average next year at a cost of \$55 million.

She said she was preparing two tax bills to provide needed money, one of them a levy on soft drinks.

"In my mind, this is the highest priority legislation for this General Assembly session," the Republican legislator said.

Her bill would give teachers a \$1,000 raise for the 1969-70 school year, which she said would bring them to the national average.

It would provide them an additional 5 per cent increase the following year.

In addition, the salaries of all other public school special service personnel would be increased \$1,020 for the 1969-70 year, plus a 5 per cent hike the following year.

The salary schedule for teachers would be set at a minimum of \$6,000 a year and a maximum of \$12,000.

Gov. Bob Scott, a Democrat, already had proposed that steps toward reaching the national average be taken, but he had not spelled out a timetable.

Plans for gradual steps "are not satisfactory in my opinion," Sen. Nielson said, "because the national average is a moving target and we always seem to miss it."

Her bill, she said, "aims at point blank range."

She said the cost would be \$55 million the first year and that she had not determined the cost for the second year.

She said her proposed soft drink tax would be a crown tax—that is, a tax paid by bottlers.

She declined to say what other tax she would propose.

## Color contrast figure heavily in fashions

By LUCIE NOZL  
AP Fashion Writer

PARIS (AP) — Color contrasts were a big part of the collection of Philippe Venet which opened the official week of Paris spring and summer fashion showings today.

Venet's spring collection is a big bicolor story. His contrasts are often intense. But white is always used to band hemlines, necklines, waistline inserts and frequently a tabbed band stopping at the waistline.

Venet showed swing back fullness in a beautiful group of coats. The backs are cut on circular lines, and the coats are of ten three-quarter length. He emphasizes pants suits mainly for chic resort and country wear. They are frequently in white or a bright shade, egg or chrome yellow or persimmon or red.

Venet uses white trim on collars and cuffs on pants suits, too.

The simple slender box jackets are fingertip or knuckle length worn over matching or contrasting pants. Underneath Venet likes finely striped jersey or bicolor effects in plain wool. The prettiest jeune fille costume was a scarlet flared skirt with its own little flared wool bolero edged in a three-inch band of white wool in a circular line.

## Literary Musings

By PROF. ROBERT MULDER

After a long holiday and a settling-down for the new semester, *Smoke Signals* drifted across our campus last Wednesday, January 29th. From our window on main street (Marks Hall, 218), we appreciated seeing students all across campus (even a few in Squirrel Park) pausing from their busy schedules to read their student publication.

We certainly admired the creative efforts of at least five different students, for the latest issue printed one short story, two bits of verse, one playette, and one student editorial.

This pleases us very much. *Smoke Signals* is the voice of Chowan and should be dominated by Chowanians, students and others involved in our institution.

Both the informative article by our registrar, Mr. D. H. Nicholson, and the guest editorial by Dr. Calvin Dickinson were appreciated by this columnist.

All considered, our first issue of '69 was just what it should have been—the voice of Chowan. May our combined efforts continually keep *Smoke Signals* going out regularly during the new year.

TO READ OR NOT TO READ! In a recent issue of *Biblical Recorder* (February 1, 1969, p. 20), a college student submitted a provocative letter to the column "Our Readers Write."

In his letter the obviously sincere student concerned himself with pornography. According to his letter, he has "seen young people who have been brought down into the depths of sexual perversion because of having read about these perversions in sex books and magazines."

He is perhaps correct in a few cases. If students read with such an intention, they most likely will degrade themselves.

However, we feel that the writer should have explained exactly what he considered pornographic, for without such a clear understanding a casual observer would have to ban most of what is on the market today, with few exceptions.

And the readers of "these few exceptions" will not produce a full-man, to use a Baconian term.

Pornography is literature produced to exploit the act of sensual love causing sexual excitement. It would seem, then, that the individual reader would largely be the one to determine, by his own intentions, whether or not a book be termed pornographic.

While this may not hold true in every case, it presents the issue as we observe what is reaching our book shelves today. We have recently heard students and teachers refer to certain books and movies as pornographic when actually many of them were not that at all.

It would not be accurate, therefore, to brand realistic novels and magazines as pornographic. It seems to us that "motive" would determine the category in which one would place this type of literature.

To read any work of literature with the right intention will result in a better-informed individual, regardless of the title, author, publisher—and yes, the quality of paper used.

Recently we had the pleasure of seeing on television one of Tennessee Williams' best plays, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. The MGM motion picture release starred Elizabeth Taylor, Paul Newman, and Burl Ives in what we considered a master performance for all three.

Though we had read the play before, this was our first viewing, and what a delightful pleasure it was. The acting was superb, we thought, and the play contained one of Williams' most cleverly developed plots.

One finds himself extremely anxious to know just what has happened before the play begins to, have created such tension on Big Daddy's sixty-fifth birthday. The fitting together of so many interesting and important details causes the viewer to assume detective proportions.

Though the play is almost fifteen years old (it opened in New York on March 24, 1955.), the profundity of its situation has not been lost with the passing of years.

We make no apologies for being old-fashioned in our taste insofar as plays are concerned, and we still enjoy a play that ties up the loose ends and offers hope at the conclusion.

## Some facts about that daily bath

Arabs who bathed regularly years ago got a handsome reward, exempt from taxes.

Some Roman baths were as large as two football fields, accompanying 1600 bathers.

In Japan, one filling of hot water in the bath frequently is used for the whole family.