

"40 Years is Long Enough"



Courtesy of TALIAS

By Francena Turner

The surviving members of the "Wilmington 10" want Governor Beverly Purdue to issue them a pardon of innocence and they need your help!

On September 5, 2012, FSU's Technology Assisted Legal Instruction and Services Center (TALIAS) allowed both FSU students and people in the surrounding community to be a part of a web roundtable on the topic based at North Carolina Central University, and including students from Elizabeth City State University, Winston Salem State University, and Fayetteville State University. The panel included host Attorney Irving Joyner, Reverend Benjamin Chavis, Rev. Kojo Nantambu, Judy Mack (daughter of Anne Shepard Turner, the only woman

and the only white member of the Wilmington 10), and Attorney James Ferguson.

The Wilmington 10, consisting of nine young black men and one white woman, were a group of activists who were imprisoned after being convicted of setting a Wilmington, NC grocery store on fire in 1971 and conspiring to shoot at police officers.

"Two years prior (1968-69) they closed down the black high school and made the black students attend one of the two white high schools. The students were angry. There were few black teachers or counselors. They made it hard for black student athletes to play [sports]. There was no black history taught. Students protested for equitable representation. The school refused

to hear us. We decided to not go to school [in protest]," Nantambu stated. Nantambu was one of the organizers of the protest and was not jailed with the young people involved in the pardon request.

Chavis, who is now the President and CEO of the Hip Hop Action Summit, says that he was a "veteran in the civil rights movement" at the time and went to Wilmington on February 1, 1971 to assist the protesters at the request of the United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice.

While organizing the protesters and contacting various authorities to try to garner protection for the students, Chavis said the violence increased. Several students were shot or verbally attacked. When white students decided not to attend school either, the violence hit a fever pitch.

"They didn't do it in support of our efforts, they said if the [blacks] weren't going to go, they weren't either" Nantambu recalled. That weekend resulted in several fires, shootings, and fire bombings.

The following year, 16 young people were arrested and eventually 10, the Wilmington 10, were tried for the bombing of Mike's Grocery Store.

In a series of questionable trials, all 10 were convicted, sentenced to a sum total of 242 years, and served prison time. In 1977, Amnesty International declared them "political prisoners of consciousness". This was significant because it had never happened in the United States. By 1980, the convictions were overturned and they were released from prison.

On May 17, 2012, the remaining members of the Wilmington 10 (four are deceased) petitioned Governor Bev Purdue to grant them pardons of innocence. According to the North Carolina Department of Corrections, a pardon of innocence is granted when an individual has been convicted and the criminal charges are subsequently dismissed. Application for this type of Pardon allows an individual to petition the Governor for a declaration of innocence when the individual has been erroneously convicted and imprisoned and later determined to be innocent. In such cases where this Pardon is granted, an individual is allowed to seek compensation from the state.

Chavis stated the group's focus is to get their pardon. Compensation is not their focus at this time. Ferguson, the

original attorney for the Wilmington 10, emphasized that the pardon request is at Governor Purdue's discretion. He said, "The process is fluid, it would really help if those familiar with the case and the pardon request contacted the governor's office and indicated that they support it." Governor Purdue is not seeking re-election and will leave office in January 2013. If she does not address the pardon request, the group will have to start the process over again with the next governor.

Nantambu, president of the Charlotte chapter of the NAACP, added that all NAACP chapters have petitions available. FSU's NAACP President Tiara Walker can be reached at twalke20@broncos.uncfsu.edu.

Contact information for Governor Bev Purdue:

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SGA World Wide

By Jalynn Jones

Broncos have touched Indian and Chinese soil! After having two executive board members study abroad, Fayetteville State University's Student Government Association is off to a productive start, and have decided to bring the global mind set back to FSU. SGA Executive Board members consisting of Jermaine Coble, Jessica Norfleet, Tristin Rainey, and April Love traveled to Greenville, North Carolina on August 24th through the 26th to collaborate with the 17 members of the UNC school system to implement better planning and service to their respective student bodies. FSU's SGA will also be meeting North Carolina Central University's Student Government Association at our first Football game of the year on September 1st. SGA Week is readily approaching beginning on September 17th. The next senate meeting is on Wednesday, September 26th at 5 p.m. in the Rudolph Jones Student Center room 236. Feel free to come voice your concerns.

September 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 FSU vs. NCCU Durham, NC 6 pm Bus Trip
2	3 Labor Day University Closed	4	5 Senate Meeting @ 5pm	6 AUTOS Campus police forum? Fall Election Application Deadline	7	8 FSU vs. UNC-P Pembroke 6 pm Bus Trip
9	10	11	12 Committee Meeting @ 5pm	13 Hispanic Day Program Election Mtg.	14	15 Tail Gate FSU vs. VA 6 pm
Zeta Week						
16	17 Bronco Kick-Off 11-2pm Club & Organization Fair	18 Chancellor's Speaker Series Community Service	19 Bronco kick off Dance Your Mass Off	20 CAREER FAIR SGA Voter Empowerment Program	21 Bon Fire/ Pep Rally	22 Tailgate FSU vs. ECSU Home 6 pm
SGA Week						
23 Class Queen & Kings Inter- views	24 FSU vs. St. Aug. Volleyball Game	25 Speeches Voter Registration Day	26 Senate Meeting @ 5pm	27 Election Mtg. for Mr. FSU and Miss/Mr. HC	28	29 FSU vs. Chowan Away 6 pm International Festival Chancellor's Speaker Series
Hazing Prevention Week						
30 Miss Black and Gold Pageant	Alpha Week through October 6th					