

**The Black Press—  
Our Freedom Depends  
On It!**

# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNDECEASED

**Words of Wisdom**

Those who are believed to be most abject  
and humble are usually most ambitious and  
envious.  
—Spinoza

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## HOUSING AUTH. CHALLENGES HUD GUIDELINES

Durham Housing Authority officials have challenged the new HUD regulations banning the eviction of low income tenants and had 23 court-ordered evictions sustained after they were originally denied by the Small Claims Court.

An article in last week's issue of The Carolina Times disclosed that the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), effective February 18, placed a ban on evictions in public housing unless the "persons were able to move into decent, safe, sanitary and satisfactorily heated housing."

A representative for 23 tenants whose evictions were being sought by the local housing authority on February 23 explained the new HUD regulations to Magistrate John West. After hearing the new directives, West dismissed the

evictions. Later, the housing authority got in touch with HUD and was told by Harris J. Winkstein, HUD area counsel, that the policy did not apply to North Carolina. The authority informed Magistrate West that the directive did not apply and that they wanted the dismissals reversed. West complied but failed to notify the tenant representatives.

Housing Authority Director James Kerr said that Durham tenants are not facing any undue hardships due to an increase in fuel costs. They said that tenants have been given additional time to pay bills incurred as of March 1.

However, Nellie White, chairperson of the Durham Tenant Steering Committee said the increased costs to tenants have been very great in Durham. Her organization

pays the utility bills and delinquent bills of many families that cannot pay their bills due to hardships, rather than have the families evicted. The payment is a loan which is repaid to the DTC in monthly installments.

Howard Lee Press Aide Steve Meehand said that members of the community assistance division of the Department of Natural and Economic Resources is studying the situation of tenants to see if it is possible for them to intervene and supply data to document increased fuel costs to the HUD office.

Dr. John Larkins, Assistant for Minority Affairs to Governor James Hunt, said that he was seeking the advice of the Governor's legal counsel to see if there was any way for the Governor to intervene in the situation.

## 4000 Say No To Death Penalty

RALEIGH (CCNS) — Four thousand North Carolinians signed petitions against the re-enactment of the death penalty in North Carolina. The petitions were presented to House Speaker Carl Stewart of Gastonia March 3 by the N. C. Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Stewart said he was pleased to accept the petitions and would turn them over to Ed Davenport, chairman of the House Judiciary II Committee for consideration. Davenport's committee is now considering several proposals to re-enact the death penalty, one of which he introduced into the General Assembly.

Harriott Quin, co-convenor of the N. C. Coalition Against the Death Penalty, challenged the legislature to provide "leadership in this moral, political and ethical issue." Quin said that since the N. C. Capital punishment law has been stricken by the U. S. Supreme Court eight months ago, "murder rates in our cities have dropped significantly according to the latest Department of Justice reports. This calls into question the merit of the argument that the death penalty is a de-

terrent to violent crimes." There are four proposals currently before the N. C. Legislature to re-enact the death penalty. A bill to abolish capital punishment and institute in its place life imprisonment without possibility of parole, pardon or any other administrative remedy before 25 years is served has been reported favorably out of

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### OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

Dear Mr. President:

You have no doubt received many letters calling for the U. S. Government's support for the cause of human rights in foreign countries where there are alleged human rights violations.

Most notably is your recent response to a letter from the Soviet dissident, Andrei D. Sakharov, wherein you stated, "You may rest assured that the American people and our government will continue our firm commitment to promote respect for human rights. We shall use our good offices to seek the release of prisoners of conscience."

As only one of many American citizens who has been unjustly imprisoned not because of criminal conduct but as a direct result of participation in the human and civil rights movement in the United States, I appeal to you, President Carter, to first set a national priority of freeing all U. S. political prisoners.

It is from a prison cell in the state of North Carolina where I urgently write to you about the case known publicly as the "Wilmington, N. C. Ten". We are ten victims of a racist and political prosecution.

How can our government honestly proclaim support for human rights as a matter of foreign policy while allowing domestic violations of human rights to continue under the guise of the administration of an unfair criminal justice system?

Yes, my conscience also compels me to speak out for I am a Christian minister and I have the faith that you, Mr. President, will not allow this repressive hypocrisy to continue.

In fact, we are equally as well "prisoners of conscience."

Will you not speak out for us? Will you not use your good office to bring about our release?

I pray that you will with speed, respond positively to my request.

For the Wilmington Ten and all U. S. political prisoners

In Christ name,  
Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.  
McCain Prison

## South African Leader Describes Oppression

Tsietsi Mashinini, exiled South African student leader described the state of the revolution in his country at Duke University recently while several organizations announced support for nationwide demonstrations on March 25 and 26 against U. S. multinational corporations that exploit South Africa.

Mashinini, 19 year old President of the South Africa Student Organization (SASO) was forced into exile during last summer's upheaval as several of the country's leaders were imprisoned by police. A large reward was placed on Mashinini's head.

A native of Soweto, the black ghetto outside of Johannesburg where the first demonstrations against the teaching of Afrikaans occurred, Mashinini described how students were organized and supported by their parents to rid schools of the language of the minority Dutch settlers during last summer. Boycott of schools and eventually a general strike by Soweto workers and workers throughout the country drew the bloodiest response from South African authorities since the Sharpsville massacre in March of 1962.

A film smuggled out of the country showed how police



TSIETSII MASHININI

sacks with numbers on their foreheads" in a makeshift police morgue. They were killed on the first day of the bloody upheaval. Mashinini said as he contradicted police claims that a smaller number had been killed.

Apartheid, the South African racial policy of separation of the races in residential living, working and all aspects of life, with its ever present pass-book, Mashinini said, must be ended. Discounting the labels of colored and black given to Africans by the Vorster regime and western press, Mashinini said, "Africans now see those as divisions which allow the corporations to continue to exploit us."

During a question and answer session students asked several questions which Mashinini later said reflected the distortion of information about the South African revolution in the U. S. He is speaking to groups in several cities across the country to attempt to eradicate misconceptions about the state of affairs in his country.

The National Student Coalition Against Racism, which sponsors Mashinini's travels, announced nationwide demonstrations against [Continued On Page 14]



DEATH PENALTY PETITIONS — House Speaker Carl Stewart receives and looks over petitions against re-enactment of the death penalty in North Carolina. Looking on at left is Harriott Quin, Co-convenor of the N. C. Coalition Against the Death Penalty, standing beside Collins Kilburn, Director of the Commission of Social Ministries of the N. C. Council of Churches. Kilburn and Quin presented Stewart the petitions with Rep. Ruth Cook of Wake County, standing behind Stewart looking on.

## Soviet Newsmen Visits City

"The legal system in North Carolina concerning the case of the Wilmington 10 is moving very, very slowly," commented the Chief Correspondent for Soviet Radio and Television during a visit to North Carolina last week.

Correspondent Youry Solton made the comment between interviews last week in Durham for a broadcast to the Soviet people on the Wilmington 10 case. Solton said his interview would be primarily concerned with the quality of life for North Carolinians, which he observed was very

bad. Other Soviet correspondents were to interview Rev. Ben Chavis and other participants in the Wilmington 10 case.

Solton pointed to the recantation by chief witness against the Wilmington 10 Allen Hall, who said that he had lied in the 1972 trial; and to the recent statement of Rev. Eugene Templeton who said he was with Chavis and others of the Wilmington 10 on the night the defendants were accused of firebombing Mike's grocery.

Carter administration to do the utmost to defend human rights and civil rights as well as the investigation of Attorney General Griffin Bell, Solton said, influenced him to come to North Carolina to "find out how in reality this case is going on here."

Not optimistic about the Bell investigation, Solton said, "It will take a lot of pressure from local people, from public opinion, in order to make this case thoroughly and objectively investigated once more."

Proclamations by the [Continued On Page 14]

## Picketing Ban Will Limit Black Protests

RALEIGH (CCNS) — A bill to limit picketing around courthouses, residences of court officials, and jurors has been criticized by a black legislator as a mechanism to limit black protest in North Carolina.

Durham County Representative H. M. Michaux, Jr., said the only reason the bill was introduced into the General Assembly was because blacks have dared to exercise First Amendment rights under the U. S. Constitution.

"Because black people have deemed it necessary to exercise their choice of free speech now, that free speech may be getting a little bit out of hand to some of the other folks involved, and they want to put a damper on it for the time being," Michaux said.

Michaux's statement followed lengthy debate for more than three weeks in the House Judiciary I Committee where Michaux is a member. The bill's introducer, Representative Park Helms of Charlotte, also a member of the Committee, had the initial proposal put before the General Assembly at the request of the N. C. Judicial Council. The Council represents several of the state's judges.

Judge Hamilton Hobgood, who presided over the 1975 Joan Little trial in which the

was acquitted in the murder of Jailer, asked the legislature to limit picketing and demonstrations to 500 feet from courthouses so that demonstrators would not influence jurors. Hobgood said that he had received letters from three female jurors saying they were intimidated by the presence of demonstrators.

The Judiciary I Committee chaired by Rep. Henry Frye

of Guilford County, made a compromise proposal of 300 feet from any exit of the courthouse.

Black legislators Richard Erwin of Forsyth County and H. M. Michaux did not vote for the bill.

The 300 feet compromise came out of a sub-committee chaired by Rep. Peter Hairston of Advance along with Rep. Joe Johnson of Wake and Rep.

Erwin. Hairston said that the law was needed "to preserve the dignity of the courts."

Michaux contends that provisions of the bill which ban demonstrations around any building occupied by court officials and jurors was too broad and "goes beyond the constitutionally established in Cox vs. Louisiana." That case was often cited as proof that the proposed picketing ban was

constitutional. (The case cited above arose from a similar Louisiana statute).

The bill is sure to pass the legislature, but in what form is not clear. If the sub-committee version passes the House with the 300 feet limitation intact, then a House and Senate conference committee would possibly agree on a single bill to be approved by both houses.

## Raleigh Woman Slapped By Bailiff, Plans Suit

RALEIGH (CCNS) — Mattie Diggs was sitting in court waiting for her trial to continue and received the shock of her life from a burly, white Deputy Sheriff of Robeson County, Gerald Martin slapped her. Martin, she said, unleashed all the force his right hand could muster to hit the young black woman in the full view of court and her lawyer.

Attorney H. Mitchell Baker of Lumberton said that he didn't see the incident but was told by several persons in the court that Ms. Diggs was talking with another woman when bailiff Martin told the two to "shut up." "There were some words and several say he (Gerald Martin) put his finger in her face and then slapped

her," Baker said. Mattie Diggs' account is almost the same. She said Mary Kinsley of Fairmont was talking with her when Martin told the two to "shut up." She said when Ms. Kinsley didn't stop talking, Martin "came over to me and stuck his finger in my face. I told him he couldn't put his hands in my face because I had my constitutional rights, too. That's when he slapped me. I saw then that this man was mean and decided not to push for my rights."

Attorney Baker said that following the courtroom scene bailiff Martin took Ms. Diggs out of the courtroom "and used some profanity." Baker said he felt that Martin had exceeded his authority and often is "a little hot headed."

Martin, questioned about the slapping, refused to comment.

Mattie Diggs, a resident of Connecticut since 1967 when she left North Carolina and thus violated the terms of her parole, was being tried on that offense when slapped. She was under 18 months' suspended sentence for assault when she left. She was being tried for another offense in February of this year in Connecticut when officials there yielded to extradition procedures from North Carolina. She is now serving the 18 month sentence in Women's Prison (also known as the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women). Recalling the courtroom scene, Ms. Diggs said that one

thing surprised her more than anything else. "I just can't understand how a courtroom full of black people could watch a big deputy like him (Gerald Martin) and not say a word," she said.

Mattie is now looking for a lawyer to sue Gerald Martin. Attorney Baker said that as a local attorney he could not handle "that kind of case." Baker said it would affect his other cases in the town. But he said he did show Ms. Diggs how to prepare the necessary legal papers for the suit so she could file them as a pauper when she got to prison. The papers she unfilled, Mr. Diggs hopes she will find "a lawyer who is not afraid to tackle Gerald Martin."

## Haley, Young, Redding and Cheek To Attend Press Confab Conference

WASHINGTON (NNPA) —

Alex Haley, author of "Roots" along with Ambassador Andrew Young of the United Nations, Dr. James E. Cheek, president of Howard University and Dr. Jay Saunders Redding of Cornell University will be among those who will headline the 150th anniversary observance here next week of the founding of the Black Press. Announcement of the event, which will highlight the Mid-Winter Workshop of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) March 16-19, was announced Tuesday by Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, NNPA president, and publisher of the San Francisco Sun Reporter Group.

The opening 150th anniversary address will be delivered at the luncheon on Friday March 18 by Ambassador Young who recently returned from East Africa where he conferred with leaders on the possibility of a peaceful transfer of power in Rhodesia from the white minority to the black majority.

Focus of the Sesquicentennial observance will be the enshrinement of five pioneer black publishers in the Black Press Gallery of Distinguished Newspaper Publishers at Howard University, Friday afternoon.

The five are: Rev. Samuel E. Cornish and John B. Russwurm, co-founders of Freedom's Journal, the first black newspaper; Frederick Douglass and Dr. Martin R. Delany, co-editors of the North Star; and Philip A. Bell, who founded the Colored American and the San Francisco Elevator and was associated with newspapers for more than 60 years.

The enshrinement speaker at Howard will be Dr. Redding, author of three award-winning books, including the widely read "No Day of Triumph." Dr. Cheek will welcome the group to the Black Press Archives and Gallery.

On Friday evening during the Sesquicentennial Banquet in the National Press Club Ballroom, the five honorees will be unveiled before a larger audience.

In addition, Alex Haley,

will head the list of Sesquicentennial honorees. The others will be Dr. Cheek, for establishing the archives and gallery; John H. Johnson, editor-publisher of Ebony and Jet, for the development of these outstanding magazines; William O. Walker, editor-publisher of the Cleveland Call and Post, for his contribution to the creation of the archives and gallery.

Ms. Lucile Bluford, editor of the Kansas City Call, for pressing her suit to enter the University of Missouri School of Journalism all the way to the Supreme Court and winning a journalism school for blacks; and John H. Sengstacke editor-publisher of the Chicago Daily Defender and nine other Sengstacke papers for taking the leadership in the founding and development of NNPA over the past 37 years.

Concluding the awards will be the memorializing of anti-slavery martyr Elijah P. Lovejoy whose editorials in his Alton, Ill., Observer against slavery cost him his life in 1837, and William Lloyd Garrison, editor of the Liberator and the No. 1 antislavery crusader, 1831-1865.