

By Gerald C. Horné, Esquire



MISS DANIEL

### Ms. Retha Daniel To Participate In Youth Contest

Miss Retha Sharon Daniel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James O. Daniel of Route 8, Stanley Road, Durham, and granddaughter of Mrs. Margaret D. Jeffries of 510 Dowd St., has been selected to participate in the "America's Youth in Concert" 1981 program sponsored by the Universal Academy for Music, Princeton, New Jersey. The purpose of the program is to demonstrate internationally the high quality and fine character of America's youth while enriching and expanding the musical and cultural horizons of the young musician.

Students from each state are selected for "America's Youth in Concert" by individual audition. There will be a performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City prior to departure for Europe. The students will present concerts in London, Paris, Geneva, Innsbruck, Venice, Florence and Rome.

The "America's Youth in Concert" 1981 is organized into ensembles of Concert Choir, Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra. Intensive rehearsals and recording sessions will precede the Carnegie Hall concert. The young musicians will perform under the baton of outstanding university conductors while the chaperone staff consists largely of music educators from different areas of the country.

Miss Daniel is scheduled to leave Durham on July 2 and return near the end of the month.

Some notable performance locations in the past have been the White House and the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in

### Affirmative Action

During the massive "Rendezvous With Life" march in Washington protesting the Atlanta child slayings, a number of speakers took the opportunity to lament the police work that has failed to turn up a single suspect. In contrast, when a few whites were slain during the 1980 uprising in Miami, blacks were tried and convicted so quickly it could have made your head spin.

Such is the sad state of affairs in the nation's police forces. Most police officers are working class white males who are particularly susceptible to the canard that but for affirmative action their sons and daughters would advance further. Thus, instead of seeing those blacks grouped with them at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid as their allies, many of the white males who dominate police forces view minorities as sworn enemies. The Ku Klux Klan has met with some success in recruiting them in the south and north and this is one of the most ominous developments that has bedeviled this nation in recent times.

This poisonous political atmosphere cannot be separated from the "Rip Van Winkle" approach police forces have been taking when it comes to apprehending purveyors of racist violence. Atlanta is the most egregious example, but, unfortunately, the national landscape is littered with others.

Central and southeastern Pennsylvania is not an area one would immediately suspect of being a hotbed of racist activity. The bucolic scenery, the Amish in their horse-drawn wagons pursuing a life-style hundreds of years old, the gently undulating hills all resemble an idyllic picture post card bereft of tensions. But seething beneath this apparently placid surface are explosive contradictions.

On Friday, May 1, 1981, there was an attempted lynching of Robert Leslie Henderson, a black resident of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He remains in serious condition in the intensive care unit of a local hospital.

It seems that Henderson was abducted at gunpoint by three white males. His assailants made him disrobe and attempted to hang him by his rectum from a crane hook in a nearby junkyard. The victim was then taken to a truck service area. Still held at gunpoint, the assailants forced Henderson to sit on a vent pipe, approximately seven inches in length and four inches in diameter of a large oil tanker. In other words, these white hoodlums, drunk with racism, tried to imitate medieval torture by impaling him —

Washington, D.C.; Royal Albert Hall, London; Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris; Doge's Palace, Venice; and the Vatican in Rome. In 1976, at the invitation of MENC, "America's Youth in Concert" represented the USA at the International Society of Music Educators Conference in Montreux, Switzerland.

Miss Daniel is a rising senior at Hillside High School. She has maintained a high scholastic average in all of her studies. She is a soloist for the Madrigals and the Concert Choir at Hillside, as well as a singer in three choirs at Mount Gilead

Baptist Church. She has played piano in a recital at Duke University as a student of Chamberlin Piano Studio where she now studies piano under Mrs. Margaret S. Shearin. She has studied dance at Irene's Studio of Dance and is presently a member of the Shepard Modern Dance Group under the direction of Mrs. Edith M. Johnson.

### Freedom

(Continued from Page 10) the N.C. Board of Paroles, Dr. Davis is still active in the fight for better conditions within the prison system. He has

like a piece of paper on a spindle. Henderson has undergone a colostomy and has had an artificial anus created for bowel passage by a surgical procedure.

Once again, the police have been asleep at the switch. In the fact of compelling evidence, they have ruled out racism as motivation. This is somewhat strange because the Lancaster area has been beset by racial incidents. A trailer park there where an interracial couple stayed was the scene of a cross-burning last month. There is an active KKK chapter in the area. There is a great deal of community concern over unresolved complaints involving Harrisburg police officers who were distributing KKK medallions within the police force.

Some would not find it surprising that police have dismissed racism as a motivation for this heinous crime. Totally dissatisfied with the pace of the police investigation, State Representative David Richardson has demanded that the Attorney General of the state conduct an independent probe of the incident.

This area of Pennsylvania, like so many others, has been ravaged by unemployment and the KKK with their nefarious line about "welfare loafers" and affirmative action being the source of all misery.

But the police inertia in Pennsylvania has been outstripped by the police terrorism that has plagued other areas.

Increasingly, police officials, including Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, have been kicking in black folks' doors supposedly in search of criminal activity. A recent case is reported on the May 9 front page of the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*.

The article, by Beverly McCarthy, described what happened when police broke into Mrs. Evelyn Thompson's house in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. It stated, "On Thursday night, April 16, at about 9 p.m., Mrs. Thompson heard a loud knocking on her front door. She asked who was there and the reply was, 'me'."

"I want to see Bill." When Mrs. Thompson told the voice that no Bill lived at that address, she was told to open the door because she could not be heard from behind a closed door. To this, Mrs. Thompson replied, "I can hear you; I don't open the door to strangers." Someone then suggested that Mrs. Thompson open the door because, "We have something for you." It was then that Mrs. Thompson told them that she was not going to open the door and if they didn't

leave, she was going to call the police. "This is the police," they answered, this time demanding that she open the door. When Mrs. Thompson refused again, the police threatened to break open the door. Mrs. Thompson said that she turned on the porch light and the burglar alarm and called emergency, telling them that someone was trying to break into her home. As soon as she hung up the telephone, her front door was broken open."

Six officers entered her house. The article then continued, "I have a warrant to search this house," said the uniformed officer. According to another policeman, it had been reported that drugs were being sold at the Thompson home and that the policemen had come to search for evidence of drug pushing. Upon looking at the warrant, Mrs. Thompson discovered that her name was not on it. She then told the officers that the name on the warrant was not her's, and that she didn't know anyone by the name which did appear on the paper. . . .

"After spending 45 minutes in Mrs. Thompson's home, the officers concluded that they had broken into the wrong house and left. Chairs were used to barricade the door because locks had been broken off of them."

The police department had still not apologized for it's "error." This type of police terrorism has not been limited to the South. In supposedly liberal New York City, the NAACP is now suing the police department for \$1 million on behalf of Mrs. Walton after shotgun-wielding officers kicked down her door and searched her Staten Island apartment. The police department claimed they were looking for members of the so-called Black Liberation Army when they raided Mrs. Ermell Walton's home at six o'clock in the morning.

Mrs. Walton, who suffers from high blood pressure, said she was awakened by sounds of the door breaking in and was confronted by seven officers, holding shotguns. One of them put a gun to her chest, she said. After the police searched the apartment, Mrs. Walton said, their leader, officer Dan Kelly, offered her \$40 for the broken door which she adamantly refused.

Subsequently, police confessed that "somebody goofed" on the raid but they have steadfastly refused to apologize or acknowledge any contribution about this shameful affair.

This chain reaction of racist events involving the police dramatizes a case presently before the United States Supreme Court. The government is appealing a federal court ruling that the National Black Police Association (NBPA) can sue United States officials for failing to cut funds to police agencies for alleged discrimination against blacks. The suit charges there was discrimination in police departments in Philadelphia, Des Moines, Richmond, Oakland, Portland, Honolulu, the Indiana State Police Department and the Wayne County, Michigan Sheriff's Department.

The black police group and twelve individuals filing the class action suit complained that the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) refused to cut off funding to those agencies as required by law. The LEAA's failure to stop federal aid perpetuated discriminatory employment practices. The NBPA is pressing its \$20 million lawsuit and is optimistic about the prospects.

All concerned about racism and its damaging effects should be 100% behind this lawsuit. For Miami 1980 demonstrates what can happen when racism is allowed to run rampant in a police department.

This uprising was sparked by the acquittal by an all white jury of four white police officers charged with beating to death Arthur McDuffie, a black insurance executive. The result: three days of rebellion leaving eighteen persons killed and \$80 million in property destroyed.

Even more disturbing was the nature of the killings. Like the conflagrations of the 1960's, an ungodly number of blacks were killed. But unlike the 1960's disturbances — and this should cause all to sit up and take notice — where beatings and killings of whites by blacks "occurred always as a byproduct of the disorder, not as its sole object," in Miami by contrast a recent report states that beating and killing of whites was a primary object.

Clearly what is happening in the urban areas of this country is that black community is being pushed to the point of desperation — and bloodthirsty police are a prime cause. More actions are needed like the NBPA lawsuit if this reign of terror is to cease. Instead of arresting black youth the insistent cry needs to be raised of: "Policeman, arrest thyself."

### Policeman, Arrest Thyself!

### Community News



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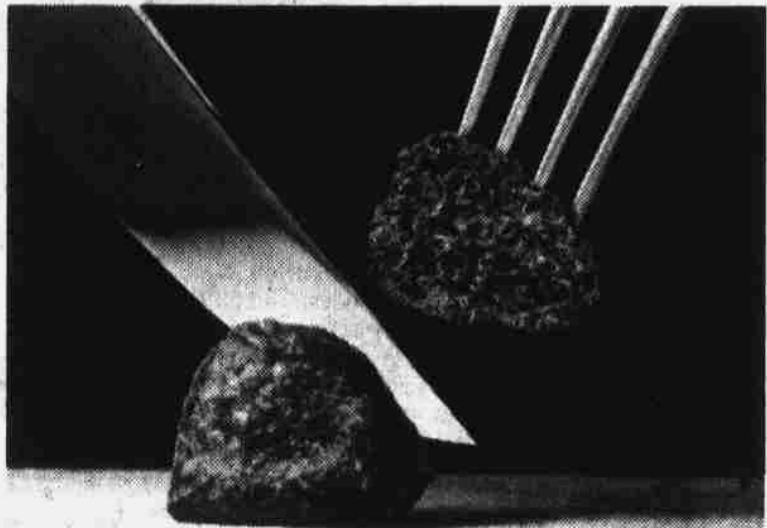
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