

The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBROKEN

(USPS 091-380)

VOLUME 60 - NUMBER 8

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1982

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913

PRICE: 30 CENTS

IN THIS ISSUE
"Our Blood Runs Deep"
Blacks In The Military, Part III
Special Black History Section
Save All Three Parts

Words Of Wisdom
Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open.
—Lord Dewar

The surest way to be dull is to say it all.
—French Proverb

New NCCU Student

Protest Reveals Old Communications Problems

A Times News Analysis

By Milton Jordan

The recent student boycott of classes at North Carolina Central University again reveals the tip of an iceberg of serious communications problems that seem to have plagued this university for years.

Both university officials and student leaders say the problem is not that students don't have ways of being involved in decision-making, but that sometimes student comments are not taken seriously.

It is a matter of conjecture how often student opinion is ignored because it is unrealistic or because some faculty and administrators just don't want to consider what students say.

"NCCU has more student representation on a number of committees than a lot of other universities," said Curtis Massey, Student Government Association president, who led the recent boycott of classes, and chided more students for not being involved. "But there are a lot of faculty members and administrators who do not take student input seriously and that is the problem."

Last week, about 600 students met in the university cafeteria to discuss plans and reasons for the boycott, but then only about 200 students actually didn't go to classes. While Massey has previously insisted that the boycott was not intended to threaten the administration, he did admit in a recent interview that the demonstration was staged before a planned meeting between student leaders and the Trustee Board chairman to give students more leverage in making their demands.

"To that extent, I think the boycott was successful," Massey said. "I think that students have gained more respect on this campus because of it than we ever had before."

But while University Chancellor Albert N. Whiting deplors the student demonstration, he concurs that there is a communications problem.

"I desay that we don't have 100 per cent consensus on the importance of student representation, but by and large, I think the faculty and administration have come to respect student input."

In depth interviews this week with both Whiting

and Massey revealed dozens of examples of misunderstandings, contradictions and almost institutionalized divisions that are likely to keep this conflict smoldering under the surface for a long time yet.

Massey's position, to whatever extent it represents the student body, can be characterized in three major categories:

* He would like to see more examples of student suggestions becoming a part of university policy, or

refuted by clearly provable facts, rather than, in his words, "being ignored." In other words, he believes students should have more influence as well as input.

* He does not want to see the rules that apply to irresponsible students be applied to students who have demonstrated more responsibility. He could not suggest ways to designate one student more responsible than another one.

* He wants to see more examples that administrators "fight" for students when either the UNC Board of Governors or the State Legislature render decisions that students believe are not in their best interest.

Whiting's response is simple: "There are areas of decision-making in this university where student input is simply inappropriate. There are other areas where there is no way to deviate from decisions rendered by upper levels of the statewide university system. And each of these areas often affects students directly, but there is no easy way to change that system. In those areas where we have the leeway to consider student input, I think we have done so, and will continue to do so. But there are some things that simply can't be done."

An immediate difference between Dr. Whiting's position and Massey's contentions is that Whiting has more documentation to support his arguments while Massey's contentions often seem to revolve around opinions, second hand information from students, and a general feeling that many members of the faculty and administration are automatically against any student position on an issue.

For example, Massey said the reason students wanted more than one student representative on the Search Committee assigned to find a replacement for Dr. Whiting who will retire next year is because "one student cannot adequately represent 5,000 students, particularly a student body as diverse as this one."

Whiting, on the other hand, said the reason

(Continued On Page 4)



LOS ANGELES — Robert and Darline Austin in front of their home at 453 West 41st Street, after they had learned the city treasurer had sold their home, which they had made their final payment on some 17 years ago. The home now valued at \$45,000 was sold to a speculator for a mere \$174 in 1974 to pay a delinquent tax bill. The Austins say they knew nothing about the sale of the house or the bill for street lighting taxes until a county marshal facked an eviction notice on their porch a week ago. A Superior Court judge has given them a 30-day stay of eviction at the request of legal aid attorneys.

Wayne Williams' Father Testifies For Defense

By Trelle L. Jeffers

ATLANTA — In a dramatic two days of testimony, Homer Williams took the witness stand last week for the defense of his son. He is the father of Wayne Williams, prime suspect in the case of Atlanta's 29 missing adults and children.

The younger Williams is on trial for the murders of Nathaniel Cater and Jimmy Lee Payne and at least ten other of the Atlanta murders have been linked to him.

The 68-year-old former educator told the jury that Wayne Williams was a "model son who had been successful in his various business ventures" despite the fact that the prosecution offered evidence that the young Williams flunked "of Georgia State Univer-

and that the elder Williamses have gone bankrupt in order to finance their son's various "businesses".

Homer Williams also denied under direct cross-examination that his son once choked him when he refused to write him another check and that this prompted him (the father) to draw a gun on his son.

Homer Williams also offered an alibi for his son on May 21 until a few hours before he was stopped at 3 a.m. on May 22 on the bridge of the Chattahoochee River where a stake out team said they heard a loud splash. Homer Williams said that he had gone to a photography session, taking the only family car and that upon his return around midnight, the younger Williams was in bed asleep. He said that his son received a telephone call shortly after midnight. The son, then got out of bed, according to H. Williams,

and went out for an appointment — the appointment which apparently took him, three hours later, across the Chattahoochee. However, the prosecution has been unable to locate the person, named as Sharon Johnson by Williams, whom young William was to have met.

Homer Williams' alibi also conflicts with his son's who had said earlier when questioned that he had remained on the telephone "making business deals until one o'clock a.m." on May 22, and had then left his home for an appointment. In addition, the elder Williams was unable to prove to the jury that he had in fact gone on May 21, 1981, to a photography session, saying "the appointment had been canceled and it was therefore not recorded in his appointment book."

H. Williams also testified that the green carpet — which the prosecution said was rare and had been found in the Williams home and on at least ten other murdered victims — was not installed in his home in 1971 as is claimed, but was installed in December, 1968. He produced an ad from a 1968 issue of a local newspaper, which he said prompted him and his wife to buy a "more expensive type" after being convinced that it would be installed before Christmas.

Since that testimony, however, reliable reports have surfaced that a loan document filed with the Fulton County deed office has been found to indicate that Mr. and Mrs. Williams made a loan with Prudential Home Improvement Corporation on December 7, 1971 for \$1,973.88, in connection to H. Williams, which the Williamses

(Continued On Page 4)

Law School Solves Major Problems

Page 3

McLaughlin Heads Durham Academy of Medicine/Dentistry/Pharmacy

Page 4

New Housing Commissioner's Vote Symbolizes Victory In Old Fight

By Milton Jordan

Now when Mrs. Alma Steele casts her vote as a member of the Durham Housing Authority's board of commissioners, it symbolizes the victory in a seven-year struggle.

Mrs. Steele, who has lived in McDougald Terrace, a subsidized housing community, for more than twenty years, was recently appointed to the board by the Durham City Council. The appointment finally gave the power of the vote to a seat she has occupied since 1975.

The Durham Housing Authority operates almost 2,500 units of housing including conventional subsidized apartment complexes, two Turnkey III single family developments, and more than 600 units of housing leased under three separate federal programs.

More than 8,000 families and individuals live in housing under the Housing Authority's control.

Except for rules specifically mandated by federal law or regulations, all housing authority policy is set by the Board of Commissioners, appointed by the Durham City Council. The implication of Mrs. Steele's appointment to a voting seat means that subsidized housing residents now have a voice in policy, rather than merely an opinion.

For seven years, Mrs. Steele, 65, who represented the Housing Authority's tenant population, had to content herself with giving her opinion on issues

before the board, but then was silenced when it came time to vote.

"It was sometimes very frustrating because I realize that much of my ability to influence the other commissioners was shortcut by my not being able to vote," she said.

"But still, I did my best to represent the issues and concerns of the residents, and I think I did a pretty fair job, considering the handicap."

The handicap sprang

from an opinion from the North Carolina Attorney General's office saying that for a tenant to vote on the authority's board of commissioners would violate the state's law against public officials having a conflict of interest.

The opinion essentially concluded that since commissioners' decisions directly or indirectly affect housing authority residents, any resident with a vote would be in

conflict and therefore would violate the law.

However, after struggling with a bill to "clarify the law," Rep. Kenneth B. Spaulding (D-Durham) succeeded in getting the new law passed in the last legislative term.

"It passed the House in the 1979 session, but didn't pass the Senate," Spaulding explained in a phone interview. "Then last year, when it again

(Continued On Page 4)

Brings Black History Stamp Collection To Durham

By Milton Jordan

Over the past three years, Shelley Murdaugh has traveled more than 3,000 miles, spending his own money, to show his unique black history lesson to more than 100,000 people.

Murdaugh, 52, a Philadelphia postal police officer, collects stamps, and other artifacts that commemorate famous American blacks.

"There is always more than one way to demonstrate black history and the contributions that blacks have made to this country," Murdaugh said. "With the collection that I've put together, I show that blacks have been involved in a lot more things than some of us realize."

Murdaugh, who takes leave time from his job every February during Black History Month to take his exhibit on the road, came to Hillside High School and North Carolina Central University two weeks ago. More

than 1000 high school and college students visited the exhibit.

Standing in the middle of the room with his exhibit hung and propped around him on the walls,

on tables and chairs. Murdaugh, a tall tan man, with steady brown eyes, talked with the authority of a man who loves what he does.

(Continued On Page 2)



SHELLEY MURDAUGH and NCCU Students and Stamp Collection Exhibit. Photo by Mike Mayfield

In Easterling Case: Carter Found Guilty Of Murder

By Donald Alderman

After deliberating for 6½ hours, a Durham Superior Court jury of ten women and two men Tuesday found Thomas Carter guilty of second-degree murder in the beating death of Ms. Cynthia Carol Easterling.

Judge Giles Clark granted a defense motion to delay sentencing until Friday, February 26. Final motions also will be heard Friday.

Defense Attorney William Sheffield is expected to move to introduce evidence concerning statements Mark Allen Upchurch allegedly had made to inmates that may be favorable to Carter. Upchurch is also charged with Ms. Easterling's death and is awaiting trial in Durham County jail.

A jailer reported that he heard rumors indicating Upchurch had made statements to inmates that would have been in Carter's favor.

The partially clothed body of Ms. Easterling was found behind a picnic shelter in Duke Park around 12:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 1981. A public safety officer patrolling the area became curious when he spotted a shoe and pocketbook in the parking lot.

The officer later found Carter lying on a bench under the shelter before spotting a body lying on a pile of lumber behind the shelter.

An informant later notified police that some of Ms. Easterling's belongings may be in a car belonging to Upchurch. He was subsequently arrested.

The defense strategy appears to have ironically worked to persecute Carter. The state couldn't call Upchurch as a witness, but the defense could and did. When Upchurch took the stand, he put all the blame on Carter.

Upchurch testified that Carter repeatedly struck the victim with a wooden chair leg while he waited at his car which was parked nearby.

According to testimony, Ms. Easterling died as a result of multiple blows to the head. The chair leg was found in the shelter where Carter was sleeping, according to testimony.

Clark also granted a motion to have Upchurch examined at a state mental institution.