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Words Of Wisdom

The essence of knowledge is, having it, to apply it; not having it, to confess your ignorance. —Confucius

A man has generally the good or ill qualities which he attributes to mankind. —Shenstone

The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

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In This Issue

We Must Declare War On Crime Series Of Articles Begins This Week

You Are Both The Reason And The Answer To The Crime Epidemic

Jackson at Law Banquet: Power and Excellence Determine Upward Mobility

By Donald Alderman
Maynard Jackson founded a direct but simple message: Power as well as excellence determines the upward mobility of any ethnic group; blacks are no exception.
Jackson was speaking at the 42nd Law Day Banquet at North Carolina Central University Saturday night. The banquet was a highlight of Law Day Week. During the past week, members of the law school community participated in week-long activities designed to draw attention to the role of law in American society and the rights of citizens under the constitution. Dubbed, "New Horizon for Opportunity and Excellence," law week featured moot court competition, civil rights forums, a roasting to the school's dean, Charles E. Daye, among other activities.
It also provided the time and atmosphere for many of the school's alumni to reflect upon accomplishments and to discuss tasks yet unfinished.
Jackson exemplified this when he told the audience, that featured some of Durham's most distinguished citizens of the legal profession, that H.M. "Mickey"

Michaux led the battle in the state legislature to keep the problem-plagued law school open during the early '70's.
"I wish him well," he said, referring to Michaux's quest for the Second Congressional District seat. Jackson, Michaux and Frank W. Ballance, Jr., three of the six-member Class of 1964, all praised achievements of the school and its graduates.
But of all activities, Jackson's speech was probably the most inspiring to the 78-member third year class, many of whom will soon be beginning their professional careers in law.
"The pursuit of excellence is essential, but for an oppressed people, that is not enough," the former mayor of Atlanta said. "The pursuit of excellence and power are necessary" for economic security.
He decried the lack of emphasis on power in the black community, and said that through the effective use of money and votes, blacks can free themselves.
"Those of us who are oppressed must be the architects of our own liberation. . . . We cannot expect those who constructed the system of racism and economic op-

Michaux: Students Must Vote To Save Benefits

By Donald Alderman
College students should register and vote, in particular for candidates that favor no reduction in federal education grants and loans, a candidate for the Second Congressional District seat urged North Carolina Central University students Tuesday.
"The lowest voting group in the country are those voters between 18 and 25," said H.M. "Mickey" Michaux, the district's only declared candidate, "and it's a sad commentary because they are going to be hurt the most by the cuts."
Michaux, former U.S. Attorney and two-term state legislator, spoke during a rally designed to draw attention to proposed cuts in education aid and to urge students to become politically active, especially in electoral politics.
The rally, sponsored by the N. C. Association of Black Student Governments and NCCU's Student Government, was one of eleven rallies slated to be held at the state's black colleges and universities, April 5-9.
Michaux criticized the administration's new federalism proposal, and said a new partnership should be formed.
"Let's not talk about 'new federalism', he said, let's call it 'new meanness'."
Michaux proposed a "New Partnership" to beat the "New Federalism." "I see the seeds of a new partnership for decency and fairness of all the people," he said, "to restore balance, renew hope and to inspire people to deal with problems."
He continued: "We seek out a new partnership. It exists between blacks and whites, urban and rural, young and elder. . . ."
"There's a meanness out there today that we haven't seen in so long," Michaux said. "There's no liberal or conservative out there. What's conservative about budget deficits, and high interest rates."
He said the "new meanness" is also evidenced by high unemployment and deep cuts in social services such as social security benefits to the elderly, aid to students, to the poor and needy.
As injury is not enough, he said, the Administration adds salt to the wound.
"The Reagan administration is not only mean and radical, but they also stigmatize the needy as frauds and cheaters."
But blacks are not alone, he said.
"This meanness is colorblind; it hits poor white people as hard as it does poor black people. All of a sudden it is not only black misery but also white misery. All of a sudden white women are telling reporters about the kid who can't go to college or the hus-



First Winner and Honoree Mrs. Julia Wyatt Harris, center, of Durham, met the first winner of the Julia Wyatt Harris Scholarship at NCCU's Awards Day exercises Friday, April 2. Miss Lori Grier of Charlotte, recently elected Miss NCCU, won the scholarship given in Mrs. Harris' honor by the Beta Zeta Chapter of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa. Shown (from left) are: Miss Grier, Mrs. Lenora S. Hooker, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Lola Solice, and Mrs. Minnie Cromartie. Mrs. Hooker, Mrs. Solice and Mrs. Cromartie are members of the national educational sorority.

By Milton Jordan
Crime rips across America like a vicious tornado, shattering lives and turning the nation into an armed camp of suspicious citizens and ever more vicious criminals.
Durham is no exception, despite the fact that figures for 1981 shows the city with an overall two per cent decrease in crime. According to Durham Public Safety Department figures, the city's biggest crime headache in pure volume is larceny, ranging from shoplifting to stealing hubcaps. And while burglaries, robberies and assaults are down slightly over last year, they are still major problems.
According to Durham's Public Safety Director Talmadge Lassiter, most of the burglaries, particularly the housebreakings in Durham, are neighborhood crimes, with people stealing from folks just down the street. And like the national trend, most of the assaults and murders happen between families and friends.
But here's the kicker. If you are not at home now, even as you read this, thieves might be ripping you off. If you're not in your car, even as you read this, thieves might be tearing it apart too. Because crime does not confine itself to the "it happens to them" syndrome. Crime happens to you. It happens to all of us, and whether directly or indirectly, we all pay an astronomical price for the opportunity to suffer this indignity.
As a direct cost, crime snatches your money to the tune of about \$9 billion annually. But there are many other costs that up the price considerably. For example, crime hikes insurance premiums, consumer prices and the tax rate, as we try to hire more law enforcement personnel to stem the tide. But additionally, you, the hardworking, tax paying citizen, crime's chief target, also finance the criminal justice system.
And here the costs get to be a REAL insult. In many instances, you pay for the offender's attorney, and then you fork over more than \$15,000 annually to keep him in prison, provided he gets convicted. National figures show that arrests occur in only about 25 per cent of the reported crime, and only about half of the arrests result in convictions.
But even at that, most of our prisons are inhumanely overcrowded, and building more lockups is costing about \$54,000 a cell. Just to give you a comparison, keeping prisoners incarcerated costs more than the average annual college tuition, and building more prisons runs just slightly under the price of a luxury condominium.
So you really have no choice. Either you will continue to dish out the dollars to criminals and their industry, including the largely ineffective criminal justice system, or you will invest your money in a sensible, logical and effective fight against crime.
But first, lets destroy two myths.
Chief Lassiter: "It would be awful hard for the police alone to

Changing Today's Criminal; Preventing Tomorrow's

By Milton Jordan
Effective crime prevention programs must be sharp, two-edged swords, cutting both ways: making it hard for criminals to commit crime, helping to change those who have, and preventing those added that way from plunging.
Recidivism is a major headache. Recidivism is the process of going back to prison repeatedly because one doesn't stop committing crimes upon release from prison.
To begin to understand the impact of recidivism, consider this simple. If an inmate is released from North Carolina's prison department about ten years, a typical offender, black, in his 40's, a high school dropout, with almost no job experience, and even fewer skills, he was a good candidate for repeating (recidivism).
Now, if this man had stayed in prison, without being released, for the last ten years, he would have cost taxpayers more than \$150,000. On the other hand, if this ex-convict, after being released, went back to crime, making an annual average rate of about \$2,000 a year, and had been caught two or three more times in the ten years, getting an average \$1,000 a year or two each year, by now his cost to society would be more than \$250,000.
But now, what if this offender went to night, and for the past ten years averaged \$20,000 a year, paid taxes, supported his family and just generally contributed to society? In this case, he would have contributed more than \$500,000 to society.
The point is recidivism costs more than its

worth, and rehabilitation pays dividends that far exceed the investment.
According to government reports, nineteen of every twenty persons sent to prisons eventually return to society. But about eighty per cent of them also return to prison. These repeaters account for almost eighty per cent of America's crime that today costs the nation more than \$9 billion annually.
According to former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, in his book *Crime In America*, ". . . cutting recidivism in half would mean an almost fifty per cent reduction in crime."
There is also a direct correlation between recidivism and age. A U.S. Department of Labor study shows that fifty per cent of those fourteen and younger who are convicted, go back to prison. For those first arrested between ages 21-23, the recidivism rate is about thirty per cent, and slightly more than ten per cent for those first arrested at age 35 or older.
The conclusion is obvious. The younger the criminal starts, the more often he will return to crime and prison, thereby hiking his cost to society by prodigious amounts. And because most of the senseless violence that often accompanies today's crime erupts from young offenders, the toll on life and limb is horrendous.
But what creates recidivism? Why do first offenders, caught, convicted and imprisoned, return to crime almost as soon as they are released?
Former Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas (Continued On Page 10)

Church in Durham last Saturday, mapping strategy for what will be one of the longest civil rights marches since the mid-sixties.
The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which initiated the pilgrimage, and the North Carolina office of the Commission for Racial Justice are the chief organizers for this area.
Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who flew in from Atlanta to help plan the march, said the "People's Pilgrimage" will demand peace, justice and voting rights. Translated, marchers will trek against further cuts in social programs, against a military

Voter Registration Main Focus of Pilgrimage

By Donald Alderman
A large coalition of social, political and religious interest groups joined two national civil rights organizations in planning the North Carolina leg of a pilgrimage that will stretch from Alabama to Washington, D.C.
In the third of four state planning meetings, the groups gathered at Russell Memorial CME

Publisher's Note

For the next several weeks, *The Carolina Times* is devoting considerable space and attention to crime in America, including Durham, and crime prevention.
We consider our job to be an educational effort in the public interest, and we also believe that it is not enough to tell people constantly about the problems, without as often as possible encouraging our readers to do something about them.
We know intimately that crime is a major problem in this country. We know that for black people crime appears to be a double whammy. Not only are we victimized, far disproportionately to our numbers, by murders, robberies and other types of crimes, but when the criminals are black, we are also often robbed of a potentially bright young man or woman who possibly could have made positive contributions to us and to society at large, if we had caught him or her before crime made its claim.
Therefore, we believe very strongly that a sensible, logical, well-planned and determined war on crime MUST be a top priority for all people in this country, and particularly for black people. We believe that crime must be attacked on all levels. We cannot tolerate crime in high places, and must insist on swift and true punishment for rich crooks in our midst. But, by the same token, we cannot allow maudlin excuses of poverty, poor education and other societal

to cause us to excuse crime on the lower levels.
Because we feel so strongly about this, we asked one of our writers, Milton Jordan, to take a deep and probing look at crime from all angles, and to give our readers a detailed and graphic view of the problem. But in addition to that, we asked him to also give our readers some suggested solutions, some things that must be systematically changed in this society, as well as some things that each of us can do as individuals to strike a blow against this malignant cancer in our midst that threatens the very existence of this nation.
We believe that he has done an admirable job, and we hope that you will read every word for the next several weeks. Some of it will be frightening. Much of it will be shocking and surprising. But we also trust that in the final analysis, you will find hope in all of this, a hope based upon detailed understanding that crime will not go away, and that more jails, prisons, police, or efficient courts will not solve the problem. We hope that you will conclude, as we have, that the answer to crime in America is a fundamental change in our nature, our purposes and our goals, and the methods we choose to achieve these goals. It is not enough to say that crime is committed by the "criminal" among us. The truth is that we have seen the enemy, and he is us. —VAE

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