



Order of Cyrene Crusaders Grand Court Organized in North Carolina

The recent formation of the Tarheel Grand Court Order of Cyrene Crusaders-PHA, was held in Durham at the Masonic Lodge on Cook Road. Approximately 68 members from Durham, Fayetteville and High Point received the two degrees to make this body official in the state. Mrs. Carrie B. Burns, Mrs. Mamie Marbley, Buriel Sears and Mason Askew, Jr., made up the team from the Carrie B. Burns Grand Court, Alabama Jurisdiction, who administered the Degrees. Mrs. Mary C. Adams will head this organization as the Grand Princess

Commandress and Ben Taylor will serve as the Grand Royal Advisor. Other Grand Officers are from the three cities. This organization is an affiliate of the Knights Templar, which has at its helm on the state level, James Benson of Charlotte who was also on hand to assist in setting up the Grand Court. Pictured in the front row (l-r) are: Buriel Sears, Mrs. Carrie Burns, Alabama; James Benson, Charlotte; Mrs. Mamie Marbley, Mason Askew, Jr., Alabama; Mrs. Mary C. Adams and Ben Taylor, Durham.

NCCU Nursing

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not to be interested. "I rather expected the media reaction this time," she said. "When you seem to be down, everybody wants to jump on your back. It's most unfair to our students." White students who take the nursing exam do not carry the same burden that black students who take it do, she said. "When white students go to take the exam, all they have to worry about is passing. Our students go into the situation having to worry about passing, plus they have to bear the burden of the school's previous low passing rate. Psychologically, it is devastating. "I think that our scores will continue to go up," she added as she sat at the conference table in her office. This year the nursing program has moved into a new building with adequate classroom space. In previous years, the building that the school occupied had only a single classroom. With a teaching staff of fourteen and a student body of more than 100 students, Dr. Kelley said that Central's nursing program is crucial to the state of North Carolina and the country. "There is a tremendous nursing shortage," she said. "I think that we will continue to improve in our program. I think that we have one of the finest programs in the state." She expects the number of applicants to increase because the American Nurses Association, the national organization that sets nursing standards, has said that all nurses who want to enter into professional practice must have a degree in nursing from an accredited four year institution. Currently, there are many registered nurses who do not have degrees from four year institutions, so many of them are applying to programs such as Central's.

Black Social Workers Hope To Form Social 'Network' At Meeting

By Donald Alderman Leonard Dunston discusses black problems bluntly, making solutions sound easy, and fussing about what he perceives as a lack of effort. Dunston, president of the North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers, believes his group has a plan, ambitious though it is, that will spur action and create a catalyst for solving many of these problems. They call it "networking," which means, as Dunston puts it, "to collectively channel resources and energies into a mutual concern of problems in hope of solving them." In practical terms, what "networking" means is a process by which organizations can work together on common projects without losing any organizational

autonomy. Beyond that, also means that black people must begin coming up with much of the money to solve the problems. "We tend to rely on outside resources, especially sources of funding to solve our problems," Dunston said during a recent interview, explaining the need for networking in the black community. "Only we (blacks) have the solutions to our problems." And while networking is not a new concept, the social workers have added a new twist. In most instances, networking refers to generally informal relationships that are usually shortlived. Groups that work together on a project go back to their regular programs once that project is complete. The black social workers are taking the

idea a step further. They want the networking organizations to maintain their relationships and routinely move from project to project, from issue to issue. And when the social workers meet in Greenville this week, they will attempt to lay the groundwork for networking among the state's black statewide organizations. The statewide conference runs Friday and Saturday. Dunston said the social workers sent invitations to all 14 black statewide organizations asking that they meet with the social workers in a special leadership forum. So far, he said, seven groups have confirmed appointments, and that's enough to start the network. "We hope to identify one or two problems that each group can agree on," Dunston said.

"As people of African descent, we've got to form coalitions that will give us the strength of our people," Dunstan said, adding that the black statewide groups should serve a dual role of advocating their special interests and working for the overall good of the black community. "It requires a redefinition of how we look at ourselves," he said. "Now, we look at ourselves as minorities; yet we and other people of color comprise two-thirds of the world." In the future, he hopes black Americans will form ties with Arabs, Africans, Latin Americans, Hispanics and other people of color. "I bet," he said, "we would get a lot more respect." Quoting Marcus Garvey, who sought global unity of African people during the 20's, Dunston said, "We just think everything happens on our block."

"We've got to look at things in a much broader context. Right now, we tend to take a myopic view of everything," he said. "To grow, you have to understand that things are constantly changing around you." The networking concept has apparently struck a responsive chord. "It's a fairly new concept, at least using the terminology — networking," according to Dr. Earle Thorpe, a prominent historian and author, who will address the conference on the role of education in networking. "It isn't new in terms of coalitions coming together to solve immediate problems, then breaking up after the problem has been solved. The difference is they want an on-going contact, not just sporadic or periodic. Networking involves a closeness of organizations, not just in spirit, but in their work and agendas. Their effort follows the black unity thrust of the sixties. Then you had individuals coming together instead of organizations. It's an endeavor in black unity which is needed now more than ever."

Dr. Thorpe warned that "all of us have to be on guard and apprehensive to the extent that the system doesn't want black unity. Historically, whites have viewed anything resembling black unity as threatening. I think that's shallow, of course, because the black community has problems that everyone ought to want eradicated." He added, "There's going to have to be enough people unselfishly committed to the total black community to offset potentially damaging factors." Another person who is expected to address the conference, Bridges, who promotes cultural awareness through a series of popular seminars, views networking as a much needed pill for black ills. "What we need to do," said the tall, lanky college professor, "is realize the potential of what we can do ourselves; realize first and foremost that the power we have is in our unity." Noting that different ideologies and personalities within groups have hindered progress in the past, he urged potential networking groups to leave those differences behind and work on goals and problems that are similar. And if the historians and professors have ideas on networking, Ms. Mary Dunn has some from the grassroots

level. She says to get anything done, it takes, above all, the will to do it. "I'll be dealing from the grassroots level," said the 39-year-old disabled volunteer. "I'll share what we've done out here to help ourselves." "Out here" is Dandridge Downs Apartments, a public housing complex in Raleigh where Ms. Dunn, other tenants and volunteers started, without much money or fanfare, a learning resource center for students who need tutorial help or who simply want to get ahead. Even some college students use the center, she said. Ms. Dunn called networking the process of "sharing to help ourselves".

"From there, we'll identify one or two issues that we can work on. We also hope to plan a follow-up meeting to develop a structure to implement ideas." The groups, a mixture of social, political and professional organizations, are N.C. Black Leadership Caucus, N.C. Minority Public Officials Association, N.C. Association of Black Lawyers, N.C. Association of Black Educators, N.C. Association of Black Psychologists, N.C. Association of Minority Business, N.C. Association of Black Substance Abuse Workers, N.C. Senior Citizens Federation, N.C. Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, Old North State Medical Society, Old North State Dental Society, and the North Carolina chapters of the NAACP, National Black United Front, and the National Black Independent Political Party. He said the social workers will suggest the network take a look at the plight of the state's migrant workers and the disproportionately high incarceration rate of blacks. But he added, all the groups will mutually decide what issues will be attacked. He said the groups will also hear suggestions from "presenters", or conference speakers who will present ways to network. He said the social workers are pushing the idea of networking because the group views itself as "advocates for the poor and disenfranchised."

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