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### One Week Vacation

This is the final issue of 1982. The *Carolina Times* staff will take a one-week vacation and the office will be closed December 25 through January 2. We will reopen on Monday, January 3. Your next issue will be dated January 8, 1983. To each of you, we wish Peace, Good Will

# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

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### Words Of Wisdom

If what happens does not make us richer, we must bid it welcome if it makes us wiser. —Samuel Johnson

Each of us requires the spur of insecurity to force us to do our best. —Harold W. Dodds

## The Carolina Times Brought You 1982

lot of bad things happened in 1982! Recession that started in 1981 sunk... Interest rates climbed higher. Employment broke post World War II... and international problems came... America to roost. Durham, this mixed bag was evident... Much of it centered around cons... sial politics, and as has been... ically true, the major protagonists... been white policy makers and power... ers, versus blacks who believe that all... as it should be. the same token, 1982 has produced... highlights, some good things. On... tional level, inflation is down. More... s joined the Congressional Black... s following the November elec... The Columbia space shuttle made... successful flights, and Larry Holmes... cated himself by beating Gerry... e good in Durham included a power... on the county commission; a local... — Ms. Ann Atwater — won a na... community service award; a record

number of blacks registered to vote, and *The Carolina Times* got better. Early in 1982, the newspaper, North Carolina's oldest black weekly publication, put its mainstreaming program into operation. In expanding the newspaper's management team, Mrs. Vivian Edmonds, editor and publisher of *The Carolina Times*, brought two new people on the staff. In June, she named Milton Jordan, a veteran journalist with more than ten years experience, and a national reputation, the newspaper's first executive editor. Later, in October, she named a local radio station executive and former public relations operative, C. Warren Massenburg, advertising director for the newspaper. "For the most part," Mrs. Edmonds said, "these appointments round out the management team that we plan to build the future of this paper around. We have one other slot to fill — a circulation director — and we will be in a position to really make a move on the readership market

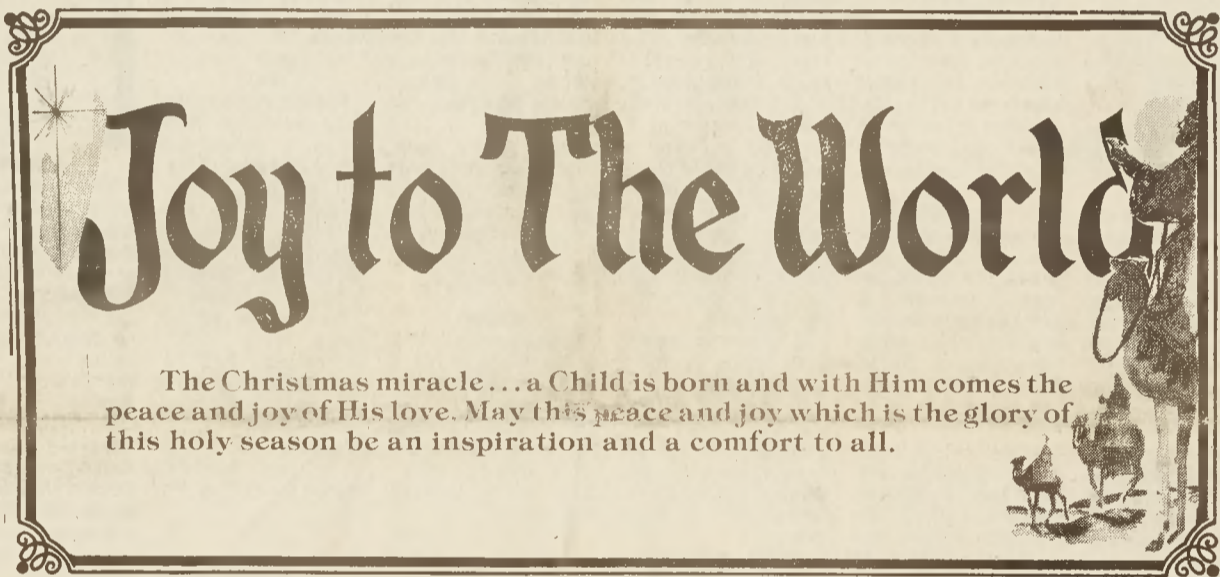
here." And as *The Carolina Times* got better, it began giving its readers a thorough look at the story behind the news. For example: \* From May through July, *The Carolina Times* was Durham's only paper to report in-depth on the hit and run death of Chester Reams, and the fact that Robert Grimes, the man charged in the death, had a very questionable court record. \* In May, *The Carolina Times* was the only newspaper to report that in Durham, leaders were not taking part in the statewide N.C. 2000 project, designed to give citizens input into planning for the future. \* In June, the *Times* reported that Durham's leading black organizations were trying to develop an united front on the downtown civic center \$10.5 million bond referendum. \* Also in June and July, the *Times* covered charges of racial discrimination filed against county government, as well

as the question of whether the county needed an affirmative action program. In addition to all this, *The Carolina Times* also covered city government and, as strange it might seem, city government has done something else this year other than fight about Hayti and the civic center. The paper also covered H.M. "Mickey" Michaux's quest for the 2nd District Congressional seat, probably one of the area's biggest stories this year. Other big stories covered by the *Times* this year include: \* The night bus service controversy. \* The Voting Rights Act march to Washington through Durham. \* The settlement of the 10-year-old Crest Street/East-West Expressway problem. \* The start of the new middle school program in Durham City Schools. \* The tense and controversial PCB problem in Warrenton. In September and October, the

newspaper launched the first of an annual in-depth look at the state of the local, black community, and in November, the *Times* published the first of its new Special Section program — The Whiting Years — a look at Dr. Albert N. Whiting's 16-year tenure as president and chancellor of NCCU. According to executive editor, Jordan, 1983 will be an even bigger year at the newspaper than 1982 has been. "We will continue our special section program and build on that," he said, "and we are planning a new and expanded entertainment section, plus a new readership program. We will also begin covering business next year. So we look forward to 1983 being a very exciting year for the paper and its readers." And so it seems that no matter what kind of year 1983 is in Durham and the region, *The Carolina Times* will be there, bringing readers in-depth, comprehensive and hard-hitting reporting and writing.

### Year's Top Stories Michaux's Quest For Congress

By Milton Jordan  
Executive Editor  
H.M. "Mickey" Michaux announced his candidacy for the 2nd Congressional district seat earlier this year, he into motion two political... he was political history. the last black congressman... North Carolina's 2nd... ct was George White who... sented the district for two... s until 1901. he second was controversial, had several ramifications: Across the 10-county 2nd... ct, blacks flocked to get... names on the voting books. L.H. Fountain, the venerable... District representative for... 30 years, retired rather... face Michaux's challenge. A lot of black Democrats... s the district took new hope. A lot of white Democrats... s the district trembled in ap... sion. North Carolina Republicans... ed in for the kill. ll of this conspired to make... 2nd District congressional... one of the most exciting con... in the southeast, but it also... duced what could be called... tical chicanery". according to one highly placed... ocratic Party source, "Party... ers just didn't want Michaux... (Continued on Page 7)



# Joy to The World

The Christmas miracle... a Child is born and with Him comes the peace and joy of His love. May this peace and joy which is the glory of this holy season be an inspiration and a comfort to all.

### The Death of Chester Reams:

## A Carolina Times Investigation

By Isaiah Singletary  
After months of delays and continuances, the trial of Robert B. Grimes finally took place in Durham's Superior Court on November 1. Grimes, who was originally charged with involuntary manslaughter and hit-and-run in the death of Chester Reams, pleaded guilty to hitting Reams with his car and then leaving the scene. The charge of involuntary manslaughter, however, was dropped and Grimes was sentenced to two years on the hit and run charge as a committed youthful offender. The car, driven by Grimes,

struck Reams from behind at about 10:25 p.m., May 3 as Reams, a 37-year-old black man, and a white female companion walked along the 2400 block of Guess Road. The impact sent Reams "flying, rolling and tumbling," according to eyewitnesses, and he finally came to rest some 80 to 90 feet from the spot where he was struck. Grimes flipped off his headlights and sped away from the scene. According to Ms. Patricia Reid, the white woman walking with Reams when the incident occurred, the car had passed them earlier and the driver had yelled racial epithets saying that he

would kill Reams "for walking with that white woman". Another witness, the dead man's brother, Eugene Reams, said he saw a car pass the couple and heard someone yell something at them. He said he could not hear what was said, however. But he said he saw the same car turn around about a quarter of a mile up the street and head back toward his brother and Ms. Reid. Later Ms. Reid told *The Carolina Times* that she recognized Grimes as the driver because he and her brother, Allen Reid of Henderson, were good friends and had been involved "in dope

together". She also said that the two of them were "rednecks" and did not like blacks. Grimes, however, denied both of those allegations in a telephone interview shortly after the incident. *The Carolina Times* was unable to reach Allen Reid, but an investigation by the *Times* showed that Grimes did indeed have a history of being involved with drugs. In fact, about a year before he killed Reams, Grimes was charged with growing some 70 marijuana plants on the roof of his apartment building at 720 N. Gregson (Continued On Page 13)

### City Faced An Odd Year

By Donald Alderman  
Like the seasons of the year, Durham's city government and city affairs gave citizens a mixed picture this year, ranging from the lighthearted to the melancholy. The year started off with city manager Barry Del Castillo explaining to the 13-member City Council that a heavy workload had slowed city business. He spoke of the city's budget, downtown redevelopment, and revitalization efforts in St. Theresa and Edgemont, two blighted city neighborhoods. He also cited rebuilding Hayti, a black business district that, unlike the neglected neighborhoods, was deliberately wiped out under the banner of urban renewal. As the year ends Del Castillo has quit. In resigning his \$52,000 a year post, Del Castillo cited some of the same problems that at the year's onset he said had slowed city business, plus the fact that the city's many factions (especially racial ones) make Durham "a difficult city". Councilman Tommy Hudson also resigned because he moved from Ward 6. The turn of events was largely unpredictable around City Hall this year. In June, the city manager presented the council with a \$48.5 million budget for fiscal '82-'83 which runs from June 30 to July 1. It featured a one cent property (Continued on Page 4)

## Warren County Protest Biggest Regional Story of 1982

By Isaiah Singletary  
The daily demonstrations against the Warren County landfill ended several days ago. The landfill is packed with hazardous waste. The site is covered. Grass has been sown on top of it and a fence has been erected to keep trespassers out. But Warren County citizens' fight against the toxic chemical is far from over. The high point of the citizens' movement, at least as far as the general public concerned, came when hundreds of protesters were arrested in almost six weeks of daily demonstrations against the landfill. These demonstrations gained national

attention, and people from far and near came to lend support to the Warren County fighters. Polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCB's, were first produced in 1929, and because the chemical has a very high boiling point, it was used widely as fire retardant in transformers and other electrical equipment until banned in 1974. Tests showed that the chemical caused cancer in laboratory animals. In 1978, the federal government adopted regulations requiring that it be disposed of in approved incinerators or stored in 55-gallon drums with a concrete floor, six-inch curbing and adequate siding and roofing. And in that same year, Warren County became involved with PCB's, when it was discovered that some 31,000 gallons of oil laced with the chemical had been illegally poured along about 250 miles of roads in 14 North Carolina counties. Initially, the state of North Carolina proposed that a landfill be located in either Wake, Orange or Chatham county. The proposal was withdrawn, however, when citizens in those counties opposed the plan. Then, Warren County was selected, and there began the Warren County movement. A group was formed to protest the proposal, and its organizers accused the state

of choosing Warren because it was mainly black and poor, and because it lacks political clout. Blacks make up almost 60 per cent of the population and the average annual income of the county residents is \$5,320. Organizers also pointed out that the landfill did not meet Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) soil quality guidelines for such a toxic waste disposal site. There are, they said, some 700,000 acres of more suitable land in piedmont North Carolina. Additionally, movement organizers said that N. C. officials planned to use the Warren County site as a means to attract more toxic waste-producing industries to the state, and that Warren County would be opened up to further disposal of toxic wastes. Ken Ferruchio, leader of the Warren County Citizens Concerned about PCB's, said, for example, "the decision to dump PCB's in Warren County was motivated, at least in part, by racial considerations. The main reason for choosing Warren County, however, is to use the dump as a lever to pry open the site for industrial development." Even state officials expressed concern about the project in 1978. One official wrote, "The proposed disposal site does

not meet the separation requirements of 50 feet between the site and the groundwater table. The State of North Carolina has requested a waiver of this requirement." With the waiver of EPA requirements, the bottom of the landfill would be roughly 10 feet away from the water table. A 1981 memo from a section chief in the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development later confirmed this. And in 1979, three citizens filed a lawsuit against the project, saying that it would pose a great danger to the life and health of Warren County residents. They were joined in 1980 by the Warren County Board of Commissioners, whose lawsuit charged that the project was dangerous and public nuisance. The commission also said that the project violated a county ordinance prohibiting the location of a landfill within county limits, and would threaten the county's potential for growth. In November of 1981, U. S. District Court Judge W. Earl Britt ruled that the state could indeed, place the landfill in Warren County. He admitted, however, that the state could not guarantee that the project would be entirely successful. He said, though, that he was sure the state

had taken all of the necessary precautions to ensure that it wouldn't pose an environmental threat. But Warren residents, said they still weren't convinced that the project was safe, and vowed to continue their struggle against it. And in December of the same year, the Board of Commissioners voted to continue its fight also. The commissioners filed an appeal with the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, and the Warren County Board of Health passed a resolution supporting them. So it appeared that, together, the citizens of Warren County, the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Health would fight the landfill all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary. But this was not to be the case. About six months later, the Board of Commissioners reached an agreement with the state which surprised and shocked the citizens. The agreement was that, in return for receiving ownership of 120 of the 142 acres of the landfill site, the Board would drop its lawsuit. The 120 acres of property was to be used as a buffer between the landfill and adjoining property. This didn't stop the citizens' movement, however. Several other citizens also filed a lawsuit. But on August 10, 1982, (Continued on Page 8)

The Correct Times  
In this space every week, *The Carolina Times* will correct errors of fact, graphical mistakes and other miscues that appear in the newspaper. If you see that we miss, drop us a line and we will correct them. In the Dec. 18 issue, on page eight, misspelled Glennie M. Matthewson's name. *The Carolina Times* regrets this error.