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The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDED

USPS 091-380

VOLUME 71 - NUMBER 37

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA — SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1993

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913

PRICE: 30 CENTS

Third Force' Threat To SA Elections

CLEVELAND, OHIO — A "Third Force" may be appearing on the South African scene, but not as a political party competing for power in the country's first multiracial elections next year.

"Third Force," many South Africans believe, is a coalition of white extremists and African tribal politicians who want to abort South Africa's democratic transition to majority rule.

This was what a delegation of 16 women from the United Church of Christ learned when they visited the strife-torn country August 11-24. The women were from diverse ethnic backgrounds and ranged in age from 14 to 80.

The delegates visited 17 cities and towns. At almost every stop, they said, religious and political leaders told them that the "Third Force" was largely responsible for the escalation of violence across the country.

The first and second forces in South Africa are the African National Congress, led by Nelson Mandela, and the South African government of President F.W. de Klerk.

The "Third Force," the United Church women reported, is an alliance of white supremacists — including neo-Nazis and their sympathizers in the South African security forces — who bitterly oppose de Klerk's reversal of apartheid, and officials of the African tribal homelands created by the apartheid system. The tribal leaders stand to lose power if a strong multi-racial government is elected next year.

"Everywhere there is a sense of foreboding, and anticipation of new violence," said delegate Mary Sue Beasley, executive director of the United Church's Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society.

Sixty-eight people were killed in Soweto in our last week in South Africa," Ms. Gast said. "Five to ten people were killed every day in Natal province. Overwhelmingly, those who fire on trains and buses at public gatherings are widely believed to be led by the "Third Force."

The Rev. Yvonne Beasley, associate minister of the United Church's regional Southern Conference, said the group witnessed devastation throughout the country. According to Rev. Beasley, one settlement

near Durban, founded before World War I by Mahatma Gandhi as a cooperative multiracial community, had been nearly destroyed by firebomb attacks. Nine homes had burned to the ground the night before the delegation arrived.

"We visited the homeless women and children," said Rev. Beasley, who lives in Durham, N.C. "As evening fell, they were gathering their few belongings, trying to decide where they could find a safe place to spend the night. The area was not safe. I met one woman who had lost most of her family. I've never seen before the terror I saw in this young woman's eyes. She had seen things that are unimaginable."

But the delegates also said there was hope for South Africa's future. Interracial women's organizations — such as the YWCA, Christian Women's Movement and Black Sash — are "right on the edge," Rev. Beasley said. She added that the women's movement is now busy with voter education, especially for black South Africans who have never had an opportunity to vote in an election. Churches, which have resisted apartheid for years, are now beginning to face the challenge of desegregating their own congregations.

"We were humbled by the women we met in South Africa," said Ms. Gast. "We met women who had grown old and never voted, but were training younger women in the mechanics of voting. We met women who have been overlooked all their lives by a system that exploited their manual labor, but still had the strength to educate themselves, and then to teach, nurture and organize others."

In meetings with the South African Council of Churches, one of the groups that led the fight against apartheid when the African National Congress was still banned by the government, the United Church delegates were told that despite progress toward free elections, sanctions should not be lifted until a multiracial transitional executive council is installed.

The 1.6-million-member United Church of Christ, with national offices in Cleveland, is a 1957 union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Ms. Dollie Burwell of Warrenton was the other North Carolinian on the trip.



HAYTI THIRD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. See story and pictures on page 11. (Photo by Trent)

More Blacks Getting Degrees, But Whites Still Get Higher Pay

By Sonya Ross
WASHINGTON (AP) — More black Americans got college degrees in the 1980s, but they still receive lower pay than white graduates for many jobs, the Census Bureau reported today.

Census figures show the number of black men 25 and over with at least a bachelor's degree rose from 7.7 percent in 1980 to 11.9 percent in 1992. Among black women, the rate rose from 8.1 percent to 12 percent.

Education translated into earnings power for both blacks and whites, but whites were paid more.

The annual median salary for black college graduates was \$30,910, compared to \$18,620 for black high school graduates 25 and older — a 66 percent differential.

The median salary for white college graduates was \$37,490, compared to \$22,370 for white high school graduates 25 and older — a 68 percent differential.

"When education is taken into consideration, black males with a college education attained earnings parity with comparably educated white males in several occupations," census researchers said.

But pay is unequal in several other areas, including executive, administrative and managerial jobs, sales, precision production and the repair and craft fields.

A larger proportion of white men than black men were employed in executive, administrative and managerial jobs, 32 percent to 26 percent. Black male college graduates in these fields were paid about 77 percent of the amount earned by white male college grads.

Black men with a high school education employed as executives, administrators, and managers earned about \$60 for every \$100 earned by comparable white men," the report added.

The census report was released in conjunction with the Congressional Black Caucus' annual legislative meeting opening today. Black lawmakers, academicians and activists are gathering to debate the impact of racism on gains made by blacks over the past 20 years.

The census figures were underscored by a Wall Street Journal analysis of federal labor records, which found that black workers were the only group to

experience a net loss of jobs during the recession of 1990-1991.

Black workers lost 59,479 jobs from July 1990 through March 1991, after three years of gains, the newspaper said. Black employment fell in six of nine major industry groups.

Meanwhile, Asians gained 55,104 jobs during this same period, and Hispanics gained 60,040 jobs. Whites gained 71,144 jobs, although they outnumber blacks nearly eight to one at the 35,242 companies surveyed.

"The fact that other minority groups gained jobs at those companies while African Americans lost jobs suggests that some corporate 'diversity' programs are being run as black removal programs," said John E. Jacob, president and CEO of the National Urban League, an advocacy group that seeks to improve working and living conditions of urban blacks.



CHANCELLOR CHAMBERS, MRS. SPAULDING, CHAIRMAN MEDLIN
See Endowment story and pictures on page 2. (Photo by Trent)

Klan Gives NAACP Office Equipment In Settlement

By Estes Thompson
RALEIGH (AP) — Much of the loot obtained by the NAACP here from the Ku Klux Klan as part of a court settlement was purely symbolic — Klan earrings, lapel pins

and "White only" bumper stickers. Other stuff was useful, like a nearly-new copying machine and an old computer, a printer, two air conditioners, boxes of office

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Black Caucus Faults Clinton On Civil Rights

WASHINGTON (AP) — Black members of Congress accused President Clinton Wednesday of failing to combat rising American racism and said he lacks a civil rights policy.

The politicians and other prominent blacks attending the Congressional Black Caucus' annual meeting also pointed to bittersweet census figures that told of solid educational progress among blacks, but dimmer prospects for a better life overall.

The caucus said Clinton's positions on foreign policy, housing, crime and the North American Free Trade Agreement all pose problems for blacks.

"It begs the question: Where are we as a people? And what flag of prosperity does this ship of state fly?" asked Rep. Kweisi Mfume, D-Md., the caucus chairman. "We are, at this moment, a nation in grave distress."

The White House defended its record, citing its appointment of blacks to the administration and the passage of the earned income tax credit, the National Service Act and business "empowerment zones" for inner cities.

The administration also noted that it created a capital financing program for historically black colleges, which provides federal backing for loans used for repairing or building black college facilities.

And, it cited Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros' plan to oust county housing authority officials in Vidor, Texas, for maintaining segregated housing projects there.

Timed for the caucus' gathering, the Census Bureau reported Wednesday that more black Americans got college degrees in the 1980s, but they still receive lower pay than white graduates for many jobs.

Census figures show the number of black men 25 and over with at least a bachelor's degree rose from 7.7 percent in 1980 to 11.9 percent in 1992. Among black women, the rate rose from 8.1 percent to 12 percent. But the annual median salary for black college graduates was \$30,910, while the median salary for white college graduates was \$37,490.

A larger proportion of white men than black men were employed in

executive, administrative and managerial jobs, 32 percent to 26 percent. Black male college graduates in these fields were paid about 77 percent of the amount earned by white male college grads.

Also, 30 percent of black families were poor, with unemployment rates for blacks running more than twice that of whites, 14 percent to 6 percent.

"Our condition has always been two-fold: too much poverty, not enough self-love," said Cornel West, professor of black and religious studies at Princeton University. "We've been between a rock and a hard place since we've been here." That's why Clinton needs to take an immediate, firm stance on civil rights enforcement, said Lani Guinier, the former NAACP litigator whose nomination to head the Justice Department's civil rights division was abandoned by Clinton.

Clinton has to find another nominee for the Justice slot. He also must fill vacancies at the head of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

But before he does that, Clinton should state unequivocally what his civil rights intentions are, Guinier said.

"We're looking for moral leadership. We're looking for a president who's not afraid to talk about race in a public forum," Guinier said. "The entire country is running from this problem." The complaints about Clinton's lack of civil rights action came as civil rights activists met at the White House with the president to discuss the administration's critics bill, NAFTA and the possible loss of jobs under the trade pact.

"We made it very clear that, by and large, we do not support NAFTA," said Jesse Jackson, president of the National Rainbow Coalition. "We are for free trade. We are for expanded trade. We are not for losing textile workers' jobs, and auto workers' jobs." Jackson said they "put for the case for a social charter" to address environmental and workers' rights issues affected by NAFTA.

"He said he would consider it. It was a major step in the right direction," Mfume said the black caucus does not plan right now to

support NAFTA, and will offer its own crime bill, saying Clinton's unfairity expands the number of death penalty crimes.

"We continue to negotiate with this White House on a number of issues ... not because we seek confrontation with the administration, but because we seek to do things in a different way," Mfume said. "This is not a spectator sport. We do not desire box seats. We desire a spot on the playing field."

Bells, Prayers Mark 30th Anniversary of 16th Street Bombing In Alabama

By Jay Reeves
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — A brick church wall blown apart by a Ku Klux Klan bomb has long since been repaired, the congregation is smaller and the political atmosphere has changed markedly.

But the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church on Wednesday continued its 30-year struggle to heal the emotional wounds from the Sept. 15, 1956, bombing which killed four black girls.

A prayer breakfast, bell ringing and worship service marked the anniversary of their deaths.

"It's been 30 years, but it's like it

was yesterday," said James Dunn, 63, as he pointed to the spot where the bomb went off outside the church. "It's not talked about every day, but it's talked about a lot."

"It's a sad time," said Melvin Johnson, 72. He quietly stood under a tree outside the church as bells rang to mark the time of the blast — 10:22 a.m.

Sunday school was in session at the time of the bombing, which followed weeks of civil rights protests and racial violence. Across the street a few months earlier.

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