

WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

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Rev. Ben Chavis

'My Conscience Compels Me To Speak Out'

McCain Prison Unit, N.C. [CCNS] - Rev. Ben Chavis, Wilmington 10 defendant and N.C. Alliance board member, released the following letter to President Carter on human rights through the N.C. Alliance office in Raleigh:

You have no doubt received many letters calling for the U.S. government's support for the cause of human rights in foreign countries where there are alleged human rights violations.

Most notably is your recent response to a letter from the Soviet dissident, Andrei D. Sakharov, wherein you stated, "You may rest assured that the



Rev. Ben Chavis

government will continue our firm commitment to promote respect for human rights -- We shall use our good offices to seek the release of prisoners of conscience."

As only one of many American citizens who has been unjustly imprisoned not because of criminal conduct but as a direct result of participation in the human and civil rights movement in the United

States, I appeal to you, President Carter, to first set a national priority of freeing all U.S. political prisoners.

It is from a prison cell in the state of North Carolina where I urgently write to you about the case known publicly as the "Wilmington, N.C. 10". We are ten victims of a racist and political prosecution.

How can our government see CONSCIOUS, Page 2

Dear Mr. President:

American people and our

Slapped By Bailiff, Woman Plans Suit

Raleigh, N.C. [CCNS] -- Mattie Diggs was sitting in court waiting for her trial to continue and received the shock of her life from a burly, white Deputy Sheriff of Robeson County, Gerald Martin.

Martin, she said, unleashed all the force his right hand could muster to slap the young black woman in the full view of court and her lawyer.

Attorney H. Mitchell Baker of Lumberton said that he didn't see the incident but

was told by several persons in the court that Ms. Diggs was talking with another woman when bailiff Martin told the two to 'shut up.' "There were some words and several say he (Gerald Martin) put his finger in her face and then slapped her," Baker said.

Mattie Diggs' account is almost the same. She said Mary Kinsley of Fairmont was talking with her when Martin told the two to 'shut up.' She said when Ms.

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Group Seeking To Bring PUSH Here

by Sam Roberson, Jr.
Special Correspondent

A group of citizens here are trying to organize a chapter of P.U.S.H. (People United to Save Humanity). The group, headed by Mrs. Margaret Vigil, met last week at Staley's Northside Restaurant to discuss feasibility.

"Our purpose for this meeting was merely to determine whether or not we could meet the criteria for establishing a chapter of PUSH here," Mrs. Vigil said

in an interview following the meeting. "We have sent off to the National Headquarters in Chicago and will expect the information soon."

In addition, Mrs. Vigil said that other meetings will be called periodically to determine the amount of community interest.

The national PUSH organization is headed by the Rev. Jesse Jackson who is a former leader of the Southern Christian Leader-

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Coach Gaines, WSSU Rams Honored

Mayor Proclaims WSSU Week

As a tribute to the Winston-Salem State University Rams, 1977 CIAA basketball champions, by virtue of winning the CIAA tournament, Mayor Franklin R. Shirley has proclaimed March 7-12, 1977, as Winston-Salem State University Week.

The formal presentation of the proclamation was made to WSSU athletic director and head basketball coach C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines on Monday, March 7 at 10:30 a.m. in the Trophy Room in the Alumni Building on

campus.

The latest honor is one of many collected by Gaines and his cagers this season.

The Rams finished the regular season with a mediocre 14-9 record overall and finished second in the CIAA southern division to St. Augustine's with a 10-6 conference mark.

WSSU entered the CIAA tournament with All-CIAA guard Don Helton on the bench with a stone bruised heel and Mike Brown an All-tournament selection in 1976 no longer on the squad.

Showing a definite lack of depth and with starters Stenson Conley and Mike Robinson slowed by breathing problems the Rams none-the-less upset Virginia State, Virginia Union, and St. Augustine's to capture the conference crown.

Carlos Terry was named the events MVP and he along with George Gibson, the tourneys leading scorer, and reserve Marco Dillard were named to the All-tournament squad. Dillard, replacing the injured Helton,

See WSSU, Page 2



Ram Coach Bighouse Gaines receives mayor's proclamation designating WSSU Week. Making the presentation is Winslow Lowery Director of Alumni Affairs, and Dr. Kenneth Williams, Chancellor of WSSU.