

'Red November, Black November'

Documentary gives CWP view of shooting

By SANDY SMITH
Special to The Daily Tar Heel

About 350 people gathered at the Greensboro Coliseum complex Sunday night for the premier showing of *Red November, Black November*, a controversial documentary film about the Nov. 3, 1979, shootings of five anti-Klan demonstrators by Klansmen and Nazis.

The dramatic 16 mm film, produced by Parallax Film Productions, was commissioned by the Communist Workers Party to present a different perspective on the Greensboro shootings than has been presented in the media.

The documentary opens with the volatile funeral march of Nov. 11 in which 1,000 demonstrators walked through a Greensboro rainstorm flanked by an equal number of riot-equipped police. Angry defiance was the overwhelming emotion in the chants of the marchers and in the eyes of the CWP widows who openly carried rifles in the front of the parade.

The focus of the film then shifted to the back porches and living rooms of North Carolina workers who talked about the victims.

A young man with a deep Southern accent reminisced about working with Jim Waller, a medical doctor, Waller gave up his practice to work for minimum wage at Cone Mills' Granite Finishing Plant in Haw River. The man said he

was a bit sceptical when he first learned that the new fellow at the plant was a communist.

When we'd have a problem or something, he'd take that contract book out and he'd read it and say 'This ain't right and that ain't right.' Then when the workers approached the boss-men with a grievance, Jim would go with them. 'He'd go in there and pull his contract book out and they (the bosses) couldn't say nothin' 'cause it was right there in the contract.' Waller was elected shop steward for the union local at Granite.

A middle-aged couple sat around their dining room table and talked about working with Bill Sampson, another of the victims. Sampson was a large, blond Harvard Divinity School graduate who emerged as a spokesman for workers at Cone's White Oak Mill. Reportedly, union ranks at the plant swelled after Sampson was nominated for president of the White Oak local.

A group of black workers from Cone Mills' Revolution Textile Mill described Sandi Smith, another of the victims, as an outspoken lady who was widely known and always took a stand when she thought things weren't right. Smith was elected to lead the Revolution Organizing Committee at the plant which previously had no labor union. She was formerly president of the student body at Bennett College for two years.

A fourth victim, Cesar Couce, graduated from Duke and worked in Duke hospital where he led a large union organizing drive in the mid '70s. A heavyset black woman who worked with Couce said, "His love for people came out in an intellectual way. I showed him where the people were comin' from ... and he taught me how to get into books."

Mike Nathan, the fifth victim, took a different path in working for social change. Nathan headed Pediatrics in Lincoln Community Health Center in Durham and served in a faculty position at Duke Medical Center. A leader of the Zimbabwe National Union's North Carolina branch, Anthony Mushpise told how Nathan and his wife Marty organized the Committee for Medical Aid to Southern Africa which sent \$40,000 in medical supplies to Zimbabwe over a two-year period.

The biographical sketches were interspersed with news footage of the victims speaking at labor strikes and marching in demonstrations. The wives of the slain men provided some insight into how their husbands came to believe that social change would only come about through revolution against the capitalist class.

The Nov. 3 rally was documented in full color directly from videotapes of television news crews. The anti-Klan rally got off to a tame

start with guitar playing and children singing. Nelson Johnson, who narrated the scene, noted that strangely, not a policeman was in sight. He said that usually police are everywhere when the CWP holds a march.

Then the caravan of Klansmen and Nazis rolled ominously into the crowd of about 100. Shouts of "nigger" and "kike" rang out with the demonstrators replying "get out of here, get out!" The scene froze on an arm with a pistol extended out a car window at a 45 degree angle. Following this "signal shot," Klansmen and Nazis poured out of cars in the middle of the caravan firing birdshot into the crowd and scuffling with demonstrators.

With the first shots the crowd fled toward a nearby side street. Klansmen jumped out of the car, and pulled weapons from the trunk. The videotapes showed them firing into the crowd for about six seconds. They then, almost casually, replaced the guns in the trunk, and the car roared away after the rest of the caravan.

Still no policemen arrived for several minutes, even though, according to police reports, a police detective who followed the caravan witnessed the shootings from his car. Then, suddenly, police were everywhere. They arrested several demonstrators as crowds of neighborhood people surged around the police, protesting that the demonstrators were innocent.

In another filmed interview the widows asserted that the Klansmen and Nazis had not fired into the crowd blindly. They pointed out that every victim was shot either in the head or the heart.

The movie restated the CWP's charges that two federal agents helped plan the shootings. The narrator cited evidence of federal involvement from newspaper stories, Klan testimony and accounts of government agencies. Neither of the agents was called to testify at the trial which found the Klan-Nazi defendants innocent.

A reception was held after the showing at a Greensboro Holiday Inn. Promoters of the film said *Red November, Black November* may be shown at Duke University, after which it will go to a number of cities around the country.

Campus Calendar

Public service announcements must be turned in at the box outside the OTH offices in the Carolina Union by 1 p.m. if they are to run the next day. Each item will be run at least twice.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee will hold an organizational meeting at 8 p.m. in the South Gallery Meeting Room in the Union. Contact Professor Craig Calhoun for further information.

The Order of the Old Well will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor lounge of the Campus Y Building. This is an important gathering for all active members.

Highlights of UNC Individual Speech Events Team ... traveling team members perform literature selections on their home turf at 5 p.m. in Gerrard Hall. Free admission.

The UNC Recreation Society will meet at 7 p.m. in 88 Postbox.

Bill Webster, outdoor specialist for Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation will present a slide show. Also, elections for next year's officers and board members. All recreation majors-welcome.

The UNC American for Common Sense is sponsoring a seminar: "Inside the Radical Right," by Dean Hodge, a former paid official in the 1978 Helms campaign and participant in two campaigns schools for the right. Meet in 106 Gardner at 7 p.m.

The UNC Raquetball Club will have courts available from 7-9 p.m. in Woolen Gym. All interested persons of any skill level are encouraged to attend.

Alpha Chi Omega meeting 6:30 p.m. in 221 Venable. Call Debbie Davidson, 967-2404 for more info.

Weekly Wednesday meeting of the Association for Women Students will be held at Back Street's on Rosemary Street from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Both members and non-members are welcome.

Global Issues Committee meeting in 106 Campus Y 3 p.m.

The Fantasy and Science Fiction Club will meet at 8:30 p.m. in the Union. Call 933-1566 for more info.

Coalition for Social Justice (formerly Rally for Justice) will meet at 8:30 p.m. in room 202 of the Union.

The Senior Class Committee will meet at 4:15 in Murphy 109.

The UNC Folklore Society Meeting - Everyone is welcome to the 2nd floor lounge of Greenlaw Hall at 3:30 p.m.

The Palestinian State from a Palestinian Perspective. The Egyptian Student Association invites you to a short talk followed by general discussion at 8 p.m. in 111 Murphy.

Sail into Spring - The UNC Sailing Club will have a meeting at 7 p.m. in Greenlaw 311. Beginning sailing class available, and sailing trip to Kerr Lake will be discussed. Come on out!

Applications are due on March 16 for \$250. Whitfield Traveling Fellowship for summer travel for undergraduates. Information at Wesley Foundation.

Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes: 3 services today at 7 a.m., 5:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Rosemary Street. Campus Ministry fellowship meal at 6 p.m. in campus center of the church. All welcome.

More job openings are now available in the Federal Summer Internship Program. Come by the PEP Center, University Counseling Center, Nash Hall.

Robert Patrick's play "The Hallowed Hunt" will be performed today at 4 and 8 p.m. Come to the Lab Theater at Graham Memorial. This moving comedy is directed by Paul Miles and stars Gary Raza and Kim Kelly. Admission free.

INTRAMURAL: Back-packing and hiking clinic 6-8 p.m. in Woolen Gym.

This is the second of two meetings for IM Softball Captains at 7 p.m. in 304 of the Gym ... third of three mandatory in softball referees clinic at 4 p.m. at Carmichael Field.

COMING EVENTS

SOUTHERN PART OF HEAVEN! The new, improved Chapel Hill off-campus housing guide, published by SCAU will be available at the Housing Forum in the Great Hall Thursday at 7 p.m.

The Frost Page, newspaper for N.C. gay community, is available at the Union desk literature rack, compliments of the Carolina Gay Association.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated will be sponsoring a

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