

Trial result of political actions

Algenon L. Marbley
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I would like to preface my statement by saying that it was the support of the people (students and community folks) that gave me the strength to carry on. In addition I would like to thank my attorneys, Andromeda Monroe, Leonard Lee, and D. Lester Diggs, who were the chief architects of my legal defense. This trial, being political in its essence, is the type of trial in which popular support plays a major role in the final outcome. Consequently, the will to win was the spirit of the people as well as myself, a spirit which exemplifies a strong sense of community held in reverence by Black people.

We must, however, also view this trial in its proper political context in order that we retain the significance of it. The levying of a charge against me for my political actions was a reactionary act perpetrated because of a desire to reprimand me. This desire was rooted in the fact that my political activities were incongruent with the beliefs held by a faction of students on this campus. One must only consult recent history to see that a common means to stifle the unified movement of Black people is to bring those thought to be the leaders before the judicial mechanism in order that they may be reprimanded.

In an institutionalized setting such as this one, institutional mechanisms are used to implicate those considered to exhibit "delinquent" political behavior. This concept of delinquent political behavior is judged by those whose rule it is to maintain the status quo of this University community. And if and when this status quo is threatened by any particular act, it puts its institutional organs to work in such a manner whereas the probability of this activity occurring again will significantly diminish.

Another aspect of this experience must be focused upon here, that is, the right of self determination. Even though our activity came under reverse attack by the aforementioned institutional machinery, this must not deter us from determining our own destiny. The levying of charges revealed the fact that if we act in a manner which we consider to be politically feasible and expedient we may face threatening consequences. However, we must uphold and defend our integrity as a people at all cost!!! We will never survive if we are satisfied to operate on a contingency basis, i.e. the way we will depend on what we think your reactions will be. Let the famous dictum of Frederick Douglass, "if there is no struggle, there is no progress," always be uppermost in our minds whenever deciding upon a political act.

In conclusion I believe, based on the events of the past few days, Black students on this campus have the strength to survive and win!!! However, we must assert ourselves at all times as we did on this particular occasion in order to achieve our objectives. We have the strength manifested in ourselves to cast off the chains of oppression that bound us. This will only happen when we make that decision, and if not now, WHEN?

Once upon a time

Allen H. Johnson III
Sports Editor

Once Upon a Time . . .

Once upon a time, an aspiring young journalism major, David, had the pleasurable opportunity of working in a cigarette factory during the summer prior to his freshman year in college. Almost invariably, older white employees would ask whether he planned to attend college or not, to which he cheerfully replied, "Yes, I do intend to further my education."

At this point in the conversation, the white employee would usually respond, "You goin' to A&T, huh?"

And he would reply, "No, I'm going to UNC."

"Oh, that college in Durham?"

"No, in Chapel Hill. You know, the Tarheels?"

"Oh. You playin' basketball?"

"No. I'm going to be a writer."

"Sure you don't play basketball?"

"I play occasionally, but not for anybody's team. You know, just to pass the time and keep in shape."

"Well, you sure are tall."

"Oh, not very when you really look at it. I'd be a short guard at Carolina."

"You absolutely sure you're not playing ball?"

"Yep."

His forehead wrinkled slightly, the white employee nevertheless remained skeptical.

"I'll bet it costs a pretty penny to go to a school like Carolina," he continued.

"Yeah, it's rough," David replied, "but my scholarship will make things a little bit easier."

"Scholarship? I thought you said you didn't play basketball?"

"I don't. The scholarship is for academics . . . You know, hittin' the books."

"Hey, that's really something," the white employee marveled. "Joe, Bill! Kid here's got a scholarship for his brains. Ain't that something?"

"Well, uh, actually," David proudly added, "I've got two scholarships."

The white employee gazed in disbelief. Then he managed a synthetic smile as his face became flushed with redness.

"Yeah, kid. Sure. Two scholarships, wow, that's somethin' else."

He then shuffled out of the break room, smiling all the way, as if his entire face would, at any moment, crack into a thousand tiny pieces. Then, David noticed him talking with a couple of other employees outside.

From that day on, the white employees were nice and courteous persons to work with and, in addition, were constantly smiling as they passed David.

Nevertheless, he had the sneaky suspicion that if, by some stroke of fate he would yell "Fire!", not a solitary soul would move.



Algenon Marbley

No disruption took place

The following is a Press Release drafted by Algenon and His attorneys, Andromeda Monroe, Leonard Lee, and D. Lester Diggs, concerning Algenon Marbley's defense:

The defense showed a "disruption", as defined by the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance, did not take place on January 16, 1975, and that, specifically, the defendant, Algenon Marbley, did not "disrupt" David Duke's speech as outlined in Section II. D. 1. g. of the Instrument.

According to Section II.D.1.g. disruptive conduct is "willfully obstructing or disrupting any normal operation or function of the University or any of its organizations or its personnel (including students) by engaging in individual or collective conduct which, because of its violent, forceful, threatening, or intimidating nature or because it restrains freedom of lawful movement, prevents any member or members of the University community from conducting his or their normal and legitimate activities within the University." We revealed that the conduct of Algenon Marbley and that of the other demonstrators was neither violent, forceful, threatening, or intimidating, nor did it restrain freedom of lawful movement.

Also the defense showed that the Forum's invitation to David Duke to speak on the UNC campus was not a normal function of the University in that the Union has never, in the past, invited a speaker, such as Duke, who called for the systematic killing and extermination of a race or group of people, to speak on this campus.

Andromeda Monroe made the following comments concerning the court decision.

"The action taken by the Undergraduate Court on January 23, 1975, set forth a precedent concerning disruptive conduct on campus. The precedent established that an action must be violent, forceful, threatening, or intimidating, or restrain freedom of lawful movement, in order that it be considered disruptive.

"The precedent also set forth the argument that the disruptive clause may only apply to 'normal' university functions or operations, (i.e. David Duke's invitation to speak on campus was not considered 'normal' by the Court.)

"Given the Court's decisions and the ambiguous meanings of the terms 'normal,' 'violent,' 'forceful,' 'threatening,' and 'intimidating' which clouded the entire case one may expect a major revision of the disruption clause of the Instrument, either by the Chancellor, Student Affairs, or the Student Attorney General's Office, to define explicitly the specific actions to be considered 'disruptive' and clarify what is meant by a normal university function or operation.

"The acquittal of Monte by the Court prevents similar charges from being brought against any other demonstrator who protested David Duke's appearance on campus."

Andromeda had the following personal comments regarding the trial: "The Court's verdict of 'Not Guilty' can be conceived as a 'defeat' for those, including James Pope, the accuser, who attempted to take the protest of Duke's speech out of its political and racial perspective. It became a racial issue, in that the Union's decision to bring David Duke to this University represented a failure, on their part, to recognize the interests and feelings of Black students."

Campus address given

By Sadie Copeland
Managing Editor

In his State of the Campus address, Student Body President Marcus Williams said his gravest concern was not lack of student involvement, but "the covert concomitants of this non-involvement."

"Lack of social and racial interaction, deteriorating social dialogue, maladjusted priorities, insensitivity to the needs and desires of others, and reckless indifference, appear to be the most salient," he said.

Some of the administrative accomplishments Williams cited were: —Bicycle registration which he said resulted in a drastic reduction of bicycle thefts.

—Student typing service initiated for students needing someone to type their papers.

—Info, a program whereby a phone call is all that's needed for a student to get information from student government files, and the implementation of "S-information Newsletter," an attempt to bridge the gap between student government and the students.

—The "Instrument of Judicial Governance," which Williams called a "definite step forward for minority students" because it outlines new operating procedures, like minority court, for the student judicial branch.

Williams said some important future projects for student government are: "investigating an alternative drop-add procedure, approval of a Student Bill of Rights, expanding the course-teacher evaluation, pushing a Carrboro referendum for its annexation to the mass transit system, establishing a food stamp agency and continuing the fight for affirmative action."

He warned that while his administration and UNC officials have had fair rapport, the officials are under great pressure from the Board of Governors to define the present administration, and by their definitions some student rights could be cancelled.

To prevent this, Williams urged students to vote in campus elections and question the candidates "to be sure they are making valid and responsible statements. After all," he said, "in the future they may be representing you."

In an interview, he said Black students in contemplating future actions should "make sure it has a constructive purpose."

In reference to the David Duke incident, he said the repercussions are far-reaching. He said one way to avoid such incidents may be to require Black Student Movement chairmen to attend campus governing council meetings because often "more things are transpiring than we think."