

NEWS

Hunt commutes 'Ten' sentences

By ALLEN JOHNSON
Co-Editor

Gov. Jim Hunt announced that he would commute the sentences of the Wilmington 10 Monday night, but with not nearly as substantial a commutation supporters of the group had hoped.

"There was a fair trial," Hunt said in a televised message from his office. "I have confidence in what our courts and justice system have done. I can not and will not pardon these defendants."

The governor reduced the sentences thusly: Joe Wright, a study-release inmate who attends North Carolina State University, will serve a 13-year sentence instead of 20.

Jerry Jacobs, Marvin Patrick, Reginald Epps, Willie Vereen, and James McKoy will serve 14 years instead of 20.

And Rev. Ben Chavis, perhaps the most famous co-defendant, will serve 17 years instead of 25.

The tenth co-defendant, Ann Shepherd Turner, will continue to be free on parole.

Hunt noted that the decision bore in mind the "atmosphere and tension" which prevailed in Wilmington at the time of the 1971 fire bombing with which the 10 are charged. He also noted that defendants' ages and the fact that the alleged crime was their first offense were prime factors of consideration.

Hunt said that he had given "long and prayerful concern" to all of these points.

"I have made the decision that I think is right," he said. "It is time for all of us to turn from the bitterness and rancor of the past."

In obvious response to individuals from other states and abroad who have criticized the North Carolina criminal justice system, Hunt added, "I would invite those who have criticized us to look at North Carolina and look at people who are working side by side to accomplish common goals."

Freshmen promising Renwick cites academic success

By RICKEY WALTON
Staff Writer

Black freshmen this year showed substantial improvement in comparison with the previous two classes, according to Hayden B. Renwick, Special Assistant to the Chancellor.

Although high school grades and SAT scores for Black freshmen this year were lower than the scores of the class two years ago, Renwick notes, their first semester's college work was much better.

There are 223 Blacks in the freshman class. Of this number, 32 had QPA's of 3.0 or better amounting to 14.3 percent. Last year, there were 194 Blacks in the freshman class, 14 of which had QPA's of 3.0 or better, only 1.2 percent.

As a class, only 43 (19.3 percent) Black freshmen this year had QPA's below 1.5 as compared to last year's class in which 75 (38.7 percent) were below 1.5.

Renwick sees the increase in the number of Black freshmen in the freshman class and the increase in overall QPA's as a "definite improvement". He attributes the improvement to the general attitude of the freshman and to the Minority Advisory

Program.

"The minority advisors have reported that the freshmen this year are more enthused about their counseling than the freshmen of the past," says Renwick.

Renwick says that the program should be continued into the sophomore year. But due to a lack of funds, he adds, it is impossible to do this.

Renwick also credits the parents for part of the increase in the students attitudes. This year, as in the past, Renwick has sent letters to the parents of all students whose QPA's were below 1.5. In the past, he says, there was practically no response. This year, however, he has already received many responses and is looking for many more.

Black faculty members have also become more involved with Black academics, Renwick says. In addition, he notes, there has been a large increase in the number of participants at freshmen meetings.

"Generally, the overall picture looks very encouraging to me," Renwick says. "Black freshmen should be commended for their first semester's work at Carolina and I urge them to keep up the good work."



A Time for Contemplation

When the rigors of the still-young semester begin to take their toll, it's not such a bad idea to pause for a moment or two, and settle into that brief but refreshing state of mind called daydreaming. Staff photo by Nelson Goines.

Thirty-two on honor roll

In order to reward academic achievement in the Black campus community, *Black Ink* unveils its first Honor Roll, citing those freshman students who achieved at least a 3.0 grade-point average last semester.

The honor roll idea was conceived by BSM Academic Affairs Chairperson Karen Stevenson.

Honor roll members alphabetically are:

Charles E. Allen, Melodee Alvees, Michael Bagley, Rita Bell, Rhonda V. Bennett, Terrence Burroughs, Teresa Costner, Kim Curry, Denise Dempsey, Gloria Hargett, Clinton Hicks, Rickye McCoy, Beryl McLaughlin, DeVonne Mitchener, and Andra Moore.

Also Freeman Moore, P.R. Moseley, Evelyn Owens, Cynthia Peace, Gregory W. Pittman, Daniel Richardson, Phyllis Saunders, Cynthia L. Seagraves, Cynthia A. Smith, Curtis Sutton, Dorothy Thomas, Pamela Thorpe, Marlon West, Fohliette Williams, Sheryletta Williams, Monica Wilson, and James C. Woodley.

Local reactions

Was the governor's decision a just one?

By VANESSA SIDDLE
News Editor

Reaction to Governor Hunt's decision regarding the Wilmington 10 brought a consensus of opinion among the Black populace of UNC that the governor avoided the real issue and took the easiest way out.

"It was an escape, a middle of the road stand," said Debora Bryan, a senior in speech communications, "He was obviously afraid to make a move."

Bryan's comment came on the heels of Hunt's 12-minute explanation of his decision not to pardon the Ten. Many students supported her view.

Sophomore Rita Brackeen saw the

whole situation as "messed up." "He obviously wanted to satisfy the conservatives," she said, "I didn't expect him to do any more than he did."

Freshman Vanessa Lea agreed. "Gov. Hunt just did enough to satisfy some people," she said.

Other students viewed the situation more reflectively.

"It would have been the end of Hunt's political career if he had pardoned the Ten," said Charlie Wall, a senior political science-Afro-American studies major. "More people were against the Ten than for them. Hunt's decision made less enemies."

"If he had let them go," echoed

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