



The essence of freedom is understanding

January 29, 1979

BLACK STUDENT MOVEMENT OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill,

Volume 11, Number 11

Rhodes Scholar excels in athletics and academics



Photo by David R. Squires

Stevenson chats with a teammate at track practice.

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To be a private person, Karen Stevenson has received all kinds of publicity lately.

The Washington Post, Jet, the Charlotte Observer and the Durham Morning Herald have devoted generous column inches to the first black woman to garner a Rhodes Scholarship.

Four years earlier, the UNC senior made a quieter, but comparably significant historical ripple, becoming the first black woman to attend Carolina on a Morehead Scholarship.

Add to these credentials, the fact that this young lady is holder of 12 UNC track records, 400-meter champion in the N. C. Association for Interscholastic Athletics, first woman to win the Jim Tatum Memorial Award for athletic distinction, a member of the Valkyries, UNC's highest women's honorary society, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and you have to be impressed.

"I'm a very private person," Karen said as she prepared Sunday dinner. "You can have but a few friends. I'm into being close to a few people and having rich friendships with them. The people who really know me I can count on one hand."

This, of course, leaves quite a few people who don't understand Karen Stevenson—and who conjure images of her from what they sporadically see and hear through the "grapevine".

"When you have a public image, people simplify," Karen said. "The mass media tend to simplify. You either come out as being wonderful or a real snob. I also tell the truth when people ask me questions."

Rochelle Riley, a sophomore who ran track with Stevenson and was her minority advisee as a freshman, agreed. "Karen's a pretty complex person," Riley said. "She's forceful because she knows exactly what she wants. She works hard. She has something inside her that makes her drive for things. She also likes to help people. As my adviser she was there all the time."

"I'm very envious of Karen," said another friend. "If I ever say anything bad about her, it's because I'm envious." When one looks at Karen and what she has done in her youthful lifetime, it is easy to isolate the drive that makes her tick and pushes her to excel. Karen says enjoyment and interest are her motivating forces.

"I don't see it as drive," she said. "Drive seems to me some kind of obsession. I don't feel that much pressure. I do things because I like them. There are a couple of principles that I believe in. If you call them drives, then I guess I have it."

Karen is not hesitant in answering questions. Some interviews try to dictate answers. She is frank, relaxed, uninhibited. Therein lies much of the misunderstanding surrounding a reluctant celebrity. Does she know that some people have negative opinions of her? Does she care what people think?

"Not much," she said. "It hasn't hurt me yet."

Karen ruffled some administrative feathers during the press conference that announced her Rhodes award to the press. More than one University official probably

squirmed in his seat and John Motley Morehead himself might have grumbled in his grave as UNC's 23rd Rhodes Scholar cited a "cloud of racism" over the University.

She specifically referred to Dean Hayden B. Renwick's charges that the University was not admitting qualified black applicants.

"My statement was that to date, these issues have not been addressed," Karen said. "The UNC community is still waiting for the full story. The ball is still in UNC's court. Until they frankly address the charges, it looks bad. Whites and blacks are equally concerned."

Renwick obviously was pleased by the comments. "Karen said she wanted people to know that all is not right with the University". "She was not accusing the University of anything. She was just asking why no one has responded to the questions raised."

Renwick, a sort of godfather for most undergraduates, particularly freshmen, noted that Karen's accomplishment will encourage younger, less confident black students to achieve. "Academically, I see students doing a hell of a lot better than previous years," he said. "I think they'll look to her as a symbol of 'Hey, I can do that, too.'"

Renwick added that during his association with Karen over the past four years he has grown to think of her as a daughter. "We've been that close," he said.

Karen Stevenson places a good deal of pride in her independence. She says she likes to travel alone and eat alone because other people don't like to. With all this individuality, does she have a steady boyfriend?

"I'm footloose and fancy free," she said. As for her interaction with men, Karen noted, "I like all or none. I like flowers, candy, having my birthday remembered and being taken out to dinner."

But hold on. Isn't it possible that some men are intimidated by an outspoken Rhodes-Morehead-Scholar-track-star? "Boys are," she said, "But not men."



Photo by David R. Squires

Stevenson demonstrates form to teammate Annette Woods.

Carolina Times Burned, N.C. publishers offer \$1000

By TERESA BURNS and
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Staff Writers

MEMPHIS—The National Newspaper Publishers Association will send news releases to President Carter and Black newspapers nationwide requesting aid for the recently burned-out Carolina Times, a weekly newspaper in Durham, N. C.

Ernie Pitt, co-director of the North Carolina Black Publishers Association, announced their support by offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of person(s) responsible for the fire.

There has been much aid to the Times, according to Editor and Publisher Vivian A. Edmonds. "Tuesday we received more subscriptions in one day than we usually receive in a week," Edmonds said.

Calls from all over the country and stray cash contributions from individuals have also aided the Times, Edmonds said.

The fire, which destroyed the offices of both the Carolina Times and E. N. Toole and Sons Electrical Company on January 6, is suspected to be the result of arson.

"All the firemen, 10 to 12, that I talked to Sunday said that it was arson," Edmonds said. There are certain signs they look for."

The Times' staff was forced to continue operations in temporary quarters at 719 Mangum St. "Every staff member did what was necessary without being asked," Edmonds said. As a result a 14



Photo by Kevin A. Bell

Carolina Times Editor and Publisher Vivian Edmonds collects a few items that weren't totally destroyed by the recent fire.

page paper came out the following Thursday.

Subscribers continued to receive their papers only because there was a duplicate mailing list outside of the office. Edmonds said, "The addressing system was burned to a crisp—the stencils that were not burned were cooked."

In spite of aid to the Carolina Times during the last two weeks, much more is needed for the newspaper to return to normal operations. Subscription Manager Lionell Parker has organized a drive to get 5,000 subscriptions.