

# EDITORIAL

## Musicians become politicians

by Gary D. Shearod

American musicians have always influenced political issues such as the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's, but currently they are taking a stronger stand against the problems of the world in the 1980's.

Hundreds of this country's major musicians and recording artists have gathered to help aid those who can not help themselves. They have expressed through music their position and/or disposition on certain issues involving this country and others abroad. Last summer, an all-star Farm-Aid benefit was given at the University of Illinois. According to event organizer, country music star Willie Nelson, approximately \$10 million in ticket sales, merchandizing, and pledges was raised. That was one-fifth of the total amount projected. However, Nelson expects to gain other revenues through a possible Farm-Aid album.

In February 1985, USA For Africa, 46 of the top recording artists in America, gathered together their talents and efforts to produce a record that would make others aware of the hunger problem in Ethiopia and to raise monies for the famine victims. The theme *We Are The World*, co-written by two of the most successful male solo artists of the



20th century, Lionel Richie and Michael Jackson, produced not only a once in a lifetime chorus but more than \$24 million in revenues including the single, video and double album gross intake.

Produced by Quincy Jones, this effort featured Richie and Jackson along with Stevie Wonder, Bob Dylan, Huey Lewis, Tina Turner, Cyndi Lauper, Steve Perry, Ray Charles, the Pointer Sisters and an array of other vocal greats.

USA For Africa organizer Ken Kragen is currently forming another mega-event to help offset the domestic hunger problems and the homeless here in America.

Kragen, along with Co-chairmen Bill Cosby, Kenny Rogers and baseball great Pete Rose, expects to bring in approximately \$100 million dollars for America's poor with this project.

The project "Hands Across America" will link 6 to 10 million people in a 'human chain' from

the east coast to the west coast. This is scheduled to take place Sunday, May 25, 1986 during the Memorial Day weekend.

The participants are expected to stand hand-in-hand singing *We Are The World*, a song which brought Kragen national acclaim, and *America The Beautiful*.

Kragen says the money raised by this project will be distributed according to the need of support. Fifty percent will be used to support existing programs for the poor. Forty percent will be donated to fund new programs, including tenant-owned housing projects, locally-supported job programs and food coops. Ten percent will aid immediate emergency assistance.

Celebrities expected to participate in this effort include Lionel Richie, Harry Belafonte, Marlon Jackson, Richard Dreyfuss, Morgan Fairchild, Ed McMahon-just to name a few.

There is still on existence the

problem of apartheid in South Africa. An anti-apartheid force is being formed within the music industry to express its stand against the political strategy. The Black Music Association is urging the record industry to divest itself of all commercial interest in South Africa, the organization president Ewart Abner announced at the BMA's seventh annual conference in Philadelphia.

Chairman Dick Griffey said, "The black trade organization supported the cultural boycott of South Africa, but did not go so far to advocate divestiture."

Griffey, president of SOLAR Records, suggests that the music industry as a whole follow the lead of his company and put all South African revenues into a trust fund for distribution to anti-apartheid forces. Musician genius Stevie Wonder, who also attended the conference, suggested asking all black stations around the country to dedicate a day to talking about apartheid and playing 'political' music.

Other support efforts within the music industry such as Live Aid, Band Aid, and the King Dream Chorus & Holiday Crew have also had the same effect on the interest in the music industry and the world as a whole.

## Procedure changes to begin in fall

by Linda Bumpass (courtesy of the A&T Register)

Prompted by the suspensions of two A&T fraternities for alleged hazing, changed in procedures governing university pledge periods for Greek-letter organizations are being planned and will be initiated in the fall, says Chancellor Edward B. Fort. "I don't want students coming to this university and fear joining a fraternity or sorority because of hazing," he said.

Omega Psi Phi and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternities were both suspended through spring semester 1987.

In the Omega case, charges were brought against one fraternity member, Fort said, and law enforcement officials are handling the investigation. The university will conduct its own.

Steve Jones, 20, of 731 Plott St., Greensboro, is charged with four misdemeanor counts of assault with a deadly weapon, two felony counts of assault with a deadly weapon, inflicting serious injury,

two misdemeanor counts of hazings, and one misdemeanor count of simple assault and battery.

Fort said campus police are still investigating alleged Alpha Phi Alpha hazings, and any needed action will be taken when the investigation is complete.

"I am against hazing," he said, "because it's ...against the law. And if hound on this campus it will be prosecuted to the fullest."

The administration has not determined the type of penalty the Omegas will face, says Dr. Roland E. Buck, vice chancellor for student affairs. "We haven't determined, because we have to give them due process," he said.

Buck said he's received reports from graduate chapter fraternity members and advisers concerning the incidents, but the information will not be released until it is submitted to the chancellor.

Fort said once he receives the report he will make a decision on any action.

## Hazing incident produces changes

by Linda Bumpass (courtesy of the A&T register)

The hazing incident that occurred on A&T's campus is just one of the few that happens across the country each year.

According to an article from the *Greensboro News and Record* many pledgees subject themselves to abuse that is absurd.

According to the article, in one event, a pledgee was paralyzed after diving a flight of stairs. In another, a pledgee was locked in the trunk of a car, and was told that he would only be released if he consumed a six pack of beer, a pint of bourbon and a bottle of wine. The pledgee was released from the trunk, but not before he had died.

Will these insane events continue to occur? Will A&T end up like schools such as Yale and Notre Dame that have elimi-

nated fraternities, in order, to eliminate hazing.

College administrators and law officials must find a way to end hazing, even if it means banning fraternities and sororities from all college campuses. There are other ways to build brotherhood. I agree with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, also an Omega Psi Phi Fraternity brother, who was quoted in a newspaper article this week, that "The pledge period is a time when pledgees should show what their minds can take, not what their behinds can take."

Nevertheless, most students have heard of many hazing stories but very few students have the nerve to speak out against or report them.

Finally, if a student cares enough about his or her future Greek system. He/she will find better ways than hazing to initiate a t e their pledgees.

## Apartheid divides Africa

Apartheid is a word derived from the Afrikaner (Dutch) language. It means "intense apartness or separate development." Ironically, it's pronounced "apart-hate."

The system of apartheid practiced in South Africa is based on the political principle of "race" and its most common indicator, color. The most and best of everything in South African society is reserved for whites, who comprise 16% of the population and are presumed to be superior human beings. Browns (Asians-3%) and Coloreds (mixed race-9%) are given selective rights. Blacks, who represent 72% of the country's 31 million inhabitants, get the least and worst of this mineral and industrial-laden society's resources, benefits and services.

Apartheid is a rigid caste system that fixes the position of non-white groups in the society from birth to death. A myriad of laws and regulations prescribe the legal and political rights, social and geographic spaces of South Africa's various racial groups. This

long and complex series of apartheid laws were, for the most part, enacted between 1953 and 1959 after the country's Afrikaner-supported National Party gained control of South Africa's government in the 1953 general elections.

The Pass Book Law, the Group Areas Act and the Influx Control are examples of laws designed to control the movement of the Black population and to reinforce the supremacy of whites in South Africa. Blacks are allowed to work but not to live in urban communities. They may live around the cities in "townships" if they are employed in the cities.

Technically, Blacks are not even citizens of South Africa; they are assigned citizenship in "Bantustans," artificially created states established by the white-minority regime. Excess labor and those not the work force are resettled in these "homeland" areas, which are the most barren and unproductive regions of the country. Those who do work in the cities are often separated from their families for months at a time.

Blacks not only have no political voice in the affairs of the South African government, they are limited as well in the country's industrial arena. Blacks are confined to jobs as semi-skilled and unskilled laborers in mines, factories, and plants of South Africa, where they receive six times less pay than whites for equal or better work.

In addition, education for South African white children is compulsory and free; for Blacks, it was neither until 1981, when the government introduced compulsory education for 45,000 African students, 1.5% of those eligible for such consideration.

## Commuters' questions left unanswered

by Edith Taylor

Many commuting students found their questions unanswered after they attended a special meeting earlier this month to discuss commuters' needs and problems. Catherine Waterfield from Counseling and Student Affairs chaired the meeting which covered a wide range of questions.

Students raised several questions about parking on campus. Many commuters do not want to pay to park on the campus since they return home at night and only use a space during the day,

which is sometimes difficult to find. Students proposed that the parking fees should be taken out of general fees such as tuition, etc.

Students present could not understand the three dollar Commuter Fee. Mrs. Waterfield explained that this money was used to cover public facilities and supplies such as soap and toilet paper. Students replied that they could not understand why they had to pay for such items, when they are accessible to everyone at the university.

Mrs. Waterfield said that she would present a list of the commuters' complaints and suggestions to the proper administrators. She said that she could not promise what the outcome would be but that they would be considered. As always, problems and issues are heard but hardly ever responded. Students then asked if future commuter meetings would be worthwhile since there was no assurance that anything would be done about their problems. Mrs. Waterfield stated

that all comments would be reviewed.

In the judgement of the commuting students, proper university recognition should be given to the fact that they make up a large percentage of ECSU's student body. Even though they are not the majority, compared to on-campus residents, they are students, who want to get what they pay for, but do not want to pay for what they do not get.

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We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

## From the Editor's Desk

On behalf of *The Compass* staff, I would like to invite everyone interested in writing, reporting, advertising, art, lay-out, design or photography to become involved with *The Compass*.

No experience is needed although a good command of the English language is necessary for certain staff positions. You may work in an area where your interests are, whether they are sports, features, editorials, production or entertainment.

You do not have to be an English major to be a part of our campus newspaper, because we need representatives or correspondents from other departments to give a broader scope to the paper. If you do not want to

be directly related to *The Compass* on a regular basis but do want to have stories or letters to the editor published, I encourage you to write your story. It may concern any issue, organization, event, workshop or personality profile. However, we do reserve the right to edit all material received.

This invitation is also extended to the faculty, staff, and administration at ECSU, as well as all members of the student body.

Send your stories, letters, or ideas to: The Compass Box 815 ECSU Elizabeth City, NC 27909.

The *Compass* staff is small in size but good in quality. Nevertheless, with your help we can make it bigger and better.

EDITOR-in-CHIEF

## Letters to the Editor

The brothers of the Beta Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha would like to compliment Chancellor Jimmy R. Jenkins for a job well done. He has expanded Elizabeth City State University into a well-rounded institution of higher learning. We are sure it is not an easy task being chancellor, but he handles it the way it should be handled.

We are certain that soon ECSU will be one of the most prominent black universities in the country with his will and determination.  
Keep up the good work.  
Sincerely Yours,  
Members of Beta Zeta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

To all the members of the class of 1986, I congratulate each and every one of you. It has been a long, but interesting, four years here at Elizabeth City State University. Remember all the good times we have shared throughout the years.

Upon graduation, uphold the high standards that you have acquired while attending Elizabeth City State University. Let everyone know that you are a Viking and proud of it. Good luck in searching for what you strive for in life and I wish you much success.

Sincerely Yours,  
Curtis Jackson  
President-Class of 1986