



The News Argus

Vol. X, No. 5

WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

April 1977

Chairman Speaks On Wilmington 10 Case



Imani Kazana photo by Bryan Kluttz - Sentinel

Imani Kazana, chairman of the National Wilmington Ten Defense Committee visited WSSU on Wednesday March 16. Ms. Kazana explained that she was here in North Carolina to help explain and inform the public on current developments in the Wilmington

Ten case. She further stated that there are obvious distortions and misconceptions about the case which she hoped could be cleared up.

Later in the evening, Kazana talked to a small group of concerned students and citizens in an effort to

give a better insight into the case, and ask for their support. Kazana made use of a slide presentation to introduce the group of to the victims in the case.

The "Wilmington, N.C. Ten are young civil rights workers -- nine black males, and one white female -- who were sentenced to a total of 282 years in North Carolina prisons on frame-up arson and conspiracy charges. Rev. Benjamin Chavis is serving the longest sentence, a total of 34 years, for his leadership role.

The Wilmington Ten case grew out of a long history of racial antagonisms and prejudices present in Wilmington, N.C. which reached a high point following court ordered desegregation of the New Hanover School system.

Williston, the black high school, was downgraded to a junior high school. Black students were then disbursed and then bused to two previously all-white high schools.

During the first semester of desegregation the racial antagonisms of the larger

community were translated into the educational environment. Blacks began to complain when they found or felt that they were excluded from much of the extra-curricular activities at the two desegregated high schools.

Several racial oriented fights broke out that finally resulted in the black students staging a boycott. The boycott was sparked by the refusal of the local high school to allow Black students to conduct an assembly program to honor the birthdate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

During the boycott, blacks would meet at Gregory Congregational Church. The pastor of the black congregation was Rev. Eugene Templeton, a white man. As Blacks continued to meet at the church, unknown persons in cars and trucks began to ride by and shoot at the church. The situation worsened, but appeals to the mayor and Chief of Police to provide protection for these people were in vain.

Getting no positive responses from the city and law enforcement officials,

Rev. Templeton requested and received aid through the National Office of the United Church of Christ and its Southern Conferences. Leon White and Benjamin Chavis were dispatched to Wilmington on February 2, 1971 to aid the boycotting students and the local congregation.

Continued attacks on the church prompted officials of North Carolina-Virginia Field Offices of the Commission for Racial Justice to ask that a curfew be imposed. As a result of city officials' refusal to do so, racial passion erupted. Two persons were killed and several were injured. Death victims were a black youth and a white man. The curfew was immediately imposed following the death of the white man.

In mid March 1972, police arrested 13 persons on charges growing out of the February disturbance. Among those arrested were the Wilmington Ten.

The trials of the victims were long and difficult. They were sentenced in February of 1976 and surrendered to See KAZANA, p. 8

Author To Speak At Honor's Day Program

WSSU's Annual Honors Day Program will be held on Wednesday, April 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium. The public is invited to attend without charge.

In announcing plans for the occasion, Mr. Warren C. Oldham, Director of the Scholastic Achievement Program, explained, "There has been a concentrated effort to heighten the academic achievement aspirations of the student body by calling attention to those students who have maintained outstanding academic records. Honors Day, which is held in the spring of each year, is designed to focus on those students." The university pays special tribute to al al full-time students who have made high achievement in

various academic fields during the school year. Students having the highest average in each of the four classes and students having the highest average in each major are honored. Recognition is given to those students with a cumulative average of 3.3 or better. Grading is based on a 4.0 scale. The principle speaker for the Honors Day Program will be Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander, professor of English and director of the Institute for the study of History, Life, and Culture of Black People, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi. Alexander is an author and poet of note with "Jubilee", a civil war novel, and several books of poems to her credit. These include "For My People", "Proph-

ets for a New Day", "October Journey," and "A Poetic Equation: Conversations between Nikki Giovanni and Margaret Walker." 1977 Honors Day Award Recipients Highest Cumulative Average By Class

Freshman -- Mary Eaton - Henderson, N.C.; Sophomore -- Phillis Hardison - Sneads Ferry, N.C.; Junior -- Wanda Ledford - Winston-Salem, N.C.; Senior -- Helen Baker - King, N.C.

Highest Cumulative Average By Department

Business Business Administration -- Belinda Moore - Atkinson, N.C. Business Education -- Mazie Capers - Winston-Salem, N.C.

Education Early Childhood -- Della

Wiggins - Kinston, N.C.; Intermediate Education -- Janet Brower - Cameron, N.C.; English and foreign Languages -- Patricia Eubanks -- Winston-Salem, N.C.; Mathematics -- Karen Coleman - Norlina, N.C.;

Music -- Elise Donald - Charlotte, N.C.; Nursing -- Helen Baker - King, N.C.; Physical Education -- Harvey McIntyre - Atkinson, N.C.; Social Sciences

History -- Joanne Glenn - See SPEAKER, p. 6

WSSU Parents' Day Held

Winston-Salem State University held its annual Parents' Day Conference on Sunday, March 6. The theme for this year was "Moving Together in Unity". Commenting on Parents' Day, Dr. Haywood Wilson, Jr., Director of Student Affairs and Chairman of the Parents' Day Committee, explained that it provided parents the opportunity to see how students live and to meet with faculty members.

He pointed out that if a student is to succeed he must have parental backing and the support of faculty and staff members. Activities such as Parents' Day are held to promote this necessary understanding and cooperation.

The Parents' Day Convocation was held at 11:00 a.m. in the Kenneth B. Williams Auditorium with Chancellor Kenneth R. Williams as the See PARENTS, p. 2