

The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.
—Aristotle

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Conditions "Bad" In North Carolina Massive Protest Plans Underway

By Ray Jenkins

The National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression held a press conference on Monday in Raleigh to announce plans for a massive march on Labor Day, September 6, to protest racial and labor conditions in North Carolina which are said to be the most repressive of all the states in the country. On hand for the conference was Angela Davis who heads the national organization.

Miss Davis noted that social conditions are 'bad' in North Carolina and can be changed only by a program of mass struggle.

It appears with the present situation in North Carolina, there was much credence to the allegations set forth by Miss Davis and the Alliance, especially with the handling of the Wilmington Ten case. In that case, ten people, nine black men and one white woman were sentenced to a total of 234 years in prison for allegedly conspiring

to commit arson. Even the most conservative factions in the state admit that it was one of the harshest penalties ever handed down, considering the charges. Then there is a tremendously strong fight against unionization in North Carolina whenever the attempt is made by workers. Unions are almost non-existent in the state of North Carolina as compared to many other states where nearly every industry is unionized. The Alliance will be adding the question of unionization to their program. One company, the J. P. Stevens Company reportedly went so far as to close down a plant because the workers tried to unionize.

The major and most immediate concern of the Alliance, however, is that of the treatment of Rev. Ben Chavis who is now going into his fourth week of "spiritual and political" fast, protesting his transfer from Caldonia to McCain prison.

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Conrad O. Pearson Receives Judge Francis E. Rivers Award

Conrad O. Pearson, pioneer attorney in the civil rights field, was presented the Francis E. Rivers Award, May 13 at the 1976 Institute sponsored by Howard University School of Law and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund at New York's Harvard Club.

The Francis Ellis Rivers Award is a memorial named for the first black judge in New York City. It is given by the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund to honor and make known the contributions of early black lawyers in gaining the freedoms espoused by the Constitution and in making the Constitution more relevant in its promise of equality for all Americans.

Pearson, a native of Greensboro, was reared in Durham by his grandparents, the late George Washington Pearson, Sr. and Mrs. Cynthia Pearson. Although both grandparents were former slaves, all of their children



PEARSON

Just south of Jimmy Carter's home county of Sunter a group of Blacks is also raising peanuts - but they, according to Congressman Andrew Young, "expect to build a new society in the South based on justice and humanitarian concerns."

They are settled on 6,000 acres in Lee County, which is in the heart of southwest Georgia's "Badlands" for Blacks, and they call their settlement New Communities, Inc. As they dream of the just society they plant, aside from peanuts, corn, sugar cane, soybeans, strawberries, grapes, watermelons, and assorted vegetables. They also herd 250 cows, tend pigs, and fish in the bountiful streams and ponds on their cooperative farm.

Their venture has enlisted the support of Coretta

Scott King, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr., Julian Bond, Jesse Jackson, Ella Baker, as well as Congressman Young, among others.

It has also met with the hostility of white racists in Southwest Georgia. In one instance, this hostility attracted national attention. A 14 year old girl, Dorothy Young, was arrested in her school on charges of having told a white boy, "Kiss my ass." She was sentenced to seven years in prison by the local court - and served three months in jail before being released on appeal.

Other incidents have not received national publicity. The home of the Rev. Charles Sherrod, vice president and guiding spirit of New Communities, was burned to the ground. So was the home of the Bass family. Rev. Sherrod's father-in-law, Josiah

Miller, was shot and killed by a white farmer. A 12 year old boy was beaten severely when he insisted on getting his correct change at a local market.

Despite these and other instances of terror and harassment, the settlers are determined to remain, to cultivate their land, and to create a community of 200 homes, a hospital, an education center - from day care to college - and a variety of religious and community services.

They have the courage, and the willingness and ability to work, that are needed to make their dream come true. But they do not have the money because they are all people, joined by the desire to till - and own - the land in common. So they face an old blight of the poor farmer; a mortgage.

To meet this problem they have called for help.

Congressman Young responded, "I plan to save one acre," he said, "and I strongly urge you to follow my example." (In effect, he pledged \$250, as this is the amount needed to make an acre mortgage-free, according to New Communities.)

The General Board of the National Council of Churches meeting in Atlanta, urged its member communions "to respond as their conscience and resources dictate" to the appeal of New Communities.

A New Communities spokesman said that those willing to help should make checks payable to the SWGP New Communities Land Debt Retirement Fund, Acct. No. 260-6282-8, First National Bank of Albany, P. O. Box 1247, Albany, Georgia, 31702.

Members of Southwest Ga. Project Pledged to Stand

Finding a friend - At NCCU's track field on Monday



1,000 To Finish At NCCU Sunday

Chancellor Albert N. Whiting has announced that approximately 1,000 students will receive degrees from North Carolina Central University at commencement exercises Sunday, May 23.

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., of the National Urban League will deliver the commencement address.

The formal exercises are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on the university's O'Kelly Field. A band concert will begin at 9:30 Sunday morning for commencement guests, who are urged to arrive at

the stadium before that hour. The academic procession is expected to enter the stadium at 10 a.m. led by chief marshals William P. Malone and Culbert A. Jones.

Preliminary commencement activities begin Thursday, with the opening sessions of an alumni convention. The convention will continue through Saturday.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, graduating seniors in the Naval ROTC and the Air Force ROTC will receive their commissions.

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Oxford Native Miss Jordan 5th In Family To Graduate From NCCU

When Bernice Angelique Jordan of Oxford graduates Sunday from North Carolina Central University, she will join four of her brothers and sisters as alumni of the university.

Five of the seven children of Mrs. Creola P. Jordan of Oxford and the late James Jordan, Sr., who died in 1968, attended NCCU. The first graduated in 1956. Miss Jordan, graduating 20 years after her brother James Jr., is the youngest child.

James Jordan, Jr., graduated in 1956 with a bachelor of science degree in biology. He is now assistant superintendent for Federal programs in the Warren County school system.

Lethia Jordan Johnson received the bachelor of science in the university's department of music, where she has also worked in the summer school, the division of social sciences, and the department of home economics.

Catherine L. Jordan, a social worker in Person County, received her bachelor of arts degree in sociology from NCCU in 1968.

Carrie Jordan Tyler majored in history at NCCU, where she received her bachelor of arts degree in 1973. She teaches the seventh grade in a Granville County School.

Bernice Angelique Jordan will graduate with the bachelor of arts degree in elementary education. She will graduate with honors.

The other children attended Shaw University. Rosalyn Jordan Terry works in a Federal program

for senior citizens in Granville. Warren, Vance and Franklin Counties. Edwin P. Jordan is a partner in Raleigh Television Service in Raleigh.

None of the seven children is more than an hour away from their home in Oxford. Bernice Jordan admits that she sometimes felt she was being watched closely by her older brothers and sisters.

"Sometimes it got pretty nerve-racking, but I never resented it. I always felt I could go to one of them for help if I needed it."

Miss Jordan, who did her practicum in elementary education at Lowe's Grove School in Durham County, hopes to find employment as a teacher in the grades from kindergarten through third. (She would prefer third grade.)

If there is no job immediately, she is prepared to go on to graduate school which plays a part in her plans for the future anyway.

Like several of her brothers and sisters, Miss Jordan has been active during her school years in the work of her home church, Penn Avenue Baptist Church in Oxford. She is a member of the Youth Department, the Intermediate Choir, the Junior Ushers, and the Young Adult Missionary Department of Granville County.

Lethia Johnson is the organist and director of choirs at the church, and Carrie Tyler is the pianist.

Bernice Jordan is a graduate of J. F. Webb High School in Oxford. She says her decision to go into elementary education was influenced most by her first grade teacher, Mrs. N. I. Hicks.

Dr. Philip R. Cousin Files For Re-Election To School Board

The only Black member of the Durham County Board of Education, Rev. Dr. Phillip R. Cousin, has filed for re-election becoming the last member to file.

Cousin, who is the pastor of St. Joseph's A.M.E. Church, said that he would run despite disagreements between his board and the city school board which is predominately black on the question of the merger.

The issue was raised by the city school board last month during joint long-range planning meetings with the county board. The entire county board opposed the

measure, most of them citing voter opposition in the two referenda in the past several years.

Cousin said that his primary concern was "that all students realize their fullest potential, the development of a human society that realizes what the really good life is -- peace, property and happiness. I think education is the foundation for this."

The 43-year-old Martin Luther Fellow, who received his doctorate from Colgate University, was president of Kirtrell College for five years prior to his coming to Durham in 1965.

NCCU Athletes To Compete In King Games

Two athletes from North Carolina Central University will be competing in the Martin Luther King Games this Saturday in Atlanta, Ga. They are Pan American gold medalist Ronnie Ray and former National Junior College record holder, Ray Jenkins.

The meet which will be held for the first time in Martin Luther King's home town will host a field of some of the top Olympic hopefuls throughout the United States and abroad. The meet will be televised on Saturday.

Ronnie Ray, who is a native of Newport News, Va., first broke into the

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Ethnicity Used As Racial Code Word

SOUTH BEND, IND. — "Ethnicity has been degraded by its use as a racial code word signalling to all Americans that they shall remain racially divided and will not have to accept black people as equals," Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., charged recently.

Jordan, executive director of the National Urban League, analyzed the "ethnic issue" in an address to the graduating class at Notre Dame's annual commencement exercises.

Jordan received an honorary LL.D. degree at the ceremonies.

Stating that much of the rhetoric surrounding "ethnic heritage" has a "hol-low ring to it," Jordan pointed to past "brutal discrimination" against ethnic minorities and said that the "attempt to strip people of their birthright appears to have failed but in its place has arisen a concept of ethnicity that seems designed to continue the divisions between ethnic groups that keep all of them relatively powerless. Ethnic heritage for example, arose as a campaign issue in the context of housing discrimination, of keeping so-called ethnic neighborhoods safe from the incursions of black families."

"The real issue is not whether the ethnic character of neighborhoods shall be destroyed. That was never a problem when urban renewal developers destroyed the ethnic character of center-city black neighborhoods, to build luxury housing for whites. The real issue is whether all people will have equal opportunities in housing.

"Framing this issue in ethnic terms - as virtually all candidates including the President have done - is to further perpetuate ethnic and racial stereotypes that are false and destructive. The mass media appear to thrive on the assumption that ethnics are racists, despite polls that consistently show that, after the Jewish group, it is predominately Catholic ethnic minorities that are the most liberal in their attitudes, including their attitudes on race.

"There are areas of friction, reflecting America's historic racism, the remaining insecurity of some members of ethnic communities, and the fears of economic competition. We see such factors at work in the Boston busing controversy, where the black and the Irish communities should be working to make the schools serve all children better, instead of engaging in a mini-civil war aimed at keeping South Boston's schools segregated."

Jordan stated that black citizens are "in a full-scale depression" that has been ignored by the rest of the nation. "Many of the same people who marched with us in the 60s," he said, "say they don't want their kids to attend integrated schools, that they don't want black families to live on their block, and that social spending should be cut to the bare bones. Some people, barely a generation removed from the welfare rolls themselves, carry on about 'Lazy welfare cheats' and try to deny others the chance to escape the pit of poverty, conveniently forgetting that it was largely federal subsidies and federal action that enabled them to get jobs, go to school, and move to the suburbs."

"Many such individuals may still think of themselves as liberals but true liberalism cannot embrace an apartheid conception of society; it cannot tolerate exploitation and poverty while blaming victims of society's malfunctioning for their plight.

"Americans must come to understand that black disadvantage is the result of special treatment for over four hundred years, and that now a new, positive kind of special treatment is needed to make up for the past."