

February
Black History Month

Special Section
In This Issue

Words of Wisdom

Who is a wise man? He who learns of all men.
—Talmud

People who understand each other never fight.
—George M. Adams

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Members of DHC Search for Hidden Agenda

By Trelle L. Jeffers

Durham citizens proved that they could endure two lengthy City Council meetings last week and again turned out in large numbers for the Council's special meeting with the Durham Housing Commission, Thursday, February 7.

The meeting was the first in a series of special meetings scheduled after Mayor Harry Rodenhizer called for the resignation of the members of the DHC. All except one member refused the mayor's request.

Mayor Rodenhizer began Thursday night's meeting with a written statement in which he alluded to what he considered to be the commission's failures. He cited its failure to build a 2400 family unit. The mayor later referred to an elderly lady who was locked in her apartment and could not receive late night visitors because of the lack of janitorial services as another example of the commission's failures.

An agenda, providing four categories in which the mayor, council members and DHC members could make statements, was distributed. Several DHC members and Councilman Ralph Hunt questioned the validity of the meeting. Some DHC members expressed distaste for such a meeting. "I am not happy to be here," said Ben Ruffin. "It is awesome that a new administration came into office and asked for our resignations in a rather underhanded way."

J. J. Henderson, the DHC chairman, gave a lengthy statement in which he said that the members of the commission knew of the problems and had called in an interim manager, William C. Gordon, director of the Greensboro Housing Authority, to give

assistance.

When called upon to speak, Gordon said that he had found that the commission had had two major problems: incorrect financial records and poor maintenance productivity. He added, "We have now made a master plan to correct the identifiable problems in the Durham Housing Authority."

Gordon, several members of the commission and Councilman Adrienne Fox pointed out that housing problems among the poor had been caused by the destruction of neighborhoods due to freeways and expressways. "The problem did not begin here tonight. The situation of the Durham

Housing Commission began with redevelopment," said Ms. Fox. The Hayti Community was pointed out as an example of the type of housing problems that were created due to the destruction of neighborhoods.

Dr. E. Lavonia Allison challenged the mayor on the exclusion of public input from the agenda. After Dr. Allison pressed the issue, the Mayor finally agreed that there could be public input provided that all matters concerning the February 7 DHC agenda was completed and there could still be enough time left for a brief council meeting. When the mayor attempted to conclude the meeting at 9:40

p.m., without public input, Dr. Allison rose again to protest. The mayor then asked the clerk for the number of persons who had signed up to speak. When he found that there were eight names on the list, he then agreed that he would allow each person two minutes to speak.

Another special council meeting with the Durham Housing Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12. Some of the citizens present at the Feb. 7 meeting expressed their desire that the next special meeting will dispel their doubts as to the real purpose of these special meetings with the Durham Housing Authority.

Rev. Cobb To Get Award



REV. CHARLES E. COBB, a Durham native, will be one of four recipients of Alumni Awards at the 113th Anniversary of the founding of Howard University, Washington, D.C., on Sunday, March 2. Rev. Cobb, 1944, will receive the award "Religion and Human Rights" presented by the president and board of trustees of Howard.

William A. Clement Assumes Duties as Grand Master

William A. Clement of Durham, Deputy Grand Master of the Prince Hall Masons of North Carolina, has assumed the duties of Grand Master.

He succeeds as Grand Master, the late Bishop Herbert Bell Shaw, who died January 3. Shaw was the Senior Bishop of the AME Zion Church.

Clement, retired executive vice president of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, was appointed deputy Grand Master by Bishop Shaw in 1974. Currently a member of Durham's Doric Lodge, Number 28, Clement has been a master mason for more than 38 years.

Clement is also a Shriner and a Thirty-third degree Mason. He is chairman of the Board of Trustees at North Carolina Central University, a member of the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority, a Trustee of the Durham County Hospital Corporation and a member of the NCM Board of Directors.

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina was founded in 1870. Cur-



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rently there are more than 20,000 active Prince Hall Masons in the state. During the past five years, the Grand Lodge has donated more than \$200,000 to charities and scholarships and has made more than \$300,000 in payments to widows and families of deceased members.

"The Wheel That Squeaks the Loudest, Gets Oiled"

By ROBERT L. WHITE

A National Coalition on Black Voter Participation has been organized under the auspices of the Joint Center for Political Studies located in Washington, D. C.

The purpose of this crusade is to implement a nationwide non-partisan voter registration among blacks in the country that is unparalleled in our history.

The National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees will stand foursquare behind this effort. A voter turnout of 75% in certain target cities and countries could make the difference between exclusion and inclusion of blacks in major policy-making decisions affecting the quality of our lives.

There is hardly a black man or woman in America who, if given opportunity, could not offer alternative measures in areas of government regulating public policy and administration, that would significantly improve a lot of blacks and other minorities. Given these circumstances, it should not take such pro-

dding to persuade eligible voters to register and vote for the candidate for the choice.

If there is an adage that applies to life in America it is the one that says "the wheel that squeaks the loudest gets oiled." Black Americans must take a loud noise at the polls. Cause a fuss at the voter registration table. This country which we helped to build is governed by elected officials.

To the extent that our voters places them in office, to that extent we can exercise control over their actions, big business interests can offer financial support to politicians, but in the final analysis it is the registered voters who make the selection.

We cannot afford to ignore the responsibility we have toward our brothers and sisters who have sacrificed their lives to make ours better; our obligation to our children to ensure that the gains we have made are not lost.

Join The NAACP



Retracing The Underground Railroad Route

Nine black students from Oberlin College (Ohio) on their last leg of their 420-mile walk, sing as they enter Oberlin city limits. The students, six men and three women, left Greensburg, Kentucky January 2, retracing the route of the Underground Railroad, once used by black slaves to escape to freedom, arrived February 1.

Dr. Vernon Clark Wins Court Hearing

After almost three years of legal procedures at a cost of about \$8,000, Dr. Vernon Clark won a giant step in his attempt to get his suit against the Chancellor of North Carolina Central University, et al, heard before a jury. This past January 28, Judge F. Gordon Battle denied the defendants' request to dismiss certain claims in a suit filed by the plaintiff in State Superior Court.

In his order, Judge Battle decreed that the defendants are directed to answer, or file any objections which they may have, to the plaintiff's previously served interrogatories and motion for production and inspection of documents within thirty days of January 28, 1980.

Last December 7, the interrogatories filed by the plaintiff called for the defendants to make available to the plaintiff's attorney stipulated records and/or documents from the NCCU Board of Trustees, Faculty Senate, Faculty Personnel Committee, and Department of Biology, along with requested policies related to aspects of the suit.

In addition, the inter-

rogatories are to include the names and rank of all persons promoted to the rank of associate professor and full professor from the time Dr. Albert N. Whiting became chancellor of the university through the present. Associated with each name, the interrogatories call for the individual's publication record, papers presented at professional meetings, position(s) held in regional, state or national offices, consultantships, among other related materials and documents.

Immediately after receipt of the interrogatories, the plaintiff, Dr. Clark, plans "to proceed to subpoena some expected twelve persons for depositions. Testimonies from those deposed are anticipated being presented at the expected trial." Dr. Clark says that he is "hopeful of a trial in the very near future." He states that he feels confident of achieving victory, but that he is prepared to register an appeal with the North Carolina Court of Appeals if the situation dictates.

Dr. Clark initiated the present second suit after the Federal Court dismiss-

ed a first suit on non-jurisdictional grounds. The substance of the initial suit was failure of NCCU to promote him (Clark) to the rank of full professor. Refusing to act on the stated substance, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Dr. Clark's constitutional rights were not violated. Consequently, the anticipated forthcoming trial is not to consider this element.

In addition to the promotion issue, the current suit involves a claim in which the plaintiff alleges the act of a conspiracy contrived to prevent him from receiving a fair departmental faculty evaluation, the results of which caused him not to receive a merit salary increase.

In addition to Chancellor Whiting, others named in the suit are Dr. Walter H. Pattillo, Jr., dean of the Undergraduate School; Dr. Mary M. Townes, currently serving as acting dean of the Graduate School; and Dr. John Ruffin, now serving as acting chairman of the Department of Biology.

CONCORD—Miss Anita Charisse Robinson of Albemarle will be crowned Barber-Scotia College's "Miss Homecoming 1980" during ceremonies on Friday, February 15 at 8 p.m.

A junior marketing major at Barber-Scotia, Miss Robinson will reign over the Homecoming festivities, conducted this year under the theme, "A Touch of Class."

The coronation is scheduled for the College Union. A graduate of Dunbar Vocational High School in Chicago, Miss Robinson is the daughter of Mrs. Angie L. Robinson and James H. Robinson.

At Barber-Scotia, she is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the Barber-Scotia College Concert Choir, the Groovettes, the Social

Fellowship, and the Student Senate. She is an honor roll student and was first runner-up in the 1979 Miss Black America pageant for Cabarrus and Rowan counties.

The weekend's homecoming activities will begin on Friday with registration of alumni and friends at Concord's Holiday Inn. An Old Timers basketball game is scheduled for 5 p.m., on Friday with a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association scheduled for 7 p.m.

The coronation of Miss Robinson will follow at 8 p.m.

The Kappa Alpha Psi chapter will sponsor a disco at the Holiday Inn beginning at 9 p.m. A bonfire on the athletic field at the college is scheduled for midnight. A pre-dawn dance will be held in the coffee house of the College Union from 2 until 6 a.m., Saturday.

Saturday morning will also bring a meeting of the Alumni Association in the assembly room of Cozart Hall (administration building). A soul lunch in the college cafeteria will follow at noon.

Greek block shows are scheduled for 4:30 p.m., immediately following the

homecoming game between the Barber-Scotia Sabers and the team from Allen University. Men and women are scheduled to play.

At 7 p.m., alumni will attend a hospitality hour at the Holiday Inn.

Mrs. Lennon And Tony Rand Hall Apply For Board

Mrs. Thelma Cumbo Lennon, widow of John D. Lennon, applied this week for the city board of education seat made vacant by the death of her husband last month. Lennon had been a member of the board for five years

followed by the Homecoming dance at the College Gym.

Further information about homecoming and homecoming activities is available from Ms. Peggy Campbell, Director of Alumni Affairs.

and was vice chairman at the time of his death. Mrs. Lennon is director of Pupil Personnel Services of the State Department of Public Instruction.

Tony Rand Hall, at age [Continued on Page 2]

Youth Conference of NAACP Board Convenes In Raleigh

GREENSBORO—The North Carolina State Youth Conference of the NAACP Executive Board met in Raleigh recently to plan program strategy for 1980. The Youth Executive Board will be involved in three major projects: Membership campaign, Youth of the Year contest; and Project '80.

Membership campaign — The State Adult Conference has set as its goal, 50,000 memberships for

this year. The State Youth Councils are charged to get 100 new memberships each this year.

Youth of the Year Contest — The Youth of the Year of the NAACP is selected from the NAACP youth who raises the largest amount of money over \$100 and the Junior NAACP Youth that raises over \$100. The Youth of the Year Contest will be held in Raleigh, May 17. The theme for this year's

program is "Politics and Power: You Must Get Involved." There will be political action workshops, a Speak Out and a disco after the formal program. Any youth wanting to get involved in the contest should contact the Youth Council or adult branch in his/her community or contact Ms. T. Dianne Bellamy-Smith, State Youth Advisor at (919) 855-1847. Any youth who is a member of the

NAACP and is between the ages of 0 to 25 years, can be the NAACP Youth of the Year.

Project 80 — This is a political awareness project which will be coordinated by the NAACP Youth Councils in the eleven U.S. Congressional Districts of North Carolina. The Youth Councils are encouraged to plan a day of political activities including voter education workshops,

voter registration, invitations to candidates to debate or answer questions, conduct a mock election for president or governor and have a disco or some form of fundraising. The project cannot be used to endorse candidates. Any group wishing to participate in this project should contact Patrick Smith, vice president-east at (919) 283-7165 or Ronald Hynes, vice president-west