

### On The Iranian Crisis

Black people... "are the only group of people who have emerged out of slavery without arms." Black children in America should know that they are seen as Kings and Queens" by many outside of America.

— Rev. Nelson Thompson in  
"America Can Hasten Hostages' Release"  
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# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNCOVERED

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### Words of Wisdom

Men who do things that count never stop to count them.

God gives every bird its food, but does not throw it into the nest.

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### High School

Left to right: Yolanda Murrell (1st place), Shelia McBroom (2nd place) and Beverly Battle (3rd place)



### Junior High Winners

Leslie Roland, left, 1st place winner and Rosalind Pendergraft, runnerup.



### Elementary

Left to right: Phillip Woods (3rd place), Lorie Jackson (2nd place), and Minda Purefoy (1st place).

## Deltas Award Cash Prizes to Eight Talent Participants

Eight cash prizes were awarded winners in the first "Talent on Parade" sponsored recently by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service sorority.

First place winners received \$25, second place, \$15, and third place, \$10. Each participant, as well as the winners and guest performers, received certificates of participation.

Lorie Jackson, vocal solo of "Hello Young Lovers" from the *King and I*; and third place - Phillip Woods, photography display.

Junior High winners were first place - Leslie Roland, piano recital of "The Tumblers" and "Dream Waltz"; and second place - Rosalind Pendergraft, craft display.

High School winners were first place - Ms. Yolanda Murrell, violin rendition of "Concerto in G Major"; second place - Ms. Shelia McBroom, fashion designs; and third place - Ms. Beverly Battle, a modern dance performance to the music of "Treasure."

Participants were from the Pittsboro, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough schools. All proceeds from the show go toward the scholarship fund.

Join The NAACP! Aid In The  
Fight For Human Rights!

### JCPs President Says Supreme Court

## Ruling on At-Large Election is Set Back For Minorities

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Eddie N. Williams, president of the Joint Center for Political Studies, last week said that the April 22 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on at-large elections represents a set back for political aspirations. Following is the full text of Williams' remarks.

### STATEMENT

The drive by blacks and other minorities to increase their numbers in local elective offices has clearly suffered a set back, even if not a fatal one, by the U.S. Supreme Court's April 22 decision in *City of Mobile et al. v. Bolden et al.*

The case, which challenged the at-large election system, was brought as a class action suit on behalf of the black citizens of Mobile, who comprise about 35 per cent of the total population, but have no black representative on that city's three member governing commission. A federal District Court had ruled that Mobile's at-large election system "violated the fifteenth amendment and invidiously discriminated against Negroes in violation of the fourteenth amendment." It was this ruling that was overturned by the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court declared that the disproportionate (or discriminatory) effects of an at-large system were not sufficient to establish a claim to unconstitutional dilution of the black vote and that "intent" to discriminate would have to be proved.

The requirement to prove discriminatory intent is extremely difficult, some say impossible, to meet. Local governments can hardly be expected to articulate unambiguously any intent they may have to dilute black votes. Moreover, it is not clear at this time what kind of evidence the courts will accept as proof of intent to discriminate. Consequently, blacks and other minorities face the prospect of continued exclusion from thousands of local governmental bodies which are elected at-large.

Those familiar with the history of resistance to black political participation will readily recognize the effectiveness of at-large elections in preventing blacks from being elected to public office in localities where they are a large segment of the electorate but not a majority. In such localities, the abolition of at-large or multi-member election systems has been crucial to efforts to increase the

number of blacks elected to office.

Since enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the number of black elected officials in the U.S. has grown significantly, from about 600 to over 4,600 today. However, blacks still constitute less than one per cent of all elected officials in the country, although they are about eleven per cent of the total population.

Moreover, the annual rate of increase in the number of black elected officials has been declining steadily since 1975; between 1978 and 1979 the net increase was only two per cent. Joint Center research shows that even in localities where blacks exceed forty per cent of the total population, they remain excluded from governing bodies, often because of at-large of multi-member election systems. The Supreme Court's decision will undoubtedly slow the drive to correct this inequity.

Although the Supreme Court decision is cause for grave concern, its adverse effects may be somewhat softened by the fact that it was issued by a divided Court. Two of the six Justices who supported the decision concurred for reasons different from those of the other four. Thus, Justice Blackmun, in his separate concurring opinion, criticized the lower court for being too extreme in requiring the City of Mobile to convert its government to a mayor-council form. Blackmun concluded that the District Court was "perhaps overly concerned with the elimination of at-large election *per se*, rather than with structuring an electoral system that provided an opportunity for black voters in Mobile to participate in the city's government on an equal footing with whites."

Implicit in Blackmun's opinion is the suggestion that a milder remedy might have won his approval. It is possible, therefore, that future legal challenges to at-large elections, which take a different approach, might produce a different result. It is important to note also that the Supreme Court's decision does not apply to election systems adopted since 1965 in areas, mainly in the South, covered by the Voting Rights Act. In several cases the U.S. Department of Justice has disallowed use of at-large or multi-member districts in states or localities covered by the Voting Rights Act because of their discriminatory intent or discriminatory effect.

Aside from myriad legal issues which attorneys and the Courts must sort out, the most important and immediate effect of the Supreme Court's decision is the signal it transmits about the continuing erosion of black gains, including gains in the political arena. Thus, the Supreme Court's decision is seen by some as an extension of its *DeFunis* and *Bakke* decisions and as an ominous harbinger of difficult times ahead. The Voting Rights Act, which will be up for a renewal in 1982, may itself be imperiled.

Regardless of what legal remedies it might stimulate, the Court's ruling challenges blacks to become even more assertive.

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## Rep. Chisholm Offers Solution For Black Unemployment

By Trelle L. Jeffers

During an interview in Durham, May 4, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm (D-NY) said that three approaches should be used to solve the nation's black unemployment problem:

- There should be educational programs that will give training for available jobs;
- There should be cooperation between the education system; and
- There should be coordination between education and the job training process.

Said Congresswoman Chisholm, "if we are go-

ing to help people become productive, we have to coordinate education and jobs."

She noted that unemployment among blacks nationally is said to be 38%, and that there are situations in which employers are "screening for someone to work, but blacks lack the necessary skills to perform the jobs."

Mrs. Chisholm said "Blacks are being trained for jobs that do not exist or they are not being trained for existing jobs." She also mentioned that in some areas, blacks are be-

ing trained for jobs where they are unable to work because of housing discrimination.

"We should synchroize black unemployment and black education. People are the most important asset that this country has; and if we don't use this asset, we are heading for trouble," she said.

Mrs. Chisholm was in North Carolina with Senator Edward Kennedy's campaign group. She is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

## Black Energy Group Challenges President Jimmy Carter

NEW ORLEANS —

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) took action at its Louisiana meeting last week to challenge President Jimmy Carter to appoint blacks to two regulatory bodies which have decision making positions regarding energy. They are the Energy Mobilization

Board and the Energy Security Corporation.

High on the list of the priorities by the all black energy related organization were seats for blacks on these agencies. There are seven positions on the Energy Mobilization Board and seven on the Energy Security Corporation.

The first unit will facilitate the decision making process as regards energy while the latter will manage the proposed synthetic fuel development program.

AABE, headed by Rufus McKinney, a vice president with Southern California Gas, said that

his organization took the position that the Windfall Profits Tax should be appropriated by Congress to get on with the development of synthetic fuels with minority firms getting a fair share.

The American Association of Blacks in Energy was formed three years ago and has had singular achievements in making its presence known in energy circles, including the Department of Energy, state and local regulatory agencies. One of the main thrusts of AABE has been the development of job opportunities for blacks in the energy field.

## 6.2% Pay Cap Likely For Federal Workers

While the federal unions, including the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees (NAAPFE) are vigorously opposing the Administration's proposed pay reform bill, both supporters and opponents of the measure agree federal workers will be held to a 6.2% pay raise in October.

The 6.2% pay cap is bad news for federal workers who already find it impossible to keep pace with double digit inflation. The consensus is that even if the pay reform measure is successfully blocked this year, there is little chance that congressional appropriation committees will oppose the lead of the Administration or the budget committees.

The probable pay hike is 2.3 percentage points lower than the 8.5% average in the pay raise guidelines for the private sector. And, federal workers cannot help but remember that the Administration's "national accord" with labor also called for the same wage guidelines to be applied to the private and federal sector. Needless to say, from all indications this will not be the case in the fall.

And, what does the federal worker have to look forward to next year? With the "total compensation comparability" pay setting formula called for in the pay reform bill, federal workers will still lack parity with their private sector counterparts. While the formula compares the salaries and fringe benefits of both sectors, it fails to factor in such benefits as bonuses, sales discounts, and profit-sharing.

In the pay reform field hearing held last month in Atlanta, Georgia, Maryland Congresswoman Gladys Spellman who chairs the House Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits said OPM "is trying to bring the level of comparability down, and then tell employees they're getting full comparability."

I am inclined to agree with the Maryland Congresswoman.

## Fire Claims One Death In Oxford Manor, Several Injuries

BY PAT BRYANT

and BARBARA TAYLOR

A horrifying nightmare is being repeated with alarming frequency among residents at Oxford Manor, a federally-subsidized housing project. Since December, fire has claimed the lives of two children and one adult. The latest fatality was four-year-old Joyce Pierce, who died Tuesday evening, May 13. There

are beliefs that the fire could have been avoided, and that apartments in the complex are riddled with malfunctioning electrical systems. City fire inspectors have ruled out electrical malfunctioning as the cause of the fire, a determination disputed by tenants in the complex.

Mrs. Betty Pierce, mother of Joyce, tells a story filled with the horror of leaping from a second floor window in a

bedroom engulfed in flames. Six of her other children made the leap, but before David Pierce, 7, leaped, he had received second degree burns over most of his body. His four-year-old sister was left behind, and was found later by firemen lying among the flames.

Injured in the leap were Mrs. Pierce, 34, and her daughter, Linda, 16. When they discovered the

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## School Opening Set For August 19

The Durham City School Board accepted a recommendation from personnel director, Howard McAllister, Monday night, May 12, at the regular school board meeting, to begin the

1980-81 school year on August 19 and end June 2. Teachers will report for duty on August 15. The dates were part of next year's school calendar which had been created by a committee of Durham

City educators, parents and students.

There were suggestions, however, from the school board, to study Labor Day as a more desirable date for the beginning of the 1981-82 school year.