



The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNCOVERED
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Words Of Wisdom
The only difference between a rat and a grave is their dimensions.
—Ellen Glasgow

A chip on the shoulder always indicates that there is wood higher up.

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**Klan Creates
Laughter**

JACKSON, MISS.—Aaron Henry, state NAACP President, surrounded by Ku Klux Klansmen enjoy a big laugh recently as he reads a Klan newspaper at Smith Park in downtown Jackson where the KKK gathered for a rally and march. At Henry's right is R. L. Bolden. The KKK rally and march in support of white police in a controversy over a month-old shooting death of a black pregnant woman was the first in Jackson in two decades. UPI Photo

Mass Meeting Held Here Saturday For John McCombs

By Felicia M. Cassels

A mass meeting was held at Russell Memorial CME Church on Saturday, October 11, to support a former North Carolina Central University student now in Raleigh's Central Prison. Charlotte native John E. McCombs, Jr., was in his College Plaza apartment studying for a test on April 29, 1976 when he heard a knock at his door. Three friends and his roommate were with him, his mother, Mrs. Jessie McCombs, said. McCombs looked through a window, but did not recognize the bearded black man dressed in blue jeans and an open denim jacket. As he went to ask his friends if they knew the stranger, he heard a loud noise from the front door. Frightened, he pick-

ed up a pistol, turned and saw the man pointing a gun at him and fatally shot the stranger. The man was later identified as policeman Larry Bullock. Eighteen second later, six white policemen entered the apartment and took McCombs to the police station where he was severely beaten, a crime the policemen later confessed to under oath. Mrs. McCombs said they admitted forcing him [McCombs] to sign a confession and a search consent form and denied him the right to an attorney. McCombs' friends were also arrested and abused, but their charges were later dropped. A narcotics team searched McCombs' car and apartment and found

marijuana. A second search turned up LSD. Pre-trial publicity in Durham was so prejudiced that the trial location was moved. The new location of Roxboro was even

closer to the deceased officer's home. In a courtroom filled with uniformed policemen, defense attorney C.C. Malone, Jr., argued that McCombs

fired in self-defense. The deceased officer's family sat directly in front of the jury. Many of the jurors admitted being relatives and friends of policemen. (Continued on Page 6)

Durham Support Needed For McCombs

By Ray Richardson

The meeting, sponsored by People United for Justice, the Equal Rights Council of Charlotte, and the McCombs Legal Defense Committee, was held in Durham, "where it all started," said Rev. Barnett, "because we need support in Durham. We want to show that John E.

McCombs, Jr., was not just another hoodlum, because prior to this tragedy, he had no record. "We want to open people's eyes," Barnett contended, "because what happened to John could happen to anyone. Place yourself in the same situation. There are several things that need to be answered, like why send an inexperienced black officer to the door while six white experienced officers wait yard away?"

Mrs. McCombs contends that "if the police department had gone to the door like they were supposed to, John wouldn't be in prison for murder today." She said, "I'm not bitter, but I am disappointed in our legal system and I want to tell Durham and the world, that I and mothers like me, are not going to sit back and take what they are doing to our black kids." She appealed to the

public to write letters to the governor asking for his attention to the matter and to the prison showing concern for having John McCombs removed from maximum security at Central Prison. "The more letters, the more the chances of getting some positive action. I need your support," Mrs. McCombs added. Among the questions emphasized at the mass meeting were:

- Why was the trial put so close to the deceased's home?
 - Why were not experienced police officers sent?
 - Was juror selection part of a plot?
 - Was the defendant pre-convicted?
 - Can we trust a police department with officers convicted of illegal drug dealing?
 - With 98 errors, why was a re-trial denied?
- Citizens interested in (Continued on Page 7)

Boycott Staged At Northern Students Charged With Burning Cross

By Felicia M. Cassels

Five white Northern High School male students were to have been arrested and charged with violating a state statute against crossburning Wednesday morning, but as of early Thursday morning, two had run away from home and could not be located, according to Sheriff William A. Allen. The five are accused of burning a cross October 9 at a football game, played at the Durham County Stadium, between Hillside and Northern High Schools.

David Poe, principal of Northern, said the five confessed to him October 14. He immediately suspended them for ten days and turned their names over to the Sheriff's Department, he said. He added he is ashamed of the burning which "is not typical of Northern students." Dr. J. Frank Yeager, Durham County Schools superintendent, said he will meet individually with the four sophomores and one junior and their

parents to decide on their reinstatement. Their return depends on whether the burning was a "practical joke" or an act of "racial intimidation." He will make this determination, he said, after learning what comments the five made about the incident to other students and teachers and after reviewing their school records and background. If they are allowed to return, he said, they cannot attend any athletic events for two years. Poe said the incident occurred just before the second half of the game, with Northern leading 14-0. He said General Services director Wade Copeland told him prior to the game he expected trouble and that extra security had been assigned. Poe said he did not see the actual burning, only "a light that lasted for 15 to 20 seconds." Copeland said a teenage boy had told him there would be a crossburning at the game early last week. Copeland said he was skeptical until a friend

told him he heard the stadium fence would be cut so that people could slip through to dig a hole for a cross to be burned in. Copeland said during the game he constantly watched the fence, only to have the burning take place in the parking lot. Lieutenant H.L. Rigsbee and Deputy Walter L. Lawrence extinguished the flames at the burning, but Lawrence said they did not see the perpetrators. He said seven or eight black men, standing ten to fifteen feet away from the cross, admitted they saw teenagers set the fire. The men told him the teenagers had talked to them about the game and had asked what the score was, then met among themselves and started the fire, Lawrence said. They left in a green Oldsmobile station wagon, he added. He said he was shocked when the men refused to describe the boys, saying they didn't "want to get involved." The men did, however, add that people in a nearby jeep were in-

involved in the incident, Lawrence said, but the passengers denied it and the officers let them go after questioning. Hillside principal John Lucas said he was at the game but did not hear of a crossburning until the weekend. He said the burning was not confirmed until Monday when he talked with Durham NAACP president George Frazier. He said Frazier was a key factor in expediting the investigation. Frazier said three parents called him the night of October 9 because their children said there had been a crossburning at the game. He said he con-

tacted the sheriff the next morning who had not yet been given a report on the incident. He went to the stadium, he said, and found a charred cross. He then notified the Public Safety Department which picked up the cross but hesitated to take action on the matter, he said, due to a "question of jurisdiction." Frazier said Public Safety Director Talmadge Lassiter finally started an inquiry. He said Lassiter revealed Saturday that there had been an intelligence report submitted to him three weeks prior (Continued on Page 6)

By Barbara Taylor
An estimated 75 to 100 employees of the American Tobacco Company are into the third week of a boycott against The Canteen Corporation, a subsidiary of Trans World Corporation which owns Trans World Air Lines, leases and operates the cafeteria facilities at The American Tobacco Company. The dispute involves what the employees contend to be an unjust and dishonest labor act on the part of Harold Weeks, manager of the cafeteria, against Mrs. Ruby Williams, a four-year temporary employee. The employees stated in a memorandum to The Carolina Times that Mrs. Williams, after having worked for Canteen Corporation for some four years, was denied a permanent position without explanation. Mrs. Williams, in an interview with The Carolina Times, says, "When I found out nobody was taking the position, I went to the office and asked for the permanent job. Mr. Weeks told me that he'd keep me in mind. He let me work the whole two weeks. Then that Thursday, after we had cleaned up and was getting ready to leave, he called me in the office. He said, 'Ruby, don't bother about coming in tomorrow. I've got somebody to come in.' Just like that! You know, the way I feel, I should have had first choice since I asked for the job permanently and plus; I filled out the application for the job. And he hires this white girl." Mrs. Williams says that she doesn't understand why Weeks did not tell her from the very beginning that he wasn't going to hire her. "I gave up my Social Service check," says Mrs. Williams, "because I was sure I had the job." Harold Weeks refused to comment on Mrs. Williams' charges, but this reporter learned that he supposedly informed several of the 'employees' that Mrs. Williams wasn't qualified for the job. One of the 'employees' organizing the boycott informed this reporter that Weeks commented to him that, "If he had told her that, 'If he had told her that he wasn't going to hire her, she might have left him and he wouldn't

have had anybody." Mrs. Williams said that, "It seems that he [Weeks] was just using me." Although Harold Weeks never gave Mrs. Williams a reason why she wasn't considered for the job, Mrs. Williams says she learned that Weeks had complained to several of the boycott organizers that she drank and used abusive language. Mrs. Williams denies Weeks' charges and stated that, "After I made my complaint and everything, he starts telling me this." Weeks' alleged charges that Mrs. Williams drank and was unqualified for the job were inconsistent with the report that he offered to give her good recommendations for a permanent position at the newly opened Canteen Corporation cafeteria at Research Triangle Park. "I told him I didn't have transportation," said Mrs. Williams. "He said

that if I go out there, I might know somebody and could catch a ride back and forth," Mrs. Williams said with an astonished expression. She then laughed and said, "I don't make enough for car fare and I'm certainly not going to stand out there on the highway." Mrs. Williams says she believes Weeks' actions to be racially motivated. This is not the view of the 'Employees of American Tobacco Company'. Their view is that Weeks' actions were "unfair and dishonest labor practices." "As long as I was back in the kitchen and everything, nothing was said. But when he didn't have nobody to work out front, he hires this white girl. She's got to be trained. I didn't have to be trained," Mrs. Williams said. Whether Weeks' actions (Continued on Page 7)

Charges Against '10' Cannot Be Upheld

By Felicia M. Cassels

RICHMOND, VA. — A North Carolina prosecutor admitted October 9 that the burning charge against the Wilmington Ten cannot be upheld if the testimony of the state's major witness is excluded from the case. The admission came during a hearing before Judges Sprouse, Winter and Butzner of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. The courtroom was packed to capacity while 300 people marched around the courthouse in support of the Ten. Defense Attorney James Ferguson referred to the prosecution of the Ten as "bizarre" and identified the credibility of controversial witness Allen Hall as the central issue of the hearing. Ferguson contended that during the trial, Hall used a statement corrected by Prosecutor Jay Stroud that contained false information. Ferguson said defense attorneys were not allowed to see that statement and at one point were denied cross-examination of state witness J. chell.

Richard N. League insisted the trial was fair and defended use of the amended document. One judge began laughing during this explanation. The Ten, nine black men and one white woman, were convicted in 1972 of burning property and conspiracy to assault emergency personnel during a period of racial turmoil in Wilmington, N.C. They were sentenced to a total of 282 years in prison but many were paroled early after Governor James Hunt reduced their sentences in January, 1978. Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis, leader of the Ten, was the last to be paroled, December 13, 1979. The United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice (UCCCRJ) is financing the appeal. Chavis is director of its Washington office. The court is not expected to announce its decision for several months.

Special treatment of Hall by the prosecution is also an issue of the appeal. Ferguson said Hall, who was in prison before the trial, was kept at a beach motel during the trial, allowed visits with his girlfriend and received a reduced sentence after the trial in exchange for his testimony. League said the motel was for "protection", the meetings with the girlfriend were conferences and the reduced sentence was a technicality. Washington attorney David Bondurant joined Ferguson in his arguments. Representing 55 congressmen, Bondurant said a psychiatric report on Hall was unfairly withheld from the jury. He said the report showed Hall was a "borderline mental retard" with an IQ of 82, who "didn't know what six times six was." The prosecution contends the report was a special privilege that was not necessary for the jury to see to determine Hall's credibility. After the hearing, a rally was held across from the courthouse. Attorney Ferguson, UCCCRJ executive director Charles E. Cobb, and defendants Chavis, Willie "Joe" Wright and Reginald Epps

thanked the crowd for its support and expressed a guarded optimism for a favorable decision. Ferguson said no one knows what the court will do, but "nothing will erase the scars of the long years of struggle for the

Wilmington Ten." Miss Charlene Mitchell, executive secretary of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; Mrs. Anne Braden, co-chair of the Southern Organizing Committee; and Ms. Kathi Bell, president of the Black American Law Students Association, encouraged the people to continue to support the Ten. Rev. Jack Zylman said fourteen Birmingham churches were fasting in support of the Ten and Nelson Johnson of the Communist Workers Party in Greensboro advocated reaching beyond political ideologies to achieve solidarity.

state's voters would support the President's reelection in margins second only to the vote totals in Georgia. He said President Carter's spiritual leadership, courage, and dedication were personal qualities that North Carolinians wanted in a President and see in Carter. Governor Hunt said Tar Heel voters should support Democrats because "we are the party that cares about people and progress." For example, Hunt said, "In the past three and one-half years under the Democratic Ad-

ministration there has been about seven billion dollars of new industrial investment that created 110,000 new industrial jobs. Of that amount, \$140 million was invested and 3,000 new jobs were created in Durham County alone." "This area has the best potential for growth than any area in the United States if the Democrats give the right kind of leadership," Hunt said. Senator Morgan said the Democratic administration and Congress have made progress on the national scene by reducing the federal deficit and by revamping the Social Security system. Representative Andrews said his experience in Congress and as a member of the House Education and Labor Committee and the House Select Committee and Aging makes him the logical choice to be re-elected. Other statewide Democratic candidates in attendance were Lt. Governor Jimmy Oren, Secretary of State Thad Eure, Attorney General Rufus Edmisten, State Auditor candidate Edward Renfrow, Superintendent of Public Instruction Craig Phillips.

600 Democrats Gather Friday Night To Boost Campaign Unity

About 600 Democrats from the fourth Congressional District filled the Edison-Johnson Recreation Center in Durham last Friday night to boost the state Democratic unity campaign. Ben Brown, deputy chairman of the Carter-Mondale Re-election Committee, shared the spotlight with Governor Jim Hunt, Senator Robert Morgan, Representative Ike Andrews, and a host of other state and local candidates. Brown said North Carolina is a very important state for the Carter-Mondale campaign, and he predicted that the

state's voters would support the President's reelection in margins second only to the vote totals in Georgia. He said President Carter's spiritual leadership, courage, and dedication were personal qualities that North Carolinians wanted in a President and see in Carter. Governor Hunt said Tar Heel voters should support Democrats because "we are the party that cares about people and progress." For example, Hunt said, "In the past three and one-half years under the Democratic Ad-

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