

Besides the noble art of getting things done,
there is the noble art of leaving things undone.
The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of
non-essentials.

—Lin Yutang

CROSSROADS/SOUTH AFRICA

The film "Crossroads/South Africa" will be shown at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 5, in the auditorium, Durham County Public Library, 300 North Roxboro Street. This fifty-minute color documentary is about a squatter's town of black South Africans who live in courageous defiance of the apartheid regime.



STACEY ROGERS

Youngest Olympian Is Durham Native

He Hears With A Heart

By Donald Marable

In October of 1980, Stacey Rogers was selected for the Deaf Olympics in Cologne, West Germany. At the age of 18, Stacey will be the youngest participant on the U.S. Deaf Olympic basketball team, while other players are in their mid-20's. In this Year of the Disabled Person, the entire Deaf Olympic team, which will consist of 135 athletes, will depart and represent the United States in world competition on July 21.

Stacey was born and raised in Durham. His family still lives here — his mother, Mrs. Estella Rogers; a sister, Ms. Renita Rogers, 20; and brothers Stanley, 16, and Rodney, 9.

Most Valuable Player trophies and plaques fill the living room of the small apartment. Stacey was diagnosed as being legally deaf at the age of five when his mother took him to Duke University Medical Center for tests.

Studies have indicated that parents of defective children go through stages of sorrow, guilt, mourning and anger. A large majority of these parents don't receive adequate aid for their children, but Mrs. Rogers was a little different.

Hearing impairment is not just a handicap; it calls both parent and child into a silent room to decipher muffled or non-existent sounds and visual gestures to form a special technique of communication. The parents must dedicate themselves to speech therapy, lipreading, and language development. It is remarkable that none of Stacey's family members are able to speak sign language. They found that Stacey himself possesses a special ability of lipreading to communicate, although he can speak with sign language.

The most important skills a deaf child should develop are speech and lipreading. One reason sign language is discouraged among the deaf youth is that the use of signs inhibits the development of other skills. But of all that can be taught and coached to all people, determination, humbleness, and charity are qualities Stacey has had his whole life.

He is definitely not shy on or off the court with an

average of 26 points a game and 24 points a game in the 1978-79 season, and an above average report card. For the two years he has led his team in scoring, assists and steals, the coach of North Carolina School for the Deaf has considered him the most complete player he has ever coached, and that compares with three All-Americans at the Alabama School for the Deaf.

To the deaf child, the search for identity is consistently bumped, shoved, and placed on the bench by people in society who do not accept their deficit, and selfishly idolize a normalcy that they cannot achieve, instead of watching the moves the child makes and cultivating that talent. All humans strive to fulfill certain needs: the need to be loved; the need to find security; the need for attention; and, the need to be creative. And so there is no difference between Stacey or any other human in a world of compassion. But in a "cold world" he is labelled and kept on the sideline.

Stacey only closes his ears to these frequent generalizations that deaf people lack empathy, have a gross coercive dependency, and have no thought introspection. These are the "picks" and "blocks" that some medical professionals and others have set that Stacey consistently goes around to score on and off the court. He truly gives and gives and gives.

But all of our American Heroes need support in their continued conquest of a full life for themselves and others. Stacey has raised \$3,000 in funds needed for the trip to Cologne. He needs \$1,000 more to complete the total amount needed for training.

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CABLETRONICS REPORTED LEAVING

Firings, Threats Of Loss of Wages Alleged By Workers

Cabletronics, a New York-based electronics manufacturing firm located in the United Durham Industrial Park is reportedly pulling out of Durham, according to workers and local activists.

Workers at the company voted in a union last October, despite vigorous opposition of the company. Workers and other interested citizens have complained to UDI's board that the company is leaving Durham because workers opposed "slave-like" conditions. A meeting is set between UDI board members on March 2 at 7:30 p.m., at Russell Memorial CME Church. The public is invited.

Stan Bachman, division manager of Cabletronics, has been out of town and could not be reached for comment on whether the company is leaving Durham. But several workers, among the twenty still employed, say nearly all production equip-

ment has been packed and sent back to the main plant in Poughkeepsie, New York. The plant hired up to 181 employees before the union drive.

Workers and former employees have reported "racial discrimination, health hazards, verbal abuse to the predominantly black women workers by white supervisors, and generally slave-like conditions."

When workers began to organize a union last summer, the law firm of Maupin, Ellis and Taylor was hired by Cabletronics. Firings, threats of loss of wages and other practices were alleged by workers after the union organizing began. The company has denied the allegations.

Stan Bachman, division manager, has previously reported that the company lost orders from IBM and the Sperry Company after the union drive.

There is also controversy over UDI's role in the problems of the workers. (Continued on Page 8)



Winners

Left to right, Larry Thompson, Kelvin Washington, Miss Lisa Thorpe, Lester Bass, Kenneth Washington and Charles Daye, Chariman, Civic Committee.

Hillside Black History Team Wins

By Trelle L. Jeffers
The Hillside Black History Quiz Bowl Team became the champions of the Second Annual Quiz Bowl for two consecutive years, Sunday, February 22, at the Hillside Auditorium.

In the five-team competition — Southern High School, Jordan High School, Durham Academy, Durham High School — the Hillside Team defeated both Durham Academy and Jordan High School in the semi-final.

The Hillside Quiz Bowl Team consisted of Kelvin Washington, sons of At-

tonies Harold and Judith Washington; Larry Thompson, son of Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Thompson; Miss Lisa Thorpe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Thorpe; and Lester Bass, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Earl Thorpe.

Kelvin Washington, captain of the team, said "I feel great about winning; we knew our Black History backward and forward."

When asked what message about Black History he would like to pass on to his fellow classmates, Kelvin said, "Black students should study their history because

in order to know where you are going, you must know where you came from."

Lester Bass also had a message for his fellow students, "students should not just study Black History during Black History Month. It is their heritage and they should study it every day because it is not taught in the school system."

Miss Thorpe, the only female on the team, said that she, too, felt great, and that she had not been concerned about being the only female. "I was only thinking about winning," she said.

Hillside High School

received a trophy for the victory and each member of the winning Quiz Bowl Team won a trophy plus \$10.

The Annual Black History Quiz Bowl is sponsored by the Civic Committee of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People. Its purpose is to inspire students to review the outstanding accomplishments that black Americans have contributed to the development of this country.

Attorney Charles Daye, visiting professor of Law, NCCU, is chairman of the Civic Committee.

Durham Ministers To Speak At Mass Meeting

Rev. Grady D. Davis, pastor of Union Baptist Church on North Roxboro Street, and Rev. L.H. Whelchel, pastor of Russell Memorial CME Church, will address Durham's first mass meeting of the National Black Independent Political Party of North Carolina (NBIPP-NC) Sunday, March 1, at 4:30 p.m., at Union Baptist Church.

The mass meeting is expected to be an historical event which will address the Durham County organizing committee of NBIPP-NC.

NBIPP was founded on August 23, 1980 in New Orleans, La., and chartered by 1500 members at a National Party Founding Convention in Philadelphia, Pa. Its purpose is said to be that of promoting social

change and self determination.

Members at the founding convention said that politics, economics, culture and education are of urgent concern among black Americans.

Organizers of NBIPP state that it is a popular, mass-backed, community building party which stresses the importance of people in every area, and that it is organizing to help blacks help themselves.

The convenors for the Durham branch of NBIPP report that they will join several other efforts across the country and across North Carolina to build a strong party that will address black interests.

Those who wish more information on Sunday's mass meeting should call (919)596-0782 or (919)682-4628.

Democratic Party Precinct Meetings To Be Held

By Trelle L. Jeffers
Wayne Lofton, Minority Affairs Coordinator, North Carolina State Democratic Executive Committee, has released a memorandum announcing Democratic Precinct meetings of the state's 2,239 precincts in 100 counties to be held Thursday, March 26, at 8 p.m., at the regular polling places.

At these precinct meetings, all active Democrats will select precinct officer, precinct committee members and delegates to the county convention which will be held April 25.

The officers elected will consist of a chairman, three vice chairmen, and a secretary-treasurer.

A quorum of ten Democrats must be present to convene the meeting unless the precinct has only twenty active Democrats; then only five active Democrats will be considered a

quorum. Each active Democrat residing in the precinct who is present at the meeting will be entitled to cast a vote.

At these precinct meetings, members may request that a vote be taken on the anticipated questions and nominations to come before the county conventions. If this is done, the regulations state that the chairman or presiding officer and secretary will certify to the county conventions, the vote tabulation which should then reflect the same number of votes cast on these same questions and/or nominations when voted on at the county conventions.

Delegates from each precinct sent to the county conventions must be elected in the county precinct meetings where there is a quorum and each precinct is entitled to one vote for every fifty active Democrats.

Blacks Are Dying In Industries

By Trelle L. Jeffers

In a Health Science/Medical Issues seminar at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Friday, February 20, panelists reported in a plenary session entitled "The Workers Perspectives" that minorities are dying from a lack of occupational safety and health standards in various industries throughout North Carolina.

Tommy Quin, head of the International Woodworkers Union, said that in the woodwork industry, minorities are dying of lung cancer due to the dust and splinters that they breathe, and that they are going deaf because of the noise level.

Quin said that these problems are more prevalent in the south because "black southerners are working people."

"Industry knows about these problems, but it is unwilling to do anything about them," Quin said. He said that industry has a tendency to pass the buck, to blame something else for the deaths caused by hazardous working conditions.

"We (blacks) work hard. We absorb the heat; we don't complain; then we die. Government rules, and we must go through our representatives to clean up these problems," Quin said.

Ms. Bertha Roman, another member of the panel, said that she had worked for twelve years in

a furniture factory in High Point. She described the conditions as "terrible." She said that lacquer fumes often blew back in her face, that there was no ventilation and that people often collapsed from the fumes.

Describing the black woman's plight in industry, Ms. Roman said, "pregnant women often work in the furniture factory without knowing the effects of the chemicals and dust on their unborn children. It is un-

documented what lacquer does to the insides."

Ms. Roman said that it will take our working together to get better conditions for the workers.

"Black people are materialistic and they capitalize on that. They don't want to spend the money to correct the hazardous conditions," said Ms. Roman.

The Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) is an organization which functions to correct hazardous work-

ing conditions; however, Ms. Roman said, when a member of OSHA came to inspect the factory where she worked that she noticed her supervisor and the inspector were often on friendly terms.

During the question and answer period, it was pointed out that one may call Care Line, Governor Hunt's office, Raleigh, to report hazardous working conditions.

Physicians, other health professionals and students (Continued on Page 8)



Chinese Ambassador Visits NCCU

Ambassador Chai Zemin of the People's Republic of China spoke Tuesday, at North Carolina Central University's Center for International Studies, of the "common desire" of China and the United States to maintain friendly relations. Above Ambassador Chai (l) looks over an NCCU publication with Chancellor Albert N. Whiting.