Words Of Wisdom

Don't be afraid to be different. Your way may he the better one.

VOLUME 59 - NUMBER 18

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1981

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913

PRICE: 30 CENTS

33 Votes Thwart Black-White Coalition

By Trellie L. Jeffers

The black-white coalition of the Durham County Democratic Party lacked the 33 votes necessary to prevent the white conservatives from walking away from the county convention with virtually an all-white slate of officers for the state executive committee, Saturday, April 25, at Rogers-Herr Junior High School.

county's Democrats had been in caucus meeting most of the week in an effort to arrive at some agreeable compromise.

The black-white coalition had attempted to negotiate for a black to sit on the Board of Elections, and the white conservatives were offered several blacks for the position, but they remained

The two factions of the adamant in their determination to keep the board all-white.

The appointments to the Board of Elections hadnot been made at the start of Saturday's convention, and blacks and whites still hoped for a compromise to get a black on the .

Shortly after the convention began, Benjamin Ruffin, special assistant to

Governor Jim Hunt, took the podium after Bob Suggs, a Durham dentist, was nominated for chairman of the executive committee, and called for unity. Ruffin recited Lanston Hughes' poem, "I Want My Freedom Now"; requested and was granted a seven-minute recess, apparently to negotiate further. But after the convention reconvened, and Suggs was elected as chairman without opposition,

in a move that surprised many of the black delegates, Councilman Carroll Pledger offered a motion to elect the remainder of the executive committee by slate. The white conservatives' 33-vote edge carried the motion and the conservatives then offered and elected their all-white slate with the exception of the second vice-chairman, A.J. Howard Clement,

Rumors had circulated before the convention began that Clement's name would appear on the slate, and it was confirmed a few minutes before

the delegates were seated: In spite of Clement's name on the slate, all black, and some white. delegates offered their own slate and voted only for their slate.

The sentiment of the black-white coalition leaders after the convention was that the white conservatives did not intend to offer them a chance to have any input in the Durham County Democratic Party during the next two years, despite the fact that this group had 47.5% of the

delegates. Although black participation was a record for Durham County at a convention, all blacks who had been elected as delegates from integrated precincts did not attend. However, the precinct votes do not change when delegates are absent. Votes are counted according to how those vote who are present.

The white conservatives needed to include only one black on its slate, according to party rules, but blacks continually stressed during the convention that 47% representation would be necessary for blacks to be equitably represented. Black representation on the state executive committee is now roughly six

ARMED WITH A MACHETE, Leroy Wilson, jumps through the door window of an abandoned apartment in Atlanta after searching it. Volunteers poked through the huge, but nearly deserted housing project, looking for clues in the slaying and disappearances of 26 young Atlanta blacks.

Dropout Problem "Instructional

Carmichael Stresses Need For Black Unity At NCCU

the people," exclaimed Stokely Carmichael to a gathering of approximately 100 North Carolina Cenntral University Students, Monday, April-27, in front of the Alfonso Elder Student Union building. "If this were true. I would have done it myself a long time ago,' he added. His appearance was sponsored by the

Harambi Student Union. On a mission to "organize the masses," Carmichael stressed the need for black unity - the organizing of blacks in Africa, Brazil, the Carib-

bean and the United Citing the FBI, CIA,

the military, NATO, and the Ku Klux Klan as "well organized" enemies, Carmichael declared, "No spontaneous effort can defeat groups like the Klan who have been organized for over 100 years." He strongly emphasized the lack of organization of blacks. "We can't even decide on what color ribbon to wear concerning the Atlanta killings. Why? We are not organized," he argued.

Basing the liberation of American blacks and blacks everywhere on the liberation of Africa and appealing for a renewed sense of black na-Carmichael tionalism, · told his audience to learn about African history especially before the advent of white slave ships - as a means of inspiring love and dedication to

"Africa is on fire and the Africans in America

April 27.

By Ruthell Howard Afro-Americans) are hav-Too many [African-Americans] are ashamed of Africa. because they are ignorant of the culture."

Carmichael frequently challenged his student audience. "What role are you going to play in the liberation of the masses of our people?" he shouted. "When your people are oppressed, your active inactivity puts you on the side of your oppressors. There is no middle ground. If you are not with us, you are against

As a revolutionist, Carmichael said his role is to 'put the people above material things, not to give them answers, but to make them aware."

Referring repeatedly to America's capitalistic system as an enemy and Carmichael oppressor, urged blacks to be aware of it's subtle daily manipulation, from subliminal messages in food advertisements to glamorization of the Klan. "We must destroy the system that has been oppressing our people for 500 years," he said. "If you're not fighting every day, be alert when you read the newspapers, watch TV, or listen to the

radio." He also expressed resentment of America's support of "backward, fascist regimes the world over" and predicted U.S. support of South Africa's apartheid system.

Opposing integration as a tool to perpetuate white supremacy, Carmichael said the struggle for black (Continued On Page 9)

And Attitudinal," Says Supt. By Donald Alderman students do not appreciate school sacrifice, especially when dropout problem can not

be viewed as alienated from other teenage problems such as alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, and juvenile delinquency, according to education Each case is a symptom

of a whole problem and must be viewed as such to be effectively dealt with, says Dr. Cleveland Hammonds, superintendent, Durham City Schools.

The high

ministrator.

He says the problem is an "instructional and attitudinal" one of which the causes range from poor youth role models to the negative effects of integration.

Many students, Hammonds says, have not 'acquired the ability to negotiate the system" mainly because basic subjects were not mastered. Consequently, he adds, those students develop "survival techniques" teacher hostility, class skipping which adversely affect the learning process.

The "here and now" attitude of many students is not conducive to selfdiscipline, Hammonds adding,

the benefits thereof are long term.

The attitude problem can be corrected if, at an early age, stern instructional discipline is issued by parents and teachers, positive youth role models are demonstrated, and integration is viewed in a different context, Hammonds says.

Black neighborhoods were contained during segregation. Therefore, Hammonds says, parents and teachers worked together to create a desireto-achieve student attitude. Now, in some cases, parents defend their children's lack of selfdiscipline, right or wrong.

Also, he adds, during segregation, black principals and teachers had a profound impact upon the community. They were excellent role models for young people. However, integration stripped the black community of dignity and respect.

The segregated community, Hammonds says, more together. Parents helped teachers helped students students. Now there is an individual and selfthroughout the black community. Blacks were seeking equal facilities and materials, but integration actually fragmented the black community, he adds.

Also, contributing to the youth attitude problem are black entertainers and athletes. Black musicians have not, for the most part, assumed any responsibility in promoting the good of all blacks. Instead, they have acted as a deterrent in creating an underlying push to achieve among black youth. Popular songs are about only physical love and sex which can be an educational distraction, Ham-

monds says. He says athletics should be perceived as a means to a better life rather than an end. Many students are misguided because they fail to realize that athletics are not part of the main curriculum but extra.

Black youths must realize that unlimited social activity and the "here and now" attitude negate the educational process. They tend to deter indepth thinking and the desire to learn and

Marking The Locations

TWO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED YOUTH ADULT CONFERENCE hammer a cross into the ground marking the place where Aaron Wyche's body was found June 24, 1980. The UYAC members placed the crosses at each location where 23 bodies of black children have been found, all victims in Atlanta's missing and murdered

National March For Children Slated May 9 In Atlanta

By Donald Marable The Triangle Chapter of the National Mobilization Committee to end Children's Murders in Atlanta met Monday, April 27, in Stanford Warren Library to discuss an avenue of reaching the May 9 march in Atlanta.

Ms. Rosalyn Pelles, chairman of the Durham group, sat among twelve interested people discussing transportation means to Atlanta. They are planning to rent a bus that will seat 45 to 47 persons and costing \$1251 or \$27 per person. But the group also considered renting a van, because, Ms. Pelles said, "The people that have been meeting have not numbered over twelve."

The Triangle Chapter of NMCECMA grew out of Techwood Homes, a large project in Atlanta calling for a national demonstration in Atlanta on May 9. The Triangle branch was started by a combination of people who have been active with local civil rights in the Triangle area.

Ms. Pelles said, "1 don't think the Federal government is trying to solve the case in Atlanta." She mentioned the government's slow financial assistance, and the blaming of the parents for the murders.

Of national concern is that the killings are not just happening in Atlanta Ala., Tenn.; and Greensboro were cited.

If you feel concerned

- Buffalo, N.Y., Mobile, and want to be in Atlanta on May 9, call Ms. Chattanooga, Rosalyn Pelles at 596-7449 and plan to attend the May 6 meeting.

Social Workers Hold **Challenging Atlanta Meet**

Over 2,000 black human services workers from across the country attended the 13th annual National Association of Black Social Workers Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, April 21-25. Representatives were in attendance from Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Greensboro, Fayetteville, Winston-Salem, Greenville, New Bern, Reidsville and Charlotte in North

Carolina. They heard some challenging and thoughtprovoking comments from TV personality and syndicated columnist Brown who Tony challenged the ticipants to save the black colleges at all costs; Dr. Bobby Wright, internationally famed clinical psychologist, whose eyeraising theory of "mentacide", which he defines as the "deliberate and systematic destruction of a group's mind with the objective being the expiration of that group", evoked great concern from the

participants who were unaware of his incisive and chilling research fin-

Public Safety Commissioner, Dr. Lee Brown gave an up-date on the status of the horrible killings of the black children and youths of Atlanta. informative Other

speeches focusing on national and international African-American issues were given by former U.N. Ambassador An-Young, Grenada drew Ambassador Ms. Dessima Williams, Mayor Maynard Jackson, and NABSW's executive director, Cenie Williams of

New York. A \$5,000 NABSW Scholarship fund was established in memory of the slain Atlanta children and will be administered through the Atlanta University School of Social Work. Resolutions President opposing Reagan's budget cuts, and the block grant formula passed. were (Continued On Page 9)

less punitive.

Trellie L. Jeffers The philosophy in-The Durham City School Board approved troducing the policy states, "The instructional the second reading of a pupil attendance program is the greatest single factor in the retenpolicy at its regular meeting, Monday night, tion of students. A good attendance policy can sup-Unlike the old attenplement a responsive in-

dance policy. With an structional program." ABS clause attached that The policy also states requires a teacher to fail a that all students are expected to attend school student with sixteen absences regardless of the 180 days, but it makes provisions for lawful quality of work, the new policy is more relaxed and absences due to illness

City Schools Offer "High Incentive Policy" death in the family or "lawful unavoidable causes.'

> School officials hope that the greatest enthusiasm for the new policy will be sparked by the Incentive policy for grades 7 through 12. This policy is based on the assumption that students who regularly attennd school will increase their academic achievement, and it give the students who are in regular atten-

a given course a chance to be exempted from taking final examinations. The students, however, who wish to participate must indicate their desire in writing to the principal prior to the scheduled ex-

To be eligible for the Incentive policy, a student. must not be absent more than four times during the school year if he/she has obtained a grade of A,

dance and who are passing and the number of absences allowed for exemption decreases by one as the letter grade decreases.

The new policy allows students who are absent, excused or unexcused, up to fifteen days to make up to fifteen days to make up the work missed for as many as sixteen days out of school, and it requires that parents be notified when a student has been (Continued On Page 9)