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The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNDISGUISED

66 — NUMBER 6 (USPS 091-380) DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA — SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1988 TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913 PRICE: 30 CENTS

Racial Tensions Intensify After Hostage Taking In Robeson County

BERTON (AP)—One week after a newspaper staff took a newspaper staff to protest alleged discrimination in the Robeson County school system, response to the incident has divided sharply along two lines: white and minority. Whites and blacks say the ordeal has ignited a long struggle for a county fractured by race, poverty and official corruption. Officials say the incident was provoked by a white man trying to draw attention to himself and derail the county's efforts to attract new business. There are certain little groups here that are against law enforcement, they say. "I don't know how to get attention," said county sheriff Hubert Legerton. "Anybody can come up here and make an accusation against me."

Legerton is in the majority, says activist Eric Prevatte. "The county school system, which has two-thirds of the students, is left with the poorest one-third of the county," he said. Prevatte heads a citizens' organization that is pushing passage of a March 8 referendum on a merger of county and city school systems. The coalition also points to a large number of unsolved killings of blacks and Indians. One killing, the November 1986 shooting death of an unarmed Lumbee Indian by a sheriff's deputy, spurred the formation of the coalition and led it to hold protest rallies and peace marches. "The political, economic and social conditions here breed powerlessness, breed despair, breed violence," said the Rev. Mac Legerton, executive director of the Center for Community Action, a group that helps the poor. That sort of talk rankles Lumbee Mayor David F. Weinstein, who is white and a co-owner of a clothing store in town. "We're poised for a real growth spurt," Weinstein said. "We're getting ready to build a new water plant. A new shopping center is on the drawing board and everything is going for us."



During a reception at NCCU for artists from the public schools selected pieces of work were on display. Admiring a mask made by Vincent Scott, a fourth grader at Pearsontown school, are Kwabena Awyase-Ntow, a seventh grader at Githens and Dr. and Mrs. Tyrone Richmond. See story and other pictures on page 3. (Photo by Mayfield)

has said he welcomes an agreement promised by Gov. Jim Hunt as part of an agreement with the Lumbee Indians who own The Robesonian newspaper. The shooting of 17 people hostage Feb. 1. The incident ended 10 hours later with violence. A task force appointed by the mayor is scheduled to meet with the Indians, Eddie Hatcher, 30, and Andy Jacobs, 19, this week to discuss their allegations of corruption in the sheriff's department. Two are being held in a federal detention center in Butner pending a hearing later this month on charges and hostage-taking offenses.

I just feel like there is just a certain group that is overreacting," Hunter A. Poole, the county's industrial development director, also deplored the hostage-taking and the national attention it attracted. He said both might cause businesses to shun a county that sorely needs jobs. In 1987, the N.C. Employment Security Commission declared Robeson the second most economically distressed county in the state. "This type of thing has a way of marking you down," Poole said. "Anything negative is not going to help." But Jack Morgan, one of two Indian members of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners and principal of the predominantly black and Indian Rex Rennart elementary school, regards the unrest as a product of education and employment. "Today, we have (Indian) attorneys, architects, doctors" who influence society, Morgan said.

Looking Forward To Super Tuesday

Jackson Finishes Fourth In Iowa

GREENFIELD, IOWA (AP)—The Rev. Jesse Jackson says he still figures to be in the thick of the Super Tuesday round of 16 southern presidential primaries March 8 despite his fourth place finish in Iowa precinct caucuses. "We've done well in Iowa, but we're leading in New York, in California, and Maryland and North Carolina and Georgia and Alabama and Louisiana," Jackson said after cracking the double digits in Monday night's results. "We're going to win this campaign." With 70 percent of the precincts

reporting, Jackson was supported by 11 percent of caucus-attending Democrats in an initial expression of candidate preference. After supporters were divided up to meet a 15 percent threshold, Jackson's delegates to regional and state nominating conventions were projected at 9 percent of the total. Missouri Rep. Richard Gephardt edged Illinois Sen. Paul Simon and Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis in Iowa with support from 27 percent of the caucus-goers. Former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt finished behind Jackson with

support from 9 percent of the Democratic activists. Former Colorado Sen. Gary Hart and Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore, Jr., received virtually no support. The results mean that "there's a likelihood that Dukakis and Gephardt and Simon and Gore and Jackson will have a super go of it the next month en route to Super Tuesday," Jackson said. Jackson called the Iowa caucuses the "league opener, one game down, 49 more to go," and said he was pleased with his turnout. "We spent the fewest dollars and

the fewest days," Jackson told supporters Monday night at the renovated Greenfield Hotel. "We penetrated the most deeply. We broadened our base. Double digits is a political victory." Jackson worked to appeal to farmers, laborers, minorities and middle class workers who have been hurt by corporate shutdowns or mergers. To underscore his identity with rural America, he established his Iowa campaign headquarters in Greenfield, 60 miles southwest of Des Moines.

Trying To Enlarge Mississippi Delegation Few Blacks Enter Congressional Races

JACKSON, MS (AP)—Political observers say a lack of funding is one of the primary reasons for the lack of black candidates in this state's three congressional races. One of the exceptions is the 4th Congressional District seat being contested by U.S. Rep. Wayne W. Whitt. In a race that includes 14 white candidates, Jerry Parks, 25, and Deborah McNair, 29, both students at Jackson State University, are vying for the office. Both have similar platforms that focus on economic development and social services for the poor. Both, however, are running their campaigns on less than \$10,000. Parks and McNair are undaunted by obstacles that have caused more experienced campaigners to stay out of this year's race. Black political veteran Leslie McLemore, chairman of the Hinds County Democratic Executive Committee and a Jackson State alumnus, long has been considered an attractive candidate. In 1980, he placed second when he ran in a four-candidate race for the 4th District. McLemore said he gave much thought to entering the race this year before deciding not to run. "In my case, it was really a question of not having the appropriate financing to run. I simply didn't wish to run a second-class campaign, and without adequate funds, it is not possible to be competitive," he said. Some barriers have been removed in the more than 20 years

since black Mississippians began entering political races after the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Other barriers—time, money and the small percentage of black registered voters—remain. Many black candidates say they simply can't afford to take leave from work to wage an effective campaign. Also, observers say congressional candidates require a minimum of \$250,000 to campaign effectively in Mississippi, an amount far beyond the reach of most blacks here. Although the state is about 35 percent black overall, in some districts blacks make up less than 20 percent of the registered voters, which virtually assures a black candidate's defeat. Add to that minimal white support. "Historical voting patterns throughout this country show that it has been difficult for black candidates at any level to get more than 10 to 15 percent of the white vote," said Ed Cole, chairman of the state Democratic Party. U.S. Rep. Mike Espy agreed. "In a political campaign with a black and a white candidate, voting will generally occur along racial lines," he said. "So a high number of black registered voters is the key to winning an election for the black candidate." Espy's unsuccessful predecessor, Robert Clark, was defeated in the district in 1982 and 1984, despite a federal redistricting that gave the

2nd District a 58 percent black majority population and a 52.8 percent black voting age majority. Ironically, the redistricting may hurt Parks and McNair because it moved some black votes from the 4th District to the 2nd District. Two years after Clark's 1984 defeat, Espy's dogged but low-key campaigning won him a marginal victory with 52 percent of the vote against incumbent Webb Franklin. Espy, who faces re-election this year, believes his white support "has grown tremendously in the past year." This year he faces one black female, Dorothy Benford, and two white male candidates. "I expect to win with a significant portion of the white vote in November 1988," he said. In other words, as his aide Karen Hinton said recently, race is becoming less of an issue for traditional white voters in the vast Delta district. "People have gotten farther and farther away from that. More people are interested in him because of his programs and what he's doing in the district," she said. But that doesn't mean black and white candidates ever will have similar campaign styles, he accepted in some white communities, or move beyond the label of "the black candidate." "Traditionally, the black community has voted with the Democratic Party, so it's much easier for a white candidate to capture the black vote in an election if a viable black candidate is not on the tick-

et," Espy said. "However, the reverse is generally not true for a black candidate. A black candidate must visit and meet with as many white groups as he can so he or she can let them know that their views are similar," he said. Columbus attorney Wil Colom used the slogan "first black candidate" to try to gain recognition in his bid for state treasurer in 1987. He later found that label impossible to snake. "Until the end of the campaign, and I mean the last week, when I would go to a local community the speaker would introduce me as the first black candidate to run for state treasurer." I never could get it over with," he said. Greater acceptance of black candidates, Colom said, hinges on more blacks entering campaigns as "non-race" candidates. McNair and Parks both say they

will rely on their biracial agendas to capture white votes. "I represent the majority," McNair said. "The people are hungry for someone to address the ordinary people in America." And while Parks' views are remarkably similar to McNair's, it is Espy's victory that serves as his guiding light. "If Mike can do it, so can I," he said. Just as the defendants have been entitled to a fair trial, the state of Alabama deserves a fair trial," Galanos told the judge. Zoghby said he would rule on the mistrial question later. Knowles, taking a rope from Galanos, demonstrated to the jury how he tied a classic hangman's noose with 13 wraps. It was the same kind of noose that he said was used to hang Donald on March 21, 1981. Knowles, the prosecution's key witness against his former KKK superiors, underwent a full day of questioning. The jury and alternates consists of 13 whites and one black. Knowles, who was 17 at the time of the killing, described how he and Hays' son, Henry Francis Hays, ab-

Former Klansman Describes Hanging Of Black Teen In Alabama

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