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# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

(USPS 091-380)

VOLUME 68 - NUMBER 28 229

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA — SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1990

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913

PRICE: 30 CENTS

## Jesse Helms Aide James Meredith Says NAACP Members Involved In Drugs, Crime

AP) — Many of the 3,000 delegates to a recent NAACP convention are "involved in the drug culture," James Meredith, the first black to enter the University of Mississippi and now a special assistant to Jesse Helms.

Helms has a background profile on more than half of the delegates (to last weekend's NAACP convention), and 60 percent are involved in the drug culture, and at least 80 percent are involved in criminal or immoral activities," Meredith said in a news release Monday.

Helms is running for re-election against Democrat Harvey Gantt, the first black nominated for the U.S. Senate from the South.

In an interview, Meredith said he did not show the news release, released on official Helms Senate stationery, to the three-term Republican senator.

Helms called Meredith's news release a "lapse," saying, "I didn't tell J.H. that nobody sends out news releases... I would not have approved its release, frankly, even though I think that Dr. Meredith has a point."

Helms said that he didn't want to get into the middle of a feud between Meredith and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. But the feud over Meredith's sincerity and drive on the issues of morality and family strength.

Helms said he knows more about the problems of the black community than either you or I or the editor of the Winston-Salem Journal. He is entitled to his judgments, and his judgments are good on many many things," Helms said.

Helms hired Meredith as a special assistant on his staff last year at a salary of about \$30,000 a year.

Peeler, the executive director of the North Carolina NAACP, called Meredith's statement "not offensive but very questionable." Many of the delegates to the NAACP convention were active church members and community leaders, she said, adding, "Those are not the kind of people you find in the drug scene."

Helms said, "I've collected (the information) over years... I know who smoked dope with whom. There

ain't nobody that even thinks they're important that I don't know the goods on."

Meredith, adding that his information-gathering was not part of his official duties, said his prime source of information on the NAACP's leaders is "people, people who were there." He has a network of connections across the country who provide information on the people that they know, he said.

The one-page news release dated July 14 was mailed to a handful of North Carolina reporters at Senate expense.

"I think we need to look into the backgrounds of these so-called leaders," Meredith said. He called upon Benjamin Hooks, NAACP executive director, and two other notable black leaders — Ron Brown, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and John Jacob, head of the National Urban League — to reveal whether they had ever been users.

Meredith gained worldwide attention in 1962 as the first black to enroll at the University of Mississippi.

In Durham, long time civil rights activist, John Edwards, said he believed Meredith was carrying out a long held vendetta.

Edwards is currently director of the N.C. Civic Education Project and was an NAACP youth leader in the 1960s.

"We don't know the source of those statements and should judge them accordingly," Edwards said. "I don't think they deserve any credibility."

Edwards recalled attending a convention at which Meredith, shortly after he integrated the University of Mississippi in 1962, was invited to speak at a youth rally during a NAACP convention.

Edwards believes the rift goes back to an NAACP convention where Meredith was scheduled to speak at a youth rally.

After getting copies of the speech prior to delivery, the youth group decided not to applaud because of what they considered insensitive treatment by Meredith.

Edwards believes that it caused Meredith to have a bitter taste in his mouth about the NAACP.



Harvey Gantt opened a campaign office in Raleigh Monday and spoke to supporters. He stopped in Durham to elicit support in his Senate bid. Gantt stressed the need to increase spending on education and less on the military. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)



ATTEND 4-H ELECTRIC CONGRESS — Durham County 4-H members (second from left to right) Corey Young, 1214C Naples Place, Durham, and Anthony Pierce, 1230D Naples Place, Durham, were delegates to the State 4-H Electric Congress July 9-11 at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Theresa T. Clark (left), Durham County 4-H agent, and Sue Gooden, Duke Power Company consumer education representative, accompanied the delegates. They were selected for the trip for achievement in their 4-H electric projects. Duke Power provided the trip and helped sponsor the congress. The event was conducted by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service.

## News Briefs

### Dr. Marion Gooding to Address NAACP Meeting

Dr. Marion Gooding, chair of the North Carolina Central University Nursing Department, will address the July 22 meeting of the Durham branch of the NAACP. The meeting will be held at Morehead Avenue Baptist Church, 1008 Morehead Ave., where Rev. B. A. Mack is pastor. All concerned citizens are urged to lend the support of the NCCU Nursing Program and its continuance by attending this meeting. A recent recommendation by UNC president C. D. Spangler is to discontinue the program. Many subsequent efforts have been made in support of the program, with the aim of keeping it at NCCU. The NAACP meeting will begin at 4 p.m.

### Former NCCU Faculty Member

### Dawson Named To Head Howard University Public Affairs Program

Rhodes G. Dawson Jr., former U.S. ambassador to Botswana, has been named director of the Howard University Patricia Roberts Harris Public Affairs Program, Howard President Franklyn G. Jenifer announced.

Ambassador Dawson was for ten years a member of the English Department faculty at North Carolina Central University. He was also advisor to the student newspaper, The Campus Echo.

In an outgrowth of a bequest to the university from the estate of the Patricia Roberts Harris, the public affairs program affords Howard students an opportunity to supplement classroom instruction through exposure to enriching lecture, internship and student change experiences.

In addition, the program, which is partially supported by corporate foundation grants as well as individual gifts, will include visiting fellows, exchange scholars and publications.

After retiring from the diplomatic service in 1989, Dr. Dawson has been directing the Program for Achieving Communications Excellence (PACE) at the Howard School of Communications. He is a graduate of Lincoln University (Pa.), Columbia University where he received a master of arts degree in English, and the University of North Carolina where he earned a Ph.D. in mass communications.

### Durham City Schools Communications Department Wins Award

RALEIGH — School Press Awards for excellence in communicating school news during 1989-90 have been won by ten school systems and four local units of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE).

The awards are designed to recognize outstanding efforts in communication to the public by local school systems, outstanding newsletters for school system staff members and outstanding newsletters for members of NCAE local units," announced NCAE President Julia Kron. The winners were selected by a panel of judges who are professionals in the field of public relations and communications.

The 1990 NCAE local unit winners are Wake County Association of Classroom Teachers for Wake ACTION, Guilford County NCAE The Umbrella, Forsyth County Association of Classroom Teachers for FACTGRAM and Robeson County Association of Educators for The RAE.

The school systems that won for communication to the public are Wake County Schools, Durham City Schools, Nash County Schools, Wayne County Public Schools and Davidson County Schools. Each school system received an award for its total communications program.

### Nelson Mandela's Back At Home

Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress, arrived home Wednesday following his world whirlwind tour. He says he feels very good after his bout with pneumonia which grounded him for a few days in Mozambique.

Mandela is sticking with his demand that sanctions be continued and that all political prisoners and exiles be exonerated.



### PROGRESS REPORT

Construction workers are daily scurrying all over what will be the Education Complex at St. Joseph's Historic Center. Completion is expected by the first of 1991. The Education Complex will house lobbies for exhibitions, St. Joseph's Historic Foundation offices, classrooms, dance studios, visual arts studios and more, for all ages. Construction of the second phase, the performance center auditorium, will get underway immediately following completion of the education complex and is expected to require approximately a year to complete, according to Walter Norflett, Center director. Durhamites everywhere will recognize the site as that of the old St. Joseph's AME Church building at the corner of Old Fayetteville St. and what is now Lakewood Avenue. Overall cost of the project is \$3.8 million.