

DAVI7 12/01/17 **CHILL
UNC-CH SERIALS DEPARTMENT
DAVIS LIBRARY CB# 3938
P O BOX 8890
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDED

VOLUME 96 - NUMBER 17

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913 PRICE: 50 CENTS

North Carolina civil rights center faces conservative ire

By Martha Waggoner

RALEIGH (AP) - A center founded at the University of North Carolina by a civil rights attorney to help the poor and disenfranchised is the latest institution to come under fire from conservatives as they work to leave their mark on the state's higher education system.

African-American attorney Julius Chambers, who endured firebomb attacks in the 1960s and 1970s as he fought segregation, founded the UNC Center for Civil Rights in 2001, serving as its first director. Now conservatives on the state Board of Governors, which sets policy for the 16-campus system, want to strip the center of its ability to file lawsuits, removing its biggest weapon.

Proponents say the move isn't ideological, but that the center's courtroom work strays from the education mission of the country's oldest public university. Critics say one of the South's leading civil rights institutions would be defanged.

The proposal is "strictly, certainly and undoubtedly ideological," University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill law professor Gene Nichol wrote via email.

Nichol was dean of the law school, where the center is housed, when it was founded. He said in the email that he encouraged Chambers to found it at UNC.

Nichol also headed UNC's Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity, which the board closed two years ago by saying it didn't serve its academic mission. It was one of about 25 UNC-affiliated centers shuttered after a review of the 240 centers in the campus system.

Those developments followed a conservative political takeover of North Carolina, launched in 2010 when Republicans took their first state House and Senate majorities since the late 1800s.

Board member Steve Long said the center must refocus on its education mission, and "one of the things you say no to is public interest law firms." He added, "free enterprise, civil rights, protection of children's rights - whatever the cause it doesn't matter. Are you going to stay on mission as an educational institution or not?"

(Continued On Page 2)



North Carolina Central University (NCCU) School of Law alumnus and North Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice Mike Morgan will provide the keynote address for the NCCU 129th Graduate and Professional Commencement on Friday, May 12.

The ceremony for approximately 518 graduates receiving diplomas from 36 doctoral, master's and professional programs will take place at 3 p.m. in McDougald-McLendon Arena.

NCCU will award its first cohort of doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees in integrated biosciences during the ceremony. Three students: Rasheena Edmondson from Wilson County, N.C., Elena Arthur originally from Ghana, and Helen Onabanjo from Nigeria will receive the first Ph.D.s awarded by the university in more than 50 years.

Ph.D. Graduates (L to R) Edmondson, Onabanjo and Arthur above. See story on page 9. NCCU photo

Judge rejects effort to reinstall painting in Capitol

By Kevin Freking

WASHINGTON (AP) - A federal judge has rejected efforts to reinstall in the U.S. Capitol a painting that some lawmakers and police groups found offensive.

David Pulphus, a student artist from Missouri, and Rep. William Clay, his Democratic congressman, had sued Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers for removing the painting in January. They sought a preliminary injunction to have the painting restored as the lawsuit proceeds, but the judge denied their motion.

The painting showed what appears to be a pig in a police uniform and divided members of Congress for its depiction of events in Ferguson, Missouri. In August 2014, a white police officer shot and killed an unarmed black teenager, Michael Brown.

U.S. District Judge John D. Bates said in his ruling that the government used its editorial discretion in the selection and presentation of the art. As a result, it was engaging in "government speech" and the plaintiffs have no First Amendment right to display the painting at the Capitol. The First Amendment limits government regulation of private speech, but it does not restrict the government when it speaks for itself.

Bates said he was "sympathetic" to Pulphus and Clay given how the artwork was treated, but he concluded that they were unlikely to succeed on the merits of their arguments. He also noted that all of the paintings in this year's arts competition are to be taken down May 1, little less than two weeks away.

The plaintiffs in the case had sought a preliminary injunction to have the painting restored to a tunnel that leads to the Capitol from a House office building. That's where hundreds of winning paintings in an annual Congressional Art Competition are hung.

Ayers had determined, after Republican lawmakers criticized the portrayal of police, that the artwork didn't comply with the House Office Building Commission's prohibitions for the Congressional Arts Competition. The rules of the competition prohibit artworks "depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy" or those of a "sensationalistic or gruesome nature."

Leah J. Tulin, a lawyer representing Pulphus and Clay, said they are likely to appeal the judge's ruling. She said that under the court's ruling, there was a danger that the government speech doctrine "can swallow the First Amendment protections" provided to Americans in a limited public forum.



The NCCU Provisional Chapter members of Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/Lambda Pi Chi Sorority Inc. (NCCU Photo)

NCCU Welcomes First Latina Sorority to Campus

The North Carolina Central University Provisional Chapter of Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/Lambda Pi Chi Sorority Inc. was established last month - the first chapter of the Latina-based Greek organization to operate at a historically black university.

A presentation ceremony for five charter members took place on March 25, 2017, also marking Lambda Pi Chi's first foray into Greek life at a historically black college or university (HBCU).

"The Latina focus and the goals and mission are things I can identify with," said Sheila Acevedo-Donis, an inductee whose mother is originally from Guatemala. "But Lambda Pi Chi is not just for Latinas; anyone can join."

Acevedo-Donis, who will graduate in May with a degree in criminal justice, said she was impressed with the warmth and enthusiasm expressed by other sororities and fraternities at the presentation, including members of the Divine Nine - a group of Greek organizations originally founded at HBCUs.

"We have had amazing feedback from other students, both Latinas and non-Latinas," she added.

National members of Lambda Pi Chi drove in from several states to support the new inductees. Alejandra Galindo, who guided formation of provisional chapter at NCCU and works with other chapters in the state, said Lambda Pi Chi helps women develop academically, socially and professionally and is considered a lifelong commitment.

NCCU Diversity and Inclusion Director Emily P. Guzman said NCCU aims to increase enrollment of Hispanic students, which now stands at just under 5 percent.

"We have a strategic goal to increase the number of Latina students on campus," Guzman said. "Part of that effort involves increasing programming aimed at Latinos."

The idea for forming a Lambda Pi Chi chapter grew out of a Latinas Heritage Month Celebration on campus in October, she added.

Other Latino- and Latina-based organizations active on campus are Raices, a philanthropic and social student group, and Mis Hermanos, an initiative supporting Latino male students.

North Carolina governor follows veto with judge appointment

By Emery P. Dalesio

RALEIGH (AP) - Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper swooped in April 24 put his stamp on a state appeals court that's become a new flashpoint with the Republican-dominated General Assembly, appointing a replacement judge 15 minutes after a Republican jurist resigned.

Cooper's office announced that Court of Appeals Judge Douglas McCullough resigned April 24 and the governor would fill the vacancy with former appeals court judge John Arrowood.

Former Gov. Mike Easley, a Democrat, appointed Arrowood to a seat on the Court of Appeals in 2007. Arrowood, who is openly gay, was backed by state Democratic Party officials when he ran unsuccessfully for election to the seat the following year. The state Democratic Party on April 24 cheered the Arrowood pick.

McCullough was due to leave the court next month when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 72. The only explanation offered in McCullough's resignation letter was that he felt it was "appropriate" to retire now rather than wait another 36 days.

Cooper's surprise sequence of moves comes three days after he vetoed legislation that would have decreased the appeals court from 15 judges to 12 and blocked Cooper from appointing his own judicial picks as three Republicans reach retirement age.

Cooper said that proposed law motivated McCullough to contact his staff and offer to resign.

"I know that Judge McCullough resigned this morning because he disagreed with the law that has been passed by the North Carolina General Assembly. He believes strongly in the integrity of the court," Cooper said during a hastily called news conference minutes after Arrowood took office.

McCullough did not respond to a message left at his listed phone number, and a court clerk said April 24 he has already cleared out his office.

McCullough had a previous eight-year stint on the Court of Appeals, but before and after that he spent a total of about six years working at the law firm co-founded by former Democratic Gov. Beverly Perdue's deceased first husband.

Lawmakers this week were expected to override Cooper's veto, making the court reduction law. Republicans hold veto-proof majorities in the House and Senate and final tallies for the court-reduction measure exceeded required constitutional thresholds.

The legislation's GOP sponsors explained the need for reducing the Court of Appeals by pointing to data showing the court's workload (Continued On Page 2)