

Ministers maintain resolve

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What the small, integrated group of ministers and Alderman Larry Womble lacked in numbers, they made up for in determination, as they stood on the steps of the Federal Building during a lunch break.

"In Hitler's Germany, first communists, then socialists, then gypsies, then homosexuals, then any dissenters were sent to the gas chambers," read Eversley from a press release. "In the Southern United States, this kind of vicious and hateful violence would be extended to trade unionists, Catholics and blacks. If we're silent while one group gets shot down in broad daylight, we ought not be surprised if we're next."

The group made it clear that it was not communism that it supported, but a person's right to believe as he pleases without fear of retaliation from non-believers.

"This is a rally for justice," said the Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church. "We don't see communism being on trial; we see five people who were killed. The issues in this trial are larger than this trial. We are concerned for justice."

The ministers said they were not attempting to judge guilt or innocence.

"We don't need to submit to anybody who is innocent or guilty," said the Rev. J. Ray Butler, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church. "We are neither judge nor jury. Our duty is to raise the consciousness of the people."

Added Mendez: "The broader question is not just the trial, but the kind of legitimacy that is being given to open violence."

In other trial developments last week:

• Dr. Paul Bermanzohn, a demonstrator who was injured during the 1979 confrontation, was questioned extensively by defense attorneys concerning a book he and his wife, Sally, have written, called "The True Story of the Greensboro Massacre."

The book was written, said Bermanzohn, to "tell the public about the people who died," but "certain things (in the book) are in error or exaggerated."

Bermanzohn also was questioned about CWP documents that said "... a confrontation with the Klan would be best if we

can get it."

Bermanzohn testified that the communists wanted a confrontation with the Klan before Nov. 3 in order to attract more people to the Nov. 3 rally and anti-Klan conference.

Bermanzohn, left partially paralyzed from a wound to his head during the violence, has since moved to New York, where he is a psychiatrist.

• Former Greensboro Police Chief Ed Swing testified that he expected hundreds of Klansmen from across the state to attend the 1979 rally and that he expected violence, including heckling, egg-throwing, rock-throwing, fistfights and stick fights.

Swing also testified that the officers in charge had been warned that Klansmen had discussed bringing guns to Greensboro and that they had a copy of the demonstrators' parade permit outlining the parade route.

He said he was in the command room of the police department on the day of the shooting listening to radio transmissions from Detective Jerry "Rooster" Cooper, who watched the nine-car Klan-Nazi caravan as it approached the rally's starting point.

None of the information Swing gave last week was contained in a Nov. 19, 1979, administrative report released by the police department on events leading up to the confrontation and on police officers' activities on the day of the march.

Swing had told a citizens' review committee that scrutinized police actions in the incident that no violence was expected. He did not testify in the two previous Klan-Nazi trials.

Chief plaintiffs' attorney Lewis Pitts said at a press conference last Thursday that Swing's testimony demonstrates clearly that the Greensboro Police Department's "planning and actions demonstrate a deliberate indifference to the impending violence and the safety of the demonstrators."

"At any moment the caravan could have been stopped and this whole thing could have been averted," he said.

• Roland Wayne Wood, a former member of the American Nazi Party, and Gorrell Pierce,

former grand dragon of the Federated Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, testified that Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent Bernard Butkovich encouraged them to bring firearms to the Nov. 3 rally.

Wood also testified that Butkovich tried to get him to buy explosives and discussed "eliminating" Klan leader Joe Grady, with whom the Nazis were feuding.

Wood appeared in court wearing white tennis shoes and a blue suit with five small skulls pinned across the breast pocket of his jacket. The skulls, said Wood, represent the five Communists who he says violated his civil rights. They do not represent the five communists killed on Nov. 3,

he said.

Because of the number of guns he saw at Brent Fletcher's house, the meeting place for the Klan and Nazis on Nov. 3, Wood said he expected a fight, but was told by Chris Benson, assistant grand dragon of the Invisible Empire of the KKK, that police would be at the rally and there would be no violence.

• Television actors Davis Morse, who plays Dr. Jack Morrison on NBC-TV's "St. Elsewhere," and his wife Susan Wheeler-Duff, who has performed on ABC's "The Fall Guy" and appears in the upcoming TV miniseries, "Deadly Intentions," were in court observing on Monday. Both met plaintiffs Dale Sampson and Marty Nathan once.



Singing Their Hearts Out

Geneva Cuthbertson, Shanika Cowan and Latonya Cuthbertson sing "We Are The World" in the final act of a fashion show, sponsored by the Treasure Seekers Ministries, held at the Main Library Auditorium last Friday (photo by James Parker).

Put keepsakes in shady area

Most of us have prized possessions we enjoy displaying, but it may be best to keep these items in the shade, says Dr. Wilma Hammett, extension interior design specialist, NCSU.

"A sunny spot is not the best place to show off your art collection. Sunlight can crack oil pigments, fade water colors and deteriorate paper and canvas in a very short time," Dr. Hammett says.

Paintings aren't the only objects which can be damaged by sunlight. Colors on objects can fade. Some finishes on ceramic lamps and ashtrays may craze, then crack, after prolonged exposure to the sun.

Accessories and furniture can be rotated between shaded and unshaded areas. Turn accessories every few weeks so that the exposure doesn't create dark spots on the furniture underneath the accessories.

Although the sun damages some forms of art, it enhances others. A stained glass design can give bright, non-fading color to the space. A few plants, strategically placed according to light requirements, can add softness and interest to the area.

Press bed sheets with extreme caution

Use care when pressing your sheers. Test the iron's heat, pressure and steam on a fabric scrap. Some sheers need only a dry iron, says Dr. Judy Mock, extension specialist, NCSU.

Use a pressing cloth and press lightly. Enclosed seams should be pressed over a pad or thick towel or ridges may show through to the right side.

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Tips For Consumers

Protect living relatives and possessions by drafting a will

It has been estimated that more than two-thirds of all Americans die without leaving wills. As a result, the final distribution of their worldly possessions is left to the state.

The Better Business Bureau recommends that all adults should have a will, because even in the case of a person with no heirs who wishes to leave the inheritance to charity, a will can insure that the maximum amount goes to the charity rather than to the state.

Although the advice of a lawyer is not required, the BBB recommends that even when a person writes his or her own will a lawyer should review it. A few states now offer do-it-yourself wills, which allow a person to develop a legally correct and binding will by following the directions on a preprinted form.

At the very least, every adult should spend the time to carefully determine what his/her net worth is (listing both assets and liabilities), and thoughtfully write down what he/she wishes to happen to his/her assets after his/her death.

A will should clearly identify who the will is for and who has been selected to carry out the will's directives. This person is called the executor. If you have

minor children, you should also name a guardian for them. Remember that you should speak with those selected for these responsibilities prior to assigning the responsibility.

If you wish to leave certain possessions to someone in particular, this should be clearly stated. If you choose to divide all or the remaining possessions to certain heirs, it is usually best to do so by stating percentages of your worth. This is done because the value of your possessions constantly changes.

Specify where the money, to pay your debts and taxes should come from (for example, the sale of a used car, rather than the sale of a family heirloom).

The BBB lastly recommends that you write your will in clearly understandable language (don't attempt to use legalistic sounding words) and that you type the final version. Sign this version at the end (so no additional wording can be added) and have this signing witnessed by at least two persons who are not beneficiaries (a few states require three). They should also sign the will and be identified as witnesses on the date it is signed. If you have questions, consult with a lawyer, who should also review the final document.

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