

Martin

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executive order which commits the state to take positive measures to assure representation of specific groups in all levels of state employment.

These groups include women, minorities, the handicapped and older persons.

The state Personnel Commission has developed policies and programs to achieve greater representation by these groups, and the director will report to me annually on the progress of the program.

In addition, the North Carolina Human Relations Council is charged with advising and assisting the administration in implementing the Equal Employment Opportunity Program.

This order is directed not just toward hiring, but to all areas of employment activities, including retirement, recruitment, testing, training, transfer, performance appraisal, promotion and other conditions of employment.

This administration and state government are committed to working toward achievement of equal employment opportunities, and this is a process we believe in strongly.

Currently, we have under consideration other measures to strengthen our ability to assure equal employment opportunities for all North Carolina citizens.

Another step we have taken is to encourage all state agencies to

strive toward a goal of placing 2 percent of their purchases and contracts with firms owned by minorities, women and handicapped people.

The goals program is a good-faith effort which, if diligently pursued, could improve many smaller businesses.

This program began July 1 of this year, and after only two months in operation, our goal of 2 percent has been surpassed by another three percent.

Minority business contracts represented 5.1 percent of state contracts in July, and 6 percent in August.

This is outstanding evidence of the program's potential, which we hope will continue to grow.

One area in which the Human Relations Council has achieved significant progress is the field of police-community relations. Two years ago, when the program began, no law enforcement officers in our state received any formal training in dealing with the special needs of the minority community.

Now, after 30 training sessions, 750 law enforcement officers have received two days of instruction in this area, and these officers believe this special training should be a requirement of every recruit before being sworn as an officer.

There are about 7,000 officers in North Carolina. Obviously, we

need to increase our efforts to get more officers trained in community relations.

Throughout our state, we have made tremendous progress in civil rights, and we see evidence of this progress every day. But we also see areas in which progress has been very slow.

Although our children attend integrated schools, and we go to work with people of all races and nationalities, when we come home, most of us come home to segregated neighborhoods.

Whatever gains we have achieved in education and employment, those gains will always be limited if we do not recognize our responsibility to achieve fair and equal housing opportunities.

One of the ways we are working to achieve this goal is through the North Carolina Fair Housing Act, adopted in 1983 and enforced by the Human Relations Council.

People who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination bring their complaints to the council, which conducts an investigation and attempts conciliation. The council also is empowered to take complaints to court.

This year, there will be a greater effort to make citizens aware of their housing rights, and to educate real estate associations about the fair housing law.

North Carolina is extremely

fortunate to have been relatively free of activities conducted by extremist groups. But society has never been totally free of those who commit acts of violence against racial and religious groups.

During 1984, there were 50 documented incidents -- including threats and harassment, rallies and more serious violence -- attributed to extremist groups in North Carolina.

It is vital that we continue to speak out when these acts occur. It is vital that we address these acts with the full force of law.

In a report issued by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission in 1983, it was observed nationally that "there is an indispensable need for strong and unambiguous statements from community leaders and elected officials that acts of racial and religious intimidation will not be tolerated."

The report added that "members of hate groups view themselves as true patriots who stand as the last defenders of the American way. They must learn from repeated public statements, as well as the determined enforcement of the law, that they are the most anti-American among us."

Although the followers of such groups are relatively few in North Carolina, we must keep a constant vigil against social injustice.

In the field of human relations,

North Carolina has been an exemplary leader in the nation. We have taken bold new initiatives to bring all citizens together in a bond of social and economic unity and equity.

This administration's commit-

ment to lighting a new lamp of human relations is real and sincere.

We stand not on words alone. We stand on the basis of our accomplishments, and history will judge us accordingly.

'Bloods': The book Wallace Terry just had to write

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Wallace Terry wrote "Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans" because he had to.

"I didn't want blacks to become invisible soldiers," said Terry, who was in town last Thursday as part of a symposium on the Vietnam War held at Wake Forest University. "There were no blacks in 'Rambo' or 'Missing In Action.' Somebody had to tell their story."

That's just what Terry, a former Vietnam war correspondent, did. Terry first went to Vietnam in 1967 to write a first-hand account of blacks in the military.

"I was convinced that the armed services was the best-integrated segment of our society," said Terry, in an interview with the *Chronicle*.

Later that year, Terry was sent back to Vietnam for a two-year stint as *Time* magazine's deputy chief of its Saigon bureau.

"It was during this period that I decided to write a book about the blacks in Vietnam," said Terry. "Fifteen years later, the book was published."

It took Terry 10 years to complete the story of what he saw in Vietnam. But the manuscript was rejected by 120 publishers. "Nobody wanted to hear about Vietnam then," said Terry.

In 1982, Terry said he was contacted by Random House publishers about compiling an oral history. Terry accepted the assignment and, after one and one-half years of writing and research, "Bloods," the name blacks used to refer to each other, was complete.

Random House only expected to sell 5,000 copies of the book in paperback form, said Terry. To date, however, the book has sold more than 55,000 copies in hardback, has been translated into Dutch, is one of only four books on the Vietnam War to be sold in the Lincoln Memorial, was offered for sale by the Literary Guild and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1984. Terry has also been approached by producers who want to transform the book into a movie and a documentary on the book will be shown on "Frontline," PBS's news magazine, in February in observance of Black History Month.

"'Bloods' is more than a story of war," said Terry of the book. "It's an appeal to the nation to give a rightful place to all veterans. 'Bloods' is an American story and a human story. 'Bloods' may be the best book so far written about the Vietnam War. All Americans need to read this story and the veterans themselves need to read this book. All of us need to understand the Vietnam War so we don't repeat it in Central America."

"Bloods" is a collection of 20 stories as told by Vietnam war veterans such as Gene "The Montagnard" Woodley, whom Terry calls a one-man army. Woodley terrorized the Viet Cong wearing only a lioncloth and greasepaint, and carrying the ears and fingers of the enemy he had killed.

Or the courageous story of Robert L. Mountain, a student at Savannah State College who joined the Army because he was told by a recruiter that he would be in

the marching band. Mountain instead was sent to the front line, better known as "Soulville," and had his leg blown off. In 1982, Mountain competed in the National Amputee Association Olympics and set a world record in the 100-meter run. He has also set another world record and holds four national records and four indoor Canadian records.

"Bob sent his gold medals home to his mother and she placed them next to his purple heart," said Terry.

The success of the book, said Terry, was and still is a surprise to him. But a look over his resume shows that he was destined for success.

He was Nieman fellow, Rockefeller fellow, Howard University professor, special assistant to the commander in chief of the U.S. Air Force in Europe, documentary film producer and an ordained minister of the Disciples of Christ. He also was the first black editor of a major college's newspaper at Brown University. Terry scooped the world when, at only 19 years old, he interviewed Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus during the racial tension in Little Rock. Two days later, the *Washington Post* offered Terry a job. He is now on leave from *USA Today* and has been a guest on "Meet the Press" and "Face The Nation."

Terry is writing another book, entitled "Missing Pages," a "Bloods" on blacks in the media. He is also planning to make "Bloods" part of a trilogy on the Vietnam War.

As a child, Terry said he spent a lot of time in the library; his mission then was to write a book. He wanted to be able to look up

Diane

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nasty looks on campus. I was at the football game and turned around and saw this girl pointing at me. I know she was talking about me. I have the same questions about her death that everybody else has.

"Even at the funeral and the wake, people treated me funny. It was Diane's wake and her funeral, but I was the main attraction. I walked through the door, and people turned around. The preacher was praying and people were whispering. It was Diane's funeral, and they didn't respect her."

Johnson's mother, Irene Johnson, says she is bothered by all the talk about her son and wishes it would stop.

"I didn't raise my son to be no criminal," says Mrs. Johnson. "The way Curtis loved that girl, he

didn't have the heart to do nothing like that."

It's been more than a month now since Diane was found dead, and the questions that were asked then are still unanswered. When the final autopsy results arrive in November, some of the physical questions will be answered. The mental and spiritual ones may linger forever.

"I knew her problems, but I didn't think they had got to that point," says Johnson. "I talked to a preacher about this, and he told me that suicide doesn't come about because of one problem. Suicide comes about because of a lot of pressure. And, when death calls, someone has to answer."

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