

Official: Citadel not racist

By BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, S.C. -- The Citadel is not a racist institution, but the state military college should do more to make students sensitive to the background and beliefs of other races, South Carolina's human affairs commissioner said Monday.

Commissioner Jim Clyburn said programs on human relations, perhaps similar to those used at military bases, will be one of the recommendations the commission will consider this week after a monthlong investigation into the racial atmosphere at the college.

The investigation was sparked by the October hazing of black cadet Kevin Nesmith by five white cadets who entered his room wearing sheets and towels and speaking obscenities. The five left a charred paper cross behind. Nesmith later left the school.

A committee of the Human Affairs Commission is meeting Jan. 15 to consider the investigation's findings and make recommendations for changes at The Citadel. Those recommendations will be considered by the full commission Friday.

Among other things, the committee will consider whether to recommend elimination of the playing of "Dixie" after touchdowns at football games and the waving of the Confederate flag, Clyburn said.

As part of the investigation,

surveys were sent to the 125 blacks who are members of the college's 1,960-member corps of cadets. Some of the survey comments were published in Monday's edition of *The State* newspaper in Columbia.

One black cadet said racial hazing is not a problem, "but I definitely think racial insensitivity is a major problem."

Another said he had been called by a derogatory racial term and found pro-Ku Klux Klan messages in his textbooks, while a third cadet called the campus "a time bomb ready to explode."

But another responding to the survey said he never experienced any racial problems, adding, "I still believe that this is the best institution to get an education and I recommend it highly."

Clyburn said it's clear from the survey that there are mixed opinions among black cadets about racism at The Citadel.

"The question we're all trying to deal with is whether or not there is something institutional about this at The Citadel," he said.

"Our preliminary conclusion is simply that The Citadel has not institutionalized anything," he added. But The Citadel needs to "expand awareness and sensitivity of people's backgrounds and traditions," he said. A committee at the school has been conducting its own investigation into race relations on campus and is expected to report its findings by the end of the month.

Nesmith chooses SCS

By BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, S.C. -- The black cadet who resigned from The Citadel last year after he underwent racial hazing will enroll at South Carolina State College, officials said recently.

Kevin Nesmith plans to register as a freshman for spring semester classes, said Bettylou Terry, the public relations spokeswoman at the college.

"He's an excellent student," she said, adding that Nesmith plans to major in political science.

Nesmith's family attorney, Karen Kennedy, said last Tuesday that Nesmith "looked at several other colleges in the state as well as in several other states. He just liked South Carolina State. He found it friendly, and he felt

comfortable with it."

South Carolina State College, in Orangeburg, is a predominantly black institution with a student enrollment of about 4,000.

Nesmith was the object of a racial hazing last fall when five white cadets entered his barracks room at The Citadel wearing sheets and towels and speaking obscenities. The five left a charred paper cross behind.

For their part in the Oct. 23 incident, the five whites were confined to campus for the remainder of the school year and ordered to walk 195 hour-long punishment marches.

Nesmith later resigned from the 143-year-old state military college, saying he was "mentally drained" by harassment by other cadets sparked by widespread publicity about the incident.

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Jackson speaks in Pontiac on issue of 'economic justice'

By The Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. -- The Rev. Jesse Jackson says the social justice movement of the 1950s and '60s has given way to a drive for economic justice.

"The dislocation of farmers, autoworkers, steelworkers, rubber and textile workers has cut across social, racial and religious lines," Jackson said late last week.

"There is a cloud of desperation setting in across the middle and the bottom of the economy," he said. "Just as social justice was the central issue of the 1950s and 1960s, economic justice is the

central issue of the 1980s and 1990s."

Despite Jackson's appearance at the invitation of Mayor Walter Moore, a labor rally at the Pontiac City Hall failed to materialize. Mayors James Sharp of Flint and Lawrence Crawford of Saginaw, who were scheduled to attend, didn't show up.

General Motors Corp. has announced that two of its plants in Pontiac will close, affecting about 4,000 jobs and \$1 million in annual property taxes.

"I think it's one great opportunity that Jesse Jackson has come to Pontiac to focus regional and national attention to the problem," Moore said.

Briefly

From Page A1

Johnson was charged with disorderly conduct and resisting an officer.

Johnson said that, on Dec. 22, he saw a car that Ms. Davis was driving scrape a parked car. He said he stopped as a witness.

"When the police came on the scene Officer Kearns started yelling at Ms. Davis. She was shouting at her and up in her face real close," he said. "She (Ms. Davis) was shouted at and yelled at like she was some child. I tried to talk to the officer and let her know she didn't have to treat Ms. Davis like that. She (Ms. Kearns) didn't like that at all."

Johnson said Ms. Kearns grabbed Ms. Davis, later pushed her and finally arrested them both.

Walter Marshall, president of the city's NAACP, said filing charges in such cases is "one of our new approaches to deal with police brutality."

Acting police Chief George Sweat declined to comment on the case.

In a related case, the Board of Aldermen's Public Safety Committee ruled Monday night that two female officers did not cause the August 1985 death of a local man, Leroy Simmons.

Simmons, 21, of 2312 Glenn Ave., died 11 days after he was arrested by police.

The two officers, S.M. Milton and T.T. Keys, have resigned from the police department.

instead of countywide districts, are being cited as a major factor in Georgia's sharp increase in black elected officials.

"Once you go to the districts, it's tantamount to guaranteeing minority representation," said Clarke County Commissioner John Jeffries, who heads the black caucus of the Association of Black Elected Officials of Georgia.

The number of black officials in Georgia is now about 400, according to the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials.

Rep. Calvin Smyre, D-Columbus, said the figure is up 40 percent from 1980, when he became president of the association.

Despite the increase, fewer than 7 percent of the 6,000 elected officials in Georgia are black, although one-fourth of the state's population is black.

"It's hard to play catch-up and keep up," Smyre said. "That's the Catch-22. From the numerical standpoint, it's encouraging, but we've still got a lot of room for improvement."

In recent years, legal challenges to North Carolina counties without single-member districts have become more common.

The Winston-Salem NAACP has filed a suit against Forsyth County, alleging that countywide elections discriminate against black candidates.

Only one black person has ever served on the city-county school board or the county commissioners, both of which are elected county wide.

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