

**To Aid Wilmington 10**

**Black Cultural**

**Festival Set Schedule**

The N.C. Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression co-ordinator Anne Mitchell announced today plans for a Black Cultural Festival to be held on the St. Augustine campus in Raleigh on August 14.

**300 Attend Disco**

**To Benefit**

**Wilmington 10**

By Jacquie Levister  
Post Staff Writer  
The Excelsior Club accommodated over 300 disco goers at a benefit for the Wilmington 10 defendants.

June C. Davenport, sister of Rev. Ben Chavis, welcomed the participants and informed them of the progress of the case. T.J. Reddy of the Charlotte Three, gave an original work on "political awareness" and the CBS 60 minutes TV Documentary on the Wilmington 10 was shown by Disco Coordinator Robert Patton.

The Wilmington 10 include the Rev. Ben Chavis, eight black former Wilmington students and a white female anti-poverty worker, who were sentenced to serve a total of 282 years in prison following racial unrest over desegregation of Wilmington schools in 1971.

The 10 were recently denied a new trial, after each of the state's 3 main witnesses charged that they were coerced into lying against the Ten at the 1972 trial by the prosecution. A white minister and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Templeton testified at the hearing that Rev. Chavis and several members of the Ten were in his home at the time of the alleged burning.

Other activities for the Wilmington 10 include: over two thousand members of the United Church of Christ' General Synod march in Washington and rally held in front of the White House, in support of the 10 in July.

Late in July, Golden Frinks of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference led and completed a 150 mile march from Wilmington to the Raleigh Capitol grounds. The culmination of this event was a 15 minute conference of the mothers of the 10 with N.C. Governor Jim Hunt.

Sunday, August 14, 1977 is being recognized by supporters as Wilmington 10 Sunday. It is hoped that churches, organizations and individuals will help through special prayers and contributions. A Cultural Festival will be held on the St. Augustine's College Campus, in Raleigh also on the 14th.

For further information or contributions please contact; The Wilmington Ten Defense, 3234 Banbury Drive, Charlotte, N.C. 28216.

**Piedmont Gas Files**

**Registration Statement**

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte will present a CPA review beginning August 29 and covering auditing, accounting theory and accounting practice.

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The festival, presenting various forms of Black culture, including jazz, art, dance, drama and poetry reading, is being held to demonstrate North Carolina artists' support for the freedom of the Wilmington 10 and the struggle to end racist and political repression in North Carolina. Donating their time and talent free of charge, artists include jazz musician Rachium Ausar-Sahu; Gospel singer Ed Hall, and The Gospel Inspirations, founded and co-ordinated by Mrs. Mamie Pope.

Ms. Mitchell, speaking of the program, stated, "This August will mark 1 1/2 years that Rev. Ben Chavis and the Wilmington 10 have been incarcerated. Last August we chose one Sunday to be called Wilmington 10 Sunday. This August we will do the same, but this time we want to express our support and continued struggle through Black culture. We want to show that the struggle to end the suppression of the Black cultural movement in this country has been and is part of the struggle for liberation of Blacks, other peoples of color, and for all poor people, Black as well as white.

Organizing the festival are Rachium Ausar-Sahu; Pat Funderburk; Anne Mitchell; Walter Norflett of WVSP-FM radio; Skip Quick, Festival Co-ordinator; and Dot Thompson.

The Black Cultural Festival will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, August 14, at St. Augustine's campus. A dollar donation is asked to continue the work of the Alliance to free the Wilmington 10.

**Gray Joins**

**Merrill Lynch**

Walter C. Gray has joined Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc. as an account executive in the local office here at 1410 Jefferson First Union Plaza. It was announced this week by John C. Engler, resident vice president of the world's largest securities company.

A recent graduate of the intensive training program at Merrill Lynch's New York headquarters, Gray has passed the rigorous registration examinations of the New York Stock Exchange

Gray was graduated from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro in 1972 with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. He and his wife, Patricia, live with their one child at 2107 Canterwood Drive in Charlotte.



June C. Davenport, sister of Rev. Ben Chavis, talks about the Wilmington Ten Case, as Disc Jockey Andy Wallace and group assist at a Disco Benefit for the Ten in Charlotte, recently.

**James Ferguson**

**Wilmington 10 Counsel To**

**Meet With Governor Jim Hunt**

By Jacquie Levister  
Post Staff Writer  
James Ferguson, chief counsel for the Wilmington 10, and Governor James Hunt were scheduled to meet and discuss the fate of the Wilmington 10 defendants on Wednesday, August 10 at 4 p.m.

Hunt will be asked to grant the 10 pardons of innocence. A statement made by E.B. Turner, a top official of the N.C. Democratic Party said Hunt would most likely respond to a petition for pardoning the Wilmington 10 if legal appeals were dropped.

"I would make a recommendation at this point. I think that the attorneys for the Wilmington 10 ought to seek a conference with the governor and say to him, Mr. Governor, now you have said that because of the litigation of the Wilmington 10 you would not act until that is over, how about if we decide as representatives of the defense that we will cease and end the litigation. Would you act and if so how would you act?" Turner asked.

Turner continued, "That would give the governor a chance to respond and they would pull him off the seat and they would end the litigation and let him act. It would be appropriate now, they need to say that and they could put him on the spot and let him know that a decision on his part might end litigation."

Hunt's response to reporters and to mothers of the Wil-

ilmington 10 who met with him on July 20 has been that it would not be appropriate for him to intervene in the case as long as it is in the courts.

Ferguson said that what the defense will do depends largely upon Hunt's actions. "Number one we have got to know whether he's willing to do anything at all and we don't know that yet."

Mrs. Delores Moore, mother of Wilmington 10 defendant Wayne Moore, told a reporter that Ferguson advised them that final action in the case might take as long as four to five years. Already the case has been on appeal in the N.C. Court of Appeals, the N.C. Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. All have denied relief from the 282 year combined sentence imposed upon the 10 for their 1972 conviction of firebombing a white-owned grocery store in Wilmington in 1971. The charges grew out of Kl Klux Klan and Rights of White People (a paramilitary organization) attacks on school children who were boycotting classes in the Wilmington-New Hanover school system.

Rev. Leon White, director of the N.C.-Va. Commission for Racial Justice has suggested that the North Carolina Human Relations Commission serve as a "mediator" between Hunt and the attorneys. Ferguson said he doesn't need a mediator because he has open lines of communication with Hunt. The Commission does not fit the requirements

of a mediator in most disputes. The Commission serves at Hunt's pleasure and its staff is Hunt's staff.

Hunt could exercise several options in response to the pardon request, including (1) commuting sentences to time already served in prison; (2) pardoning the Wilmington 10 on either arson charges or conspiracy to assault emergency officials charges; (3) granting pardons of innocence (meaning the Wilmington 10 were not guilty of charges); (4) granting pardons of forgiveness (which means Hunt believes they were guilty but for other reasons believes they should be released from prison); or take no action at all.

According to Ferguson, "anything other than a pardon of innocence would be presented to the defendants and their families and a decision at that time will have to be made as to either drop litigation or continue in the court of appeals."

**Delta Sigma Theta**

**Sorority Will Hold**

**Planning Session**

The 5-Point Project Committee of the Charlotte Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority will hold a planning session on Monday, August 15, at the Greenville Neighborhood Center. At the 7:30 meeting, there will be representatives from various agencies presenting their needs for public service.

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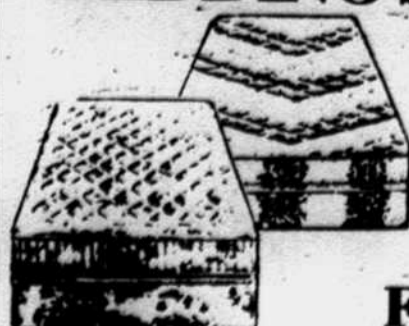


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