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Rev. Jackson Says Real Story Of Unemployment Is Not Being Told

March For Dignity Set For May 17

By Eileen Hanson
Special To The Post

A national march for Dignity and Justice will take place Saturday, May 17, in Laurel, Miss. in support of 200 workers, mostly black women, who have been on strike at Sanderson Farms poultry plant for the last 15 months.

Over 10,000 people are expected to come to the small Mississippi town, representing a broad range of civil rights, labor and women's organizations, including the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Equal Right Congress, the National Organization for Women, the Grey Panthers, and several state and local AFL-CIO unions.

"We were slaves on that plantation," said Gloria Jordan, a union member, who recently spoke to Charlotte's WSOC "Reaction" program. "But we got tired of that, so we left that plantation and went on strike. We really feel it's a question of human dignity."

According to Ms. Jordan workers are allowed to go to the bathroom only three times a week, and then only after explaining to their foreman why they wanted to go. The women also complained about sexual harassment from male supervisors.

Safety measures are almost non-existent, strikers claim. Dull and rusty knives often cause accidents as they race to cut up a quota of five chickens a minute, and the production line is almost moving faster.

Wages are only the minimum - \$3.10 per hour, but when a worker starts the day, there is no guarantee how many hours she or he will be required to stay. Sometimes there is not even a full day's work; on other days there is mandatory overtime; and if a worker refuses to stay, she is counted absent for the day.

Mrs. Downey is a member of the Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. There she serves as Director of the Missions Department and Vice chairperson of the expansion drive.

She is married to Nathaniel Downey and is the mother of four children.

Also at the 11 a.m. service the Mayfield "Woman of the Year" for 1980 will be announced. The "Woman of the Year" will be chosen by secret ballot. Last year's "Women of the Year" were Mrs. H. S. Diggs and Mrs. Margie Squash. They received the same number of votes.

The Sunday 6 p.m. service will have as guest speaker Mrs. Velma Smith, a charter member of Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church. She is a member of the Hostess Committee, a member of the Deaconsess Board and principle owner of the Smith-Lowry Insurance Agency.

The entire Sunday activities will feature the women of the church. Women will teach all Sunday School classes, direct and preside over the worship services and serve as ushers.

Last Sunday the "Mother of the Year" was decided by secret ballot.



Back in Charlotte after their recent trip to the Bahamas are Uhuru Sasa leaders Khadijah A. Abdullah and Glenda Wright, and members Khadijah T. Abdullah, Willette Thomas, Hedona Todd, and Sharee Thomas. Not pictured is Karen Moss. (photo by Eileen Hanson)

5 Say Bahamas Visit Was Trip Well Worth Taking

By Eileen Hanson
Special To The Post

It's a long journey from Piedmont Courts on East 7th Street to the streets of Nassau, Bahamas. But according to 5 young Charlotteans, it's a trip well worth taking.

Members of Uhuru Sasa (meaning "Freedom Now") presented a slide-tape show about their recent trip to parents and friends Sunday, May 11, at the African-American Cultural Center.

The youth group, headed by Khadijah A. Abdullah, visited the Caribbean nation April 10-16 as part of the Pan African Equity Experience, a program developed by Ms. Abdullah to introduce black girls to their historical and cultural roots.

The participants were Karen Moss (13), Hedona Todd (12), Sharee Thomas (11), Willette Thomas (9), and Khadijah T. Abdullah (8). Ms. Abdullah and Charlotte Observer reporter Glenda Wright accompanied the girls.

The trip was not without problems: a last minute trip change from Jamaica to the Bahamas, lost luggage in Miami, cameras that didn't adjust automatically to the bright tropical sun, strange foods, new insects and unusual customs.

But each hurdle was met as a challenge and a learning experience. Each girl kept a daily journal of her thoughts about the trip. Each expressed a favorite part of the trip.

Sharee Thomas liked going to the beach, swimming in the ocean for the first time, and taking a boat ride on the ocean.

The Queen's staircase, 65 steps of solid rock, was Hedona Todd's favorite site. It was built by slaves when the Bahamas was a British colony.

Visiting schools was Khadijah T. Abdullah's favorite experience. "The children there are just like us, except they wear uniforms," she said.

Willette Thomas liked "spending the night at Miss Patsy's house." The group stayed with Patsy Roberts, Ms. Abdullah's aunt.

Other excursions included visits to the straw market, the fruit market, and a local church.

Without exception the girls want to travel again, but they can't agree on a destination - California, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. or Jamaica.

Ms. Abdullah founded Uhuru Sasa last year as an

educational program for black youths to learn more about African and the experiences of blacks in the Americas.

A new class will begin next month. For more information contact Dar es Salaam store, 322 N. Tryon St.

The \$1,000 for the trip was raised by selling pens and chicken dinners, and through donations from generous friends and organizations, including Winn-Dixie, WBT, Attorney James Campbell, Glenda Wright, Carolyn St. Clair, Val Ralston, Janie Tucker, Florence Hudson and Myers Park Presbyterian Church.

Plato Price

Graduates Invited

To Meet Saturday

Graduates and alumni of Plato Price High School are invited to a meeting to be held Saturday, May 17,

at 7 p.m. at Moores Sanctuary AME Zion Church, 4100 Morrisfield Dr.

Plans will be made for the upcoming reunion, July 5 at the Quality Inn, 2015 McDowell St.

JCSU is in its 113th year. It was founded in 1867 as Biddle Institute with close affiliations with the Presbyterian Church.

Attic Sale

A giant Attic Treasures and Antiques Sale will be held Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Sherwin Williams Decorating World (across from SouthPark Shopping Center).

Sponsored by the Charlotte Opera Association, the attic sale will offer many values to the public.

Joblessness Showing

Largest Spurt Since 1975

By Rev. Jesse L. Jackson
Special To The Post

In light of the unemployment figures released last week by the U.S. Department of Labor showing the largest spurt in joblessness since the recession of 1975, we must ask this question: For whom does this bell most ominously toll?

According to the Bureau of Labor statistics, the jump in unemployment from 6.2 percent in March to 7 percent in April means that the bell tolls for seven and a half million people "officially" unemployed.

But since the Bureau counts all persons who have been employed for four hours or more during one month as employed, this new unemployment figure, as threatening as it may sound, does not begin to reflect the real level of economic distress. For several reasons we contend that there are more serious indices of the nation's economic malady than we are led to believe by the admittedly distressing official figures. These include:

(A) MINORITY UNEMPLOYMENT: The statistics reported for blacks and other minorities reveal the fallacies of the unemployment count. The Administration reports 12.6 percent as the unemployment rate for non-whites, but the National Urban League has disclosed that it is closer to 23 percent, particularly if the discouraged job-seekers who have given up are counted. And this higher actual figure brings into question the Administration's claim that unemployment among black teenagers defied the trend and improved from 33 percent in March to 29.8 percent in April. Until there is a more realistic measurement of the jobless picture in the impoverished black communities, we cannot help but remain cautious concerning this one apparent bright spot in the unemployment figures.

(B) ADMINISTRATION PROJECTIONS: Washington officials originally predicted that unemployment would not reach the level it has until the end of the year, a prediction that has proven to be false and unreliable. The so-called "short and mild" recession predicted by the Administration has all the appearances of a severe depression. Indeed, such economic czars as Alfred Kahn, head of the council on wage and price stability, and Herbert Stein, a Ford Administration economist, admitted that unemployment will likely reach the eight or even nine percent level before the year is out.

(C) ECONOMIC TRENDS IN INDUSTRIAL STATES: The U.S. auto industry is going through one of its deepest crises since the Great Depression. When the announcement from the Dearborn, Michigan headquarters of that Ford was closing its sprawling 180-acre assembly plant in Mahwah, New Jersey, idling 3,732 workers at its largest plant in North America, recession ripples were felt throughout New Jersey, southern New York state and Michigan. And as one of the five wealthiest industrial states, Illinois faces heavier unemployment than the national average. At least 400,000 workers are without jobs, 31,000 of them having last their jobs during the month of April and more are expected to become unemployed in May. Trends like those of Wisconsin Steel, which plunged into bankruptcy, idling over 3,500 workers, are expected to continue in the foreseeable future.

These indices of the nation's economic well being, we feel, indicate a far more serious problem than is revealed in the Administration's statistics. These indices demand more realistic projections of inflation and unemployment -- projections that are not based only upon "official" figures.

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ATTRACTIVE JACQUELINE DAVIS
...Loves to sing

Jacqueline Davis

Is Beauty Of Week

By Teresa Burns
Post Staff Writer

In 1974 our beauty, Jacqueline Davis was on her way home to Charlotte. After performing in New York with a group called "Angels" it was virtually impossible for her to forget her love for singing.

Upon returning to Charlotte, Ms. Davis found herself again in the spotlight, winning first place in various talent shows around the city. Even if the spotlight was labeled national our beauty would be more than willing to stand beneath it.

"I could find someone to listen, I know I would want to be a professional singer, actress, or write poems," Ms. Davis admitted.

One of her loves is indeed singing, but there is something else she loves to do as well. "I love to meet people," she began, "I go to Marshall Park and I love looking at kids."

She also enjoys tennis, handball, swimming and basketball. "I like to sit and watch basketball. If I could play I'd try to get into it," she commented.

Our Sagittarian beauty graduated from Jamaica High School in New York and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Harville of Charlotte. She has three

sisters and five brothers. Barnard Belk is Ms. Davis' favorite person. "I like his attitude," she explained. "I admire him for what he is and not for what he is trying to do."

At the age of 24, Ms. Davis believes that men can be bossy. If she could change anything in this world this is what it would be: "I would change a man. Most men are bossy and I don't like to be bossed around."

This attitude may stem from Ms. Davis' determination to make her many dreams come true. "I want to be a winner - going up in life and never coming back down - yet never forgetting who I am."

As far as identifying with a fellow actress, Ms. Davis feels that Cydely Tyson is a superb example. "She is unique and I like the way she carries herself," Ms. Davis remarked. She also feels that "Roots" revealed information everyone should know about.

Whether our beauty ends up beneath a national spotlight or stays right where she is, she has already revealed that she will never forget who she is, or disregard the love for people. That alone keeps her in a special type of spotlight.

Here Sunday

Mayfield Memorial Will

Celebrate Woman's Day

Woman's Day will be celebrated at Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church Sunday, May 18, at 11 a.m. The church will have the pleasure of hearing Dr. Aurelia Downey, president of the Nannie Helen Burroughs School in Washington, D.C.

She is a graduate of Virginia State College where she received her Bachelor's Degree. She did further study at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky and received her Master's Degree in Religious Education. The American Bible College of New York, N.Y., conferred the honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree for her fine work and interest in humanity.

The entire Sunday activities will feature the women of the church. Women will teach all Sunday School classes, direct and preside over the worship services and serve as ushers.

Last Sunday the "Mother of the Year" was decided by secret ballot.

To make a DREAM COME TRUE don't ever SLEEP!

J.C. Smith Commencement

Exercises Will Be Held Sunday

Commencement exercises for graduating seniors at Johnson C. Smith University will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 18, at Ovens Auditorium.

Guest speaker will be Mary Frances Berry, professor of history at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Berry served as the Assistant Secretary for Education in the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare from April, 1977 until January, 1980. For a period, she served as Acting U.S. Commissioner of Education.

As Assistant Secretary of Education, Dr. Berry headed the Education Division of HEW and administered an annual budget of nearly \$13 billion.



Dr. Mary Frances Berry ...Commencement speaker

Prior to her service at HEW, Dr. Berry was Chancellor of the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she was also professor of history and law.

Dr. Berry was born in Nashville, Tenn., where

she attended public school. She earned both bachelor's and master's degrees at Howard University and received the juris doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School. She has held faculty appointments at Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, the University of Maryland, College Park, and the University of Michigan. She is also a member of the Bar of the District of Columbia.

Dr. Berry is also well known for her scholarly works in constitutional history and civil rights law publications.

Some 190 seniors are expected to receive degrees during the ceremony.

John M. Belk, former Charlotte mayor and president of Belk Stores, Inc.,

will receive an honorary doctoral degree. Belk is also chairman of the university's capital fund campaign that was launched last November.

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Sponsored by the Charlotte Opera Association, the attic sale will offer many values to the public.



John Anthony
...Interested in science

Anthony Hailed

As "Creative

Genius"

Hailed as a "creative genius" at the Energy Fair held here in November, Alexander Junior High student John Anthony recently won awards in a statewide science competition.

At a contest sponsored by the North Carolina Student Academy of Science, Anthony received the Carolina Energy Educators

Award for the best project on a junior high level.

He also won the North Carolina State University School of Engineering award for the best engineering project.

His solar meter and re-charger first won him honors at the district competition in March and later state recognition.

Anthony, 14, who is president of his school's science club designed a solar air conditioner and converter which was displayed at the Energy Fair.

Some local buildings have expressed interest in putting the solar air conditioner into new homes. The eighth grader is now seeking a patent.

Anthony is the oldest of five children and the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Anthony.

"He's always been interested in science," Mrs. Anthony commented. "He tears things apart, puts them back together again to see how they work."

The youth is a member of Berean 7th Day Adventist Church.

According to his mother, Anthony desires a career in engineering.