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THE CHARLOTTE POST

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State Urged To Enforce Anti-Klan Law

By Jalyne Strong
Post Managing Editor

"Did you know that the North Carolina Constitution prohibits groups like the Ku Klux Klan?"

"Why is the Klan allowed to break the North Carolina law? Are Mayor Gantt and City Council encouraging these law breakers by granting a permit for this march?"

These questions were asked on a printed flyer Aileen Hansen of the Equal Rights Council was passing out to spectators at the July 4 march and rally of the Ku Klux Klan in Charlotte.

On the flyer was also printed Article 1, Section 12 of the NC Constitution Declaration of Rights which states: "The people have a right to assemble together to consult for their common good, to instruct their representatives, and to apply to the General Assembly for redress of grievance; but secret political societies are dangerous to the liberties of free people and shall not be tolerated."

Hansen and the other members of the Equal Rights Council feel this law is strong enough, if enforced, to end Klan rallies in North Carolina.

But the state and local law officials are not listening to them.

The Ku Klux Klan has turned the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, which guarantees the State's protection for black people and other minorities, inside out.

"Through a sophist manipulation of the Due Process Clause in the same Fourteenth Amendment, the Klan has city managers, police chiefs, mayors, and even the State Attorney General capitulating timidly to their form letter which innocently requests a permit to parade down the main streets of North Carolina cities," writes Alan McSurely, Co-Director of Plowshares Projects, Inc.

McSurely has written a paper on the Klan and the anti-Klan provision in the NC Constitution which, entered in 1875, revised in 1971, remains in the law today. In the paper, McSurely argues "that the anti-Klan provisions of the North Carolina Constitution and statutes are potent tools for denying Klan parade permits in North Carolina."

Members of the Equal Rights Council, who staged an Anti-Klan Rally in Charlotte a week before the KKK march, feel McSurely's argument is sound. They just don't understand why no law makers are willing to do anything about it.

The Equal Rights Council and McSurely appear to be operating in the shadow of a state which does not intend to try to stop the Ku Klux Klan. This idea is backed by a 1986 report released by North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence (NCARRV) which called for "stronger state leadership to oppose continuing high levels of Klan activity."

The NCARRV's report for 1986 cited continuing levels of Klan/Nazi activity and bigoted incidents in North Carolina. It listed 86 recorded violent/illegal inci-



Charlotteans gathered in an Anti-Klan rally to express their sentiments toward the bigoted, violent organization. Some believe anti-Klan laws

in the N.C. Constitution can end the Klan's increased activity in this state.



The July 4 Ku Klux Klan rally, held in downtown Charlotte brought police protection out in force, as

the city government strives to protect the group's First Amendment rights.

dents "apparently motivated by bigotry or perpetrated by known members of hate groups. These incidents include:

crossburnings	11
shooting/assault/rape	6
death	1
death robbery	2
perjury/contempt	3
threats/vandalism	12
/arson	

The report also cited that Klan groups marched and rallied 54 times in North Carolina in 1986, up 64 percent over 1985. Adding, "Comparisons between 1985 and 1986 show more activity, covering more of the state, and more violent fallout."

Mecklenburg is one of 15 North Carolina counties that has shown the highest recorded levels of hate group activity and bigoted violence in 1986, according to the report.

Two such incidents in Mecklenburg include: The arrest of Klan member James Haskell who was charged with taking indecent liberties with the 14-year-old daughter of another Klans-

men. When the police searched Haskell's home they found a small arsenal of weapons (grenades, hand guns, shot guns, armor-piercing bullets, night scopes, and a least two stolen guns).

And, the fact of Klan organizing in South Charlotte which is associated with the incident of Rosa McCall, a black woman with four children, who moved from her South Charlotte neighborhood after someone breaks a window in the house, dumps dead fish in the back yard, and places a five-foot wooden cross next to the mailbox.

Incidents such as these are cropping up all over North Carolina. But none are as alarming or as revealing of the true nature of Klan groups as the testimony of ex-Klansmen James Holder at the trial of Glen Miller.

Holder testified that Miller's strategy was to use Lee County, NC, as a "stronghold for a racist insurrection planned for 1991."

He also testified that he had obtained \$50,000 from the White Patriot Party (Klan affiliate) for an array of weapons: dynamite, claymore mines, 100-200 pounds of explosives, AR-15 rifles, MAC machine pistols and chemical warfare items. Holder said the WPP had buried these weapons, sealed in containers, in wooded areas throughout the Piedmont.

The NCARRV states in its report, "Most law enforcement officials interviews show an alarmingly consistent lack of knowledge about white supremacist organizations and ideology...Most were not aware of paramilitary training being promoted by extremists in their areas."

McSurely's paper, which es-

entially delves into the history of the anti-Klan laws, explaining why they were needed and also why they still are necessary, also points out that "In 1953 the North Carolina legislature passed the "anti-Ku Klux statute which defines a 'secret political society' and makes it unlawful in North Carolina to join, apply for membership in, organize, or solicit for or assist in any way any secret political society, secret military society or secret society

having for a purpose violating or circumventing the laws of the state."

But it remains, reports the NCARRV, "There are some serious inadequacies in our ability to respond to bigoted violence and intimidation in North Carolina at all levels of government."

While it appears state and local officials and now even the majority of Charlotte's black citi-

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Civil Rights Symposium

Durham, NC - The North Carolina Central University School of Law will host a two-day Civil Rights Law and Advocacy Symposium July 16-17. The program will bring together civil rights lawyers and community advocates from throughout the Southeast for a review of the state of civil rights.

Sponsors of the symposium include the NCCU law school along with Legal Services of North Carolina, Inc., the Legal Services Southeast Training Center, the North Carolina Human Relations Commission, the South Carolina State Support Center, the Virginia Poverty Law Center, the North Carolina Clients Council, Legal Services of Western Carolina, Inc. (a South Carolina agency), the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) CASJC Project, the United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice, and the North Carolina Legal Services Resource Center.

Information about the symposium is available from Nelda Wright, ISNC, Post Office Box 26087, Raleigh NC 27611 (Phone 919 832-2046).

Topics for discussion include fair housing, women's rights, racial violence, voting rights, access to municipal services, and police violence.

Invited to serve as presenters are Leah Wise of Southerners for Economic Justice; Mab Segrest of North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence; Carolyn Coleman, North Carolina State NAACP Director; G. K. Butterfield of the law firm of Fitch, Butterfield & Wynn; Roslyn Gray, private attorney and consultant of Washington, DC; Irving Joyner, associate dean of the NCCU law school and president of the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers; Don Saunders of the North Carolina Legal Services Resource Center; and Roberta Wright, in private practice in Rock Hill, SC.

For further information, call: 919-832-2046 (Raleigh)

"White Girl" Films In North Carolina

Tony Brown's new film will be made in Durham

Tony Brown, columnist, television host and new filmmaker, announced today that his first full-length feature film titled, "The White Girl" will be filmed in Durham, NC.

At a press conference held in Raleigh, Brown, joined by Governor Jim Martin, informed the public about plans to film "The White Girl" in Durham, specifically on the campuses of North Carolina Central University and Duke University.

Brown selected North Carolina over six competing states as the site for the filming which will take place in September.

"We are honored that a man of Mr. Brown's accomplishments has chosen North Carolina to be the site for this film," Governor Martin said.

"Tony Brown is undertaking a film that brings a serious message to North Carolina and the nation in several ways," Martin added. "First, its anti-drug theme carries obvious importance. The plans he has developed for distribution of the movie also offers economic opportunities to black entrepreneurs, promoters and non-profit organizations."

The winner of numerous awards for his national television series on PBS, Brown says "The White Girl" is scheduled for release in theaters across the country in early 1988.

He explains the movie's story line relating, "The White Girl" is a double entendre. It's the street name for cocaine and, in the movie, the way a young black woman sees herself. In this case, self-hatred contributed to the drug addiction. Both are problems. One leads to the other.



Tony Brown says the first "Buy Freedom" movie will give local black entrepreneurs a chance to distribute the film in their areas.

"That's why it's a love story with a love yourself them," adds Brown, who wrote the original screenplay and will direct the movie.

Brown claims the movie will provide black actors with some of the best dramatic roles in years. However, final decisions on the leading characters have not been made.

From financing through production a marketing of video-cassettes--the picture will be controlled by Tony Brown Productions, Inc.

The movie will also serve as a vehicle for black economic development. Brown, an exponent of self-help and chairman of the Buy Freedom campaign, a national network of black-owned firms, says this production will also create a "movie-making opportunity" for black entrepreneurs, promoters and non-profit organizations.

"For the first time," says Brown, "black entrepreneurs and organizations will be offered a role in the marketing of a movie in their own locality or state.

Lowery And King Appointed To UNC-Charlotte Trustee Board

Raleigh -- Governor James G. Martin has appointed Bobby Lowery of Charlotte and Margaret R. King of Charlotte to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Board of Trustees. Lowery replaces James Fry and King replaces Elizabeth Koontz. Both will serve until June 30, 1991.

Lowery, 54, graduated from Carver Junior College. He is the president of Better Cleaning Maintenance Supply.

He is a member of the Business Advisory Board at UNC-C, the Board of Directors of Cities in Schools and Board of Directors of Building Service Contractors International.

King graduated from Duke University in 1947. She is a member of the State Board of Elections,



Bobby Lowery...New trustee member and a previous member of the UNC-C Board of Trustees.

The UNC-C advises the University Administration on policy matters and adopts the rules and regulations which govern the school.

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Blacks File Suit Against Memorial

You may have a claim to file if you were a minority employee of Charlotte Memorial Hospital who was hired between October of 1973 and June 1983.

Attorneys Johnathan Wallas and Michael Sheely are encouraging any employee of Memorial Hospital who filed a claim of discrimination in respect to their initial job assignment, in respect to not being transferred, in respect to being terminated or in respect to retaliation to contact their offices. Wallas' number is 375-8461 and Sheely can be reached at 376-1608.