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The Charlotte Post

Vol. 14, No. 34 Thursday, February 9, 1989 THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY" 50 Cents

Mandela's Daughter: Jailing Is 'Painful'

By M.L. LANEY
Post Staff Writer

Maki Mandela, daughter of imprisoned South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela, was in Charlotte to deliver a lecture at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte last night.

Mandela is a doctoral student at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Her arrival coincided with the latest international news about South Africa's detainees.

A group of more than 228 black youths (mostly members of the banned Young African National Congress) have reportedly engaged in a hunger strike.

The strike is intended to protest the two years they have been imprisoned without trial. The youth have vowed to see this "life and death issue" through to its logical conclusion if the government does not respond.

With this as a backdrop, Mandela addressed the sparse group of television and news reporters on her purpose for coming to

Charlotte.

A woman who's bearing reflected the courageous, Mandela didn't have any surprises to offer her listeners.

She gave an impromptu preview of her planned remarks which centered on the adversity that she has endured as a black woman living under apartheid.

She anticipated questions regarding the long-hoped-for release of her father.

Mandela suggested that South African officials were merely going back and forth between Pretoria and her father's prison cell.

She said, "There has been little real movement by the government on this matter."

In another reference to her father, a reporter asked if she had been allowed to visit her father, who has been imprisoned for more than 25 years.

She complained about the restrictions imposed on family visitations. "It is such a painful experience, because to visit we must communicate by telephone as we are separated by a thick,

glass partition."

Mandela said nothing to suggest the will to free Nelson Mandela and rid South Africa of apartheid had subsided in her homeland.

She expressed the hope that through her lectures and discussions concerned Americans might be better informed about South African conditions.

By providing them with firsthand information about the cruelties of apartheid, Mandela hopes to encourage American citizens to take a more active part in pressuring their elected officials for change.

Ultimately she sees this as a means of altering the foreign policy of the United States regarding South Africa's human rights abuses under apartheid.

In June she said it was her intention to return to South Africa. Meanwhile, she will continue to lecture across the United States. "This," she said, "will be my part of the struggle to counter the misinformation that is constantly coming from the racist regime of South Africa."

The situation in South Africa has generated a world-wide outcry. The efforts of Bishop Desmond Tutu have only served to provide the world with information that South Africa's government has sought to suppress.

Nonetheless, the continuous pressure has had little effect on official policy in or out of South Africa.

The showing of a play titled "Sarafina" recently underlined the torment of South Africa's millions of black children. Members of the outlawed Africa National Congress (ANC) have expressed the desire to work toward a more meaningful dialogue. So far the government steadfastly refuses to negotiate with the ANC.

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte arranged the scheduling of Mandela's lecture in conjunction with other activities celebrating Black History Month.



Mandela Photo/LANEY

Despite Trends, UNCC Has Racial Cooperation

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

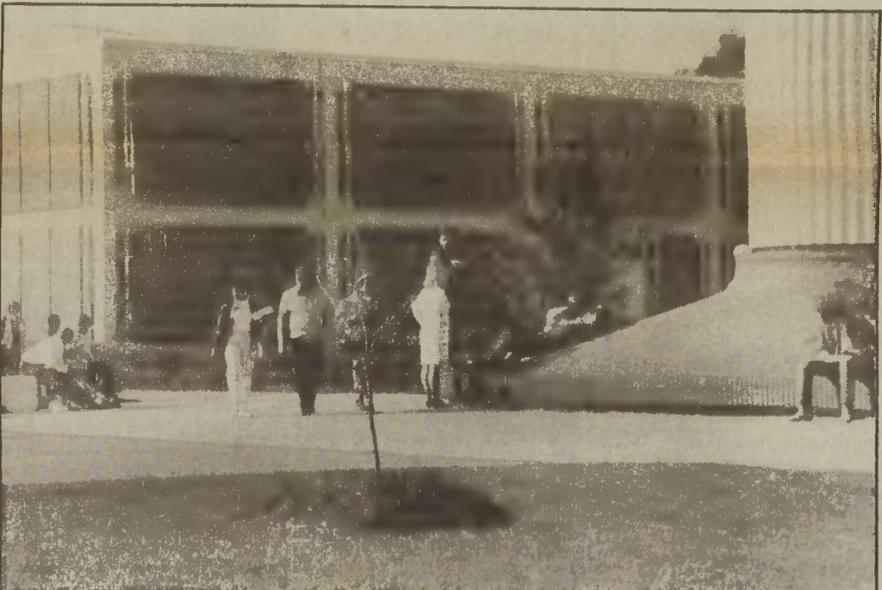
Despite a resurgence of racial incidents at predominantly white campuses nationwide, UNC Charlotte has taken steps to prevent them.

Chuck Lynch, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at UNCC, said the school isn't immune to acts of racial bigotry, but students have avenues to address their grievances.

"We have some of the same symptoms as some of the other campuses, but I think we handle our problems a lot better than most," he said. Still, the national trends are disturbing.

"What I sense is there might be more racism. What I sense is that there is less tolerance."

UNCC has support groups which work with black students to resolve conflicts with whites or school policy regarding particular points of contention. The campus programs include black and white staff and faculty helping all students learn more about each other while raising their awareness levels, Lynch said.



Unlike other colleges across the country, UNC Charlotte has programs to foster cooperation between black and white students, says Chuck Lynch, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

come openly racist, even in the reputed bastions of liberalism.

"Unfortunately, there are people who are just inclined to be racist," Lynch said.

Black students, who bear the brunt of the harassment, may

feel a sense of abandonment by the powers-that-be, from the cutting of federal student grants to the reversal of some civil rights legislation.

"There may be a sense of frustration that the civil rights deci-

sions handed down by the Reagan administration" have turned back the clock on blacks, Lynch said.

In recent years, college campuses have witnessed racist attacks, both verbal and physical.

Last year, a black University of North Carolina employee received threats from angry whites over the closing of a dormitory and at East Carolina University, several whites allegedly shouted racial slurs at black students. The incident touched off an altercation that resulted in one white student being hospitalized and the suspension of a black student for two years.

UNCC hasn't seen those types of incidents, Lynch said. Indeed, at UNCC, the complaints seem mild by comparison.

"You'll see something like someone has a Confederate flag in the dormitory, or someone running through the halls shouting 'nigger,'" he said. "A lot of these incidents is where you don't know who the person is."

To address those complaints, six campus mediators try to iron out differences between students. Four of the mediators, who are faculty and staff members, are black, while two are white, Lynch said.

Out of five incidents brought to Lynch's office this year, "all but one were settled through mediation."

The university also has an official racial harassment policy that gives specific sanctions for students who are found to engage in racist activity.

In addition, UNCC is producing a videotape, featuring black students, that describes why racism makes college life less en-

joyable.

"A lot of the problem stems from ignorance and racism," he said.

More important, however, is the sense of cooperation between the races on campus.

"We have a very open dialogue with our black students," Lynch said. "Our student leadership is very mixed. At least at that level there is a spirit of cooperation."

That cooperation, however, hasn't spread throughout the campus, with students going their separate ways after class. Blacks usually hang out with blacks while whites do likewise.

"The social segregation is just as much as it's ever been," Lynch said. "The black students have their social functions and the white groups have theirs."

The Focus Is On Leadership

Focus on Leadership will inaugurate its second leadership class with its annual banquet, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. at Johnson C. Smith University.

A press conference will be held at the opening session, where members of the second class will meet the media and public.

Details of the Focus On Leadership banquet will also be explained.

For more information, call Kevin Patterson at 554-5247 or 529-0738.

Black Population Should Continue Its Increase

The nation's Black population is projected to grow by 50 percent by the year 2030, according to a report by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

The Black population in 1987 totaled 29.0 million, 7 million more than in 1970. Under the bureau's middle range of projections, it may increase 7 million by 2005 and another 7 million by 2030. After 2030, however, the Black population would change relatively little. By 2030, it may number 47.6 million, about 18 million more than in 1987.

The white population grew 26.5 million between 1970 and

1987. It is projected to grow an additional 29.2 million over the next 40 years, peak at 235.4 million in 2027, then decline steadily. By 2080, the White population may be only 6 million larger than in 1987.

The growth of the "other races" population (primarily Asians, Pacific Islanders, and American Indians) may be the fastest of any of the racial groups. It has tripled in size in the past 17 years, increasing from 2.6 million in 1970 to 7.9 million in 1987. This group may be 50 percent larger by the year 2000, double its present size by 2015, and triple its size by the year

2040. By 2080, the "other races" population may be almost 25 million larger than in 1987.

Here are other highlights from the middle range of projections:

- Since 1970, the Black population has grown at about twice the White rate and is projected to maintain at least that difference through 2030.
- The proportion of the nation's population which is Black may increase slowly from 12.2 percent in 1987 to 13.1 percent in 2000, 15.3 percent in 2040, and 16.3 percent in 2080.
- The White population may comprise an ever smaller share of the U.S. population in future

decades, falling from 82.6 percent in 2000 to 72.6 percent in 2080.

- The "other races" share may rise substantially from 4.3 percent in 2000 to 7.8 percent in 2040, and to 11.1 percent in 2080.
- For at least the next 50 years, the annual number of births to Black women will remain close to 600,000 or slightly below the current level. Births to White women, however, are expected to fall. "Other races" is the only racial group whose future number of births is ever projected to be more than 5 percent above its current level.

Irby Works For The Most Accurate Census Count

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

The U.S. Census scheduled for next year will be a snapshot of America, says Reginald Irby, a census awareness specialist in Charlotte. And his job is to make sure the black community is in the picture.

The 1990 census, America's 20th, occurs every 10 years as is required by law. In 1980, the last census year, there were 107,006 blacks in Mecklenburg County, 26.5 percent of the total population. There were

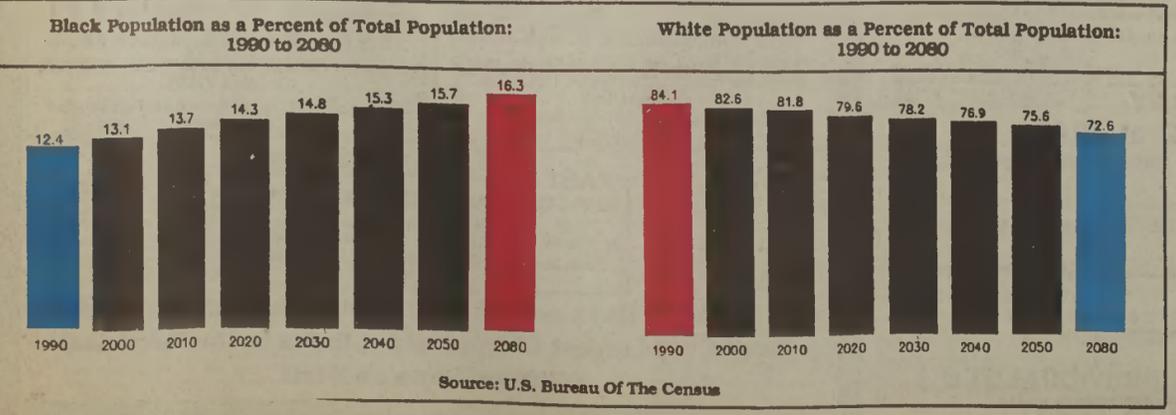


26,495,025 blacks in the United States, 11.7 percent of the national population. In the overall census, 404,270 persons lived in Mecklenburg and 226,546,000 in the United States.

Irby, 31, is responsible for bridging the gap between the Census Bureau and the public, with special emphasis on the black community. There are about 300 specialists in the Census Awareness and Products Program (CAPP), which focuses on reducing the differential undercount among non-white populations.

As a group that historically been undercounted, the black community provides a special challenge. About 85 percent of all census questionnaires mailed to households are re-

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