

The Carolina Journal

The Student Newspaper of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Volume XVI, Number 32

Charlotte, North Carolina

Monday, December 1, 1980

UNCC Students Protest Klan Verdict

By David E. Griffith
Carolina Journal Campus Affairs Editor

Approximately 100 students attended a rally to protest the November 17 verdict in the Greensboro Klan-Nazi trial Tuesday in front of the Belk tower.

The rally, sponsored by Student Body Government and the Black Student Union lasted from 1 to 2 p.m. and featured a series of speakers. Chairman of the Student Legislature Barry Brown moderated the rally, announcing each speaker.

Earlier Tuesday the student legislature passed a resolution calling for further investigation of the Greensboro case. Linda Russell, Nursing Representative and author of a resolution read to the crowd of students and area media representatives.

Mike Kemp, President of the Black Student Union, was the first speaker. "On November 17 justice was dealt a death blow. On that fateful day a

precedent was set. On that day all right wing terrorist groups were given a green light, or more exactly a license to kill anyone, and I repeat anyone, who holds a view different than their own."

Kemp said the Greensboro verdict was one in a long series of events indicating that our society will not tolerate a challenge to its authority. "The winds of racism and repression are being whipped throughout our society. Our President elect is calling for state's rights and our Senate and House of Representatives are being prepared for the repeal of every humanitarian act passed within the last 20 years, from busing legislation, to federal food stamp programs, to the repeal of civil rights legislation.

"On our own campus the spectre of racism and sexism is rearing its ugly head and tensions here between different cultural groups have been escalating. We as students must express our outrage and discontent with

the current trends," Kemp said.

"We have two choices," Kemp said, "either we will unite with other freedom loving individuals who also recognize the writing on the wall and stand ready and willing to protect our own freedom, or we can say nothing, do nothing, and be swept away by a tidal wave of prejudice and repression that is overtaking our country. The die is cast; the duty is ours. We must not shirk it."

Student Body President Ron Olsen said he did not support the views of the Communist Workers Party, but he "was shocked and horrified" to find that all six defendants had been acquitted on all charges.

Olsen spoke about the U.S. judicial

system saying "for every ounce of justice, I can give you a pound of injustice." He expanded on this point speaking of North Carolina's record in such matters saying, "What does that say about our society. We must show the rest of the country that North Carolina is not full of Nazis, Communists and Ku Klux Klanners.

"In the last decade our society has

(Continued On Page 3)

Disagree?

Let us know how you feel about the Greensboro verdict and the student protest. Write: Letters To the Students, The Carolina Journal, Cone Center, Campus. All letters must bear the signature and telephone number of the author.

Student Reaction To Justice Rally Varied

By Teresa Skipper

Carolina Journal News Editor

About 100 attended the rally at 1 p.m. Tuesday November 25 protesting the acquittal of six men charged with killing five communists in Greensboro a year ago.

The majority of the students at the rally were disturbed about the verdict and at times

became very vocal in support of the speakers.

Linda Russell read a resolution she presented student legislature and passed Tuesday. The resolution called for an investigation by federal government "in the pursuit of criminal civil rights charges." The resolution was to be presented to everybody from Jimmy Carter to

Ron Olsen. A petition also calling for an investigation was passed among the students.

Sarah Traywick, 21, English major, said, "Our legal system needs a serious review. Especially when an all white jury acquits Nazis and the KKK upon such scanty evidence."

(Continued On Page 2)

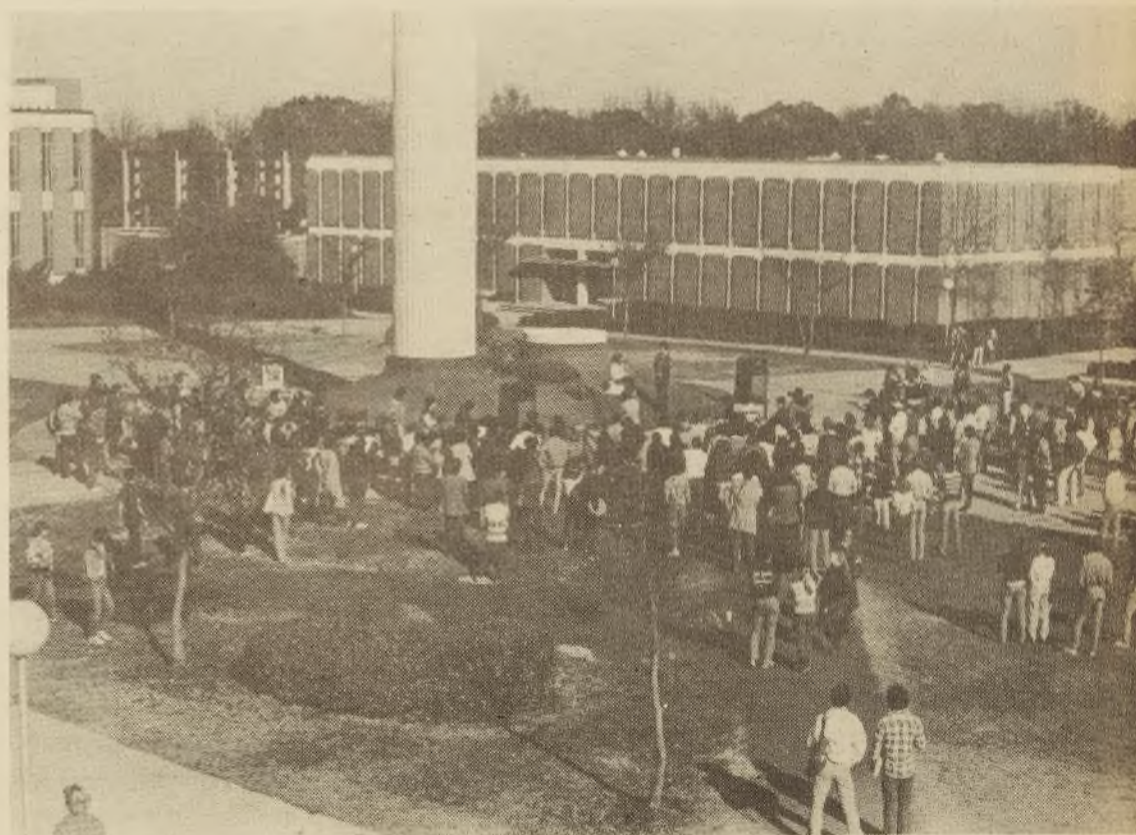


Photo By Rick Monroe

Only about 150 students attended the Rally for Justice sponsored by the Executive Committee of the Student Association and the Black Student Union.

Legislature Asks Feds To Investigate

By Cary Jimenez
Carolina Journal Staff Writer

A resolution which called for further investigation by the Federal Government into the deaths of five Communist Worker's Party members killed in an anti-Klan rally in Greensboro last November, was passed by the North Carolina Student Legislature Sunday, November 23.

Legislators felt that the six Ku Klux Klan members should not have been acquitted because there was important evidence, such as "eye-witness accounts, videotape evidence and ballistic reports" to link them to the victims' deaths. There has also been much discrepancy as to which side fired first.

Legislators contended that not only is "shooting someone a violent

action," but that the communist's civil rights were abridged and their right of speech was violated.

The opposition was not so much in regard to the investigation, but rather to the language used in the proposal. After an amendment was passed, the resolution then read, "five people . . . were killed," rather than, "were gunned down," which sounded more brutal.

The Legislature also called for a resolution to abolish Article VI, section 8 of the constitution of the state of North Carolina which states, "any elected official who denies the existence of God may not hold that office for which he was elected."

The Legislators felt that it is wrong to reject a man of the grounds of atheism if he is competent and capable of

holding office. One member stated, "there is no proof that belief in God increased job effectiveness."

Although those opposed stated that no one has ever been discriminated against because of his religious beliefs, the Legislature passed the resolution.

Another resolution, which was postponed until January, concerned the high gasoline and fuel tax which farmers and commercial fishermen have been paying. They are paying a tax which was intended to go for highway road construction. They were calling for the return of a small amount of money or relief to the average farmer and fisherman.

In other action, Debbie Bryant, internship program coordinator, in-

formed the members that the Youth Involvement Office has available 125 graduate and undergraduate internships for the summer. Also, the Institute of Government Internship Programs, directed by Dr. Hayman, will be offering 25 internship slots for undergraduates only.

These are competitive programs in which the applicants and their applications will be carefully screened by counselors.

"We encourage you to apply because it gives you an inside look at how an agency is run, as well as give you the opportunity to see if you want to be involved with the government," Bryant said.

The deadline for both programs is February 13.