

Change still key 50 years after Brown decision

BY CATHERINE SHAROKY
STAFF WRITER

Educators, students and those who lived during the integration of Chapel Hill schools joined Saturday at Lincoln Center for a frank discussion about the progress that has been made since Brown v. Board of Education and the work that still needs to be done.

Beverly Jones, dean of University College at North Carolina Central University, spoke in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling that integrated public schools. She addressed the continuing need for involvement and community interest in the education of minority students.

"It takes a village to raise children," Jones said, stressing the importance of combining faith, local and state government, parents, children and the school board in helping minority students succeed. Jones said the "civil rights movement of 2004" will begin by hiring culturally sensitive teachers who understand their students' backgrounds. It will continue by providing students with resource centers, such as local churches, that are open every day to provide support and encouragement, she said.

Parents and other adults can also contribute by instilling humane values and teaching students that they can succeed, Jones said.

Local chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Alliance of Black School Educators, which sponsored the event along with the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, gave other speakers a chance to reflect on the changes in Chapel Hill in the 50 years since integration.

Rev. Robert Seymour, who lived in the area before Brown v. Board, recalled that during the 1950s Chapel Hill was "as southern as

any town in Mississippi," and that integration was a struggle that took almost a decade to enforce.

Valerie Foushee, CHCCS board member, spoke of her "separate but sorely unequal" education before integration.

Joanne McClelland, an English teacher at Chapel Hill High School, tearfully recalled that only one white girl befriended her while a student at Glenwood Elementary School during integration.

The Chapel Hill area has changed greatly, but speakers agreed that there is still much to be improved.

"Every day when I walk down the hallways and I hear things, I know we still have not overcome," McClelland said about the current racial problems in public schools.

Current East Chapel Hill High School student Nicole Farrar noticed that the cafeterias in her high school are still segregated, but now by the students' choice.

The community must reinterpret the word integration, said Rev. John Manley. He and Seymour said the focus needs to shift to an integration of neighborhoods and an understanding of cultures in order to bridge the gap between white and black students.

Seymour was dismayed at the small crowd size, saying that if a civil rights discussion had been held 50 years ago the gymnasium would have overflowed. He said he hoped the crowd size was not an indication that the community was satisfied with the status quo.

"It is important that we don't forget our history," said organizer Janice Webster, CHCCS and NABSE member. She ended the event by looking toward the future with an African quote: "aluta continua, the struggle continues."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

U.S. misjudged Iraqi forces

Planners overlooked enemy's tenacity

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Defense Department underestimated its enemy in the Iraq war, failing to predict how resilient Saddam Hussein and his government would be, the Pentagon's No. 2 civilian said Tuesday.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz also said it's impossible to say how long a large U.S. military force will have to stay in Iraq after political power is handed to Iraqis on June 30.

Wolfowitz spoke at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, the latest called by lawmakers worried about the Bush administration's handling of the war and reconstruction so far and about its plans for the future.

Answering a question about miscalculations made to date in the year-old campaign, Wolfowitz said: "I would say of all the things that were underestimated, the one that almost no one that I know of predicted ... was to properly estimate the resilience of the regime

that had abused this country for 35 years.

He said that included the failure "to properly estimate that Saddam Hussein would still be out there funding attacks on Americans until he was captured; that one of his principal deputies, Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, would still be out there funding operations against us; that they would have hundreds of millions of dollars in bank accounts in neighboring countries to support those operations"; and that the old intelligence service would keep fighting.

Wolfowitz also said U.S. officials were wrong to impose so severe a policy of de-Baathification, the decision to purge members of Hussein's Baath party from the government. The move threw out of work thousands of teachers, military men and others, many of whom had been required to join the party for employment, and was blamed by some for not only boosting joblessness but helping fuel the insurgency.

Hangers subject of ordinance debate

BY SHANNAN BOWEN
SENIOR WRITER

Neighbors of Fidelity Street's Hangers Cleaners are still fighting for the business to cut the hours of its operation, even after an N.C. Supreme Court judge ruled that it complies with the requirements of Carrboro's Land Use Ordinance.

At a recent request from the Village Square Homeowners Association, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen decided Tuesday night to set a public hearing on June 22 to consider an ordinance amending the Carrboro Land Use Ordinance provisions dealing with noise.

Hangers boasts of an environmentally friendly dry cleaning method developed at UNC, but residents claim the cleaners operates loud machinery at odd hours and is not neighborhood friendly.

Though the homeowners association initially wanted a public hearing set soon, resident Laura Rogers said Tuesday that the residents wanted a hearing later in August so that potential solutions for the building's use could be made.

But the board decided it would be fair to both parties to have the hearing as soon as possible to decide the future of Hangers' operation hours.

The drafted ordinance, presented by Planning Administrator Trish McGuire, proposes that audible noises associated with the cleaning machinery only be

allowed during the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays, but does not limit times on weekends.

Hangers, located at 127 Fidelity St. in a building that has housed a dry cleaners since 1988, is zoned B-3, which is designed to accommodate commercial needs that are more appropriately handled at the neighborhood level rather than the community level.

But neighbors have tried to change the cleaner's operations for almost a year, saying that it is not a neighborhood-friendly business.

Residents presented complaints to the Board of Adjustment in October that Hangers was not abiding by the B-3 zoning regulations. Board members discovered that a majority of the apparel cleaned at Fidelity Street's cleaners came from other Hangers locations as far away as Wade Avenue in Raleigh.

Hangers' owners responded to the complaints by filing a petition in Orange County Superior Court to have the case reviewed, which determined that the cleaners was in compliance with zoning regulations.

Doug Mitchell, the owner of the building that houses the cleaners, said he hasn't made any decisions about the property, despite the neighbors' complaints. "Hangers is there to stay."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

The ban on former party members in public sector jobs was eased last month.

Wolfowitz also said that the next year to 18 months will be critical in Iraq because it will take that long to stand up fully trained and equipped Iraqi security forces and to elect a representative government.

Pressed by Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., on how long substantial numbers of U.S. troops will have to remain, Wolfowitz said he could not predict.

Occupation forces have signed up some 200,000 Iraqis for police, army, civil defense and other security jobs. However, training has been slow, insurgent violence is on the rise and Iraqis remain far from capable of securing the country without the 160,000-member U.S.-led occupation forces.

Feingold asked if the current 135,000 Americans will have to stay through 2005.

"We don't know what it'll be. We've had changes, as you know, month by month," Wolfowitz said. "We have several different plans to be able to deal with the different levels that might be required."

"Our current level is higher than we had planned for this time this year."

Officials had expected they'd have only 115,000 troops in Iraq by now but were forced in the spring to extend the tours of some 20,000 Americans because of unexpectedly high violence.

Before the war, some military planners estimated all but 70,000 Americans could have been withdrawn by the end of 2003. Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said since that he never thought that number was plausible.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld briefed the House Armed Services panel in private Tuesday on a number of Iraq issues. The panel also was briefed by Army Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, who investigated U.S. soldiers' abuse of inmates in an Iraqi prison.

Some House members viewed still-classified photos from the scandal, in which Taguba reported "sadistic, blatant and wanton criminal abuses" by military forces at the U.S.-run Abu Ghraib prison complex near Baghdad.

Israeli troops kill 20 in refugee camp invasion

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Under heavy cover fire from helicopters, Israeli troops combed this refugee camp for weapons and gunmen Tuesday in the biggest Gaza offensive in years. Twenty Palestinians were killed.

The death toll was the highest one-day total since 35 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank city in Ramallah on April 5, 2002.

The United States said it was asking Israel for "clarification." The United Nations and European Union demanded an end to the incursion, which Israeli security officials said would last at least a week.

Early Wednesday, Israeli troops and tanks entered the refugee camp next to the West Bank town of Jenin, Israel Radio reported, killing a local leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. The military had no immediate comment.

The Israeli army said the aim of "Operation Rainbow" was to destroy weapons-smuggling tunnels and arrest Palestinian militants. It said it didn't intend to demolish large numbers of Palestinian homes. Troops tore down four homes Tuesday, witnesses said.

Last week, Israel destroyed about 100 houses, making more than 1,000 Palestinians homeless. Troops moved Tuesday into the Tel Sultan neighborhood on the outskirts of the Rafah camp. Bulldozers began tearing up a road to separate the neighborhood from the rest of the camp, and soldiers backed by about 70 armored vehicles conducted house-to-house searches, sometimes using bulldozers to knock down doors.

The army said most of the casualties were gunmen killed by missiles or machine-gun fire as they prepared to attack troops.

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