

Activist offers impressions of Greensboro unrest

By Ward Wright Triplett III

The lecture activist Phillip Thompson gave an audience of some 300 last night was designed primarily as a report of events that led to last year's Greensboro killings. But, by the time Thompson was finished, many other impressions were left not only of the Klan, but the American government.

Thompson, who is chairperson for the Revolutionary Youth League and a committee member for the revenge of the CWP five, was a last-minute replacement for Nelson Johnson, who was detained in Greensboro due to the unrest Thompson said is building there.

The cause of the problem is the innocent verdict of six Klan and Nazi party members in the killing of five Communist Worker Party members last year. Thompson explained the story behind the killings, and what took place directly after.

"It was a planned assassination," Thompson said after running down a list of the people killed. "The people killed were all shot in the head or the heart, there were no mistakes made."

Thompson said that the day of the killing, the police, who had guaranteed protection for the march, if the demonstrators agreed not to carry arms, mysteriously disappeared 5 minutes before the shootings, and later said they had lost direction of the march, had had trouble with the radio, and then were on lunch break. Thompson said it was the feeling of his

people that the police and the government were behind the killings.

"The Klan and Nazi had no idea of who the leaders were, and those were the people who were killed. The only people who would know that would be the government."

Thompson, a Philadelphia native now living in North Carolina, said it was later discovered that Bernard Bergovich, a member of the Treasury Department, had infiltrated the Nazi party shortly before the assassinations, and that it was he who supplied the hit list. He also said a known former FBI agent, Ed Dawson, was riding in the first Klan car. Dawson is now a member of the Greensboro police force.

The main point of Thompson's discussion however was how and why the government used such groups as the Klan to perpetuate this violence.

"The only way to get rid of the Klan is to get rid of the system that gives breed to it," Thompson said.

"For years, the American government has been run by the ruling class, they're the ones ripping us off, not the Japanese, not the Arabs, or anyone else they're pointing the blame at. This is the same thing the Klan is saying. They tell poor whites that the reason that you can't get in school, and you can't find a job is affirmative action, it's these blacks."

The reason for the marches in the first place, Thompson said, was to tell people that their problem was right here in the government, not overseas, which he felt

was dangerous to the fascism the American government is trying to develop.

"The United States is building for a World War, it's the only way out of the economic situation they're faced with. Only this time war is not against Vietnam, it is against another imperialist power."

Thompson said he felt that the biggest obstacle to war was the fact that the U.S. does not have an army ready to fight. Thus in order to prepare for war, the U.S. must institute fascism, which includes working with groups like the Klan and the Nazis.

"The only way fascism can succeed is by preventing whites and blacks from working together."

"Fascism takes different forms. In Germany you had the Jews being blamed for all of its problems, and here it will be the blacks and the communists. Blacks will be made to be evil, the 'this is why you don't have a job' reasoning."

The Klan is the perfect source to initiate this, Thompson said. The riots in Miami, and the murder incidents in Buffalo and Atlanta are all a part of what could lead to a race war.

"Sooner or later, someone is going to

start killing whites. Then, in return, some whites will start killing blacks. Once that gets started there will be so much emotionalism it will be hard to stop. And while we're all fighting each other, they'll begin World War III and everyone will be confused."

The verdict in Greensboro didn't surprise Thompson.

"It is now legal in this country to kill communists and blacks," Thompson said. "It has been proven in Greensboro that nothing will happen to you if you do."

"There will be more attacks beyond a shadow of a doubt," Thompson said.

"We try for a peaceful change in society, but we will be deceiving people by telling them that. If America didn't let Vietnamese have Vietnam, let the Chileans have Chile, what makes us think they'll let Americans have America?"

"It is up to us to improve ourselves, they won't do it for us. If we wait too long, we'll have the same thing that happened in Nazi Germany going on here. You can't say 'I'm a Nebraskan, and it won't happen in Nebraska,' you have to stand up now," he said.

Long delay expected before new LTS buses reach city

By Betsy Miller

Although a bond issue providing \$3 million for improvements in the Lincoln Transportation System was approved in the Nov. 4 election, Lincoln residents will not see new benefits immediately.

Jerry Olson, LTS general manager, said the biggest item in the bond issue, 12 new buses, will not be in Lincoln until March, 1982.

Olson said the delay is caused because the Urban Mass Transit Administration must approve Lincoln's portion of bond funding before the buses can be ordered.

The bond provides that Lincoln taxpayers contribute 20 percent of the \$3 million with the Mass Transit System Administration supplying the remaining 80 percent.

After the federal administration approves the LTS application, bids for providing new buses will be accepted and then the buses must be manufactured, Olson said.

The buses will cost about \$1.55 million, according to Olson.

LTS will also receive four handi-vans for transportation of the handicapped. These should be in Lincoln within six months, Olson said.

New bus shelters included in the bond issue should be in place by the end of the year and the LTS garage, located at 710 J St., will have its planned solar heating system by July 1981, according to Olson.

The new buses will be 40 feet long compared to the 35-foot buses LTS now has, but the new supply is still not enough for Lincoln, he said.

"Even with the arrival of new buses, we'll still have a continuing problem with a shortage of load capacity," Olson said.

Olson said the four new handi-vans LTS receives replace four older units, so the system will actually not be increasing its number of vans.

Olson said, however, that the total LTS fleet of nine handi-vans will now have only one older model vehicle.

The bond issue will cost Lincoln homeowners \$2 per year for 10 years, a total of \$600,000.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

David Lanoue, surrounded by demonstrators and onlookers, holds his poster denouncing Nazis, KKK and facism in the United States while listening to several concerned speakers around the Broyhill Fountain.

Black journalists step over the prejudice barrier

By Mary Louise Knapp

"Getting the foot in the door" is the most difficult step for blacks entering the field of journalism, a panel of black broadcasters said at Wednesday evening's "Blacks in Perspective" program.

The program, sponsored by the Student Y, featured journalists from Omaha television stations KETV-7, KMTV-3, and WOWT-6.

Getting a job in journalism or in any other field requires "a lot of pushing," said Ray Metoyer, urban affairs correspondent for WOWT-6.

Metoyer, a graduate of the UNL School of Journalism, who first worked for WOWT as an intern while in college, said that he has had to fight racial prejudice to get hired and promoted.

"Once you get past the initial prejudice, you will get respect," he said.

Blacks are expected to work twice as hard and twice as fast as whites, not to progress, but just to survive, said Mike Jones, a reporter for KETV-7.

Once hired, a black journalist faces additional problems when trying to get promoted, he said.

"They (employers) will try to put you in a place where you won't be noticed," he said. "You will have to establish yourself enough to make them take notice of you."

Metoyer said that establishing contacts in the journalism field and sharpening skills learned in journalism school outside of class are extremely important.

Jones advised would-be journalists to get involved with community affairs, sharpen their writing skills, and learn what is going on in the world. He said that many young reporters are not sufficiently prepared to handle their jobs due to lack of public awareness.

"Involvement brings awareness," he said. "As it is, you are the eyes and ears of the people that are not making themselves aware."

Gerald Evans, a reporter for KETV, said that because of racism, it is harder for black journalists to establish credibility, and that tokenism is still a problem in many broadcast stations.

"On the second day after I was hired, I was told by the news director (former news director Lee Terry, who is now Douglas County Election Commissioner) that 'I only hired you for one reason. You're our token.'"

Black reporters can bring a different perspective on events to the media, and they should be careful not to lose this unique identity, said Ben Grey, a reporter for KETV.

On the other hand, Bob Runnels, a reporter for KMTV-3, said that black journalists should not worry about racism, and "forget the fact that you are black." This does not mean a loss of identity, but concentration on being a person trying to get a job, he said.

inside thursday

Model United Nations: Andrew Young is the keynote speaker. Page 7

All For The Oranges: Oklahoma comes to Lincoln Saturday for the Big Eight shoot-out. Page 8

A New Breed of Heroine: Two new movies in Lincoln offer stronger female roles. Page 10