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Daily Beacon Articles: "JFK Assassination Explored Today," "Ross Tells Blacks to Start Thinking," & "Yarbrough Sings the Poetry of Black Culture"

Commission for Blacks

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Landlords were absent

Testimony at last Friday's State Senate Judiciary Subcommittee hearings on the tenant-landlord law was one-sided, Rep. Bill Carter, R.-Chatt., told the 40 people attending.

"Why are no landlords here?" Carter asked. He said the state goes to a lot of expense to send legislators around the

state for hearings for the purpose of hearing both sides of issues.

"From the seven or eight people we've heard here today, you can imagine what direction we are going in," Carter said.

One landlord in the audience, Lola Plummer of 1516 Laurel Avenue said "I don't even think a lot of the landlords

knew this bill had passed."

Rep. John Mann, R.-Knox., who chairs the committee, assured her the community had been fully alerted to the hearings, and that three people personally invited did not come.

A.T. Burleson, Chief Building Official for Knoxville said his "previous

commitments and a crowded work schedule" kept him from appearing, but he sent a written statement.

The people who did testify presented several common points of contention about the bill as it now stands. The committee heard about security deposits, the methods of recovering them, housing standards that will have to be adopted before the bill can be enforced, problems of absentee ownership, rent-reduction for repairs, and the hardship the present bill works on lower-income tenants.

As the bill is worded, the tenant who wishes to file a complaint must give the County Court Clerk one month's rent. Those who testified said renters that the bill is designed to help (those paying less than \$200 a month in rent) cannot usually afford to pay a month's rent twice in one month.

Several people, including UT Tenants' Association representative, Steve Hart, and Bill Nolan, last year's Student Senate vice-president, called on the legislators to enact into law a provision for a UT bureau which could act as a clearing house for rental property around campus.

Several people at the hearing begged the legislators to come with them to see the areas where they live. Mann decided they would visit areas of Memphis before meeting in that city Dec. 3.

JFK assassination explored today

On Nov. 22, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald perched inside a warehouse and methodically fired three shots which tore into President Kennedy's limousine.

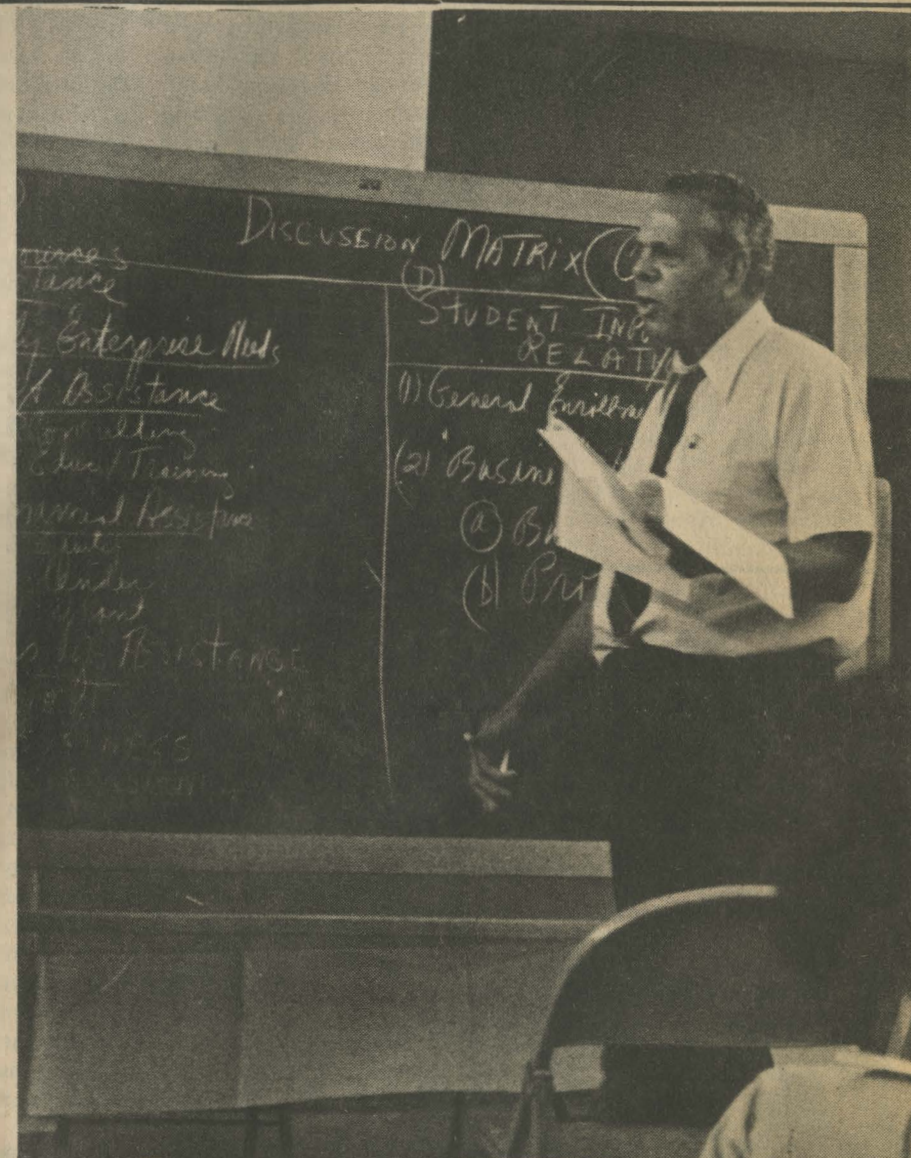
Robert Katz, correspondent for the Washington Base Committee to Investigate Assassinations, will lead a

seminar at 8 p.m. today in the University Center Auditorium, to explain exactly what happened on that day.

The seminar will attempt to answer some of the more intriguing and provocative questions raised over the past ten years. Among the questions to

be discussed are: 1) Why did two-thirds of the eye witnesses believe that the shots came from the front, when Oswald was allegedly positioned behind the motorcade? 2) Why do home-movies taken of the scene reveal the president being blasted violently backwards? 3) Why did Oswald, reputedly a leftist, have a history of involvements with the Central Intelligence Agency? 4) Why are the eleven files compiled by the C.I.A. on Oswald prior to the assassination being withheld from the public until the year 2039? 5) What ever happened to the precise, detailed itinerary of the assassination compiled by the Warren Commission?

The seminar will include showings of slides and home movies of the assassination.



Staff Photo by Jim Dobbs

The Rev. Ralph Ross tells the audience at the Tennessee Association of Black Students that black students are responsible for providing the energy to forward the situations of black people.

Energy needed



Ross tells blacks to start thinking



Staff Photo by Joe Willis

Elton John

Elton John belts out a song that had the audience moving Saturday night.

By SUSAN SCARBROUGH

Black students are responsible for providing the energy to forward the situations of all blacks in America, observed the Rev. Ralph Ross, dean of students at Knoxville College.

Ross was the keynote speaker at the Tennessee Association of Black Students convention at UT on last Friday and Saturday.

"This is how I see the role of black students today. You must provide the energy, you must provide the thrust, you must provide the talent, you must provide the creativity to make sense out of life today and the possibility of life tomorrow," he told approximately 25 people attending.

Workshops for the convention covered the economic plight of black individuals and communities, the role of politics in black communities, and the education of black students in metropolitan and rural areas.

Ross is a slender man who spoke intensely about the need for a "Body politic" for the race.

Referring to some blacks, Ross said,

"They think that if they've got on fine rags, and are driving a fine car, and have got a fine sister and a couple of dollars in their pocket, they've got it made.

"It's time for black folk to stop rapping together and start thinking together," he continued.

Success for blacks as a whole depends on the success of individuals.

"When you start talking about getting it together, you're talking about

deciding 'What I am,' " Ross said.

"Once I know who I am and where I want to go, there's nothing that can stop me. If I can make it to the top, I can take a whole lot of people with me."

Ross warned against "romanticizing" the black image. "The man who moves beyond romanticism" is the one who can work for the betterment of blacks.

The association of black students is

open to any black student in the state. Conventions are held in the three regions of the state and two state conventions are held yearly.

About 80 delegates from across the state were in Knoxville for the convention and were housed at Knoxville College, said Wilbur Hawkins association president.

Israeli losses near '67 war level

By United Press International

Waves of Egyptian troops and tanks attacked in their biggest offensive of the way along the entire 102 mile Suez line Sunday.

To the north, Israeli tanks punched through Syrian defenses to within 14 miles of Damascus.

Israel admitted its casualties were approaching those of the entire 1967 Six Day War.

Egypt announced its attacking forces

had recaptured more Israeli-held territory in the barren desert area east of the Suez Canal, but Israel said it had thrown back the assault—the biggest of the war—and "we are grinding them into the ground."

On the northern front, an Israeli armored spearhead slashed through weakening Syrian defenses to a position within 14 miles of Damascus Sunday, a frontline UPI correspondent reported. The Tel Aviv military command said

Israeli big guns were shelling military targets on the outskirts of the ancient Syrian capital.

While fighting raged on both fronts, Israel announced in its first casualty report that 656 soldiers and pilots were killed in the first eight days of the war.

One of the dead was Maj. Gen. Avram Mendler, commander of the Armored Corps in the Sinai. The report said an undisclosed number of other Israelis had been taken prisoner.

The figure of 656 dead in eight days of the new war compared with the figure of 777 military dead in the entire Six-Day War of 1967.

An Egyptian communique said the Egyptians jumped off at dawn all along the Sinai front east of the Suez Canal and fought battles all day Sunday with the aim of destroying Israeli armor in the desert.

"Our forces succeeded in capturing new areas of land all along the battlefield in Sinai," the Communique said.

The communique claimed the destruction of 150 Israeli tanks. But the Israelis said they threw back what they termed the biggest Egyptian breakout attack of the war.

The Israeli military command said its Suez Canal front smashed more than half the entire Egyptian tank corps in the all-day battle there.

Maj. Gen. Haim Herzog, in a radio analysis, said the attack in the south could signal the start of the war's critical stage.

The commander of the southern front said: "We are grinding them into the ground. The Russian tactics they are following call for waves of infantry behind the tanks, which accounts for their heavy losses."

Israel also said its planes had shot down two French-built Mirage fighter-bombers in action with Egyptian forces on the Sinai front Sunday. It protested to France about the alleged transfer of the planes from Libya to Egypt.

Yarbrough sings the poetry of black culture

By KAREN FUSON

A low, sensuous, pounding bass, a sing-song performance of very personal emotional poetry—this is Camille Yarbrough.

Young and soft-featured, Yarbrough enacted her poetry before a crowd of about 100 people Friday in the Music Building Auditorium.

She entered dressed in flowing silver robes. "Let me introduce myself . . . I've been reborn to share with you Griot," announced Yarbrough.

The Griot were African oral historians, "entrusted with the Black heritage," who relayed the culture for centuries. Yarbrough urged her audience to join this "family reunion celebration." "A nation of people has crossed over the they are waiting for you to come too . . . Oh, it's a lovely feeling just being we," sang Yarbrough.

Yarbrough sang most of her poetry, presenting a combination of song, movement, and deep emotional expression. The only accompaniment was bass played by Bob Cunningham. Throughout her performance Yarbrough talked to her audience, relating the stories and tragedies behind her poetry.

The problems, everyday lives, and humor of the "Black Experience"

provided the seed for her poetry. Defining her poetry, Yarbrough said that when writing she "writes through other people," as well as representing her own feelings.

A native of south Chicago, the sophisticated Yarbrough related, to a very receptive audience, the ideas of "panic" and defined black people as "uprooted tropical seeds scattered in foreign places."

A former dancer with Katherine Dunham, Yarbrough is writing a play. The material she used she was "examining, trying to get things sorted out." She has also been an actress. Yarbrough was in *Shaft*, has done several television commercials, and is currently acting in "Search for Tomorrow". She acts on serials "strictly as a means of steady income."

"I would rather write than anything," she said, and "I would perform nothing that wasn't good for our people."

"Our minds have expanded since the civil rights movement," she said. "I can understand why some people hate . . . but, 'it's a fantastic feeling just to love.'"

Yarbrough implored the primarily black audience to pull together and be artists. "A lot of artists are getting their function back," she said.



Staff Photo by Jim Dobbs

"Black experience"

Camille Yarbrough presents in a combination of song, emotional expression, and movement her poetry of the problems, lives and humor of the "black experience". She calls blacks "uprooted tropical seeds scattered in foreign places," and in her performance calls herself a "Griot," an African oral historian who relays the history of the black heritage.