National Roundup

WASHINGTON — This month (May) marks the 20th anniversary of the Freedom Riders from Washington through the heart of the old "Dixieland" south in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. This hearty band of black and white true believers in America started out from a partially segregated nation's capital to ride through a Jim Crow country of segregated highway service stations, hotels, restaurants, shops and public facilities from which most black travelers and residents were barred.

The group of about 50 paying travelers rode on Continental Trailways and Greyhound buses which were attacked in Charlotte, N.C., Atlanta and Birmingham and finally burned out in Gadsen, Alabama before the remnants of the battle weary Freedom Riders were allowed to proceed.

They traveled Montgomery with a U.S. Army escort which became more like prison guards than protectors. The disheartened survivors finally arrived cross-country in Jackson, Miss., to be greeted by racists mobs and police dogs. Most of them were jailed in Mississippi's infamous Parchman State Penitentiary with thieves and murderers while a few "escaped" and continued on to New Orleans, by hitchhiking, private cars or airplanes, but not to Freedom . . . as they spread throughout the area with a message of "down with segregation and Jim Crow" which sparked a revolution in the South and throughout the United States.

The past and present generation of Capital "literati" met recently when Washington Post photographer Fred Sweets hosted a "Capital Event" for his parents, pioneer newspaper publishers Nathaniel and Melba Sweets of the St. Louis American newspaper during the Black Press Week activity of the National Newspaper Publishers Association here last month... The Sweets renewed old acquaintances with poet Sterling Brown, Gilbert Lindsay and retired Howard U. vice president C. Prederick Stanton as they met the "new journalist" crowd of columnist Bill Raspberry, television hostesses Lark McCarthy and Carol Randolph, Pulitzer prize winning photographer Matthew Lewis and Ambassador to Senegal, Dr. Walter Carrington, who just returned to the U.S. with his wife, sociologist-author Joyce (Ladner). Melba authors the weekly "We're Telling" column, which has been setting journalistic standards for two generations or more in the St. Louis area and beyond Popular Washington Post style columnist Jackie Trescott was co-hostess to the newsfolk . . .

The ten presidents of historically black colleges honored at the annual conference of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education included Dr. Luther Foster, Tuskegee; James Russell, St. Paul Polytechnic; Levi Watkins, Alabama State University; Milton Curry, Bishop (retired); Wade Wilson, Cheyney State; Allen C. Hancock, Texas; Earl Rand, Jarvis Christian; Lewis C. Dowdy, North Carolina A & T University

By Larry Still and Art Carter

Leaders of this little band of young and old "revolutionaries" included James Farmer, former director of the Congress of Racial Equality; Bayard Rustin, pioneer labor and human rights advocate and Jim Peck, a white New York Quaker who was beaten more than any other "Rider" for his efforts to help "integrate" the soul and heart of America. Much of this area is vastly

changed now, not only by the civil rights revolution, but also by the revolutionary patterns of highway, airline and communications technology. Miles of gleaming, suburban housing developments, shopping centers and recreational complexes mark the placid landscape as it is threatened with disruption by various new "movements" in ecology, energy, women's rights and even the "moral majority" which has borrowed from the original "Freedom Riders."

But, the angry, vile period of turmoil of the "soulful" sixties was mostly forgotten or ignored by the present generation — until the Ku Klux Klan began marching again in the Carolinas or the recurring murders of black youth surfaced in Atlanta — and now the most racist act of all — a "hanging" in Alabama . . . As spring arrives, there is talk of a return to marches, demonstrations and protest meetings to stop racism and murder in the most violent country in the world. Black Americans are still not prepared to fight back for their own dignity and protection as a new crop of political leaders began focusing on class distinctions between low income blacks and whites and the "new middle class."

Perhaps, we should all remember the old gospel chant, sung from slavery days through the modern movements. "Which Side Are You On, Man? Which Side Are You On." Meanwhile, as most of the protestors of a generation ago attempt to take their place in the "mainstream," new dissidents are planning another human rights pilgrimmage of peace and conciliation from America's "frigid zone" to the "sun belt" to focus on the new mood of evil and meanness in the country . . . If you are interested, write The Freedom Rides-1981, P.O. Box 2245, Washington, D.C. 20001.

Howard University Press' Charlie Harris and Dr. Kenneth Tollett of the Institute for the Study of Educational Policy hosted the Capitol Hill reception for Gerald Gill, author of Meanness Mania, the authoritative book depicting the new mood in the country.

(retired) and S.D. Bishop, Bishop State Junior College. Over 100 graduates of the 111 schools were also cited for their contributions to the "main-stream" at the conference.

The Congressional Black Caucus which is attacking on all fronts under the leadership of new chairman, Reverend-Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy, has called for a summit conference on Black Education as a prelude to the CBC's annual fund raising dinner this fall

Akhough NAFEO praised President Reagan's administration for increasing support to the historical black colleges in the current budget, some observers pointed out that one lvy League school received more millions of dollars in federal aid in one year than the 100 or more black schools have received from Health and Human Service programs in 20 years.

"When 105 historically black colleges get \$2,000 each year for 20 years to do research, what you end up with is a quilt of tiny, isolated projects that damage each institution's normal operating functions and produce little substantive research," Dr. Louis Ramey, of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Health Administration declared at a recent meeting on black college initiatives.

Grants from ADAMAH's National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to the black institutions between FY 1972 and FY 1980 totalled \$16,576,052 for training and \$4,496,625 for research, officials reported. But one ADAMHA worker estimated that Harvard receives more than \$20 million in one year from the agencies.

Just a reminder that the 1980 national unemployment rate for black and "other" workers (13.2 percent) was more than double the rate for whites (6.3 percent)... New Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan has announced steps to assure that the 300,000 workers to be phased out of public service employment jobs under CETA are directly assisted in finding full-time, unsubsidized employment. The services of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its affiliates will be used to help find jobs, he says... Meanwhile — get this — the \$245 million saved in CETA funds will be placed in a pool to cover cost of unemployment compensation....

