This was the Silent March of 1917 down New York's Fifth Avenue, as some 10,000 men, women and children marched in a silent parade protesting lynchings, disenfranchisement, discrimination and segregation. The photo was taken from the files of the NAACP. Over the 73 years since the famous march, the names of the first line of marchers have been lost, but the second figure from the right is Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, a founder of the NAACP and long time editor of the Crisis Magazine.

NAACP organizes 2nd 'Silent March'

A "Silent March" protesting four recent adverse decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court on civil rights and affirmative action, and calling on Congress to undertake legislative remedies, has been scheduled by the NAACP for Aug. 26, at noon in Washington, D.C., according to Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, and Dr. William F. Gibson, chairman of the NAACP National Board of Directors.

The route and other details of the march remain to be worked out, but Dr. Hooks said it would closely resemble the famous "Silent March" of 1917 when some 10,000 men, women, and children headed by Dr. W.E.B. DuBois and James Weldon Johnson of the NAACP, marched in silence down New York City's Fifth Avenue, protesting "Jim Crowism," lynching, segregation, disenfranchisement and race riots in Waco, Memphis and East St. Louis.

"Our silent march will be concerned with one issue alone - the Supreme Court and its recent hostile decisions. We will be sending a message primarily to the administration, Congress and the American people that the decisions of this court are harmful to the body politic of this nation and prompt action must be taken to reverse them through legislative means," Dr. Hooks said at a press conference in Washington on July 20.

Dr. Hooks had earlier announced the march at the conclusion of the NAACP's Annual Convention in Detroit on July 13. The press conference was called to provide further details.

Dr. Hooks said at the press conference that the Supreme Court decisions emerged as the single most important issue at the NAACP convention, reflecting the general mood throughout the black community "where the question is being asked - in many places and in many ways - since a five member majority of the court is obviously determined to lead a stampede to the rear on civil rights, what can we do?"

The Silent March, in which the men will wear black and the women and children white, is a response to that question, according to Dr. Hooks.

He added, however, "If Congress does not act, then we must call upon our citizenry to mount other demonstrations until our voices are heard and our just demands are acted upon.

"We are reaching out to a cross section of other national organizations and institutions seeking their participation. We are also sending a message to private citizens who share our concerns to join us in the march," he said.

At the Silent March in 1917, a pamphlet titled, "Why Do We March," was distributed to spectators. It said, in part:

"We march because by the grace of God and the force of truth the dangerous, hampering walls of prejudice and inhuman injustices must fall.

"We march because the growing consciousness and solidarity of race, coupled with sorrow and discrimination, have made us one, a union that may never be dissolved in spite of shallow - brained agitators, scheming pundits and political tricksters who secure a fleeting popularity and uncertain financial support by promoting the disunion of a people who ought to consider themselves as one."

The Afro-American editorialized on the 1917 march:

"The silent parade of protest that the colored people held in New York last Saturday was an innovation. It was no vain glorious flaunting of regalia or fine marching, but something that could not fail to rivet the attention of that big city that boasts of being a "melting pot" for humanity upon the fact that ten millions of inhabitants are being oppressed in the country that has told the world it is fighting for the spread of democracy.

"The fact that it drew expressions from New York newspapers as being in every way dignified and impressive should not fail to arouse many who have just been least concerned to the facts that this country must not only be interested in the spread of the equality of men in Europe, but that its PARAMOUNT DUTY is in seeing that all men here are treated according to their merits, and not discriminated against because they happen to be of African descent."

'Freedom Tour' riders charge racism

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A "Freedom Tour" of teenagers making a civil rights pilgrimage through the South say they were victims of racial prejudice in a dime store and that they staged a spontaneous boycott to protest.

The Michigan teenagers also charged they encountered racism in Albany, Ga., during a three-week tour intended to teach them about the civil rights struggle.

One of the Detroit area teen-agers, Ericka Walls, 17, said she was discriminated against because she is black, when she tried to use the bathroom of Newberry's on Tuesday. Blacks once were required to sit at separate lunch counters from whites at the downtown Birmingham dime store.

The manager of Newberry's said there was no discrimination and he is demanding a public apology from the group's Birmingham chaperone and a meeting with Mayor Richard Arrington to take action.

"I think everyone just wanted to stir things up like 20 years ago," said John Dunn, the white manager of Newberry's for the past eight years. "But there was no discrimination this time."

He said the bathroom had been closed temporarily when Walls had sought to use it because the floor had just been mopped.

"The colored boy, excuse me, my porter, just told her (the clerk) that the restrooms were closed because they were being cleaned," Dunn told the Detroit News.

Dunn said that a white seen leaving the restroom right after Walls asked for the key was an employee using an employee's restroom.

Meet Bill Dyson:

Bill Dyson checks the color registration on a sheet just off the press.

Risk-Taker and Entrepreneur

Bill Dyson is president of First Edition Graphics, a printing firm he founded five years ago in St. Louis. "I saw a lot of people taking the risk of entrepreneurship. I flirted with the idea of owning my own business for years and I knew that someday the opportunity would be right for me."

Armed with 36 years of know-how in the printing business, Dyson, an experienced lithographer and engraver, accepted the challenge and today is a success, by any standard. Today he services the printing needs of companies large and small. Companies like Miller Brewing Company, with people who believe in entrepreneurs like Dyson.

"Miller is just about everything you want in an account. They're tough, but fair. They set quality standards and rigid deadlines that can't be compromised. You learn a lot working with an account like Miller.

"The value of Miller is what I've learned from them. The only way to learn is through people who can help you. There's no school that can teach what you need to learn about succeeding in your own business. And Miller has given me that opportunity to learn."

Miller Brewing Company.
Committed to creating opportunities and success stories.

Miller

Miller Brewing Company, Milwaukee, Wis. 1989

Man jailed for murder sues state

TAMPA, Fla. — James J. Richardson, who spent 21½ years in prison for a murder the state now says he probably didn't commit, filed a multimillion-dollar damage suit in federal court Thursday, claiming he was a victim of a conspiracy that denied him his civil and constitutional rights.

The suit, which calls for a jury trial, asks for "in excess of $50,000," but his attorneys said they will seek $35 million in damages.

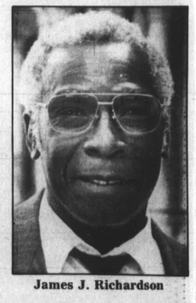
Named defendants were the state of Florida, De Sota County, Frank Schaub, a retired circuit court judge and former state attorney, and former Sheriff Frank Cline.

Richardson, 53, was convicted and sentenced to death in 1968 for the 1967 death of his stepdaughter, Betty Jean Bryant, one of seven children who died after eating a lunch laced with the insecticide parathion.

Richardson and his wife Annie Mae were at work picking crops when the children were stricken, but prosecutors accused him of killing them to collect insurance money.

Richardson was sentenced to death, but that was commuted to life in prison in 1972 when the U.S. Supreme Court banned capital punishment.

Early this year, Attorney Mark Lane and Miami attorney Ellis Rubin succeeded in getting the investigation reopened and Gov. Bob Martinez ordered Dade County State Attorney Janet Reno to review the case.



James J. Richardson

Her investigators determined Richardson had not been given a fair trial.

The federal suit alleges Cline and Schaub conspired to obstruct justice by suppressing and manufacturing evidence, threatening witnesses, filing false affidavits, and using perjured testimony.

Priest fired

WASHINGTON — A black Roman Catholic priest was fired Wednesday from his job as principal of a Catholic elementary school in Norfolk, Va., after he announced his decision to join a Washington priest's renegade African-American church.

The Rev. Bruce Greening announced at a news conference that he is joining the Imani Temple, founded by the Rev. George Stallings. The church was founded last month by Stallings after he said the church has racist policies that exclude blacks.

"What is happening at Imani Temple is in my opinion the right method to take," Rev. Greening said.

S. Africa blacks on campaign of discontent

South African church leaders (from left) The Rev. Allan Boesak, Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Rev. Frank Chikane and an unidentified supporter gathered to call for mass defiance of apartheid.

Tutu calls parliamentary elections 'charade'

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and eight other leading clerics said Friday next month's parliamentary elections will be a "charade" and endorsed a civil disobedience campaign to promote further isolation of the minority white government.

The church leaders, in a statement following a daylong meeting, called the ruling party's racial reform program and a pledge to begin power - sharing negotiations with the black majority "a vain attempt to project a veneer of stability and a pretense of normality."

"Their strategy for negotiations must be exposed for what it really is," Tutu said, describing it as "posturing, which seeks to define, on their terms, the agenda for negotiations and negotiating partners acceptable to themselves."

Affirming the church declaration that apartheid is a "sin and irreconcilable with the Gospel," the church leaders endorsed a campaign of civil disobedience in the run-up to Sept. 6 parliamentary elections that exclude the black majority.

The campaign began Wednesday when nearly 250 blacks sought medical aid at eight whites - only hospitals, drawing attention to segregation in the nation's health facilities.

"To us it is clear that the Defiance Campaign expresses the will of the majority of our population whilst the elections will reflect the concern of a very small proportion of South Africans," they said.

"The elections are based on race and, therefore, are already a distortion," Tutu said. "The most important thing for us is to try to take away attention from what is a charade and to deal with the real issues of our country.

"We don't vote and we are actually the most important item on their agenda."

The statement came in advance of a meeting next week in Canberra of foreign ministers of the Commonwealth certain to produce bitter debate over the extent of a program of sanctions against Pretoria to force an end to its apartheid policies.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's new foreign minister, John Major, is expected to reject calls by southern African members of the Commonwealth for more stringent sanctions as counterproductive in urging Pretoria to implement greater racial reforms.

"We call on the Commonwealth ministers to intensify their efforts to isolate the apartheid regime by seeking the most effective measures within the comprehensive sanctions package," the church leader said.

They said the campaign should focus on financial sanctions and a ban on South African Airways landing rights overseas and foreign airlines with flights to South Africa.

At a meeting earlier this year with President Bush, Tutu and the Rev. Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, announced they favored more selective sanctions, including a refusal by international banks to reschedule the country's foreign debt.

Tutu said American churches have been asked to pressure U.S. banks in advance of rescheduling negotiations early next year of $13 billion in foreign loans last rescheduled in 1986.

Police fire teargas at ANC mourners

CAPE TOWN, South Africa - Police fired tear gas to disperse mourners at a funeral for two guerrillas of the outlawed African National Congress Saturday, and broke up a birthday party for the country's political prisoner in a tense day of protests.

Dozens of police carrying automatic weapons and tear gas canisters strapped to their belts guarded the service for the two activists, whose ANC flag-draped coffins were carried through a crowd of about 3,000 people, raising clenched fists and chanting, "Long live the ANC."

Witnesses said police fired tear gas into a public hall where a mid-afternoon funeral meal was held for several hundred mourners after the burial. They said police arrested one man wearing a camouflage jacket. No injuries were reported.

Demonstrators linked arms to prevent the removal of an ANC flag and quickly replaced two ANC flags draping the coffins that were seized by police.

At dusk, police used tear gas again to break up a crowd of about 300 people gathered outside Cape Town's Groote Schuur hospital, where Oscar Mpetha, the country's oldest political prisoner, marked his 80th birthday in a heavily guarded hospital ward.

Mpetha, a veteran trade unionist, suffers from diabetes and is a cripple. He is in the fourth year of a five-year jail sentence for terrorism.

About 100 demonstrators later sneaked into the hospital with other visitors and massed outside the ward doors, but prison officials refused permission to visit the prisoner.

Authorities later eased their position, opening the ward door to allow the crowd to sing "Happy Birthday," and the nationalist anthem within earshot of Mpetha.

Coline Williams, 23, and Robbie Waterwitch, 20, were killed on July 23 while planting a bomb inside a public toilet across the street from a magistrate's court in Athlone, according to official reports.

ANC pamphlets circulated at a memorial vigil on Thursday identified the two as ANC military wing commanders in the politically active suburb of the country's second largest city.

Health care apartheid sparks demonstrations

JOHANNESBURG, South AFrica — Foes of apartheid Tuesday began sending blacks in need of medical care into whites - only hospitals as part of a civil disobedience campaign in advance of parliamentary elections that exclude the black majority.

Authorities at two of the eight hospital targeted in the campaign allowed black patients to enter without incident.

"We regard all hospitals and all health facilities in this country as open regardless of race," South African Health Workers Congress spokesman Aslam Dasoo told reporters at Johannesburg General Hospital, where as many as 50 blacks ought medical care.

The patients, mostly elderly men and women, were to be examined by doctors, he said, and any emergency cases would be admitted under provincial statutes until their condition allowed them to be transferred to hospitals designated for blacks.

The blacks - only hospital in the nearby suburb of Hillbrow had a 300 percent occupancy rate while less than half of Johannesburg General's 1,800 beds are occupied, Dasso said.

Police arrested 12 placard - carrying members of the anti - apartheid women's organization Black Sash as they marched outside Johannesburg's Witswatersrand University in a rush-hour protest against the segregated health-care facilities, police Capt. Ruben Bloomberg said.

The women were released later in the morning, he said.

The campaign was timed to put pressure on the government as it prepares for tricameral parliamentary elections on Sept. 6. White, Indian and mixed - race voters may participate in the polling, while the nation's blacks are excluded.

At Durban's Addington Hospital, police maintained a low profile as black patients reported for medical care, supported by scores of school children and university students bused to the hospital.

Administrators set up a special room for the black patients and doctors began examining them, witnesses said.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and eight other leading clerics Tuesday appealed to the government to exercise restraint in responding to the campaign, which follows a week of bitter accusations between security forces and protest organizers.

Anti-apartheid activists parade through the grounds of a Johannesburg hospital for whites on the opening day of a nationwide campaign to challenge racial segregation in South Africa.

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