

## NEWSELA

# Judge fixes a civil rights case a half century later

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In this February 1960 file photo, people take part in a civil rights sit-in protest at the lunch counter in McCrory's in Rock Hill, South Carolina. A prosecutor on Jan. 28, 2015, argued a motion to vacate the convictions of a group known as the Friendship 9. Photo: AP/The Herald, File

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA — Fifty-four years ago, a group of nine South Carolina black men were found guilty of a crime and sent to jail. On Wednesday, Judge Mark Hayes ruled that the court had been wrong. He declared that the men should never have gone to jail at all.

The judge's ruling will mean justice at last for the nine men. Their permanent records have been erased. They no longer have to say they have been convicted of a crime.

The men did break a law that existed back in 1961, but that law was an unfair one. They were not wrong to challenge it, the judge's ruling says.

## **Time To Be Heard**

The men are known as the Friendship 9. In 1961, they went to jail for breaking what was known as Jim Crow laws. These laws separated, or segregated, blacks and whites. They kept blacks out of many public places, such as restaurants, hotels and movie theaters.

The Friendship 9 decided they had to do something to protest Jim Crow segregation laws. In February 1961, they entered McCrory's in Rock Hill and sat down at the lunch counter. At the time, McCrory's served only whites. Blacks were not allowed to sit at the counter and order lunch.

What the Friendship 9 did is a form of peaceful protest known as a "sit-in."

"We cannot rewrite history, but we can right history," Judge Hayes said as he handed down his ruling. The packed courtroom burst into cheers at his words.

Lawyer Kevin Brackett apologized to the men — eight of whom were in court. The ninth has died.

"Sometimes you just have to say you're sorry," Brackett said.

Brackett had not been involved in the original case. He was apologizing for the court, which he said had been wrong 54 years ago.

## **Change At The Lunch Counter**

The Friendship 9's sit-in was an important event in the civil rights movement, which sought to give equal rights to African-Americans. It inspired many others to fight for equal rights. It also brought more nationwide attention to the civil rights movement.

The nine men were arrested for just sitting at McCrory's lunch counter. They were charged with two crimes — trespassing and disturbing the peace.

The Friendship 9 included eight students from Rock Hill's Friendship Junior College. They were W.T. "Dub" Massey, Willie McCleod, Robert McCullough, Clarence Graham, James Wells, David Williamson Jr., John Gaines and Mack Workman. The other member of the group was Thomas Gaither. He worked for a nationwide group that was fighting for civil rights.

Kim Johnson has written a book on the Friendship 9, titled "No Fear For Freedom: The Story of the Friendship 9." Last year, she went to Kevin Brackett, the chief law officer for the Rock Hill area. She wanted to see what could be done to clear the men's records.

"This is an opportunity for us to bring the community together," Johnson said before the ruling. Having the men's records cleared "says that it should have never happened in the first place."

### **Not Too Late To Be Sorry**

Justice came too late for McCullough, who died in 2006. However, the others were glad for the judge's ruling.

The men's names are engraved on the stools at the counter of the restaurant, which is now called the Old Town Bistro. A sign outside marks the spot where they were arrested.

Back in 1961, a white man named Elwin Wilson was also at McCrory's during the sit-in. Wilson became angry and tried to pull one of the protesters from his stool. In 2009, he returned to the same counter, where he met with some of the Friendship 9. The men forgave Wilson after he told them he was sorry for what he had done.

## Quiz

- 1 Select the sentence from the article that shows that the court ruling made in 1961 was wrong.
  - (A) What the Friendship 9 did is a form of peaceful protest known as a "sit-in."
  - (B) "Sometimes you just have to say you're sorry," Brackett said.
  - (C) Justice came too late for McCullough, who died in 2006.
  - (D) The men forgave Wilson after he told them he was sorry for what he had done.
  
- 2 Select the sentence from the article that shows the effect of the non-violent form of protest of the Friendship 9 members during the civil rights movement.
  - (A) In 1961, they went to jail for breaking what was known as Jim Crow laws.
  - (B) It inspired many others to fight for equal rights.
  - (C) The nine men were arrested for just sitting at McCrory's lunch counter.
  - (D) Lawyer Kevin Brackett apologized to the men - eight of whom were in court.
  
- 3 Which sentence from the section "Time To Be Heard" BEST supports its central idea?
  - (A) They kept blacks out of many public places, such as restaurants, hotels and movie theaters.
  - (B) What the Friendship 9 did is a form of peaceful protest known as a "sit-in."
  - (C) "We cannot rewrite history, but we can right history," Judge Hayes said as he handed down his ruling.
  - (D) Brackett had not been involved in the original case.
  
- 4 Select the paragraph from the section "Change At The Lunch Counter" that BEST supports the central idea of the article.
  - (A) paragraphs 1 and 4
  - (B) paragraphs 3 and 4
  - (C) paragraphs 1 and 5
  - (D) paragraphs 2 and 5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### NTI - 6TH GRADE MATH - DAY #8

#### Question 1 of 10

Evaluate  $3 + 4(7 - 2) \div 2 \cdot 1$

- A. 13
- B. 30
- C. 16
- D. 14.5

#### Question 2 of 10

Evaluate the following expression.

$4 + (8 - 2) \div 3 - (7 - 4)$

- A. 0.3
- B. 3
- C. 30
- D. 33

#### Question 3 of 10

Which statement is incorrect?

- A.  $(9 - 3) + 6 \cdot 4 \div 2 = 18$
- B.  $5(4 \cdot 3 + 2) - 8 \div 2 = 66$
- C.  $3^2 + 4(1 \div 1 + 2^2) = 29$
- D.  $9 + 3(4^2 \div 2^2 - 2) + 2^2 \cdot 1 = 35$

**Question 4 of 10**

What algebraic expression represents *3 times a number minus 6* using  $m$  for the variable?

- A.  $3m + 6m$
- B.  $3 + m + 6$
- C.  $3m + 6$
- D.  $3m - 6$

**Question 5 of 10**

The expression  $29s$  represents what mathematical operation?

- A. 29 divided by  $s$
- B. the difference of 29 and  $s$
- C. the product of 29 and  $s$
- D. the sum of 29 and  $s$

**Question 6 of 10**

$T$  equals the number of tickets purchased by an individual at the fair. Each ticket costs \$0.50.

What algebraic expression could be used to determine how much each person who purchased tickets spent?

- A.  $0.5 - T$
- B.  $0.5 + T$
- C.  $T \div 0.5$
- D.  $0.5T$

**Question 7 of 10**

Simplify.

$(5x + 9 - 4x)$  if  $x = 3$

- A. 9
- B. 12
- C. 15
- D. 24

**Question 8 of 10**

If  $n = 2s + 3$ , what value belongs in the table where the '?' is?

Rule: $N = 2s + 3$	
S	N
0	3
1	5
2	7
3	?

- A. 17
- B. 11
- C. 9
- D. -3

**Question 9 of 10**

What is  $(xy + 1) \div 7$  if  $x=5$  and  $y=11$ ?

- A. 6
- B. 7
- C. 8
- D. 9

**Question 10 of 10**

Hannah goes to the skating rink 6 times a month. Admission to the rink is \$3.50, and she also pays \$1.75 each time for skate rental. Hannah wants to know how much she spends at the skating rink each month.

Which expression correctly illustrates one way to solve Hannah's problem?

- A.  $6 + 3.50 + 1.75$
- B.  $6 - 3.50 - 1.75$
- C.  $6(\$3.50 + \$1.75)$
- D.  $6(\$3.50 - \$1.75)$