

Youth Protest: JoAnne Peerman ^[1]

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An excerpt from an oral history interview with Joanne Peerman. As an African American child growing up in the 60s and 70s in Chapel Hill, Joanne Peerman experienced desegregation first-hand. She attended an all-black elementary school, but her middle school and high school were recently integrated. Tensions arose as the student populations were first merged, especially in the high school where African American students staged marches and protests.

When Joanne recalls her childhood, she remembers joining in with these protests, and believing fervently in integrating any club or organization that had previously been "all white." But she also remembers what it was like to be the child of a respected and feared high school football coach, known and remembered by everyone as "Coach Peerman." As Joanne became more and more involved in civil rights protests, she found herself at odds with her father, who was counted on by the school to act as a disciplinarian. In particular, the struggle that she describes in this oral history takes place in her ninth grade year at Phillips Junior High School in 1970.

As an African American child growing up in the 60s and 70s in Chapel Hill, Joanne Peerman experienced desegregation first-hand.

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[African Americans](#) ^[2]

[Civil Rights](#) ^[3]

[Civil Rights Movement](#) ^[4]

[desegregation](#) ^[5]

[education](#) ^[6]

[history](#) ^[7]

[North Carolina](#) ^[8]

[North Carolina History](#) ^[9]

[Page](#) ^[10]

[school desegregation](#) ^[11]

[Students](#) ^[12]

[Teachers](#) ^[13]

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Parents Of Negro

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Boy Ask Raleigh

Board For Hearing

RALEIGH, Aug. 9 (AP)—The parents of a 14-year-old Negro boy denied admission to an all-white high school said tonight they have asked a hearing before the Raleigh School Board.

Joseph Holt Sr. said he mailed a letter today to city schools Supt. Jesse O. Sanderson asking a hearing, which is provided under the North Carolina Pupil Assignment Act.

The rejected student, Joseph Holt Jr., had asked to be transferred from the all-Negro Ligon High School to Needham Broughton High School nearer his home.

By a five to one vote, the school board turned down his request last Tuesday. The board's only Negro member, attorney Fred J. Carnage, voted that young Holt be admitted. It was the lone request from a Negro for admission to a Raleigh white school.

Mr. and Mrs. Holt had complained to police that they had received threatening telephone calls because of their son's application. Officers were assigned to keep a watch on the neighborhood.

[16]

Raleigh high school student denied admission to school closest to his home because of his race.

3 January 2018

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Links

- [1] <https://ncpedia.org/anchor/youth-protest-joanne-peerman>
- [2] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/african-american>
- [3] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/civil-rights>
- [4] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/civil-rights-0>
- [5] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/desegregation>
- [6] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/education>
- [7] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/history>
- [8] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/north-carolina-5>
- [9] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/north-carolina-6>
- [10] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/page>
- [11] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/school-0>
- [12] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/students>
- [13] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/teachers>
- [14] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/all-rights>
- [15] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/learn-nc>
- [16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/media/image/parents-negro-boy-ask>
- [17] <https://ncpedia.org/adkin-high-school-walkout-1951%C2%A0>