



Pickets Ray Raphael (L) and James Thorpe at City Hall

Closing Pools Ends Jobs, Cuts Attendance at Parks

By AL BALLARD.

At least 17 employees, most of them students earning money for the coming school year, lost their summer jobs Tuesday when the Raleigh City Council closed swimming pools at Pullen and Chavis Parks.

Albert Johnson, head lifeguard at the Chavis Park pool, operated by the City for Negroes, said, "I wish you could have been here when I had to tell those lifeguards and students they were fired because the pools were closed."

The swimming pools, chief attractions at both parks, were closed by the Council after a racial demonstration at the Pullen Park pool on Monday.

Howard Pullen, Negro recreation supervisor, said attendance at Chavis Park had all but disappeared since the pool closed.

"We had 2,500 people here last

Saturday. They came in chartered buses from all over Eastern Carolina and clear up to Roanoke, Va.," he said. "A lot of them have called since this came out in the papers. They're just not going to come down now."

Jimmy Chambers, City recreation director, said the Chavis Park facilities are the best "in this part of the country. That's why we have all those people coming in from Virginia and all over the State. We had 26 buses here last Saturday."

Chambers said Chavis Park enjoys its highest attendance at the swimming pool during the month of August, while Pullen Park has a high attendance during June and July.

Last summer, Chambers said, Pullen Park pool had 64,854 paid admissions, while Chavis Park had 20,618 paid admissions.

"We figure that one out of

every eight people who come to the park use the pool," he said.

Howard Pullen said the children's reaction to closing the Chavis Park pool was difficult to contend with.

"We feel we've suffered a loss," he said. "Our young people don't understand why the pool's closed. I can't explain it to them either."

Chambers said that those who lost their jobs included four lifeguards at each park who were paid \$1.25 per hour; one chief lifeguard at Pullen Park who was paid \$50 per week; one ticket woman at each park, who were paid \$36 per week; one concession operator at 90 cents per hour; a basket man and basket woman at each park, who were paid \$36 per week.

He said that employees in charge of the train rides, etc., were taken off of salary and placed on an hourly basis.