

# Getting Smart

ELECTION RIP-OFF

The mechanisms of political bossism can be confusing and frustrating to the unsophisticated voter. I've discussed, in a previous column, the struggle of Bennie G. Thompson in his effort to become mayor of a small, rural town in Mississippi. Let us now examine the means by which the local party bosses and governmental officials attempted to steal his election.

In most states, primary elections are controlled by an elections commission of some kind. These commissions are composed of local political leaders selected from both national party regulars. Having both Republicans and Democrats on the commission is a method employed to keep the opposing parties honest while at the same time looking out for their own particular interests.

Bennie Thompson did not represent any individual interests in Bolton, only those of his poor Black constituency. He didn't expect that the commission would play fair.

Because Black folks threatened the machine of both parties, and represented a new power in the county, the elections commission turned its back on the democratic process and attempted to use Machiavellian tactics.

Bennie's political opponents charged that deceased people had voted, non-residents had voted, non-voters had voters, as well as the under-aged. The short, the elections commission

agreed with Bennie's opponents. They upheld a new election charging that Bennie had not played fair. However, the commission never stated what rules had been violated in the campaign and never proved any specific charges.

The Southern District Court ruled, after several thousands of dollars were expended, that the elections commission had unfairly and unjustly voided the election since there never was substantiated proof of so-called irregularities in the election.

In retrospect, five years ago, Bennie led a drive in Bolton that took three of the five city council seats. The freedom fighters were challenged in the courts under the guise of fair play. Litigation took over a half-year to resolve successfully. In those five years, the mayor vetoed hundreds of resolutions and operated, as usual, in spite of the Black-controlled council. This bare majority could not override a mayoral veto.

Bennie and his all-Black city council look forward now to a different struggle. They face a hostile county and state government and a business community all adhering to the status quo.

### STOP DRIPS

Repair leaky faucets. a leak of one drop per second wastes 2,500 gallons of water per year, says W. C. Warrick, extension housing specialist, North Carolina State University.

# NCCU Students Enlist In Air Force Reserve

Fourteen North Carolina Central University students enlisted Tuesday, September 4, in the Air Force Reserve. They are cadets beginning two years of training in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Lt. Col. Fred Knops, commanding officer of the NCCU unit, administered the oath of allegiance to the cadets in the chancellor's conference room at the university. Dr. Albert N. Whiting, chancellor, attended the ceremony, the first of its kind at the university.

Cadets include the following, listed alphabetically by name, with hometown:

- Otis D. Bennett, 119 Lubberman St., Fort Bragg;
- Larry S. Berry, 325 Richard Ave., Ahoskie; Otis D. Bryant, Oriental; James V. Cromartie, 802 S. Breazeale Ave., Mt. Oliver; Gerald D. Fetherston, 5709 Chisholm Trail, Fayetteville; Dianne M. Jiwright, Winnabow; Leon C. McLean, Shannon; Samuel L. Parker, 215 S. Miami Blvd., Durham; Henry J. Peterson Jr., Warsaw; Emerson W. Pitman, Halifax; Elaine R. Pyant, Lincolnton; Michael S. Sessoms, Murfreesboro; Theodore B. Thomas, 131 Lawton Drive, Hartsville, S.C.; Joseph C. Watford, Winton.

# Writers Forum

by George B. Russ



LESHONYA BRASWELL, REGINALD BRASWELL, MRS. LEE ETTA BRASWELL, MRS. ROSA LEE HAMILTON



McKINNON, McKOY AND CURRIE



MRS. LENA ELLERBEE (L); MRS. SNODA BELL (R)

The low, rambling, gray house with a white trim, wide porches, fronting Roxboro Street and Gray Avenue, shaded for the most part by luxuriant foliage of Maple Trees; the home of a pair of fine Christian sisters: Mesdames Snoda Bell and Lena Ellerbee; is where the McKinnon, McKoy and Currie Family Reunion was held this summer.

What started out to be "just a simple get together" turned out to be a mass gathering of kith and kin. To be exact, a total of 200 adults and children were on hand to share the good-food, the wonderful fellowship, renew old acquaintances and give praises to God for the "ties and bind" families together.

From early morning until well past 11 o'clock, taxis, private cars and the city bus delivered members of the family germane to the 211 Gray Avenue address.

Baskets of food and covered dishes were furnished by the Wilson and Durham clans.

The backyard, a picturesque old fashioned flower garden, was the setting for the dining area. Here, Mr. and Mrs. Currie of San Francisco were co-host and hostess. While Mrs. Annie Black of Patterson, N.J. served as Personal Relations Person: welcoming everyone and extending greetings and best wishes from the hostesses Mmes. Bell and Ellerbee.

By the time the noonday meal was well underway, the August-haze had dispersed and everything was sunny and bright except a dark cloud gathering in the far off easterly direction. The oldesters referred, frequently, to the gathering storm-cloud, but this ominous warning did not crush the spirits of the young in hearts who were absorbed in the festivities of the occasion—the action at the moment.

Long before the day was spent, most of the attendants were acutely aware that the spirit of this 1st Family Reunion should be recaptured annually, therefore, the last week of August was instituted to become known as the McKinnon, McKoy and Currie Family Observance date. The 1974 Convocation will be held in the garden state, Patterson, New Jersey.

The distant storm clouds, spotted earlier in the day, became more pronounced—menacing—as the hour of departure approached, therefore, the good-bys of everyone were a little sadder as each bade the other adieu and hurried off:

There is a word, of grief the sounding taken;  
There is a word bejeweled with bright tears,  
The saddest word (and lips have ever spoken);  
A little word that breaks the charm of years;  
Its utterance must ever bring emotion,  
The memories it's chrystals cannot die,  
'Tis known in every land, on every ocean—  
'Tis called "good-bye."

But for the ladies of the house, Snody and Lena, the time had come to thank, once more, one and all who had come to share, receive and renew friendships and fellowships of kith and kin. Sadness for them will come later. Passing out gifts of thanks is uppermost in their thoughts. They know a gift of thanks is giving of the warmth of your heart. So each guest receives a hug and kiss and a warm friendly, "Thank you for coming."

The oldest known member of either Clan: The McKinnons, McKoys or Curries: Mrs. Annie McIntyre of Laurinburg. Representatives from Patterson, N. J.: Mr. and Mrs. George Black, Mr. and Mrs. David G. Williams and family—Mrs. Nora Bell and family—T. J. Wilson.

Durham delegates: Mmes. Helen McNeil, Doria Skinner, Katie Dempson, Rosa Williams; Mr. and Mrs. Willie Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Lorenza Thompson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Hamilton, Mrs. Lee Etta Braswell and family.

Wilson, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. David Currie, Mr. and Mrs. George Vicks, Mr. and Mrs. Collin Currie, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Ferguson. Killen, Texas; Mrs. Beverly Newsome and family. Camden, S.C.; Mrs. Katie Williams, Columbus, Georgia; Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Bell, San Francisco, Calif.; Ray Currie.

Laurinburg; Mrs. Eloise Currie, Roy Wilson and family. Brooklyn, N.Y.; Mrs. Gwendolyn Braswell, Fort Bragg, N. C. Arland Braswell, Jr.

# Va. Union Unveils '73 Edition Against J. C. Smith

BY: Christopher T. Fisher

The VUU Panthers will unveil their third season under the tutelage of Coach Willard Bailey. This inaugural affair should shape us as a battle between VUU's aggressive defense and J. C. Smith's potent offense, on Sept. 15th in Charlotte.

VUU's defense will feature two rugged ends in Larry Reed and All-CIAA candidate Horace Williams. Playing inside Reed and Williams will be sophomore Donald Tate and Richard Macon. Backing up this massive line that averages 6' 3" 242 pounds will be gifted trio of All-CIAA Damon Dreher, Roger Reed and Vincent Eley. The secondary will probably be composed of cornerbacks Anthony Leonard and/or Waverly Tillar, James Rodgers or Willie Patterson, free safety Harry Sewell and strong safety Frank McCray. This defensive unit will be minus four of its stellar performers Bob Jones, Walter Whitfield, Irving Strickland, and Mike Jones. Mike Jones, considered an All-American candidate, suffered an ankle

injury that will sideline him for this season. Bob Jones, Whitfield and Strickland completed their eligibility last year.

J.C. Smith will try to severely test VUU defense with what is probably one of their most explosive offensive units. "Smith's offensive unit is not young by any means. WE have several young men that can play the game as well or better than any in the conference or nation as well. These include quarterback Luther Carter, offensive guard Ozzie Smith, running back Bruce Duke, tight end Bill Dulin, tackle George Hill and Willia Bailey", commented Coach Eddie McGirt.

Carter led the CIAA in passing and total offense and his antics will be closely scrutinized by VUU's vaunted defense.

Offensively, the Panthers coaching staff feels that this will be one of Union's most dynamic units. Spearheaded by the running of All-CIAA Lofell Williams, Larry Roberts and Michael Best, the Panthers will try to prevail as a domineering

running force in the CIAA. With the experience that quarterback Timothy Keeles gained last year, he is expected to perk of a sporadic passing attack. Keeles will be pitching to the likes of ends Curtis Thompson, Sherman Van Phillips, Dexter Freeman and the running backs.

Up front will be center Sherman Lee 6' 3" 240, guards Charles Eason 6' 2" 245 and Larry Shepherd 6' 2" 255, and tackles Larry Southall 6' 5" 245 and Herbert Scott 6' 3" 245. This experienced unit will have the unenviable task of blocking for Williams, Robert Best and Keeles.

From pre-season releases one of J. C. Smith's glaring weaknesses is their kicking game. This is one of VUU strong suits. Sophomore Anthony Leonard will command unusual attention from J. C. Smith. Last year in Union's 46-12 romp Leonard returned two punts and one kickoff for touchdowns of 72, 88 and 88 yards. In addition he recovered a fumble and had an interception.

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