

The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNDISGUISED

(USPS 091-380)

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1982

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913

PRICE: 30 CENTS

Kids Cooking

A Special Monthly Feature
In This Issue

Youngsters Will Want To Save These Recipes

Words Of Wisdom

The human soul on fire is man's greatest weapon.

—Marshal Foch

The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes.

—Disraeli

VOLUME 60 - NUMBER 12

Durham To Soon Face Major Annexation Issues

By Milton Jordan
In Durham, annexation appears to be a dirty word.

People to be annexed often feel they are not getting a fair shake, with the cost from taxes outranking city services in their minds. Blacks also tend to disfavor annexation, arguing that bringing large segments of mostly white suburbanites into the city dilutes black voting strength.

One side of that argument fuels a current annexation controversy that is still in court. Last year, the city targeted five areas for annexation, the first major expansion of the current city limits since 1974, according to Dwight A. Yarborough of the Durham Planning Department.

In one of those areas — both the largest in land area and population, located on the city's western tip, just beyond South Square Mall on Chapel Hill Boulevard, including areas along Pickett Road, Cornwallis Road and Garrett Road — some residents sued the city to halt the annexation.

They lost the suit in Superior Court, but, according to the attorney for more than 200 of the more than 800 families who live in the proposed annexed area, "we feel that we will win on appeal". Right now, both sides are waiting for the results from post-judgment motions that are scheduled for early April. The court case could delay for as long as a year the annexation of this area that was originally scheduled to become a part of the city this June.

The arguments in this controversy are simple. The people being annexed contend that the city will not be able to give them comparable city-wide services, particularly fire protection. On the day the annexation becomes official, city officials say they can provide the same level of services.

The black community has apparently taken a wait and see attitude on this first phase of annexation, but the issue is not going away.

And in fact, the issue is far more complex than either of the two common arguments would appear to indicate. Any urban area must grow to survive, and must also manage growth effectively so that it benefits the urban area rather than subtracts from it. Durham is no exception. But in this respect, Durham often seems victimized by its history.

Historically, Durham has been a city of "special interests". These special interest groups have often pursued objectives unrelated to the city's overall well-being.

In no area has this been more true over the years than in planning and managing growth. For years, if Durham grew at all, it just grew. There were no overall, community-wide growth objectives, and clearly there were no strategies to achieve significant benefits from growth.

One result has been a dwindling tax base in the city as over the past twenty years, people fled

the increased pressures of urban living, opting rather for the apparent serenity of suburbia.

Another result has been urban sprawl. Succinctly defined, urban sprawl is a cancerous growth that spreads in almost all directions, leaps barriers with a single bound, and ignores the potentially devastating ripple effect it creates.

And at the heart of those ripples is city government trying to deliver urban services to an increasing number of "sub-urban" areas. The costs escalate faster than rabbits reproduce.

Consider sewage treatment, for example, a particularly odious problem in Durham where tightly bound soil simply doesn't absorb waste water very well. Therefore, subdivisions, for example, should be built on the downside of ridges, reasonably near sewage treatment plants. Ignoring this principle will cost taxpayers a new sewage treatment plant.

Water, that clear, life-sustaining stuff that everyone seems to take for granted, is another example. It does not make sense to build houses where there are no water lines, but people do it. And eventually everyone pays for it.

But by far the most devastating problem produced by urban sprawl, according to some urbanologists, is the "sub-urban" attitude that sees the city as a sort of "free trade service zone" from which one can receive municipal level services without paying city taxes.

And it is in the bone-crunching jaws of this attitude that Durham finds itself today, battling, as it were, on two major fronts of urban administration and development.

The first battle centers around how to revitalize the city's first major confrontations in that battle. The outcome is uncertain, pending a June vote on a \$10.5 million bond issue to finance the civic center.

The second battle is the city's policy of growth management on its fringes, a policy also designed to knit the fringes into the city's overall fabric when it appears to be most feasible and cost effective.

This so-called urban growth policy rings the city with a swarth of land, served with water and sewer, where urban level development is encouraged. By the same token the city's policy discourages growth outside this area because it will not extend sewer or water lines outside to the urban growth area.

The bottom line of this policy is annexation.

"The principle purpose of the urban growth policy is to manage growth and to discourage urban sprawl," explained Yarborough. "But I guess the hidden agenda is annexation."

According to city manager Barry Del Castillo, the urban growth policy accomplishes two major goals:

"The city's intent in the urban growth area is to annex it as it develops," Del Castillo explained in a recent interview. (Continued on Page 3)



FOUR HILLSIDE STUDENTS discussed a wide ranging slate of issues facing young people during a recent three-day legislative assembly in Raleigh. They are (l-r): James Robbins, Miss Alita Brown, Miss Retha Daniel and David Goins.

Young People Face Issues Facing Them

By Milton Jordan

Many pressing issues face young people today as they teeter on the brink of adulthood. These issues include jobs, drugs, birth control and abortions, as well as the opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process that affects their destiny.

Four Hillside seniors tackled these and other issues recently during a three-day session of the Youth Legislative Assembly, an annual confab sponsored this year by the N.C. Youth Council and the Raleigh Youth Council.

The students were: David Goins, 17; Alita Brown, 18; James Robbins, 17; and Retha Daniel, 18. Each is a member of the Hillside Student Council.

"The bills that we passed during this legislative assembly affect the future of America's youth," explained Goins, "and we feel that youth should have a voice in deciding their future."

Apparently both Gov. Jim Hunt and the North Carolina Legislature agree because the legislative assembly is sponsored by the Youth Involvement office in the Department of Ad-

ministration. This office, established in 1973, is designed to advocate for young people between the ages of 13 and 21. The office also operates a summer intern program for college students.

Among the issues considered by the Hillside students and more than 800 other students from across the state were the following questions:

* Should age discrimination relative to young people be prohibited?

* Should the parents of teenagers be notified before a physician performs abortion on a minor?

* Should young people sit on statewide appointed boards and commissions?

* Should the state abolish the manufacture, delivery, sale and possession of drug paraphernalia?

* Should school officials be allowed full search and seizure powers over students?

The students have some very definite opinions on these and other questions that came before them in Raleigh.

"I really believe that employers should be prohibited from discriminating against

young people, just because they're young," said Ms. Brown, "because there are some young people who might be young but mature enough to handle certain jobs that some other young people can't handle."

Robbins concurred: "I think employers should come up with a way of identifying the exceptional person, particularly the exceptional young person, so that you're not refused a job just because someone thinks you're too young."

Though they felt strongly that employers should take a chance on apparently exceptional young people, the students were uncertain about who should pay for the mistakes.

On the issue of employment, the young all felt that there should be a broad range of apprenticeship programs, designed to provide jobs for young people and give them time to get on-the-job experience.

But while they supported a certain feeling of independence among youth on certain issues, they turned to a more traditional posture on some other issues.

"I don't think teenagers should have

access to birth control methods, or abortions without their parents knowing," said Ms. Daniels emphatically. "Parents have a right to know. They might be able to help."

Miss Brown disagrees: "I think it is better to let the girl have the birth control pills or whatever without letting her parents know because apparently she's not going to stop being sexually active, and she's not going to get parental consent for that."

The most impressive thing about these four students is that not only are their opinions well-thought out, but they are also open to disagreement and change. They willingly admit not having thought about a certain angle, and when enlightened, they vow to do something about it. For example:

When asked what is the single most effective way to get the attention of elected officials, each of the students suggested a number of things, but no one mentioned voting. When voting was mentioned, the two 18-year-olds smiled and said: "I've got to register to vote."

Durham Voters Alliance

Ten Years Of Bridging Political Gaps

By Donald Alderman

Some people in Durham want to see a civic center downtown, as a magnet to attract a new hotel, and office building, and other potential development.

Some other people in Durham don't want to take a \$13 million gamble by voting to float \$10.5 million in bonds and take another \$3 million from the county to build the civic center.

And, in the middle of that squabble that last week got a little heated during a Durham City Council public hearing, the Durham Voters Alliance offered a middle-ground alternative.

The Alliance, a ten-year-old political organization that has been in the middle of a lot of local political squabbles, wants the city to build a culture center that puts more emphasis on local programs than attracting convention business. It also wants to renovate the downtown Arts Center and the Carolina Theater, two things that are missing from the city's civic center plan. The Alliance's proposal costs \$1.2 million less.

According to Alliance chairman, Robert Glenn, the cultural center proposal aptly illustrates how the organization always tries to come up with what it calls "solutions that are best for all of Durham's citizens".

In essence, the organization that grew out of local work during the 1972 George McGovern presidential campaign, fashions itself somewhat of a local political arbitrator. It bridges opposing factions, attempting to knit together political fabrics into a complete tapestry that often includes a lot from both sides, but seldom resembles what either side started with.

The Alliance doesn't shy away from the tough nuts. Recently, it has dived headlong into the middle of arguments over Durham's nighttime bus service, the East-West Expressway and traffic problems on the Westside, Hayti redevelopment, among other issues.

Though the Alliance has been in the thick of political squabbles for a decade, leaving no doubt of its wide-reaching involvement, its effectiveness is much harder to measure. But its methods characterize the principles by which the organization defines itself, and are not likely to change any time soon.

Bridging political gaps is not the Alliance's only work. Through a chairman, steering committee and six standing committees, the political action group that boasts a mailing list of about 1500 names, a membership of about 300, and a faithful work crew of about fifty, also seeks to affect political elections, city policy making and administrative decisions.

In local, state and national elections, the group endorses candidates in most campaigns. And while no one in the group will confirm any set criteria for endorsements, the record seems to show that candidates that

receive the Alliance's blessing are those who propose to represent persons of low and middle incomes, blacks, women and persons often called "grassroots", or "liberal" or "progressive".

But these labels also sometimes pose problems, said Glenn, because they're often hard to define.

"It's something we've been wrestling with for ten years," said Glenn, "because what may be liberal or progressive in one instance may not be in another."

For example, he said, a politician who may be liberal on fiscal matters may not be liberal on all other concerns such as environmental or social issues.

"We try to avoid labeling," Glenn said, "because we don't think they have relevance. That's what happens to us a lot; people tend to attach labels that don't apply."

He admitted however, that the group does use labeling as a tactic.

According to endorsement committee chairman, Ms. Susan Barro, in choosing candidates, the mostly professional and white group sends candidates questionnaires to be filled out and returned, invites local candidates to an interview to gather their position on issues before making an endorsement recommendation before the whole organization.

"We choose candidates that will best serve the DVA and the citizens of Durham," Ms. Barro said. "I don't want to be any more specific about the process at this time."

Ms. Brown, said when the group works hard, it can make a difference of 2500 votes at the polls.

Working closely, but not always in agreement, with the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People and the People's Alliance, the group closely monitors issues before the city council.

"We try to examine the impact of issues, not just on small groups but on the whole population," said Jack Preiss, issues committee chairman.

And, according to Glenn, its not so important that policy-makers and politicians agree with the Alliance as it is their lending the group an ear on particular issues.

So the game that the Alliance plays is not one of power politics but rather one of addressing particular issues.

The Alliance's approach to politics doesn't win it a lot of permanent friends among many other organizations, because the Alliance's philosophy is to be issue oriented. In one instance it might back the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, and on another issue, oppose that group.

The group also examines legislative activity of the Durham delegation in the state general assembly, often analyzing bills sponsored by delegation members and offering the community insight on whether the bill should be supported.



Retiring Directors Honored

Special recognition was given to two retiring directors of Mechanics And Farmers Bank at the annual stockholders meeting here March 8. In the top photo, C.C. Spaulding (l), director, makes presentation to J.W. Goodloe of Durham as J.J. Sansom (r), bank president, looks on. In bottom photo, Spaulding presents plaque to Malachi L. Greene of Charlotte. (See Story Page 3)