

Words Of Wisdom
It is easy to tell when you're on the wrong road. You hardly ever see any detour signs.
—Anonymous

Look for reasons why you can do a thing, rather than why you can't.
—Kenneth McFarland

YOUR VOTE
June 29
Can Change the Course of
Black History for at Least
The Next TEN Years

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On Hayti-Civic Center

Leaders Seeking United Front



By Donald Alderman
Several of Durham's black leaders confirmed this week that they have worked together for several months to come up with a unified position on Hayti and the proposed downtown civic center.

Their comments come in the wake of a vote, apparently by eleven members of the 23-member executive committee of the local NAACP branch, endorsing the civic center bond referendum. According to an executive committee member, who checked his by-laws, the vote was legal since one-third of the committee present is a quorum.

But last week, T.R. Speight, a member of the NAACP executive committee, said the endorsement vote violated a "tacit agreement between the four major black organizations that we should work together to turn our gun in the same direction on this issue."

In interviews this week, representatives of those organizations confirmed efforts to reach a unified position. The organizations are the Hayti Development Corporation, Durham Business and Professional Chain, the Durham Branch of the NAACP and the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People.

"There was a series of meetings," said John Hudgins, who heads the Durham Committee's task force on Hayti and downtown development. "Basically, people left with the understanding that we should work together in the same direction, mainly because if we allow people to divide us, we stand a chance of losing everything."

Persons interviewed who said they attended the series of meetings said they were held at Stanford L. Warren Library, UDI offices and St. Joseph's AME Church, all located along Fayetteville Street.

The purpose of the series of meetings was clearly focused on how the black community should vote on a \$10.5 million bond referendum on June 29. The money would go to build a \$13.5 million downtown convention center. The County Commissioners have pledged \$3 million in revenue sharing money to help build the structure.

According to civic center supporters and city officials, the developer who has agreed to build the civic center will also arrange construction of a downtown hotel and office building.

But for many in the black community, the civic center issue revolves

around the Hayti question.

Hayti, a former black residential and commercial area was razed during Durham's urban renewal program about twenty years ago. It has not been rebuilt.

When the civic center issue surfaced, many in the black community said clearly that black voters should not support the civic center referendum unless the city offered specific assurances on the redevelopment of Hayti.

The series of meetings between members of the city's principle black organizations were strategy sessions to

determine how that philosophy could best be implemented.

"Some of the meetings were heated," said Hudgins, "but we agreed that blacks should concentrate more on the development of Hayti than on the civic center."

Nathaniel White, Jr., executive director of the Hayti Development Corporation, said he remembers the meetings well.

"It was said that we needed to formulate a unified strategy and that there would be more meetings to carve out the groups' positions," Ervin Allen, Jr., ex-

ecutive director of the Durham Business & Professional Chain, echoed similar sentiments.

"I attended several meetings with a lot of leaders," he said, "and it seemed that they were seeking a unified position on Hayti and downtown."

On the question of whether the two issues should realistically be linked, Hudgins explained that the two proposed projects (Hayti and the civic center) have always been linked, by blacks and whites.

"City officials know they are linked," he said. "They're depending upon Hayti development

to help retire the civic center bonds if the referendum passes. The real issues are how will Hayti be redeveloped and how much will it cost?"

Hudgins continued to point out that blacks must hold their own to have Hayti developed comparable to its past.

"Some white people are trying to kindle the flames by throwing a carrot at blacks and by saying we are not informed on the civic center issue," Hudgins said. "But the issue is economic development, and we know what we want Hayti to be."

Why Did "Stu" Nunn Die?
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Track Is Back In Durham
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Needed: Symbol To Africa
See Page 15

County Attorney:

Denies Racial Discrimination In Hiring

By Joseph E. Green
The difference between the jobs available and the number of people who apply keeps blacks from high level jobs in Durham County government, according to the county's attorney. He denies that racial discrimination is a factor.

Responding to charges by two black nurses who work for the County Health Department, and who have taken the county to federal court, Owen said, "The county is very definitely not guilty of racial discrimination when it comes to hiring."

The two nurses, Ms. Delores H. Vaughn, who has been employed with

the county since 1967 and Ms. Ruth Amey, a twenty-year employee, are alleging that they have been passed over for promotions when positions came available.

Ms. Vaughn, for example, says that in one instance, a "white woman who had been with the county only two years," was promoted over her.

But Owen contends that it's merely a matter of mathematics.

"When you have one position open and twenty people apply for it, somebody is not going to get the job," Owen said. "We can't go out and create positions. It's simple mathematics." Continuing, Owen

said, "A lot of them seem to think that we can create positions," referring to people like Ms. Vaughn and Ms. Amey. "They have filed a complaint and we have filed an answer."

Owen noted that the nurses' case is one of only a few racial discrimination cases that have been filed against the county.

The case takes on increasing importance in wake of recent efforts to have the Durham County Commission adopt an affirmative action policy.

These efforts, however, have met with strong resistance, with county officials contending that no affirmative

action policy is needed because county government does not discriminate in its hiring and promotion practices.

But close examination of the county's hiring practices reveals that many of the county's black employees are bunched in the county's lowest job categories, and that few blacks or women are working in supervisory positions.

This situation is at the heart of the suit filed by the two county health department nurses. Owen disagrees.

"Their case is unmerited," he said. "This is not about racial discrimination. Somebody just got mad."

Through Ups and Downs

Leon And Alice Saunders Have Preached 43 Years

By Patricia Williams
Church services in Bishop Leon Saunders' Jesus House of Prayer on Dowd Street follow a basic pattern.

The sisters, many of them dressed in white to signify ministerial position or longevity in the church, sing rousing spirituals and testify. After the first couple of words in each song that might crop up from any place in the congregation, the piano player in the right corner of the pulpit catches the beat and fires up the melody. In the choir stand, about a dozen members of the choir sing out, careful not to drown out the song leader in the congregation.

Singing always precedes testifying.

Saunders' church at 704 Dowd Street is built for the services. It's a sturdy, brick veneer building, featuring one long room, lined on either side with about twenty shiny, oak, high-back benches. The aisles are wide and there's a space in front of the pulpit, both designed to accommodate

"shouting" that comes often during a typical service, most of the time without warning.

On the left side of the pulpit, in a high back, comfortable office chair, sits Bishop Leon Saunders, a slender faced, tall, slim figure who ever so often raises his hand and smiles, signifying his pleasure at a particular segment of the services. At his left side sits Mrs. Saunders, Mother, the members call her. She, a short, slightly stout woman, dressed in white from head to toe.

Together they sit, watching protectively and pleasingly over the kingdom they've built. It took them 43 years to do it, and it wasn't easy.

During a recent interview, Mrs. Saunders recalled those early years, going back to 1929 when the two of them left Johnston County after farming there for ten years together, and came to Durham.

"We came here to search for a better life," she said. "But it was hard at first."

During their first years in Durham, Saunders worked at a number of odd jobs, including selling wood and coal for fifty cents a bag. She washed and ironed clothes for white families for a dollar a load.

Later, Saunders worked for a local construction company, and after that for twenty years until his retirement in 1968, he worked for a textile mill.

Referring to their early years, Mrs. Saunders said, "It was rough. We ate beans and fatback, but we survived."

The Saunders ministry began shortly after their arrival in Durham.

It wasn't planned, they said. He just decided to preach. His wife agreed.

Saunders' first sermon was delivered in a back room of their house in the 500 block of Dowd Street. The husband and wife team preached there until they could afford to buy a ramshackled building for a church.

This was the beginning of the Jesus House of Prayer, Inc.

Budget Time Means Money Cuts For County Departments

By Joseph E. Green

It's budget time again for Durham County and most county department heads are requesting more money for their divisions. But, they are not going to get it. In fact, they are going to have to make reductions in the budget requests that they have submitted to the county's fiscal chief.

Paul Warren, the county's finance director, told *The Carolina Times* that the budget will increase for the fiscal year 82-83, which begins on July 1, but only by \$33.1 million. Last year's budget - was \$70,544,178.

He said that things are so tight that there will be no new capital expenditures or any other ma-

nor increases in spending.

Warren, who was formerly a fiscal official in Raleigh, said that Durham County was a victim of the economic malaise that was gripping the entire country.

"We are looking to the federal government for assistance in some areas," Warren said, but any assistance that Durham gets will not be massive, he has concluded.

The County Board of Commissioners is opposed to "any increase" in taxes, Warren said. The present tax rate for Durham County residents is \$0.87 per \$100.00 on all personal and real property.

"The departments are going to have to cut," Warren said, "there are

no concrete plans right now. Everybody is going to experience difficult times."

The County Commissioners are currently reviewing the budget which will be adopted by the 21st of this month, he said.

Warren said that the county's largest expen-

ditures are in the areas of social assistance to the economically poor and to public education. The county also is providing \$250,000 to Durham Technical Institute.

"It's going to be a hard budget," Warren said, "but its going to be a fair budget."

Durham and Worldwide

Ham Radio Operators Ready For Field Day

By noon next Saturday, more than 100,000 HAM radio operators around the world will be ready to receive a message from the American Radio Relay League. That message,

sent by what is probably the largest HAM radio operation in the country, will launch Field Day '82.

Field Day, an annual practice session for (Continued on Page 6)

You Are Invited to the
MASS MEETING: "Voting 1982"
Sunday, June 20, 6 p.m. **Community Baptist Church**
4821 Barbee Road