

Allen Needs Runoff

By Donald Alderman
 Sheriff William A. "Bill" Allen, after leading the ticket in Tuesday's election, but with less than enough to avoid a runoff, now must gear up for another election fight because the leading challenger, Roland Leary, is expected to call for a runoff.

With the usual combination backing of rural whites and the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, Allen 52, got about 4,500

more votes than Leary in a race that had been heated and close. Allen said Tuesday night that he would have to assess the precinct turnout to determine if support had gone as expected. Leary, 49, who has worked in the county's ABC office for 21 years (as chief for the last eight), couldn't be reached for comment Tuesday on whether he will call for a runoff.

The third place challenger, Jess Bowe, chairman of the criminal

justice department at NCCU, got just over 5,000 votes, and it was not clear if Bowe supporters would cross over to Allen or to Leary.

The race was essentially the same as four years earlier when Bowe and Leary attempted, unsuccessfully, to deny Allen an elected term after the incumbent had served one year as an appointee.

Bowe, who was the 'dark horse' throughout the campaign, won only two of 44 precincts, with Leary leading the ticket in 16 precincts, and Allen carrying the day, topping the polls in 26 precincts.

One reason that Bowe did not fare well was the absence of the Durham Committee's endorsement, lost to Allen, that he received in 1978.

That backing fell through Sunday when it was noted at the committee's meeting on endorsements that Bowe's entire staff at NCCU is white and the chances of blacks joining the staff were slim and almost none.

Surprising to many political observers, Leary ran strong in county precincts, thought to be Allen strongholds — such as Bethesda Ruritan Club and Neal Junior High.

Allen, as he did in 1978, fared well with middle to upper income voters such as in Hope Valley and Jordan High precincts. But unlike his first election, Allen also took black precincts such as Hillside and Burton schools.

Had Leary not run such a strong campaign, Allen, with the general all-around support of the community, probably

would not be facing a runoff.

The race was one of Durham County's most heated contests. Both challengers repeatedly questioned Allen's operation of the department over the past four and a half years.

Leary, ABC Chief for 21, argued that enough wasn't being done to curb what he called the county's major crime problem — commercial and residential burglary — and said he would implement an aggressive crime prevention program that includes increased patrolling and surveillance.

Bowe, a former Charleston, W. Va., police officer, charged that Allen didn't assign enough patrolmen to help reduce the crime rate.

Allen, who has been with the Sheriff's department since 1958, at first seemed unshaken by his challengers' criticisms, but his concerns grew as election day drew closer.

He then pointed to departments he had created during his term as sheriff that were designed to free more deputies to patrol the county. Also, Allen said, he created a Civil Division whose function is only to serve civil papers. Before the creation of the civil unit, Allen said, the patrol division was responsible for serving civil papers, warrants and other legal documents as well as patrolling the county.

All along, Allen maintained that the things the challengers proposed to do are things already in place and added that Bowe and Leary were not familiar with the workings of the sheriff's department.

Olympic Training Center Fine Tunes Athletes

MILWAUKEE — Not long ago, serious training for world class American athletes consisted of running and exercising, along with some weightlifting.

But, as foreign nations began to narrow the gap on U.S. domination in international competition, alternative methods of preparation were sought.

The United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., provides sophisticated training for athletes as they prepare for international events.

Although several European countries adopted the OTC format years ago, the Colorado facility has been advantageous in preparing athletes.

"The Olympic Training Center will play a key role in our future success against international competition," said Tom Bynum, head trainer at North Carolina A & T University, who will work with the track and

field teams at the National Sports Festival in July.

"The facility not only has sophisticated training equipment, but also has the capability to test endurance levels, growth

potential, reaction to stress, and other facets of development that are

essential when competing against world class athletes.

Piggott

(Continued from Page 5)

for a winning percentage of .600.

Under Piggott, no fewer than 21 of his players played in the ranks of the professionals, including such standouts as Cornell Gordon (New York Jets), Mel Phillips (San Francisco 49ers) and Elvin Bethea (Houston Oilers).

Piggott has also coached A-T teams in track (1949-61) and boxing (1955).

Piggott was born in Hinsdale, Ill., where he attended Hinsdale Township High School and played football four years as a halfback while capturing a number of awards.

While playing football at the University of Illinois, Piggott was a member of the Fighting Illini team which defeated UCLA 45-14 in the '47 Rose Bowl. He played a year of pro ball with the Los Angeles Dons.

Piggott holds a bachelor of science and a master's degree from the University of Illinois and a doctorate in Physical Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Piggott is married to Dr. Lucille Johnson Piggott. They have a son, Bert Piggott, Jr.

Turnout

(Continued from page 4)

since there is no Republican opposition for those seats in November.

With such a strong showing from black voters, particularly the lock-step support of Durham Committee endorsements raises the question of accountability. It is not clear at this point how the Committee proposes to hold various elected winners accountable to interests of concern to local blacks during the tenure of their terms.

District Attorney

job, the operation of the DA's office has improved. "I've taken an active role," he says, "in reorganizing both the district and superior courts, and I can say that I've never seen law enforcement or the courts operate more effectively than now."

Stephens disagreed. He says Edwards has just sat back and let the office handle itself. "Dan has acted as an administrator," he asserted, "and not as a trial lawyer. This should not be the role of the district attorney."

Stephens added that between 1976 and 1979, the DA's office handled twice the number of cases currently being handled and with half the staff.

Edwards countered this by saying that he has conducted numerous investigations of many areas of community concern. He said they in-

cluded corruption of lawyers, law enforcement and various other officials. "These investigations," he added, "were organized, investigated and prosecuted by me."


"It has varied," he says "from time to time, depending upon whether or not it's an election year."

Meanwhile, Stephens implied that Edwards is soft on those charged with driving under the influence because he was convicted of the same charge in 1980. "The conviction rate in Durham County," Stephens noted, "is below the statewide average. On the other hand, the rate of reduction to lesser charges, such as careless and reckless driving is above the state average." Stephens gives the state average as 18.4 per cent and Durham's as 27.6 per cent.

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