

inside...

- Subsidized housing residents here — Page 3
- Residential lots for sale in Soul City — Page 3
- Elson's Pigskin Picks — Page 5
- Group fighting for better bus service struggling with internal rifts — Page 8
- Football action to rock the Triangle — Page 5
- National Scene magazine insert

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Words Of Wisdom
All good things are cheap; all bad things are very dear.
—Henry David Thoreau

If a man is right, he can't be too radical; if he is wrong, he can't be too conservative.
—Josh Billings

Two Questions Highlight Manslaughter Trial

Clement-Committee Fight May Not Be The Main Event, But It Rages On

Analysis

By Donald Alderman

A.J. Howard Clement III says he's made several big mistakes since coming to Durham, and one of the biggest was "putting too much faith" in the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People.

On the other side of this word war that has raged for several years now, officials of the Durham Committee, one of Durham's most powerful community organizations, say Clement "sold out" the black community and works against its better interests.

Caught in the middle of this fracas are average black citizens, the grassroots they're called, whose lives are often affected by decisions made by the Durham Committee and to a lesser extent Clement.

During Durham Committee candidate endorsement meetings over the past couple of months, talk increased of "bringing Clement back into the fold," and of mending differences between Clement and officers of the Durham Committee.

Some people who support the ending of this long and often bitter ideological and personality struggle say that Clement may have been wronged, and that the Durham Committee should extend the olive branch.

Others, however, say Clement should make the first gesture of friendship because, as they see it, he shouldn't have spoken against the Durham Committee, even if he was wronged.

But a seldom discussed central point in this whole issue is who needs whom the most?

One Durham Committee supporter, who asked not to be identified for fear of being embarrassed, said, "When Howard was working with the Committee, the political committee brought the organization much better information than it is bringing now. One of his top skills is political analysis," the source said. "We need that skill now more than ever."

Neither Mrs. Lavonia Allison nor Clarence Brown, co-chairmen of the political committee, could be reached to comment on that assertion.

But on the other hand, Clement, who still harbors aspirations to hold elective office, needs the committee, and that was clearly demonstrated in the most recent Democratic Primary.

Clement, along with incumbents Kenneth Spaulding, W. Paul Pulley and George Miller, were running for Durham's three seats in the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Clement lost, and when the dust cleared, he cried foul. He said that he could have been elected to one of the three seats if the Committee had endorsed him for the office. He likened the Committee's refusal to endorse him to an "unloving kiss of death from a bitter lover."

Without the Committee's endorse-



CLEMENT

ment, Clement hardly stood a chance to unseat the incumbents. With the endorsement, it is conceivable that he could be preparing to take his seat in Raleigh.

It is doubtful that Clement could have beat Spaulding who received 18,416 votes, or Pulley, who polled 14,130 votes. But if he had done better in the city's ten predominantly black precincts, he may have upset Miller, who received 13,995 votes. Clement got 9,126 votes.

And so in addition to the question of who wronged whom, this Mexican standoff between Clement and the Committee also boils down to who needs whom.

Regardless of who should right the wrong, a close examination of this rift shows blame on both sides.

It appears that Clement is a victim of circumstances in many ways, and it also appears that the Durham Committee's pragmatism denied Clement the fruits of his labor, which caused him to want to retaliate.

Consider.

Clement came to Durham in February, 1961, from South Carolina where he practiced law. He went to his first Durham Committee meeting in March, starting what was to be nearly two decades of work with Durham's principal black political organization.

In 1968, Clement headed a group called Black Solidarity Committee for Community Improvement. That group staged a successful boycott of white business demanding the hiring of blacks. During Christmas of '68, the group blocked off downtown streets, staging a black Christmas parade with a black Santa Claus.

"I've never seen the black community as unified as it was then," Clement says of his days with Black Solidarity.

Clement's involvement with the group gave him the label of a "black radical" and later helped break the bonds of unity between him and the Durham Committee.

Here's how it happened.

In 1977, H.M. "Mickey" Michaux (Continued on Page 4)

Robt. Grimes Goes On Trial For Death of Chester Reams

By Isaiah Singletary

When Robert B. Grimes goes on trial next week for the death of Chester Reams, two questions will dominate the proceedings.

One, of course, is the guilt or innocence of Grimes, 19, who is charged with involuntary manslaughter and hit and run in the May 3 death of Reams.

Reams, 37, was killed as he walked along Guess Road about 10:30 that night when he was struck from behind by a car driven by Grimes.

In many respects, the case appears to be a tragic but simple traffic accident. Reams, not properly dressed for walking along a busy thoroughfare at night, was also walking with his back to traffic. Except for speeding away from the scene with his lights off, Grimes could be seen as the innocent victim of nightmarish circumstances.

But Reams, a black man, was walking with a white woman — Ms. Patricia Reid — and Grimes is white, thus enter the complications in this case, factors which raise the second question.

Was Reams, a former truck driver and loading dock worker, victim of a growing rash of violence against black men, especially black men who appear to be involved with white women?

In the past two years, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney General William Reynolds, racially motivated violence has been on the upswing.

Testifying before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Reynolds said the Justice Department has investigated more than 350 cross-burnings, vandalism complaints and other violence in the last two years.

One of the most

publicized examples of suspected racially motivated violence was the ambush shooting of Vernon Jordan, who, at the time, was director of the National Urban League.

Jordan was seriously wounded in May of 1980 outside his motel room in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Joseph Paul Franklin, an avowed racist, was recently acquitted by a jury in the Jordan shooting. But Franklin, who testified that he hates the black race as a whole, is serving four life sentences for the murders of four young black men in separate incidents.

An Atlanta-based organization — Task Force on Racially Motivated Random Violence — has compiled a list of more than 50 reports of racially motivated violence against blacks that have occurred over the past two years around the

country.

Examples include:

* In St. Louis, a 20-year-old white woman and her 28-year-old black male friend were waiting for a bus when they were accosted by two white men. The white men allegedly asked the couple why they were together. Then they doused the couple with gasoline and set them afire.

* White youths at Wesleyan College in Connecticut posted flyers portraying their perception of an ugly black man, all inked in black, with wiry hair standing all over his head, large lips and carrying a spear. The poster was captioned "Wanted Dead or Alive." Other flyers carried terms such as "jigaboo" and claimed blacks are "led by Communist Jews in a conspiracy to destroy America and the white race." ...Still another (Continued on Page 8)



MISS TERRY MORRIS

Miss Terry Morris To Present Research Project At NIH

Miss Terry Morris, daughter of Mrs. Missouri Morris, 1713 Alfred Street, Durham, participated this summer in the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) program at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.

The nine-week program is designed to complement the special MARC program in which undergraduates participate at their own schools, and offers the students the opportunity to work in a research laboratory at various universities.

Miss Morris, a senior biology major at Tuskegee Institute, worked in the laboratory of Dr. Stanton B. Gelvin in the Department of Biological Sciences at Purdue University. Her experiments were in the new and fast-moving area of molecular biology known as genetic engineering: the directed movement and modification of genes between organisms.

Miss Morris' specific project was to move a gene from a corn plant to a sunflower plant. The gene she used was one that codes for the major corn protein called "zein." Zein is an important constituent in the diet of many farm animals, and makes up a substantial part of animal feed. It is also the

major protein in the corn humans eat.

Using recombinant DNA technology in which genes are taken from one organism and spliced into the DNA from others, Miss Morris isolated the zein gene and spliced it into the DNA from a soil bacterium called

Agrobacterium. This bacterium is known for its ability to transfer DNA to plants. The newly engineered *Agrobacterium* cell containing the zein gene was used to infect sunflower plants, and in the process of transferring its own DNA to the plant, also brought the zein gene into the sunflower.

Further work in Dr. Gelvin's laboratory will characterize the new plant Miss Morris made. She plans in the future to continue her education in the biomedical sciences.

Miss Morris will present the project September 10 at the National Institute of Health and Science in Washington, D.C.

Miss Morris is a daughter of Mrs. Missouri Morris of Alfred Street, Durham.

For The Story Behind The Story Read The Carolina Times

Republicans Hope To Win Seats With Black Support

By Joseph Green

In 1980, the Republican Party put a former sports reporter and actor in the White House. This year they plan to send more Republicans to the Democratic-dominated House of Representatives.

It would be ideal, some think, if they could find candidates who, like their standard bearer, Ronald Reagan, called football scores on the radio. But in North Carolina, they have not been that fortunate.

Thus, among others, Republicans in this state hope to send a former

professional basketball player and a former athletic director to Congress.

In the state's Second Congressional District, with the Democratic Party fragmented mostly along racial lines after a vicious run-off election between I.T. Valentine who is white, and H.M. "Mickey" Michaux, who is black, the Republicans smell victory in November.

Under normal conditions, it would be farfetched for Republicans to be optimistic in this state simply because Democratic voters outnumber Republicans by

an almost 7 to 1 margin. But these are not normal conditions.

For one reason, many black voters in the Second District are thinking about going fishing in November because they don't believe either Valentine or Jack Marin, the Republican candidate, are worth voting for.

Many other blacks are launching a write-in campaign for Michaux, and yet other black voters say they will vote for Marin in protest against Valentine.

In many political races, black voters often

City Officials

Attempt To Save Plan That Is Apparently Failing

By Donald Alderman

Attempting to short-circuit concerns that a city contract may be deemed a failure, the city's chief planner said recently if the Durham Business and Professional Chain can bring eight black business owners to the negotiating table, then the agency's work with the city will be successful.

Paul Norby, who directs the city's planning department, said in a recent interview that the purpose of the contract with the Chain was to see how these businesses can best fit into a Hayti redevelopment proposal.

Back in January, when city planners were preparing a Hayti redevelopment proposal,

city planners suggested the City Council contract with the Chain to relocate eight businesses "left over" from Durham's urban renewal effort.

At that time, city planners said the chain would work with the businesses to finally solve the 20 year old municipal headache.

But in a recent *Carolina Times* story, Ervin Allen, Jr., executive director of the chain, said he is disappointed with city officials because the businesses weren't involved in the contract planning process. Allen said that process lacked foresight. Allen also said it would be impossible to fulfill the terms of the

contract in six months because it would take that long to get the businesses into discussions.

Under the six month, \$40,000 contract that the Chain and city entered in April, the Chain was supposed to assess the businesses financial condition and determine how much money it would take to relocate them. The Chain was also to determine which businesses needed help, where that help might come from and which businesses are beyond saving.

Norby's statement that discussions will mean success is a step back from the contract's goal of solving the relocation problem.

When the Chain first started contacting the businesses, the 40 year old business assistance agency met with resistance.

The businesses refused to let the Chain see their financial books. These same businesses had consistently refused to let city planners see their books as a requirement for relocation.

The businesses are: The Carolina Times, Imperial Barber Shop, Dreamland Shoe Shine, Thorpe's Barber Shop, Green Candle Restaurant, E.N. Toole Electrical Contractors, Service Printing Company and Midway Sport Shop.

The businesses said they wouldn't be open to

discussions until the chain designed a proposal that would show how they would fit into a redeveloped Hayti.

The Chain started developing a shopping center proposal. Allen said that proposal should be finished in about a week.

All of the businesses fitted into Hayti during the 1960's before the city's urban renewal program got underway — in addition to about 100 more businesses and 600 homes.

All of that is painful history now to the black community as many ride down Fayetteville or Pettigrew streets only to see 54 acres of weeds and wild flowers covering what used to be a team-

ing business district. But the city wants to change that; in fact, the city wants to redevelop Hayti to help broaden the city's tax base. But for many who feel the destruction of Hayti robbed the black community, the only question is how will Hayti be redeveloped.

That's one of the main reasons the businesses want to see how they fit into a Hayti development scheme. The eight businesses remain in Hayti and all want to stay there.

According to Norby and Allen, the chain's proposal will at least give the businesses an idea of how they will fit into a redeveloped Hayti.

Norby said contrary to

the notion that the city is trying to close the businesses, the city is "open minded" to whatever can be worked out to help the businesses.

"We don't have any philosophical problems with going beyond the minimum relocation standards," Norby said. "The purpose of the contract was to get at the relocation problem."

In light of history, Norby said the city is willing to go the "extra mile" to help the businesses stay alive. He said the city and the businesses aren't to be blamed for shortcomings in the federally-sponsored urban renewal program, but that both should work together in

solving the problem.

He said the city will wait until the Chain finishes the contract before deciding the next steps. After the contract ends in October, the Chain will prepare a final progress report and make recommendations.

Norby said he hopes the businesses will be responsive because, "I fear HUD is going to say, close out your relocations."

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development supervises the relocation effort. Norby said the agency wants the businesses relocated so that the books can be closed on Durham's urban renewal effort.