

inside...

- Local Democrats are backing ask blacks to stay loyal —Page 4
- Haiti fight coming between city and HDC —Page 8
- Middle schools off to a good start in Durham —Page 3
- Eagles-Rams Clash at O'Kelly Field to be televised —Page 5
- Africa: OAU diplomats set sights on "Dynamic Promise" —Page 13

Duke University Library
Newspaper Department
Durham NC 27706

The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNRAVELED

(USPS 091-380)

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA — SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1982

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913

PRICE: 30 CENTS

Words Of Wisdom
Be civil to all, sociable to many, familiar with few, friend to one, enemy to none.
—Benjamin Franklin

It is easier to produce ten volumes of philosophical writing than to put one principle into practice.
—Leo Tolstoy

The People And The State Clash In Warren County Over Toxic Waste

By Milton Jordan
Executive Editor

AFTON — On the dusty shoulder of a paved country road in rural Warren County in northeastern North Carolina, about 60 miles north of Durham, a tiny girl, her features laced with fear, twin rivers of tears meeting at her chin, told the sad story of a cause all but lost.

Byina Nash, 9, an attractive little black girl, had come to this spot Wednesday on secondary road 1604 about 2½ miles from the main highway with her mother, Ms. Jennifer Nash. They had come, with about 200 other protesters, to prove with their bodies what nearly four years of legal and political pleadings had failed to prove: Warren County citizens don't want nearly 60,000 tons of toxic waste material dumped in their county.

They came on a warm, late summer morning under slightly overcast skies, men, women, children, teenagers, black and white.

The irony was not lost on them because each of them knew that 25 years ago this march would not have happened. As a matter of fact, one marcher, a black woman whose marching days go back about 15 years, said: "Twenty-five years ago, some of the people in this march would have been the targets of a march like this."

Ms. Joyce Lubbers, a white woman who lives less than a mile from the entrance to the site where the state has begun dumping tons of soil laced with toxic waste, agreed as she stood near a state highway patrol car, hoping the confrontation wouldn't come, but knowing that it couldn't be avoided.

"We couldn't have gotten blacks and whites together as little as five years ago," she said, "but now we are all beginning to realize that the struggle in America has shifted from race to class."



BENJAMIN RUFFIN, Special Assistant to Governor Jim Hunt, and the man who many say Hunt has assigned to shortcut the Michaux write-in effort.

Durham Committee Bows Out Michaux Write-In Still On

By Donald Alderman

Politics started the H.M. "Mickey" Michaux for Congress write-in campaign and politics will probably spell its doom.

Since the Second Congressional District Black Caucus launched the write-in campaign for the Durham attorney and former state legislator, the effort has encountered several problems. Many of those who first thought the write-in was a good idea are now having second thoughts.

The politics, the problems and the second thoughts loomed clearly this week during a Durham Committee meeting on the write-in question.

Michaux, who lost his bid to become North Carolina's first black Congressman in about 80 years when he fell to Nashville attorney, I.T. Valentine, urged Committee members to mix the write-in campaign.

This is the same Michaux who at a news conference the day after his defeat refused to concede to Valentine, and said: "...some people carry pens to the polls," hinting at a possible write-in campaign.

At the Wednesday night meeting, Michaux explained that he mentioned the pens to send a message to the Democrats that blacks can't be taken for granted; that 51,000 people liked his political philosophy band that fact would have to be reckoned with.

He and others who oppose the write-in effort also said they fear the write-in effort will alienate blacks from the Democratic Party.

But on the other hand, Grover Burtney, a local businessman and Durham Committee member argued that the political maneuvering was just another example of black people being co-opted.

"We know," he said passionately, "that Raleigh is calling the shots, not us. Don't sell your soul to Raleigh; sell your soul to black folks. They have brainwashed us until the candidate is wishy washy."

Burtney went on to predict that Michaux would never be elected to office because "he's listening to Gov. Hunt rather than to black people."

"I'd rather die trying to be black than die playing the Uncle Tom role," he said. "You can't turn black folks on and off and expect them to support you."

Burtney's comment clearly draws the battle lines. On one side are those, who like the local politician, believe the interests and concerns of the black community are bigger than any individual and bigger than certain political expediencies.

On the other side are those who believe that good politics dictates that the write-in effort be dropped.

Caught in the middle was the Durham Committee because both sides of this controversy are presented in the committee's membership, even among the organization's leaders.

So, rather than provide a battleground for the fracas, the committee decided to refer the write-in question back to the political committee "...to be reconsidered and brought back before the body at the appropriate time."

In effect, the Durham Committee bowed out of the fight, because insiders say privately that it is not likely that the issue will come back (Continued On Page 4)

Ben Ruffin Wiolds Much Power From Governor's Office

By Joseph E. Green

To some people, Ben Ruffin is the most powerful black man in state politics and the person they go to when they need something done in Raleigh. To others, the Durham-born Ruffin, special assistant to Gov. Jim Hunt, is just the governor's "house boy."

The divergent views themselves are not new, because it seems that people either like Ruffin immensely or dislike him with the same fervor. But the two perspectives take on a somewhat new importance now in light of the H.M. "Mickey" Michaux write-in question.

Ruffin said he believes the record of his accomplishments while working for the governor speaks for itself, citing as examples, "...more than 500 blacks on boards and commissions, two young black men on the Court of Appeals and blacks in other areas of state government. In many of these cases, I've sat in on the meetings where the decisions were made, and helped to make some of these decisions."

But Ruffin notes that despite accomplishments, blacks cannot afford to be satisfied and become (Continued on Page 3)

Housing Vs Business Fight Erupts

There are some black folks in this area who believe the effort to have voters write-in Michaux's name for Congress on November 2 is the only move in the best interest of the black community.

There are others who feel the write-in would be a betrayal of Democrats, is not workable and would isolate blacks from the party in the future. This division puts Ruffin in his usual pivotal role.

In large measure, whether black folks in the 2nd District stick with the Democratic Party, or bolt in November to write in Michaux's name or vote for the Republican candidate will depend upon Ruffin's position.

Because of his position, Ruffin's influence reaches well beyond Durham and Raleigh, and often when he speaks, he does so with at least some of the weight of the governor's office behind him. There is almost no one else on either side of the Michaux write-in question with Ruffin's far-ranging influence, or access to political power.

But who is Ruffin? What drives him? To what drummer does he march?

The picture of Ruffin that emerges from interviews with his personal friends, former employees, detractors and political observers, is one of an astute, hard-driven political man who spends his work days making certain that the concerns of blacks are felt at the highest levels of state government.

Said one former employee, Ruffin is a "perfectionist" and a man of strong personal convictions.

But a former close ally and now distant acquaintance, said: "Ruffin is out for himself. He will use the black community to get what he wants."

Ruffin shrugs off the criticisms, noting that they are to be expected.

"This is the door to opportunity," he said, "and if I'm able to open the door, then I'm a nice fellow. If, for whatever reason, I can't open the door, then I'm a s.o.b. But I don't let that worry me."

By Joseph E. Green

A major battle recently erupted in North Durham over plans to build federally funded housing in that neighborhood. The fracas matches local residents, merchants, a neighborhood housing development organization and a housing developer.

The housing organization and the developer think that about eleven houses on Mangum Street between Geer and Corporation should be converted into apartment units. Presently, they are boarding houses and run down apartment houses.

James Pou, the developer, wants to turn the existing structures into 21 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom units for low to moderate income people.

Some of the business types in the neighborhood say that the area is already too densely populated and that Pou's plan would not help things. They also say that the area, which is zoned commercial, should not be rezoned and that they intend to fight to the death any attempt to change the zoning.

During the summer, Pou convinced the city's planning board to recommend that the property be rezoned. When the merchants and some of the residents got wind of the change, they filed a protest with the city council, which is reviewing the planning board's recommendation. Once the protest was filed, Pou needed ten votes on the council to back him. Currently he does not have them.

"There is a need for that type of housing in the neighborhood," said Brent Glass, the director of Durham Neighborhood Housing Services, which is backing Pou's effort, "I am impressed with his plan."

Not so impressed is (Continued on Page 8)

Police Officer Says Sexual Harassment Widespread Problem

By Isaiah Singletary

Consider this scenario, a composite of several circumstances:

An attractive young woman is driving home alone late one night when suddenly the blue and red lights of a public safety car flash in her rear view mirror.

A little apprehensively, she glances at her speedometer, decides she is not speeding, and relaxes ever so slightly as she pulls over.

Minutes later a uniformed officer leans into her car window, smiles and says: "Where are you headed this time of night, Christine?"

Surprised, the woman looks at the officer, managing a feeble smile while trying to figure if she knows him, since it is obvious that he knows her. She finally decides she doesn't know him.

"You know me," she asks?

"Yeah, I know you," he says. "Why don't you step out of the car so I can get a better look at you?"

What should the woman do? Is this a legitimate request, or an example of police harassment? Is the officer about to arrest this woman, or suggest that she extend sexual favors?

Could it happen in Durham?

There are those who say it not only can happen, but that it does happen far more frequently than is imagined. These citizens, many of them highly

critical of local law enforcement officers and their treatment and handling of women, say that a woman under arrest is almost sure to be propositioned by someone before she is released.

While on the surface, it appears that Durham's police and judicial officials bend over backwards to insure that women under arrest are not harassed, the story under the surface paints a vastly different picture.

According to one police officer who asked not to be identified for fear of retribution for breaking the "brother officer's code of silence," sexual harassment is widespread in the police department.

In exclusive interviews with *The Carolina Times*, this officer said that women drivers are sometimes stopped by police officers just to see if the women are amenable to a sexual proposition. He also said it is a routine matter for some officers to call in a license number over their car radios to get the name and address of a "good-looking" woman driver.

"In many instances, they get the information and contact the woman later," the source said, "but there have been times when they would stop the woman right then, surprising her when they walked up to the car and called her by name."

And while what the veteran officer

says is not new, because many women in Durham have been saying for sometime that police propositioning is a widespread practice, this is the first time some confirmation of those charges has come from within the ranks.

The confirmation supports those who contend that sexual harassment will continue to be a widespread problem until the police department is subject to public review.

But so far, no public safety or city official is willing to even consider an investigation to determine if public review is needed. Everyone appears satisfied with the current system.

"I think the internal affairs unit, which didn't exist five years ago, has done a good job," said Durham City Manager Barry Del Castillo, a former public safety director before assuming his current post. "If you look at the figures, you'll see that a significant number of complaints have resulted in disciplinary action against police officers."

But Del Castillo's opinion carries a somewhat hollow ring because there is no way to check the figures.

Durham's Public Safety Department, like most police departments around the country, handles citizen complaints against police officers under an aura of officially sanctioned secrecy.

When a citizen files a complaint against the police, the charge goes to the internal affairs division. From that point on, the complaint and any action taken gets lost in a maze of legal and policy decisions. According to the police's interpretation of the state's public employee law, the complaint becomes a personnel matter, and most personnel information is private.

So citizens have no way of knowing how many complaints are filed against police or how many of those complaints involve the same officers and similar charges. But more importantly, there is no way to independently determine if the police take any action against officers, or that the complaints are even seriously considered.

And despite the fact that this lack of public review leaves ample room for police misconduct, no one seems perturbed, even in the face of recent allegations that appear to indicate that all might not be kosher on the police front.

For example:

A couple of months ago, the District Attorney's office filed charges against a magistrate and a sheriff's deputy, alleging that the two men solicited sexual favors from a (Continued On Page 4)