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# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNDISGUISED

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Words Of Wisdom

A great deal of talent is lost in the world for want of a little courage.

—Sydney Smith

He who does not punish evil commands it to be done.

—Leonardo da Vinci

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## Write-In Supporters Want Michaux Or Nothing

By Donald Alderman

For some folks in the largely rural 2nd Congressional District, it's Michaux in Congress or nothing. So they plan to take their pens to the polls in three weeks and write in H.M. Michaux rather than pull the lever for I.T. "Tim" Valentine or Jack Marin.

Michaux, a Durham attorney, led the field of three Democrats for the district nomination in June, but later lost a runoff race with Valentine. Marin is the Republican candidate. Almost all of the district's white voters supported Valentine.

To the surprise and chagrin of many state Democratic Party leaders, the Michaux defeat brought about a strange response in many black voters. Historically, black voters have accepted the defeat of black candidates philosophically. But this time, they bolted, saying in effect, "We want Michaux and Valentine won't do."

"No doubt, we will be accused of turning our back on the Democratic Party and of being disloyal, however, we are not dissuaded from our course," said Frank Ballance, one of the leaders of the write-in. "We can only say that as good loyal Democrats, we have been more patient than Biblical Job and more loyal than the average canine that you can name anywhere. Yet, our distress signal has not been heard, and we have continued to receive only the crumbs from the Democratic table. The time has come for us to stand up and be men and women and stop being beggars and boys, so we urge the people of this District to join with us in the effort to elect a man who will represent them and will not sell out to Ronald Reagan."

At first, party leaders sort of chuckled, but the Second District Black Caucus, the group spearheading the move, persisted. Then Michaux said he didn't support the movement. Still the caucus persisted. Then Michaux endorsed Valentine, and the caucus, through one of its spokesmen, Frank Ballance of Warrenton, said: "People are responding with what they, the masses, want, not what someone else wants them to do."

So the write-in is on, and now party leaders appear more than a little worried and rightly so.

Brent Hackney, Hunt's deputy press secretary, reiterated the governor's position that blacks get behind Valentine.

Wayne Loftin of the state Democratic Party, headquartered in Raleigh, said it's "unfortunate" that blacks can't support Valentine, but conceded

that relations between blacks and Democrats are strained.

Proponents of the write-in, on the other hand, say it's unfortunate that the Democratic Party didn't support Michaux and holds the concerns of blacks secondary.

They argue that the black vote shouldn't be prostituted for the sake of party label, party unity and hollow promises.

Party loyalists say the write-in effort is treacherous, but supporters counter by saying that white Democrats often cross-over and vote for Republicans when they consider that to be in their best interest.

The evidence is obvious. North Carolina has two Republican senators in a state where voter registration is predominantly Democratic, by an almost 2-1 margin.

Therefore, write-in proponents say the movement represents an effort to champion the best interests of black voters.

Write-in proponents, and even those in opposition to it, note that the movement represents far more than a political love affair with Michaux.

Rather, it reveals a growing, almost virulent disenchantment with the Democratic Party, and its habit of taking black voters for granted, according to a caucus spokesman.

For example, say officials of the N.C. Black Leadership Caucus, white Democrats did not support the Howard Lee bid for lieutenant governor in 1976, despite the fact that Lee led a field of eight candidates in the primary. He lost to Jimmy Green in a hotly contested runoff race.

What this all means is that North Carolina politics might not ever be the same after the November 2 elections. Here are just a few of the things that could happen:

\* Democrats could lose their century-old lock on the growing black vote that more often than not becomes the swing factor in many key elections.

\* The black political leadership picture could come out completely different, depending upon who supports the write-in, who opposes it, and how many votes Michaux gets.

\* Republicans could bring their national level courting of black voters to North Carolina, and likely find some willing ears.

The battle lines have already been drawn.

For example, in Durham, home of the powerful Durham Committee, the organization's political

sub-committee supports the write-in. Several weeks ago, the group sent the question back to the sub-committee, hoping to bury it there until after the election. But just a few days ago, the sub-committee approved the movement again, and so the issue is back on the floor.

In other counties of the second district, there appears to be a lot of support for the effort, particularly in Warren, Vance and Granville.

But it is difficult to pinpoint an accurate assessment of how the battle is shaping up in the hinterlands because apparently blacks who oppose the move either aren't being vocal, or just don't have access to a forum.

Basically, the opponents who are talking fall into two camps: those who say the effort is too complex, that time has defeated the effort and that it would be a losing cause. Other opponents oppose the effort because it conflicts with their special political interests.

Proponents of the move consider it the only sensible move for black voters in light of current political events. They also feel the write-in effort has a better than even chance of sending Michaux to Congress. Here's what they point to:

\* In several of the district's ten counties, there are highly charged local races that will get a higher than normal number of black voters to the polls.

\* Most black voters agree that Valentine, cut from the same political cloth as L.H. Fountain who held the congressional seat for more than 30 years, is little different than Marin, the Republican.

\* Many of the black candidates who are running either with no opposition or token opposition owe their position largely to enthusiasm generated by Michaux's lively campaign earlier.

### Governor Jim Hunt

## Has Another Fight Before Facing Jesse Helms

By Donald Alderman

Many of North Carolina's more than 400,000 black Democrats appear ready to jump out of the Democratic Party's hip pocket, but it's not clear where they will land.

What is clear is that a smoldering black disenchantment with the Democratic Party, lurking under the surface for years, has exploded into the open.

The fallout could have far-reaching repercussions, not only for black voters and their relationship to the Democratic Party, but for the Republican Party as well in its stepped up efforts to attract more black voters. The issue could also fuel interest in independent politics for blacks, a move that has loomed on the fringes for more than 20 years now.

But the leap's more immediate impact could be on the all-but-announced candidacy of Gov. Jim Hunt for the

U.S. Senate race in 1984 against Republican Senator Jesse Helms.

Everyone agrees that a Hunt-Helms Senate race will be a vicious political fight, with the financial and political armies already gathering.

Everyone also agrees that black voters could play a pivotal role in that fight.

"It's not enough to say he (Helms) is a bad guy," said Hunt's deputy press secretary, Brent Hackney. "He (Hunt) can't take blacks for granted because you can't win a statewide election without the support of blacks."

Willie Lovett, chairman of the powerful Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, agrees: "Hunt needs a lot of work and enthusiastic support. The choice is not whether you're going to support Hunt or not, but how much are you going to put into it."

At first glance, Hunt appears to be the ob-



MICHAUX

So supporters are optimistic.

Ballance says that while the district black caucus will coordinate the write-in effort, leaders in each of the counties are responsible for getting out the vote in their areas.

Proponents also say that since white voters will be split between Democrats, Republicans and Libertarians, the write-in effort should be in pretty good shape.

And finally, if the write-in is successful, that is if Michaux gets as much as half of the votes he got in the runoff race, Democrats might be willing to support elimination of the second primary rather than risk losing all or most of their black voters to Republicans and Independents.

So, in the 2nd District the stage is set, the actors are in place, and the curtain is about to rise on one of the fiercest political fights in recent memory.

## Durham City School Aides Organizing For More Clout

By Pam Banks

Teacher aides in Durham's City schools want the right to vote in the local and state educators association, and they are forming their own professional organization to fight for that.

The new organization, named the Durham City Support Personnel Association, wants full membership status with the Durham City Association of Educators (DCAE) and the N.C. Association of Educators (NCAE).

Currently, teacher aides have an associate membership status in the two organizations: They pay \$64 in annual dues, half of the \$128 teachers pay, and the aides cannot vote.

Organizing efforts by the city's 200 or so teacher aides have sparked some controversy, with both sides blaming the other. It is not clear how many aides are involved.

Organizers wouldn't release specific figures. Mrs. Emma Bass, a teacher at F.K. Powe School and president of the Durham City Association of Educators (DCAE), says the state NCAE constitution has to be changed before the local group can accept the aides' association.

However, Vernon Bridges, an aide at Y.E. Smith School, and the constitution committee chairman for the aides association, contends that if 75% of the DCAE would approve their membership in the local group, the state body would recognize the aides group.

As part of the organizing effort, Durham's aides are being urged to join both DCAE and NCAE.

But the real question is can this fight for full professional status by teacher aides be prevented from spilling over into the classroom and creating ill will between aides and teachers.

Mrs. Merice Monroe, one of the principal movers behind the organizing move, and an aide at C.C. Spaulding Elementary School, says she hopes so.

"What we are trying to gain is a better working environment between teachers and paraprofessionals," said Mrs. Monroe. "We care what happens to our schools and we care what happens to the children."

But the professional issues are also important, according to the aides organizers. For example, they say, aides have only year-by-year contracts, rather than multiple-year contracts, and training workshops are held only once a year. Teachers, on the other hand, the aides contend, have periodic workshops throughout the year. It is not clear how many teachers in the system has multiple-year contracts.

Bridges and Mrs.

Monroe also say teacher aides don't enjoy due process rights and don't have a grievance procedure that applies to dismissals and some contested disciplinary actions.

Howard McAllister, assistant superintendent for personnel in the city system, says the same due process and grievance procedure that applies for teachers is applicable to aides as well.

Mrs. Monroe said her colleagues feel the aides association as a unit of the local, state and national NCAE would reap the same benefits as

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### City Officials

## Not Convinced Sexual Harassment Exists

By Isaiah Singletary

Despite recent allegations that women under arrest in Durham are often propositioned for sexual favors by Durham police officers, city officials say they aren't convinced that the problem is as serious as many say.

City officials even minimize comments from a veteran police officer, who asked to remain unidentified, who described the problems as serious and widespread.

"If the problem is as widespread as the officer says it is, I would expect to see a lot of complaints about it," said Durham City Manager Barry Del Castillo. "The last one that I personally remember was a highly publicized one about six or seven years ago. But I'm just not aware of any recent complaints."

However, one recent situation that at least hints at the problem involves a former magistrate and a former Sheriff's Department deputy who have been charged with illegally disposing of drunken driving charges against a woman in exchange for sexual favors.

The case is still pending.

It is difficult to assess the number of complaints because when a citizen files a charge against a police officer with the department's internal affairs division, the complaint is usually never discussed publicly, and there is no public report on either the number of citizen complaints or the type of complaints made against police officers.

But many women in Durham have told *The Carolina Times* that

police officers "hit on them."

For example, in its continuing investigation of sexual harassment by local police officers, *The Carolina Times* learned of the case of Ms. Cynthia Bynum, who said she was propositioned in an interrogation room in the sheriff's department area of the county courthouse.

Ms. Bynum filed a complaint with the police, and it is unknown if any action has been taken on the complaint.

Then, in the heat of the recent sheriff's race, District Attorney Dan Edwards filed charges against a deputy and a magistrate, alleging that they both had sexual relations with a woman who had been arrested on drunken driving charges. The men, later, according to the charges, arranged for the charges

against the woman to be dropped without her having to go to court.

One woman, who asked not to be identified, said these cases show what's really happening in Durham's law enforcement agencies. "I don't think they would have tried it," she said, "unless they were sure they'd get away with it. And for them to think they could get away with it, it's got to be happening all the time."

But complaints notwithstanding, city officials aren't convinced that the problem is real, or at least not to the extent that many citizens think it is.

Del Castillo said, for example, that a two year summary of complaints against police officers shows only one complaint where sexual harassment was alleged. Complaints which

dominated the summary, he said, fell into one of four categories. They are: unprofessional conduct, excessive force, operational, and other — a not so clearly defined category. It is not clear if actual sexual propositions could fall under the "unprofessional conduct" or "excessive force" categories.

Of the allegations made by the veteran police officer, public safety chief Talmadge Lassiter said, "I don't see that there's anything there. What you have is an officer making accusations too general to check out. But if that officer would call me and give us more information, I'd be happy to pursue it. But without more concrete information, I couldn't justify the use of time and manpower to prove or

disprove those allegations."

So, without more formal complaints or more concrete evidence from those officers who think there's a real problem of sexual harassment in the police department, officials are still unwilling to investigate these claims of police misconduct. It is even unlikely that they are willing to review police communications tapes to determine if they show patterns which may suggest a misuse of police equipment.

"Reviewing the tapes," said Chief Lassiter, "is such a lengthy and in-depth process, that I'm not too optimistic that it would prove anything. But if we had more specific information, I'd be more apt to think about doing it. It would be a

landfill site, the population is about 75% black.

So, all of a sudden, Hunt is not quite so obvious a choice, but Hackney doesn't seem worried. In a recent interview, Hackney hinted that the recent Hunt decisions that have enraged blacks were made with the thinking that Hunt's generally good relationship with blacks wouldn't be seriously hurt, or that blacks would forget these decisions by 1984.

"I think there's a trust between Hunt and blacks," he said, "that was built over a long time. And I don't think that one or two issues will tear that down."

Whether the relationship between blacks and Hunt can withstand the decisions plus the growing disenchantment with Democratic Party politics is certainly open to conjecture. Floyd McKissick thinks now is the time to do something about that.

"I don't think either party has the best interest of blacks at heart," McKissick said. "I think both need to change their policies."

McKissick, vice chairman of the N.C. Black Leadership Caucus, a statewide black political organization, also says black voters have not used their political strength effectively. Said McKissick — an Oxford attorney, who has been a member of both political parties — in 1984, blacks should be in a position to "...have the parties come to us instead of going to them begging..."

"Blacks should outline some concrete and practical objectives," McKissick continued, "things that outline progress for the whole race. That's how you play the game. You say what you want, you don't ask what you can get. It's a power game and if you're not going to play the game, you ought to get out of it."

Neither Helms nor his

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