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# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNDISGUISED

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### Words Of Wisdom

Some fellows pay a compliment like they expect a receipt. —Kin Hubbard

Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship. —Benjamin Franklin

## Black Merchants Blast Police ... Again

**By Joseph E. Green**  
Two members of the Durham Black Merchants Association again blasted local police this week for, in their words, "...being unwilling to help us with the crime problems we face."

Tea and Ralph Williams, two of the organizers of the recently formed group and owners of a retail business on Fayetteville Street, said they have been meeting with Durham Public Safety Director Talmadge Lassiter since 1978 about the problems of illegal drug sales, loitering and theft in and around the business, but the "seems not to be concerned."

"The only way that we are going to get any change in this city is if we have a black public safety director," said Ralph Williams. "Lassiter knows what's going on, but he is simply not interested" Williams added.

Lassiter could not be reached for comment.

Recently, the director and two of his aides met with a group of black merchants. "He was supposed to have more police cars patrolling our shopping area," Mrs. Williams said, "but I have not seen a single one since we last met with him. I think that it's just a lot of talk."

"Lassiter knows that

we have problems in this area," said Ralph Williams, "but he is more concerned with the safety of white merchants than the safety of blacks in this area. We have senior citizens who are afraid to walk on Fayetteville Street and Lassiter tells us that he has been in the area and did not see any major problems."

Both of the Williamses charged that there are local law enforcement officials who stand out in front of public establishments drinking liquor with young men. "They do not do it in their uniforms, but everybody knows who they are." "If people see

that law enforcement officials are breaking the law, then they have no respect for themselves."

Recently, the black merchants went before the city council, asking that an ordinance that would prohibit loitering in front of their places of business be enforced. The city council referred the merchants to the department of public safety.

Public safety officials gave the merchants a new set of forms to fill out. "We are getting the classic run-around from the city," Mrs. Williams said, and "quite frankly, we are getting very tired of it."



SISTER T. WILLIAMS, a local merchant, blasts Durham police for what she calls "insufficient protection" in the black community. Photo by Silas Mayfield

## Central's Chancellor Selection Process Moves On

**By Donald Alderman**  
A small, but potentially divisive argument brews on the campus of NCCU over the way a new chancellor is being selected for the university.

NCCU Chancellor Albert N. Whiting retires June 30 as head of the predominantly black university that is part of the statewide university system. Central has about 5,000 students.

A 12-member Chancellor Search Committee has interviewed more than 100 candidates for the job, and has narrowed the selection down to four finalists.

The search Committee is the focus of the arguments on campus.

Apparently the heart of the argument is will the selection process result in a chancellor who will be sensitive to Central's traditional mission as a black college, or with an administrator who will march blindly to the tune of the UNC General Administration that runs the statewide university system?

Chief critics of the process are a small group of faculty members, including one high-ranking administration official who asked not to be identified. He says eight out of ten faculty members on campus are dissatisfied with the process. He, however, refused to prove the figures.

The critics seem to think the present process will not produce a chancellor sensitive to the school's mission.

On the other side of the argument is Hillary Holloway, chairman of the Chancellor Search Committee, as well as chairman of the university's board of trustees. He calls the critics "cheap talkers who want to hold a candle on knowledge."

"The search committee is capable of doing its own thinking," Holloway said in response to questions about the disgruntlement. "We're not going to be browbeaten into selecting someone that the committee doesn't think is the best person to lead the school."

Caught somewhere in the middle of all this is Dr. Authrell Sanders, chairman of the Faculty Senate, where much of this argument surfaced last week.

But looming in the background of the argument, actually holding most of the cards, is Dr. William Friday, president of the 16-campus

state university system. "You're dealing with a statute," Friday said, "the Reorganizational Act of 1972, and the law says the board of trustees will submit two names to my office and I can choose to report that to the board of governors. The board of governors then must select one of those persons as chancellor."

Friday further explained that under the law, only he has the power to reject candidates for the chancellor's post, recommended by the local board of trustees.

So the argument on Central's campus appears to serve little purpose because it will not affect the chancellor selection process.

The argument rages nevertheless, and it is producing some interesting sidelights. For example:

Last week in the Faculty Senate, a 55-member body that represents all of the departments on campus,

one representative proposed that the Senate go on record requesting the right to meet, interview, accept or reject any of the four finalists for the chancellor's job.

The same critics also proposed that the Senate establish new criteria for the chancellor finalists and examine them in the light of the new standards.

According to Dr. Sanders, those proposals got only two votes each — the person who made the motion and the person who seconded it.

But the anonymous administrator says the motions passed.

Minutes of the meeting could solve that little disagreement, but Dr. Sanders said they couldn't be released publicly until they were released to faculty members, about three weeks from now.

The critics also say that the chancellor process has been too secretive and that more people should have had a

chance to question the procedure.

Clearly upset over that charge, Holloway said: "We've leaned over backwards to give everyone a chance to have input into the process."

He pointed to a public hearing held in the Spring, and other meetings that the Search Committee has had with interested parties and organizations.

And so while the argument rages, the process marches on. One of the finalists for the chancellor's slot visited the campus last week, met with the faculty and other officials.

The other finalists will visit Central in coming weeks. Sometime around December, the Search Committee will send two names to Friday, and shortly after the first of the year, Central should have a new chancellor who will begin work around July 1.

## County Commission Race: An Opportunity or Bombshell For The Black Community

**By Joseph E. Green**  
The Durham Committee faces a golden opportunity or a political bombshell next week when it meets to endorse candidates for the coming general election.

The question is simple: Should the Committee endorse Mrs. Elna Spaulding, William Bell and Mrs. Becky Heron for seats on the Durham County Commission?

Mrs. Spaulding and Bell are black and incumbents. Mrs. Heron is white, making her second bid for a seat on the county board.

The answer to that question, though, is anything but simple.

If the Committee — that routinely delivers 95 per cent or more of the black vote to endorsed candidates — does not endorse Mrs. Heron, they risk losing a candidate perceived to be favorable to issues of vital importance to the black community. Mrs. Heron has said, for example, that she favors a county government affirmative action plan, an issue that has always been defeated by the Commission.

However, if the Committee endorses Mrs. Heron, along with Mrs. Spaulding and Bell, they risk losing a sure champion — Bell — and winding up with a probable one — Mrs. Heron.

Here's the problem.

There are six candidates running for five seats on the county commission in the November 2 elections. In addition to Mrs. Spaulding, Mrs. Heron and Bell, the candidates are incumbents Dillard Teer and Edwin Clements and newcomer Paul T. Nance. Nance is the only Republican among the pack. The five top vote getters will get the seats.

The Committee will endorse Mrs. Spaulding and Bell, largely because they usually endorse black candidates, and because both commissioners have served the community well, at least in principle.

But on many issues of importance to the black community specifically, Mrs. Spaulding and Bell have been less than effective because Clement, Teer and the retiring Howard Easley usually voted together, pounding these issues into defeat.

Thus the black community has grown tired of a string of 3-2 votes, with the black community

always on the short end of the stick.

Mrs. Heron is seen as a way to correct that imbalance, even giving the black community an edge, with Mrs. Heron voting more often with Mrs. Spaulding and Bell than with Teer and Clement.

At least that's the way many people in the black community see the scenario.

But the problem is how to get Mrs. Heron elected.

The fear is that if the Committee does not endorse Mrs. Heron, Nance could be elected, because apparently many whites don't want the voting balance to change.

But by the same token, if the Committee endorses Mrs. Heron, an unprecedented triple endorsement, then Bell, according to several Committee insiders, becomes vulnerable to the vote count.

"It's going to be kind of tough," said one source close to the Committee who asked not to be identified. "We have not made such an endorsement, and it is for obvious reasons."

But there is sentiment on the Committee for the triple endorsement.

"I think that it is time that we take the risk and make a triple endorsement," said another Committee member who, too, asked for anonymity. "We cannot afford to play it coy forever."

None of the oldtimers can remember the Committee making a triple endorsement. It was heavily considered during the primary election, but the traditionalists argued that only Mrs. Spaulding and Bell should be endorsed, while others wanted a break with tradition.

The traditionalists won.

Again, the real fear is about Bell's seat. Mrs. Spaulding, who has strong support in the white and black community, will probably lead the ticket, as she did in the June primary. The two white candidates, Teer and Clement, will probably come in second and third, with strong white support. And the real fight will be between Bell, Mrs. Heron and Nance.

Thus, the Committee's dilemma. Endorse Mrs. Heron with a possibility of losing Bell. It is a black politician's nightmare. The numbers game at its very best.

## Committee Closes Portion Of Meeting To Reporter

**By Donald Alderman**  
Durham's oldest and generally most respected black organization — The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People — closed a portion of its regular meeting last week to a reporter, though the organization meets in a public facility.

A Durham City Councilman, Maceo Sloan, and an appointed public official, John Edwards, both voted to close that portion of the meeting, a clear violation of public policy.

The organization, which holds its regular, twice monthly meetings in the basement of the Stanford L. Warren Library, voted nearly unanimously to oust Donald Alderman from the final portion of its meeting.

Alderman is a writer for The Carolina Times. According to Ms. Dale Gaddis, director of the Durham County Library system, this vote violates the library's policy governing the use of its meeting rooms. Stanford L. Warren is a branch library of the county library system.

According to Willie Lovett, chairman of the Durham Committee, in an interview Monday, the group's intent was not necessarily to oust

the meeting — John Edwards, a state government employee, rose and took exception to the reporter's presence.

This sparked a 30- to 45-minute debate, ending in the vote to oust the reporter.

Here's how the debate went.

Edwards said the reporter should say he came as a private citizen, or as a reporter with the intentions of writing a story. Edwards added that if the reporter wouldn't state his purpose in attending the meeting, then the committee should vote to enforce its policy of "not allowing reporters [in Durham Committee meetings] who write what is going on down here in the paper."

"I've been reading too much of what goes on down here in The Carolina Times," Edwards said, "and we need to decide whether we're going to enforce the policy."

The reporter attempted to make it clear that his purpose in attending the meeting would depend on what is about to be discussed, noting that up to that point, nothing newsworthy had been discussed.

But Edwards, joined by City Councilman (Continued On Page 3).

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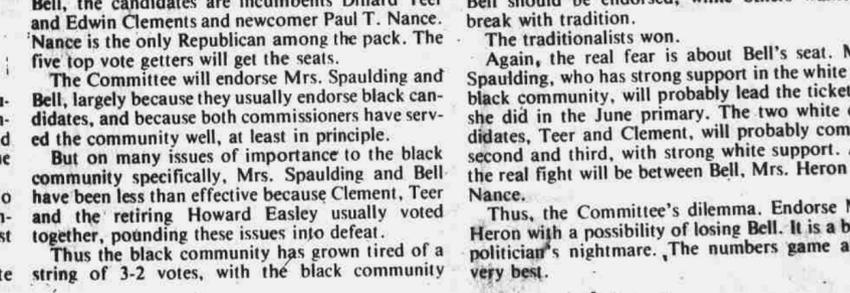
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### Today's Woman Awardees

In the concluding activity of its Second Annual Meeting and Anniversary here Sunday, the Today's Woman Organization presented six Durham women with "Woman Of The Year" citations. The presentations were made following worship and a luncheon held Sunday at Morehead Avenue Baptist Church. Photos show Ms. Pat Rogers (left), community and civic activist; Mrs. J.B. McLester, a member of Today's Woman presenting citation to Mrs. Vivian A. Edmonds, editor and publisher of The Carolina Times, standing back of awardees (seated) Mrs. Florine Roberson, community and civic activist (left) and District Court Judge Karen Galloway (right). Unable to be present was awardee Mrs. Joan Burton, community and civic activist. The Today's Woman Organization, which emphasizes unity among women and women being aware, concerned, informed and active, is the brainchild of Mrs. Constance Sartor Walker. It's membership spans all age, professional and social levels.