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Kenneth Spaulding Wins DCOABP Chair

By Ray Trent

The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People on January 19 selected a chairman and various committee chairs.

Attorney William Marsh, chairman of the political committee, chaired the meeting and enjoined the motion that only one name would be on the agenda and that would be the election.

The nominating committee's candidate was F.V. "Pete" Allison, who had held the chairmanship since 1991. Mark Simeon placed in nomination, the name of Kenneth Spaulding, the 2nd vice chair, accepted the nomination with a rousing speech on the needs of youth and our need to commit ourselves as our future.

Spaulding lambasted local media's negative depiction of our people. Media representatives were ejected from the meeting. Spaulding received a rousing ovation from the crowd of nearly 100 who packed the White Rock Church Hall, filled the aisles and spilled outside.

It was proposed that the election be held by secret ballot. Three names for each candidate were listed to distribute and collect. It was done in an orderly manner. When votes were counted, Spaulding had garnered 269 votes, Pete Allison, 195.

Spaulding was the first to congratulate Allison and pledge his support.

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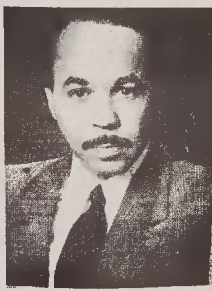
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SPAULDING

problems of the community. We will continue to work with the People's Alliance and other groups to resolve the problem. The standard will be mutual respect. The

Friends of Durham can be an ally if that mutual respect is present and it is the requirement.

The committee is the community, Spaulding said. They have to do it. I can't do it myself. We can all do so much together. My concern is not getting the committee together but getting the community together and getting everyone to participate. We have so much talent in the black community and we can do a lot of things ourselves.

Preston X. Barnes, who has the television program, "The Great Communicator," said that Durham has come to grips with itself. The media were there hoping we would fight and be unable to run our own affairs. This is a new direction for Durham. It is here now. We did it in an orderly manner and we came together as one people. We won't stand by and let our children kill each other.

Annual Meeting

The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People will hold its Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers Sunday, January 23, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at St. Mark AME Zion Church, 531 S. Roxboro St. Rev. W. Lloyd Burton, Jr., is pastor. For further information, call 489-4421.

Medgar Evers Trial Beckwith On Trial As States Comes To Grips With Decades-Old Slaying

By Ron Harrist

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) • The assassin whose bullet cut down Medgar Evers in the driveway of his home 30 years ago targeted not only the fiery state NAACP leader but the growing struggle by Mississippi blacks for racial justice.

The 1963 assassination, termed "barbaric" by President John F. Kennedy, made a civil rights martyr out of Evers and pricked the conscience of the nation.

Three decades later, Mississippi is again trying aging white supremacist Byron De La Beckwith in a bid to come to grips with the slaying, one of the unresolved traumatic events in the 1960s which led to sweeping changes in the state and the South.

"I think the fact that the state has taken the initiative makes a great statement about the progress Mississippi has made as a society," said Charles Sallis, a Millsaps College professor whose 1974 history book was once banned from Mississippi schools because it dealt too honestly with the state's racial past. "A lot still has to be done." The trial will be the third for Beckwith, 73, a onetime fertilizer salesman whose fingerprint authorities say was on the sight of the hunting rifle that killed Evers, a black who championed voting rights and helped organize economic boycotts of businesses that discriminated.

Beckwith has maintained that he was at his hometown of Greenwood when Evers was killed in his Jackson carport. Inside, Myrtle Evers allowed her three children to remain awake to greet their father.

They recognized the sound of his car pulling into the driveway, then the shot rang out.

"That's 93 miles away. It would have had to have been a mighty powerful rifle for me to have done it," said Beckwith, who claims the rifle was stolen from him.

Jury selection began Tuesday in Panola County, a majority white north Mississippi county where attorneys hope publicity about the case has not tainted the 500 potential jurors. Once a jury is picked, Circuit Judge Breland Hilburn will move the case back to Jackson for testimony. The trial is expected to last several weeks.

Testimony will take place in the same Jackson courtroom where all-white juries were unable to agree on a verdict.

Those trials were held in 1964 - a year marked by the murders of three civil rights workers in Neshoba County and known as "Freedom Summer" by hundreds of volunteers from the North and South who set up programs designed to promote black voter registration.

"It's imperative, not just important, that we go on with this trial," said Myrtle Evers, widow of Medgar Evers. "Justice has not been done in this case." Myrtle Evers, who campaigned for years to have the case reopened, said a conviction would be important not only for Mississippi and the nation but "for me and my family. That night is like a movie that is on replay every day. I have not forgotten." Sallis said that while it would be difficult for prosecutors to reconstruct what happened three decades ago, "what we do know for a fact was that there was bias and prejudice working in the state at that time. It was a closed society.

"The ironic thing is that the younger generations really are very ignorant of the civil rights movement as a whole. I have students in my classes who know nothing about Medgar Evers or this case," he said. "I think what is happening today will be a good lesson." Beckwith, who has a history of high blood pressure and other health problems, was freed after 10 months in jail after the Mississippi Supreme Court ruled in 1992 that he was unreasonably being held without bond.

He still preaches white supremacy and directs those interested in his past to read his biography, "Glory in Conflict." The 284-page book

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HEBREW ISRAELITE ACADEMY STUDENTS AT HAYTI HERITAGE CENTER DURING MLK CELEBRATIONS

Miss NCCU Wins Title of Miss Atlantic City Klassix

In December, Miss Laurie Nicole Robinson, Miss NCCU, won the title of Miss Atlantic City Holiday Klassix in Atlantic City, N.J. Miss Robinson is a senior public administration major at NCCU from Fort Washington, Md.

As Miss Atlantic City Klassix, Miss Robinson won a \$1500 scholarship and a four-day, three-night trip to the Bahamas.

The pageant highlighted the talent, personality and intellect of female students attending black colleges. It sought to encourage the young women to communicate and network with each other for the betterment of the institutions they attend and their fellow students.

Eleven Campus Queen participants were judged in the categories of oratory, talent, poise, projection, and interview. During the oratory portion of the pageant, contestants spoke on issues from strengthening the family to promoting pride and education. Miss Robinson's topic was "Black Colleges: Roots of the Black Community."



MISS ROBINSON

While in Atlantic City, the contestants visited the Atlantic City Hospital and distributed Christmas toys to children. They visited Atlantic City High School to encourage students to continue their education.

Miss Robinson had previously won fourth runner-up at the National Black Alumni Hall of Fame Pageant and is now preparing for the Miss Collegiate African-American Pageant to be held at Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Cold, Wet Weather Did Not Dampen MLK Celebrations

By Ray Trent

Record low temperatures, freezing rain, bone-chilling winds and heatless facilities did not stop hundreds of Durhamites from participating in a weekend to remember and reflect on the "Dream" of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the fallen civil rights leader who changed the course of history.

Many events were carried out over the four-day weekend in commemorative services too numerous to list.

It was back to Duke on Sunday night for a special service with speakers, Rev. Philip R. Cousin, Jr., pastor, St. Joseph's AME Church, Durham; Rev. Debra K. Brazzel, assistant dean of the Chapel; Rev. Bruce Bavinger, pastor, Holy Cross Catholic Church; Honorable Sylvia Kerckhoff, mayor of Durham, and music from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, "Colours" directed by E. Leon Goldston, Jr. and the Modern Black Mass Choir, Eric T. Dozier, director.

Early Monday morning hundreds gathered at the Sheraton Imperial

Hotel for a breakfast that featured speakers from Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill. This was sponsored by the Martin L. King Steering Committee. Undaunted by the freezing temperatures and threat of rain, sleet and snow, this group proceeded to the downtown civic center to march in commemoration of King's marches.

As they started, a drizzling rain had started. Young people filled the ranks of the marchers. A large group from the West End Youth Council and the Mt. Calvary youth group marched proudly with heads held high singing the freedom songs of the sixties, led by Bishop Elroy Lewis, Warren Herndon, Ike Robinson, Paul Luebke, Floyd McKissick, Jr. and many others who had participated in marches in the sixties. One of the marchers said the cold and rain was a breeze compared to the fire hoses, dogs and clubs at the sixties marches.

A short breather at the Shelter of HOPE was really no relief. There was no heat there. In welcoming the marchers, Ms. Lee, Shelter director, asked what Dr. King

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Lawmakers Revisit Site of Killings

By Adam Yeomans

LLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) - State legislators meet next week in regular session, they will visit a brutal episode in Florida's history 70 years ago when a white mob wiped out a prosperous black settlement.

Lawmakers will decide how to compensate the victims and descendants of Rosewood, a small Gulf Stream hamlet that disappeared after a series of arson attacks in 1923. At least 80 people died, perhaps more, and virtually every house, church and building was destroyed.

They were eradicated, killed, as we had our livelihoods as states to our spiritual and economic

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