

Covington

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the Alabama A&M presidency by its trustees, Covington said, he has not received a formal offer.

"There are some aspects of the offer that have not been worked out," he said. "I need to talk with them about salary, housing and other benefits."

He was expected to make that decision before the end of the week.

The news that Covington might be leaving WSSU came last Thursday when the board of trustees at Alabama A&M announced, after an 80-minute executive session, that it had offered Covington the school's presidency.

The job offer at Alabama A&M was the second time this year Covington has been considered to fill the top post at a Southern, predominantly black university. In January, a weekly newspaper in Jackson, Miss., reported that Covington was the frontrunner for the presidency of Jackson State University.

But Covington said he removed himself from consideration for

that post. In both cases, Covington said, he had not sought the positions, but had been nominated.

Covington said he had been nominated previously for many positions before while at WSSU, but this year, for the first time, he decided to follow through on some of them.

During the last few years at WSSU, Covington has received some criticism, but he said it had nothing to do with his decision to actively seek other employment.

"At age 49, I decided that I was going to explore a couple of professional opportunities," said Covington. "I was happy in my current position, but I wanted to reassess my current status."

Like WSSU, Covington said, Alabama A&M has many positive attributes. But unlike WSSU, Alabama A&M University is twice the size of WSSU and offers a wide range of undergraduate as well as graduate degree programs and is considering developing doctoral programs.



Participating in groundbreaking ceremonies for the \$1.8 million Hawthorne Surgical Center were John F. Sledge, left, vice president of NCNB's loan department, and Dr. J. David Branch, local ophthalmologist, both trustees of Foundation Health Systems. The center, to be completed late this year or early 1985, is a joint venture between Carolina Medicorp Inc. and physicians and hospital related operations. Foundation Health Systems and Forsyth Memorial Hospital are subsidiaries of CMI.

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Open Line

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summon emergency medical help. While waiting for help to arrive, place a cold compress on the sting area, keep the victim lying down unless breathing is difficult, and keep the victim quiet. If it is available, use a first aid kit according to the directions.

People with known insect sting allergies should ask their doctors about desensitization and emergency kits.

If you have a question, write Open Line at P.O. Box 3254, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102 or call 723-8424 and ask for John Slade.

Knoxes send tremors statewide

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(Eddie Knox's) sentiments; he just can't come out and say it," said Earline Parmon, chairman of the Forsyth County Democratic Party, and the first black woman to hold that post. "They should get a divorce, because he could never run for anything else in North Carolina. How can he rule the state if he would let his wife come out and support a Republican like Jesse Helms?"

Because of the close personal relationship between Hunt and Knox, Parmon said, she finds it especially hard to believe that Knox's wife and his brother (who managed his campaign) could decide to go against him.

Knox, who was a college friend of Hunt's, served as Hunt's campaign manager and was appointed by Hunt as chairman of the powerful Advisory Budget Commission while Knox was a state senator.

As for the repercussions of the announcement, Parmon said, they won't be far-reaching.

While she is "appalled" and "horrified" by Frances and Charles Knox's decision to support Helms, Parmon said, she does not think that they represent the feelings of the majority of state's Democrats.

"I think that, as a whole, this does not represent the feelings of the Democrats in North Carolina," she said. "This only represents the two of them."

County Commissioner Mazie Woodruff said she finds it hard to believe that someone who has supported Eddie Knox, who emphasized his affirmative action record during his gubernatorial campaign, could support Helms, who is regarded as an affirmative action foe.

"What Eddie Knox is talking about is completely on the other side of the world from Helms," Woodruff said. "There has to be some other motive."

Although neither Frances or Charles Knox would comment, some Democrats feel the Knoxes may have decided to go with Helms in an effort to help pay off Knox's huge campaign expenses.

Charles Knox told the *Chronicle* that his brother had not solicited financial help from Helms but would not turn down any contributions from him.

Victor Johnson, who served as one of Knox's local campaign coordinators, said he was "shocked" and "surprised" by the actions of Frances and Charles Knox but was confident that the two were not representing Eddie Knox, who has publicly said he will support the entire Democratic ticket in November.

But Johnson was not so confident about the effect Frances and Charles Knox's actions may have on Eddie Knox's political ambi-

tions. "Only time will tell," Johnson said.

Mrs. Knox said she had discussed her husband's political future with him and is unsure if he has any further desire to seek public office.

Meanwhile, Johnson said he is unsure what effect the Helms endorsement might have on the Democratic Party's efforts to unify after bitter primary and runoff elections.

Sounding more optimistic than most, Alderman Larry Womble, Edmisten's local campaign coordinator, said the endorsement may only be a small thorn in the party's side.

"It's premature to say what effect this will have," Womble said. "But we are going on supporting the whole Democratic ticket. We are planning on going ahead with our plan as it has been outlined. This won't stop us."

Neither Frances nor Charles Knox indicated whom they would support in the governor's race -- Edmisten, who was the top votegetter in both the May 8 primary and the June 5 runoff, or Republican Jim Martin.

Instead, Frances Knox would only say that there are some other good Democrats on the ticket, though she would not indicate which ones.

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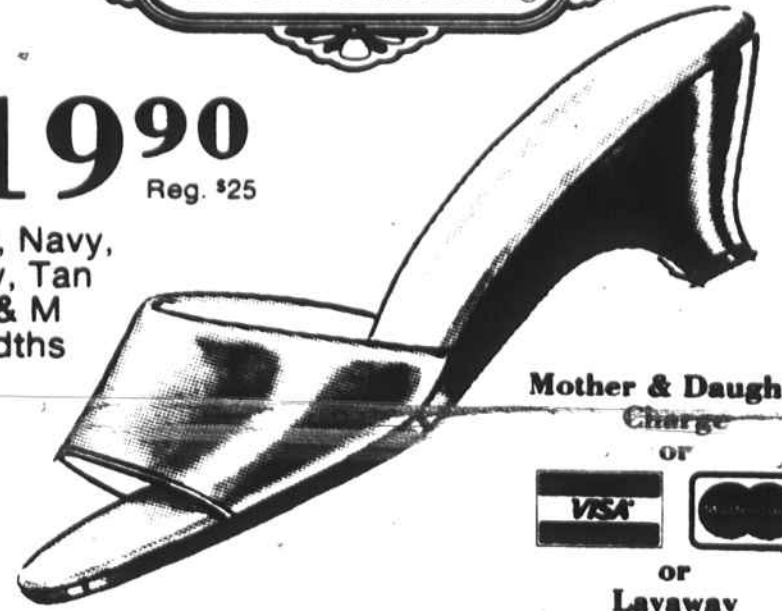
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