

# New Ash 'Mayor' Pledges (Ir)Responsible Government

Rosy-eyed with visions of presidential yacht excursions to their riverfront retreat, residents of L.A. (a.k.a. Lower Ash) voted for a change of leadership last Friday night in their annual "mayor's election" at the Waccamaw Fire and Rescue Squad building.

Using all their spare change, they soundly rejected the bid of incumbent "Mayor" Boyd Lee Smith and returned a previous two-term mayor, Charlie Gore, to office. With his return to office came added power—he received not only a key to the city and the official mayor's hat, but a crown as well to wear on occasions of state.

The swearing-in ceremony followed a festive evening of campaigning, dancing to bluegrass music and eating.

Notwithstanding his dancing ability, a pledge to hire beavers to dam the Wet Ash River and to construct a high-rise bridge that could accommodate the president's yacht appeared to clinch the votes for Mr. Charlie, veteran political observers indicated.

When the polls closed at 10 p.m., he had won election by a wide margin over his two opponents, hooking \$159.70 in votes compared to Boyd Lee Smith's mere 61¢ and Leo (Baldy) Smith's \$93.18.

It was all in fun, with proceeds going to help the Waccamaw Fire & Rescue Squad. But the mayor-elect had made lots of campaign promises people weren't likely to forget—again.

For a more progressive L.A., Gore also pledged, (as he had in previous campaigns, though most voters had forgotten):

- To rejuvenate oak-tangled L.A. Airport, where jets once taxied;
- To put a much-needed stoplight at the intersection of Mill Branch and the Project Road;

•To hard-top the "rock road, incorrectly named Stout Road, that the Milligans have wanted for years."

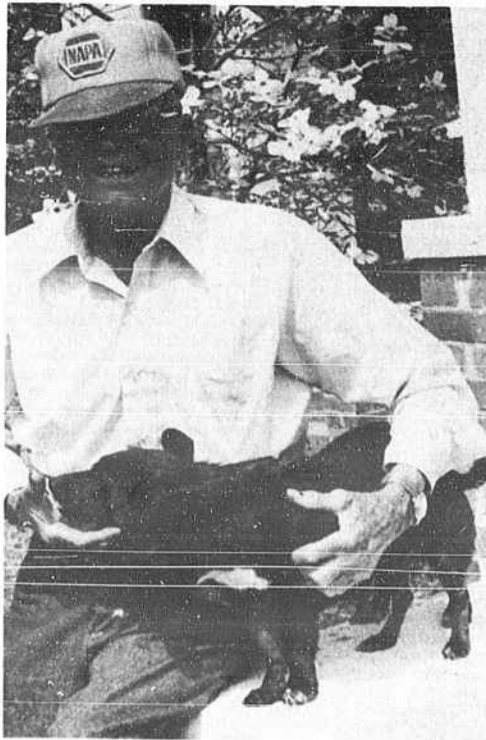
As is traditional, former L.A. mail carrier "Judge" Cortez Ward swore in the new mayor with a lengthy oath suited to the occasion and occasionally confused with the oath used on another "suspicious" occasion.

"Mayor" Gore's powers include—but are not limited to, Ward indicated: 1) appointing a cabinet of three to five of his political cronies; 2) hiring a chief of police whose honesty has never been questioned, or better yet, "has never been mentioned;" 3) selecting a water commissioner who "knows the handle from the blade of a shovel" and who can take the blame for all rain and water problems; 4) diligently seeking out a treasurer capable of triple entries and splitting the rake-off of municipal funds 50-50; and 5) appointing a street commissioner to see that all streets and alleys are paved, maintained and drained (can also serve as water commissioners).

Once bought (in the election), the mayor must remain bought, accepting bribes only when he can get away with it. There is to be no hanky-panky with male or female secretaries and no more "Free-O's" to Holden Beach at the expense of municipal funds from the citizens of L.A.

Furthermore, he is to remain attentive to the welfare of the community, "keeping one finger on the pulse and three fingers on the billfolds" of his constituents.

Swearing on a J.C. Penney catalog, Gore vowed to "hold up" the office of mayor of Lower Ash to the best of his inabilities and concealing his ignorance



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

CHARLIE GORE, shown after an earlier election, was sworn in Friday night as "mayor" of Waccamaw. He succeeds Boyd Lee Smith, who stopped Gore's bid for re-election one year ago. Only cash votes count in the annual election, a community fundraising project for the Waccamaw Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad.

"real well" at all times.

Furthermore, he vowed to carry out his duties "in an irresponsible manner, so help me oscar meyers."

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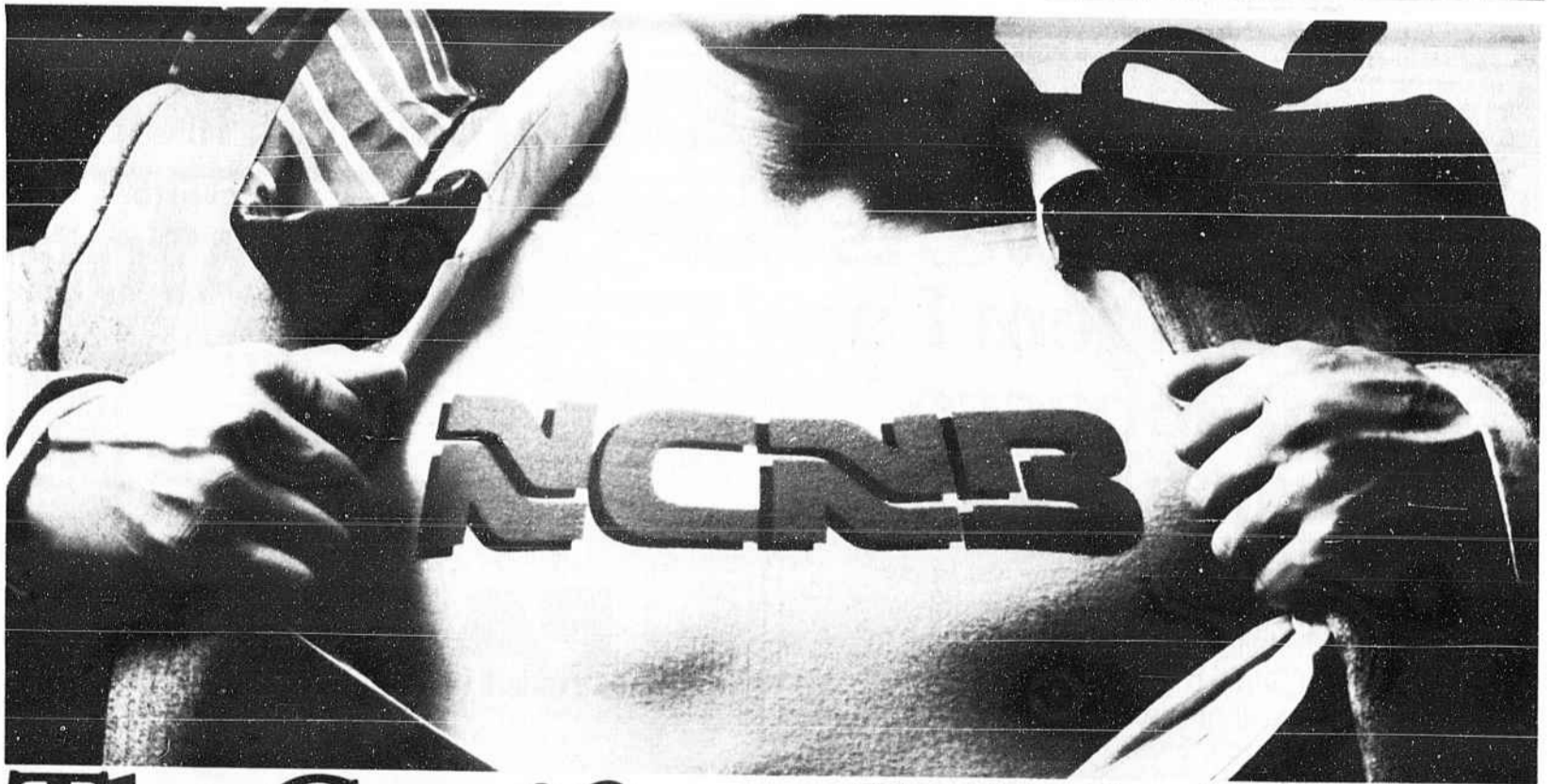
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