



The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNDISGUISED

(USPS 091-330)

Words Of Wisdom
You will soon break the bow if you keep it
always stretched.
—Phaedrus

The use of the head abridges the labor of the
hands.
—H.W. Beecher

VOLUME 60 — NUMBER 26

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA — SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1982

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913

PRICE: 30 CENTS

Civic Center Wins Big, Black Vote Turns Tide



Mrs. Heron

W.V. Bell

Mrs. Spaulding

In County Government

Commission Race Could Shift Balance of Power

By Joseph E. Green
The balance of power on the Durham County Commission tilted toward a dramatic shift from a "holding action" against change to a more innovative approach to governing with Tuesday's primary election.

Two black incumbent commissioners, Mrs. Elna Spaulding and William V. Bell received the highest total of the votes cast, while Mrs. Rebecca "Becky" Heron, a long time Durham County activist, also won a seat on the board.

Mrs. Spaulding, who led the field of nine County Commission candidates, polled 18,416 votes. Bell got 14,470. Mrs. Heron polled 12,361 votes for a fifth place finish.

Mrs. Heron said, during an interview at election headquarters Tuesday night, that the county system government was run on a "buddy system" and that she was going to help change that.

Other incumbents who won Tuesday were Edwin Clement with 12,974 votes and Dillard Teer with 12,791 votes.

"There has been a lack of responsiveness on the part of the commission and I find that unacceptable," said Mrs. Heron as her supporters, black and white chanted, "Becky, Becky, Becky".

The final word of Mrs. Heron's victory drew the first applause of the night.

Mrs. Heron said that she believed that the county should have a written affirmative action program because

she was opposed to discrimination against "blacks and women". She indicated that she would join the two black commissioners on the five-member board who have been pushing for a written affirmative action program.

Commissioner William V. Bell said, "I am glad to see a turn in the direction of the commission. Becky is going to make a real difference." Re-elected to the commission were chairman Edwin B. Clements and Dillard Teer. Both men finished behind Mrs. Spaulding and Bell. There is the possibility that Mrs. Spaulding, Bell or Mrs. Heron could be elected chairman of the county commission.

In recent weeks, the two county commissioners have stated publicly that Durham County needs an affirmative action program.

When it was determined that Mrs. Heron was going to be the fifth county commissioner, one veteran political observer said, "now we have an affirmative action program".

Mrs. Spaulding hugged Mrs. Heron and Dr. Lavonia Allison, head of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People's political action committee, said, "We have now broken the 3-2 stalemate. It's going to be a different kind of commission."

The county commission race, with its field of nine candidates, had been a mostly quiet affair, with discussions centering on affirmative action, more new industry and business for the county, and how to capture some of the residential growth that has been happening in the Triangle.

Campaign Signs Could Bring Fines To Derelict Politicos

Political campaign signs must come down within 14 days after Tuesday's primary or candidates could be fined, according to a city ordinance.

Each election year, city residents and officials must contend with the voluminous numbers of campaign posters that public office seekers tack all over town. To the politicians, the signs are like beacons — attracting the eyes of potential

supporters, but to many others the "beacons" are just plain trash.

According to Jim Tschupp, who is a Durham city official responsible for regulating the posting of the signs, candidates must get city permission before putting up a sign. "We send all of the candidates letters indicating that signs are not to be posted on private property," Tschupp said, "unless they have permission from the property owner."

General Telephone and Duke Power Company have a policy that does not allow candidates to place their signs on their poles without permission.

"It is the responsibility of the candidates to remove all of their signs between seven and fourteen days after the election," Tschupp said, "if they do not remove them they will have violated the city ordinance."

Tschupp said that he did not know what kind of sanctions would be given to violators of the law. "In past years, city street crews and police officers have been taking the signs down after the election."

It would be a lot easier on the city he said, if the candidates or their campaign workers took up the signs. He did not know how much money the clean-up operation cost the city's tax payers after this election.

[This story was reported by The Carolina Times' writers Donald Alderman, Joseph Green, Isaiah Singletary, Elson Armstrong, Jr., and Patricia Williams, and written by Executive Editor Milton Jordan.]

Tuesday's vote on the highly controversial civic center bond referendum proved that the Durham City Council saved the downtown civic center in the eleventh hour with a little money down and a promise for more.

The \$10.5 million bond referendum that allows the city to build a downtown civic center was approved by more than 2,600 votes with black voters providing the margin of victory. According to unofficial election returns, the vote was 10,393 for the civic center and 7,731 against.

Black voters in the city's nine predominantly black precincts gave the civic center 2,909 votes, and approved it in eight of nine city precincts, and by large margins in most of them. For example, the issue passed 539 to 176 in Precinct Number 11 at Hillside School, and by 694 to 340 in Precinct 13 at Burton School.

Without the black vote, the civic center bonds would have failed by about 300 votes.

In only one predominantly black precinct did voters break from the pattern of strong support for the civic center bonds. In Precinct 12, Pearson School, the vote was 341 against and 52 for the bond issue.

Pearson School is a predominantly black precinct with just over 1000 registered voters, and about 600 of them voted.

When asked what the Pearson School vote reflected, Clarence Brown, co-chairman of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, said: "... two names, Z.D. Harris and Rev. Whelchel."

The Durham Committee, the city's principle black political organization endorsed the civic center bonds, which generated most of the strong black support for the issue.

But Rev. L.H. Whelchel, pastor of Russell Memorial CME Church on Alston Avenue, was staunchly opposed to the civic center. Last week, in a story reported in *The Carolina Times*, Rev. Whelchel termed black support for the civic center a "grave mistake".

It is not clear what Rev. Harris' role was in the Precinct 12 turnout. Brown would not elaborate and Rev. Harris could not be reached for comment.

But even without Precinct 12, black voters approved the civic center bonds by a margin of about 3-1.

The margin is significant because the city council snatched the civic center, it's pet project, from the brink of disaster last week when it approved a \$65,000 contract, and a 30 per cent "minority" participation plan in connection with the volatile Hayti controversy.

This approval, particularly the \$65,000 that goes to the Hayti Development Corporation (HDC), won a civic center endorsement from the Durham Committee (Continued on Page 2)



Waiting for the Results

Supporters of H.M. "Mickey" Michaux's bid for the 2nd District congressional seat wait patiently for the election returns to begin rolling in Tuesday night. Michaux won big in Durham, but carried only about 45 per cent of the vote across the district and must win a July runoff to meet the Republican challenger in November.

Photo by Silas Mayfield

Voting Rights Act Extended

WASHINGTON — President Reagan signed into law Tuesday a 25 year extension of the Voting Rights Act, but gave no indication of his commitment to enforce the act.

Designed to guarantee free access to the polls for millions of minority voters, the act requires nine states and portions of thirteen others to get Justice Department approval for any changes in elections law or procedures. Forty of North Carolina's 100 counties

are covered. Even though the President commented that "the right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties and we will not see its luster diminished," NAACP executive director Benjamin Hooks, a participant in the signing ceremony, said that the Justice Department under Reagan "has consistently rolled back enforcement on civil rights." Hooks congratulated Reagan for "belatedly, at least,

coming along with the civil rights act." PUSH president Jesse Jackson also questioned the Administration's commitment to enforcing the act now that it has been extended, saying, "If it is extended and not enforced, it's merely an Indian treaty." "I hope that the response today by the civil rights leadership would inspire the president to go a step further," Jackson said referring to many among the 350 persons who

witnessed the signing. Reagan said at the ceremony, "Yes, there are differences over how we attain the equality we seek for all of our people, and sometimes, amidst all the overblown rhetoric, the differences tend to seem bigger than they are. But actions speak louder than words."

The struggle to renew the act began in January 1981, but the administration declined to support it until this year, after it already passed the House of Representatives and had gone to the Senate. Even then, Reagan backed the "intent" requirement, making the law harder to enforce. He finally retreated under pressure from civil rights groups. The "intent" requirement would have meant that victims would have to prove that discrimination was the motive of those who denied them full citizenship rights — a task deemed impossible and unrealistic by civil rights advocates.

The extension specifies that the act has been violated when an election law has been applied in a manner that results in discrimination, not just when it can be proved that there was intent to

(Continued On Page 4)

County Government Pays \$40,000 But Denies Bias

By Isaiah Singletary and Joseph E. Green

Durham's county government denied charges of racial discrimination in a suit filed by two black nurses in federal court but in a negotiated settlement agreed to pay them \$40,500. The agreement also orders the county to immediately promote one of the nurses to a supervisory position.

The two nurses who sued the county are Ms. Delores Vaughn and Ms. Ruth Amey. Both have worked for the county health department for more than ten years. They claimed they had been denied promotion.

The settlement of their suit came after two days of testimony in the action brought by the two nurses. The high point of the trial, which was held in federal court, came when Ottis Ader, a former director of the Durham County Health Department, testified that one of the nurses, Mrs. Vaughn, had not

been promoted in 1974 because "her attitude was bad, she was not well motivated and she had a lack of ability to command the respect of her fellow workers".

The two nurses contended in their complaint against the county that they were not promoted because of race and that white nurses with considerably less experience, were constantly being promoted over them.

Mrs. Vaughn has worked for the health (Continued From Page 4)

Racial Terrorism Continues

By Charles E. Cobb

The City of New York has recently experienced one of the most brutal examples of the increase in racially motivated violence. Three black transit workers on their way home were attacked by a gang of white thugs. This racist attack resulted in the death of one, Louis Turks, whom police say was dragged from his car and savagely beaten.

Why were these men subjected to this vicious attack? Because they were black, and only because they were black.

Racially motivated violence is on a sharp rise not only in New York but across the country. We often make the mistake of thinking that this type of violence is

Commentary

restricted to the south but make no mistake about it racism permeates every corner of our society. The barbaric act which took place on a street in Brooklyn is simply the manifestation of feelings harbored by an increasingly violent white community.

During a national conference sponsored by the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice in April, we found that racially motivated violence is at an epidemic level nationwide. Experts testified that unless the nation's legal machinery staged an all-out attack on this most heinous form a

racial violence, we will continue to be a nation divided.

It is the responsibility of every institution from the churches to the schools to publicly lambast the perpetrators of this violence and at the same time demand that the laws which are already on the books be enforced. The courts, prosecutors and the police must make a clear showing that this type of violence will not be tolerated.

I see no difference between a gang of white teenagers attacking blacks in Brooklyn and the Ku Klux Klan bombing a black church in Alabama, because there is no difference. Their

motives are the same. It is clear that the President's recent visit to a black family in Maryland who were victims of racial violence has not stemmed the tide of these increasing incidents of racist terror. The absence of swift action by law enforcement officials to stop these racial acts of violence only serves to encourage perpetrators of this most obscene racial terrorism, which threatens the very fabric of society. If the black community is not protected from racist attacks, we will protect ourselves. We are tired of hearing the economic and social reasons for our being victimized at the hands of racist white hoodlums. The message to them must be that



HAMPTON, VA—George E. Wallace, a 1960 graduate of North Carolina Central University, has been named to receive the T. Edward Temple Award of Virginia's public administrator of the year. Wallace has been assistant city manager for Community Services since 1975.