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The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBIDDEN

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Words Of Wisdom

Always mistrust a subordinate who never finds fault with his superior.

—John Churton Collins

There are no uninteresting things, there are only uninterested people.

—G.K. Chesterton

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Valentine Wins But Blacks Send Message To Demos

By Donald Alderman
In Tuesday's 2nd District Congressional election, North Carolina's Democrats sent Nashville attorney, I.T. "Tim" Valentine to Washington, but blacks in the district sent the party a loud and forceful message.

Valentine's victory came as no surprise as he ran strong in his home base in the eastern end of

the 10-county district. The district's counties are: Caswell, Durham, Halifax, Granville, Edgecombe, Nash, Person, Vance, Warren, and Wilson; along with O'Neal's township in Johnston County.

Running under the banner of L.H. Fountain, the venerated old warhorse who ruled the district for about 30 years, Valentine polled

about 59,000 votes, compared to just under 35,000 votes for Jack Marin, the Durham lawyer and former NBA basketball player.

The surprise was the strength of the Michaux write-in effort where mostly black voters across the district gave the Durham attorney who had been defeated by Valentine — and some believe, the North Carolina Democratic Party — in a runoff primary just over 13,000 votes. In Durham County, Marin led the fight with just over 12,000 votes. Valentine got about 11,000. The write-in polled about 7,500 votes.

The message of the Michaux write-in is clear, and was summed up Tuesday night by Willie Lovett, chairman

of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People.

There will be a tendency that people won't jump to conclusions about you," he said. "It (the write-in) is a tool you can call on and improve an effect. It was worth it."

Lovett's reference was to the Democratic Party's habit of taking black voters for granted.

Durham Committee officials also say the write-in effort wasn't anti-party, but rather an effort to champion the best interests of Committee members.

"We feel we haven't defected from the Democratic Party; we voted for a Democrat — Mickey Michaux," said Dr. Lavonia Allison, Durham Committee's political sub-committee chairman. "The only thing we regret is that we didn't get started earlier ... the vote was based on principles."

Nevertheless, the message is clear: North Carolina's black voters — particularly those in the 2nd District — are not afraid to vote vested interest, even if it takes a non-traditional tool such as a write-in.



Mrs. Spaulding

Durham Voters "Change" County Commission

By Joseph E. Green
Durham County voters sent a strong message to the Durham County Commission Tuesday. Simply put: they want change.

For the "good ole boys" who have run Durham County for the last 40 years, the results were devastating. Two black incumbents and a white woman who is expected to change the board's balance of votes not only were elected, but the three of them were the top vote getters for the commission's five seats. The commission's chairman, Edwin Clements, finished last and businessman Dillard Teer finished fourth.

The balance of power has shifted. Mrs. Elna Spaulding, who was first elected to the commission in 1974

and William Bell, who was first elected in 1972, finished first and third, respectively. Newcomer Mrs. Becky Heron finished second.

Mrs. Heron did well throughout the district, but did extremely well in the black districts. The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People decided at the final hour to endorse her.

There was some reluctance to endorse Mrs. Heron because some members believed that William Bell would be lost if the committee endorsed three candidates.

So, instead of playing it safe and telling black voters to vote only for Bell and Mrs. Spaulding, who are black, the committee took a bold step and also went with Mrs. Heron. "It was time that we took the

in my election."

An important factor indeed. At least 25 per cent of Mrs. Heron's vote came from the county's predominately black precincts.

"We gambled," said Willie Lovett. "We decided that we could not play it safe." Lovett said that the commission would be a different body with Mrs. Spaulding, Bell and Mrs. Heron. He said "change has been long overdue."

Mrs. Heron, who ran for the county commission four years ago, said, "I was very pleased that the committee decided to endorse me, I think that it was an important factor."

A major issue is who is going to be elected chairman once the new commissioners take office in the first part of December. The voters

gave the largest vote to Mrs. Spaulding who continues to be one of the highest vote getters in Durham County.

Many people at election headquarters speculated as to whether or not Mrs. Spaulding would be elected the commission's first black and first woman chairman.

People at election headquarters were surprised at the fifth place finish of the current chairman, Edwin Clements. A member of the commission for thirty years, Clements finished only 3,000 votes in front of businessman Paul Nance. One source, who asked not to be identified, said that Clements' showing in the election would dampen his chances of being re-elected chairman.

The new commission will have a written affirmative action program. Its three top vote getters have said in the past that they favor such a policy which had been resisted in the past.

Mrs. Heron said on election night that she favored an open commission that will be more responsive to the people than past one have been.

It is doubtful that the voters of Durham County would have been able to elect such a commission had the Durham Committee not decided to take the chance that it did and endorse three people that the majority of Durham County's residents decided that they wanted to represent them.



Mrs. Heron



Bell



SPEIGHT

NAACP To Honor T.R. Speight At Dinner

By Donald Alderman
Sitting in the office of his Auto Service Center on Fayetteville Road, away from the clank-clank of repairs, Theodore R. Speight, gently rolled one hand over the other as he pondered and then answered a question about blacks in business.

"Personal freedom was more our concern than the money we thought we were going to make," he said, giving his perspective on the value he puts on owning a business. "A business was our only way to become independent; our only salvation."

To Speight, 74, a short man barely topping 5'3" whose face is etched with the lines of time, owning a business paves the first road to freedom and supporting an organization that fights for freedom is the second.

He did both soon after coming to Durham from his native Snow Hill in Greene County in 1931

Then, when the Durham NAACP Branch was only sixteen years old, he joined. Speight has been an active member for fifty years.

He will be honored November 20 at the branch's Annual Freedom Fund Dinner at the Civic Center on Foster Street.

The dinner, which gets underway at 7:30 p.m., serves to raise funds for local, state and national NAACP activities and to honor local citizens who have made contributions of service to the local branch.

The speaker will be Leroy Mobley, national director of the NAACP prison program.

Tickets for the 8th annual Freedom Fund Dinner are \$20 and can be obtained from any NAACP executive committee member, or by contacting Mrs. Mabel Powell, ticket committee chairman, 688-1923.

"I think Mr. Speight is

leader because he is able to follow."

Speight has been very active in other organizations as well, including the Durham Business and Professional Chain, the John Avery Boys Club, and he is an active member of Community Baptist Church.

Speight says the fight for freedom involves continuity, and that business ownership should lead the fight. And he adds that Durham blacks have suffered from the razing of Hayti, a move that saw about 100 black businesses plowed under by an urban renewal program.

"The lack of business has taken right much power and influence ... most of the black economic strength (in Durham)," he said, frowning in disgust. "Back in the 40s and 50s, you could travel just about anywhere in the country and mention Durham and everyone

Blacks Turn Bold, Win Big In Election

Milton Jordan
Executive Editor

In a decidedly bold move in Durham, black voters shifted the power in the Durham County Commission, and sent the state's Democratic Party a not so subtle message.

Led by two bold strokes from the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, more than 40 per cent of the county's black voters added newcomer Becky Heron to the County Commission, and gave H.M. "Mickey" Michaux slightly more than 7,500 votes in a write-in effort. In Durham County, Michaux finished only 3,500 votes behind I.T. "Tim" Valentine, the Democratic nominee. Republican candidate Jack Marin carried the county.

The Committee, Durham's longtime powerful black political organization that usually delivers more than 90 per cent of the black vote,

tion race, the risk involved going for a possibility and maybe losing a surety. The possibility was Mrs. Heron, who is perceived as more likely to support Mrs. Elna Spaulding and William Bell in many controversial votes on the five-member commission.

But in a race where the top five vote getters in a field of six candidates get the seats, it was possible that Bell could be defeated. It was a simple matter of arithmetic. It was understood that Ed Clements, Dillard Teer and Paul Nance would get mostly white votes. Mrs. Spaulding would get many white votes and practically all of the black votes, and as usual would likely lead the ticket.

Mrs. Heron would also get a sizeable number of black votes, and when you add the black vote, vis-a-vis the Committee endorsement, suddenly Bell, who would not get many white votes, becomes vulnerable to Nance, the lone Republican in the race.

But the risk paid off. Mrs. Spaulding, Mrs. Heron and Bell finished

Durham Elderly Must Watch For Con Games

By Isaiah Singletary
More than 26,000 people, 50 years old and older, live in Durham County, and a great many of them need help. More than a dozen agencies in the county, employing several hundred people are organized to give that help, ranging from social security, to emergency assistance.

In many instances, the elderly person works with an individual employee of an agency, and for the most part has to trust that person not to take undue advantage.

According to Ms. Ann Johnson, executive director of the Durham Coordinating Council for Senior Citizens, that trust is a vital factor in the effective delivery of services.

But by the same token, this trust can lead to

situations where elderly clientele become vulnerable to various forms of chicanery.

A good case in point grows out of a civil suit filed in Durham Superior Court in July where a widow charges that a worker with Operation Breakthrough, a federally funded "social services" agency, allegedly bilked an elderly woman out of her home, and then set the woman in the street when she got behind in monthly payments.

And, according to officials of several local social services agencies, elderly service recipients must be careful who they trust — even an agency worker. The officials say they have no real way of protecting clients against unscrupulous people.

"I'm not sure you,

formerly owned the house, alleges that an employee of Operation Breakthrough fraudulently obtained the house and then set her in the street.



WIDOW'S FORMER HOME — This is the house at 802 Lee Street here that is the subject of a Superior Court suit. In the suit, the widow who

Police Beef Up Patrols Shopping Center

By Joseph E. Green
Durham police recently beefed up their patrols near the Boykin's Shopping Center on Fayetteville Street following the fatal shooting of a black man two weeks ago.

According to merchants in the shopping area, it is not uncommon to see several police cars and even uniformed officers walking in front of the businesses in the 2500 block of Fayetteville Street.

The police have been closely monitoring and dispersing groups of young men who have been congregating in front of some of the businesses.

This all comes in the wake of the fatal shooting of Sam Winston, a 25-year-old black man, two Saturdays ago. Mortally wounded, Winston died in the front doorway of one of the businesses in the Boykin's shopping center. The increased police presence was also prompted by repeated complaints by the Durham Black Merchants Association that drug dealers and pushers were ruining their businesses.

"The police are working on the problem," said William

(Continued on Page 8)