

## Mayor's Race Challenges Durham's Traditions

By Milton Jordan

Tradition says that two African Americans running for the same office in the same local government political campaign virtually renders the African American vote ineffective. Durham's 1987 Mayor's race challenges that tradition. Tradition says the African American is liberal; the European American is conservative; and moderate is somewhere in the middle.

Tradition aside, the issues in the mayor's race boil down to leadership, vision, the ability to build bridges throughout the community, records and performance. "There is no question that Durham's next mayor must be able to create a partnership with the business community," declared Clement, "and build the kind of coalitions that enable this city to cope with the issues of the 90s."

### An Analysis

Durham's 1987 Mayor's race challenges that tradition. Traditionally, Durham politics have been divisive, and the principal challenge of the 1987 Mayor's race is to somehow overcome that divisiveness while challenging other traditions at the same time.

Understated, Durham faces an unprecedented mayor's race this fall.

Consider unprecedented! Three of the four candidates in the mayor's race are incumbents. Two are members of the council — Howard Clement, who holds the Third Ward seat, and Chester Jenkins, an at-large member and Mayor Pro-tem. The other candidate is the incumbent mayor, Wib Gulley, who is completing his first term.

Clement, who was appointed to the council in 1985 to complete an unexpired at-large term and reelected to the ward seat the following November, is considered the conservative among the three incumbents.

Jenkins, who is serving his second consecutive council term and who has been mayor pro-tem for three years, has, more often than not, been cast as the council's moderate.

Gulley, who was elected mayor two years ago, principally on a platform of neighborhood protection, carries the liberal label.

Clement and Jenkins are the African Americans in the campaign.

Robert B. Jervis is the lone challenger in this year's mayor's race.

The three incumbent candidates agree that the issues include managing growth, balancing development and environmental issues, improving public transportation and building a more cooperative relationship with officials in Durham County's government, plus economic development.

"The city and the county must learn how to work together more cooperatively," said Jenkins. "We are really just one, though traditionally we have thought of ourselves as separate. We must learn to accept that fact that the city and the county are really one."

While that may be true, Mayor Gulley says he still sees too many separations throughout various segments of the city.

"This is particularly true in the area of economic development," Mayor Gulley said. "Our rapidly changing economic base has made it absolutely necessary that we make job training an integral part of our economic development efforts."

According to Gulley, the objective is to take a number of existing programs and blend them together into a comprehensive response to the needs of those people in Durham who live outside of the mainstream of the city's growth and development.

Interestingly, Clement agrees. "The current leadership has failed to put together a comprehensive approach to economic development that includes job training as a major component," said Clement. "We have to begin developing workable programs that serve the unemployed and the underemployed."

That's one of several (Continued On Page 9)



Brown; Scottie Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur (Katherine) Brown; and Jerel Chavis with Dad Otis Chavis keeping an eye on the youngsters.

THE LITTLE ONES HAD A GOOD TIME Tuesday during a picnic at Elmira Park. Checking out those gym-type things on the ground and seemingly enjoying the occasion are (l-r): Brandon (partially hidden), son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Janelle)

## Durham Political Tradition On The Line In 1987 City Council Campaign

By Milton Jordan

Durham faces probably its most challenging city council election this fall. Challenges include overcoming traditions of racial politics that have long divided this community, identifying candidates who will bring new, balanced issues to public debate, and who also help improve the council's efficiency in conducting the city's business.

with only one incumbent in the race — Virginia Engelhard, who was also first elected to the council in that 1983 choice between old divisions and new progress.

Two other 1983 winners, Lanier Fonville and Richard (Dick) Boyd, chose not to campaign for reelection.

Mrs. Engelhard, who represents Ward 6, is being contested by Hilda P. Hudson. The contestants in Ward 2 are Walter B. Cain and Oscar Lewis. The Ward 4 contestants are Sandy Ogburn and Carolyn W. London.

This slate of candidates faces essentially the same issues that dominated the city council race four years ago. Those issues include land use and development, transportation, housing, economic development and jobs, and citizen participation.

But new issues have joined the agenda.

"There is a great need for the city council to increase its efficiency and to get things done," declared Richard Smith during a recent interview. "If the council makes a mistake, then the thing to do is admit it, back up and start over again, rather than to continue trying to make a boondoggle better."

Other new issues, according to Smith, include more emphasis on regional planning and a better management of natural resources.

So on the bottom line, the challenges facing candidates in this campaign might well be how to choose between the issues to discuss and then how to focus the discussions.

For example, how can the discussion about economic development and jobs be joined without having it reduced to a pro-growth, anti-growth argument?

"One of the things we really have to recognize in this area of economic development," explained Mark Webbink, who barely lost a council bid in the

was once a viable economic entity. Now we are becoming a bedroom community, with no significant economic identity within the city limits."

What can the council do? "The council has done a miserable job structuring public-private partnerships," said Smith. "We are still thinking of Durham being a little village."

But Durham is no longer a little village. In fact, Durham is one of the

fastest growing communities in the rapidly growing Research Triangle area, and, as Webbink notes, much of that growth has been residential, rather than economic.

"It is impossible to have viable economic growth without a sound comprehensive plan," said Ms. Farthing, a lifelong Durham resident who says she thinks the current council's record isn't acceptable.

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### An Analysis

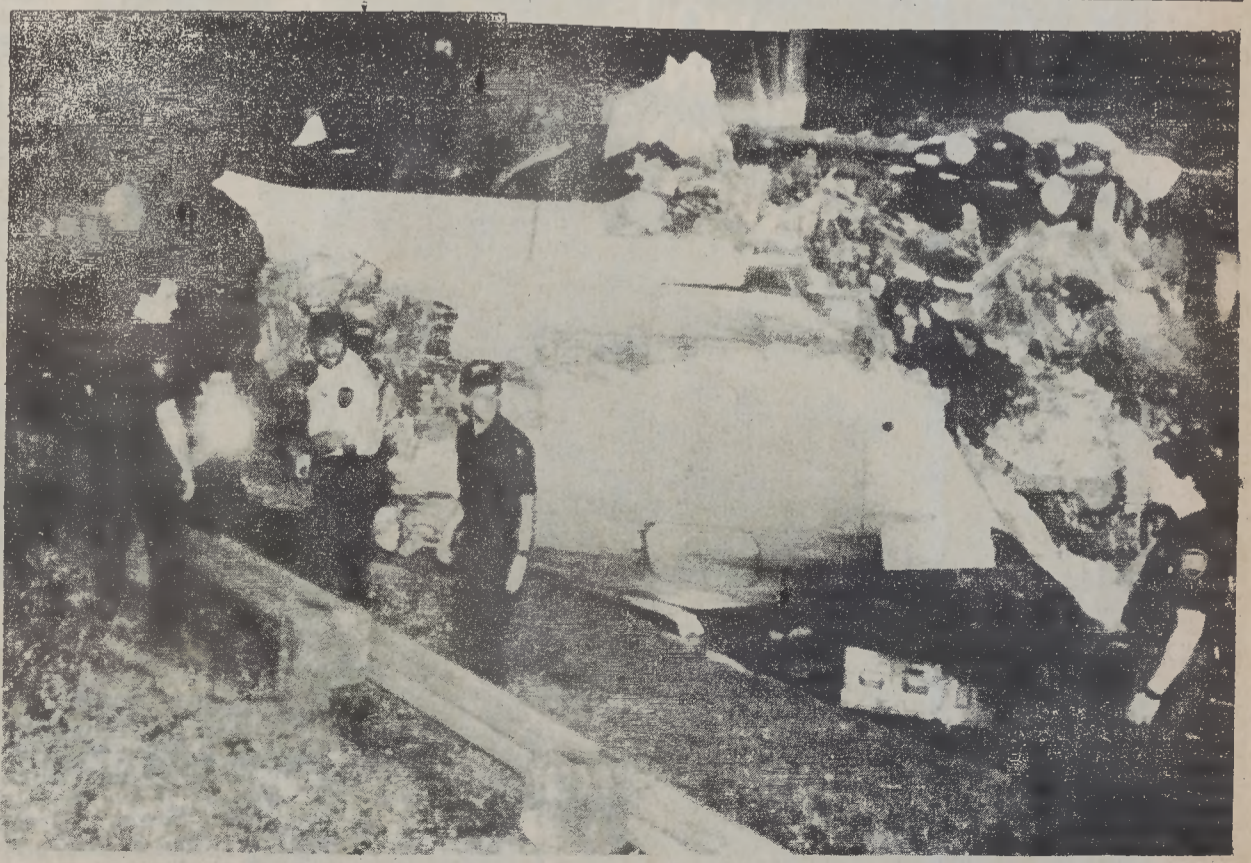
In fact the 1987 city council campaign continues a trend that developed in 1983 when Durham voters made their first choice between old divisions and new progress.

The incumbent council members who are campaigning for reelection must stand or fall by the four year records they've made since the 1983 elections. Evaluation standards are simple. Did they contribute more to old divisions, or to new progress?

The incumbents are: Matt Hough, who holds and is campaigning to retain an at-large seat; Johnny "Red" Williams, an at-large incumbent who is campaigning for reelection; and Peggy Watson-Borden. Watson-Borden, while an incumbent, was elected in 1983. She was reelected in 1986 to complete the unexpired term of Mrs. Carolyn Borden, a council member who was elected to the district court.

The incumbents are being challenged by: Jeff Clemmons, a bondsman; Richard (Dick) Boyd, who operates a local real estate business; Shirley Caesar, a nationally renowned gospel singing artist; Mark H. Webbink, a local real estate executive; Crain Farthing, a local businesswoman; and J.T. (Tom) Farthing.

The campaign for three ward seats is also hotly contested, but



ROMULUS, MICH. — The wreckage of a DC-9 lies on the I-94 freeway near Detroit Metropolitan Airport. The jet carried 149 people and was enroute to Phoenix, Arizona when it crashed just after

takeoff, becoming the second worst air disaster in U.S. history. (UPI Photo)