

Blacks, Women Put The Heat On Democrats

RALEIGH (AP) - Although women represent a majority of registered Democrats and blacks represent about 25 percent of the Democratic vote, the party might be on the verge of nominating an all-white, all-male state ticket again in 1988.

Officials say that restlessness may be growing in the ranks. Party leaders such as Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan and state Democratic chairman Jim Van Hecke have voiced concern about the lack of blacks and women at the top and have said they hoped blacks would be elected to high offices soon.

"I think the Democratic Party would be wise to nominate a black person or a woman on the ticket in November for one of those statewide offices," House Speaker Liston Ramsey, D-Madison, told *The News and Observer* of Raleigh.

That possibility prompted a group of black party activists from across the state to meet recently at North Carolina Central University in Durham to discuss ways to get a black on the state ticket.

And next week, representatives of such women's groups as the state chapter of the National Organization for Women and the N.C. Women's Political Caucus plan to meet in Raleigh to discuss ways to get more women on the ballot.

"We are concerned about elective offices and appointive offices," said Robin R. Davis of Raleigh, president of N.C. NOW.

"Women are just underrepresented everywhere," Davis said. "The issues that have the biggest impact on women get ignored or get pushed to the back burner if there are not women there."

"Many black Democrats across the state are very restless," said G.K. Butterfield, a Wilson lawyer and candidate for a Superior Court judgeship. "That is not rhetoric on my part. That is the reality."

Seven Men Killed In Faction-Torn Township In South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA (AP) - Police said six blacks were stabbed to death during a nighttime raid by blacks who arrived by bus in a township that has been plagued by factional fighting between black groups.

The police report said a large group of blacks came by bus to the township, "split up into smaller groups and then attacked residents and property."

Police said the six slain men, aged 40 to 67, had been stabbed repeatedly. The 67-year-old man was stabbed 129 times, the report said.

Durham City Council Rejects Bid From Chemical Company

(AP) - Durham City Council members have rejected a bid from a chemical company that does business with South Africa.

Durham, in a joint-purchasing agreement with Raleigh and Cary, is seeking to buy liquid aluminum sulfate, which is used in treating water.

The low bid, from American Cyanamid Co. of New Jersey, was about \$256,000 and was one of four reviewed by the city council.

American Cyanamid has economic ties to South Africa, which clashes with the city's anti-apartheid resolution. Still, the city administration had recommended accepting the bid.

The next-lowest bid came from General Chemical, also of New Jersey, which does not have ties to South Africa. The bid was \$2,866.

The council unanimously agreed to reject the bid Monday. The bidding process will have to be reopened now because state law

Although it is a long-standing question, the issue has surfaced recently because three statewide offices will be vacated in 1988: lieutenant governor, superintendent of public instruction and secretary of state. The Democratic front-runners for all three positions are white men.

Democratic leaders say they are reluctant to play king maker by interjecting themselves into primaries, fearing such a move would create resentment and divide the party. Even if they did try to influence the outcome, they say there is no guarantee they would be successful.

Black Democrats say that though the Democratic leadership is required by party rules to remain neutral in primaries, leaders can play a behind-the-scenes role in helping judge candidates in or out of races.

Butterfield said Democratic Party leaders were able to apply subtle pressure to persuade Rep. Billy Watkins, D-Granville, and State Auditor Ed Renfrow not to run against Jordan in the Democratic primary for governor.

"The party can act on behalf of a black Democratic candidate the same way they told Billy Watkins and Ed Renfrow to get off Bob Jordan's case," Butterfield said. "In religious circles, it would be called a prayer meeting."

"The party is shrewd enough to persuade people not to run when the stakes are high," he said.

"If the Hydes and the Bennetts decided to get behind a black candidate for statewide office, that would be a signal that the Democratic Party is ready to see this problem resolved," Butterfield said. He was referring to Democratic Party leaders Wallace N. Hyde and Bert L. Bennet.

Pressure to get a black statewide



What would a parade be without majorettes. Leading a local band this majorette seems to have the Christmas spirit.

Durham's Christmas Parade Shows Dr. King's Dream Coming True

BY JIM WICKER

If the late Dr. Martin Luther King could have watched Durham's big Christmas Parade Sunday afternoon, he might have concluded that a part of his dream - the one made famous in his stirring speech during the troubled 1960s - had come true.

Watching the scores of colorful floats, it was apparent that the children of the community - once segregated by Jim Crow laws and customs - have indeed come together.

On float after float, there were children - some black, some white, some Oriental - sitting and singing together, displaying genuine Christmas spirit.

Then, too, there were the marching bands - made up of young people of all races - playing their music together while attractive baton twirlers, black and white, performed together in time.

And on the sidewalks lining the parade route from the Downtown Loop - along Main Street to Ninth Street and then along Hillsborough Road to Greystone Baptist Church - spectators mingled, talking and laughing together, as they watched

the parade.

Nothing, it seems, brings the entire community together like a Christmas parade - at least in Durham. It seems like a special part of the spirit of Christmas.

And everyone, rich and poor, high society and blue collar workers alike, flocked to see Sunday's parade - in fact, it almost seemed like everybody in Durham turned out for the event. Some officials, who had expected only 60,000, later estimated that around 75,000 lined the streets.

Not many who were present:



WASHINGTON - Kennedy Center honorees Alwin Nikolais, classical violinist Nathan Milstein, actress Bette Davis, singer Perry Como, and performing artist Sammy Davis, Jr. (UPI Photo)

Police Brutality Charges Not New, But Response Still Unclear

By Milton Jordan

Durham Police have lived under a cloud of brutality charges for years, and for years the response has been essentially the same.

Who is? A new recent rash of allegations has exploded over the Durham community, charging that local police routinely mistreat and brutalize some citizens, particularly African Americans.

A News Analysis

Many of the allegations appear aimed at two special drug enforcement units of the police department, and a number of other individual officers, at least one of whom has figured in similar charges in the past.

And again, a local citizens group has banded together, they say, to fight the problem and effect a solution.

They face an uphill battle because solutions are difficult to come by when the problem is not clearly defined.

Sporadically, in fact, about every 10 years, various community groups have sprung up, focused on the alleged problem, struggled with the difficulty of proving the allegations and slipped into oblivion.

So, do some Durham police officers mistreat, malign and unnecessarily manhandle citizens, particularly African American citizens during some arrests and other incidents of police involvement?

There is no definitive answer because there are no independent standards by which the issue can be evaluated.

The difficulty of determining what so-called police brutality is or isn't stems from a number of factors. They include:

- * No precise definition of either police or public protocol when the two groups interact.
- * No independent information

that determines what constitutes provocation to use force, the proper level and intensity of force, or when the use of force by police becomes excessive by definition.

The closest definition given recently by Durham police on what constitutes excessive force came from Chief Talmadge Lassiter during an interview in 1984 concerning another alleged case of police brutality.

"State law does not clearly define excessive force," explained Lassiter during that interview three years ago. The state definition hinges on criminal behavior and not on the crime that was committed. We train officers not to strike someone on the head with a nightstick. But we do say, 'Do whatever is necessary to get out of the situation.'"

So, in essence, the issue becomes a judgement call, in the field, by the individual officer in each situation.

Interestingly enough, however, much more is implied in Lassiter's comment than initially meets the eye.

Consider. Lassiter, and it seems reasonable to conclude that he represents the basic law enforcement attitude and approach, particularly in Durham, assumes:

- * Criminal behavior
- * A committed crime
- * The officer "in a situation."

But what happens when one views the identical situation from the perspective of a Durham citizen who does not believe he or she is a criminal, that a crime has been committed, and that the officer is creating a "situation?"

Conflict flares! In fairness, it must be said that charges of police brutality have come from a wide variety of community segments in a dizzying array of situations, and under incredibly different circumstances.

The difficulty arises in trying to discern fact from fiction, "crying wolf," from legitimate concern.

Consider several examples. It was July 4, 1984 when three