

More To Be Done

State House candidate Annie Brown Kennedy, who placed second in the Democratic primary, says she is pleased with the strong showing of black candidates on June 29. Still, she cautions, the proof of the pudding will be Nov. 2's general election.

Front Page.

The First In 80 Years

This state's first black congressman in 80 years is what Durham's H.M. "Mickey" Michaux wants to become in November. But conservative Republican and Democratic elements aren't so enthusiastic. An exclusive Chronicle interview examines these and other aspects of Michaux and his campaign.

Front Page.



A Job For Janet Cooke?

Should former Washington Post reporter Janet Cooke be rehired by another newspaper after admitting that she fabricated portions of a Pulitzer Prize-winning story? Passersby and black journalists respond in this week's Chronicle Camera.

Second Front.



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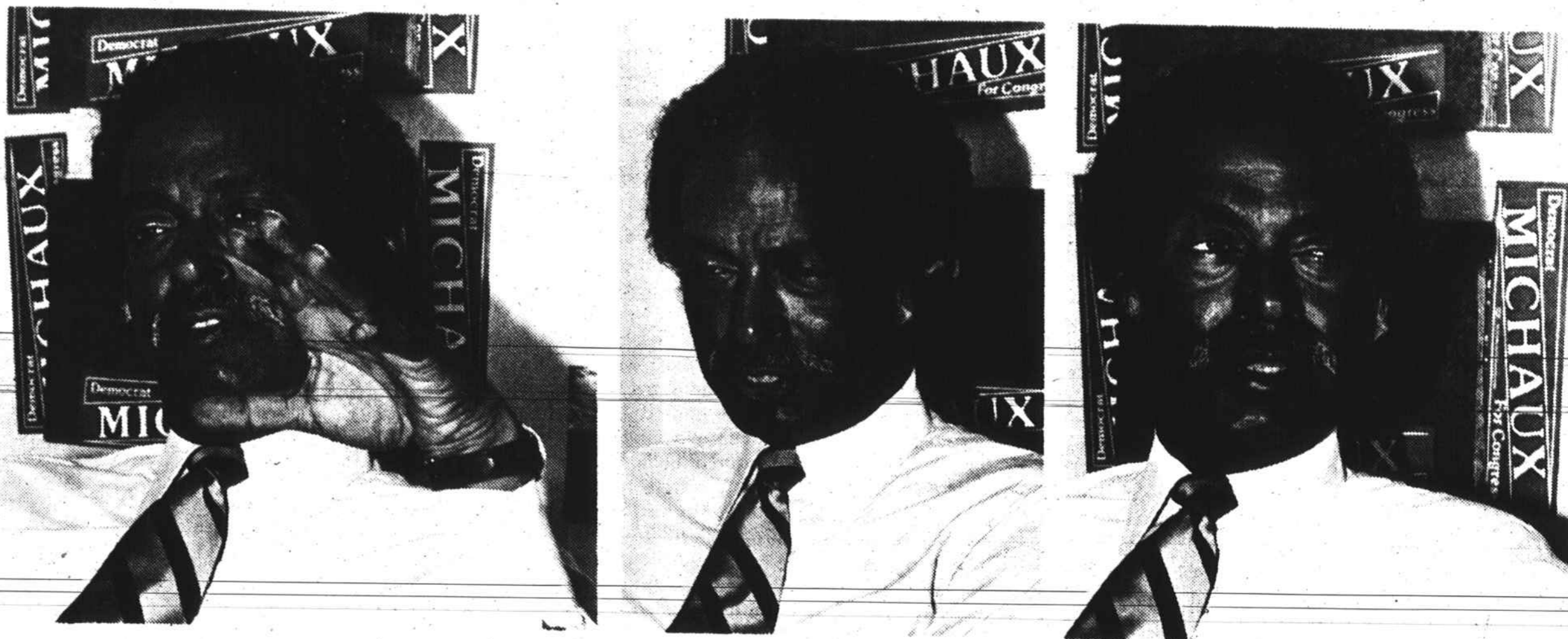
Michaux

On The Issues

Success: "As long as you make a good run... as long as you don't lose the tenor of your convictions; win, lose or draw, I think you've made some progress."

The Economy: "Certainly, our inflation rate has been lowered. It's lower than it's been in a long time. But, my God, look at the people who are unemployed."

Blacks And Politics: "... We (blacks) need political power more desperately than any group in American society."



photos by Alan Guthrie

Michaux: Rights That You Don't Use You'll Lose

By Ruthell Howard
Staff Writer

DURHAM -- If H. M. "Mickey" Michaux, Democratic candidate for a congressional seat in the 2nd District, survives a run-off later this month and wins again in November, he'll be this state's first black congressman in 80 years.

"I feel good about it," Michaux says of winning 44 percent of the vote in the June 29 primary.

"We're not overconfident about it, but the mere fact that 47,000 people would cast their votes for me in a primary indicates that the issues we have been talking about are the same issues people have some concern

about."

Michaux adds, during a conversation with the Chronicle at his campaign headquarters, that his strong showing is also an indicator that a candidate can be accepted on the basis of being "qualified, competent and capable."

"You can't help but think back to something Dr. Martin Luther King said a long time ago about people being judged on the content of their character rather than the color of their skin," he says.

"They're looking at me as a candidate."

Still, Michaux notes, it's a biological fact that he is a black man and his opponents are white. "I mean, it's there," he says. "It's glaring." But the main issue, Michaux stresses, is the quality of the candidate and his

stance on the issues.

Michaux notes that he and his opponents have different political philosophies and that he has been elected to the state House three times, leading the ticket in the third race.

"It's a question of the quality of the representation," he says. "I think that means a whole lot. You don't lose any type of identity or anything like that. It's just that we're all Americans. We're all entitled to the same American dreams."

Michaux led the primary over white Democratic candidate I.T. "Tim" Valentine, who received 33 percent of the vote. He faces a July 27 run-off against Valentine, who insists his political philosophy is more representative

of the "majority" in the district.

"Well, I guess the only way I could respond to that," Michaux says, "is I got the majority vote and maybe we're not reading the same figures."

He reaches for a copy of Valentine's statement, reads over it, and reiterates. "I got 44 percent of the votes. He got 33 percent. I don't see that majority he's talking about."

Michaux says he expects "another hard fight" leading up to the run-off and that it will be "costly and a little bit tougher than the primaries because you have to maintain a level of voter interest and try to dissuade voter apathy."

Michaux says his wide range of support comes from
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Bagnal Questions Blacks' Support Of Democrats

By Ruthell Howard
Staff Writer

Anne Bagnal, Republican candidate for Congress in the Fifth District and an avid supporter of President Reagan's economic programs, says she feels blacks are "blindly faithful to the Democratic Party."

"I wouldn't tell blacks where to put their support," she says, "but I wish they would look at a candidate and not just blindly support the Democratic Party, which every election shows they do. I don't know why and I

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photos by Alan Guthrie

Anne Bagnal

Annie Brown Kennedy

Kennedy Won't Rest on Laurels, Working Hard Toward November

By LaTanya A. Isley
Staff Writer

For Annie Brown Kennedy, a second-place finish in the state House of Representatives race in the June 29 Democratic primary indicated that there's considerable campaigning yet to be done.

"A lot of work has to be done, especially in terms of voter education, to prepare for November," she says. "If citizens somehow understand the relationship between the vote and government and politics, more (people) will vote in greater numbers."

"From my experiences, when people get an understanding about matters, the response is usually quite different than that when they lack an understanding," she says.

Kennedy, a practicing attorney for 28 years, stresses

the importance of voting, saying it determines who governs the country on state and national levels.

"Citizens define who controls various agencies and the kinds of services you have," she says. "I can't emphasize too strongly that the vote is the most potent weapon that poor people and minorities have to secure the rights as well as the benefits to which we are entitled."

The four black candidates who were in the primary all received places on the general election ballot, which Kennedy considers to be an indication that the community looks at people in terms of their ability instead of placing so much emphasis on race.

"More and more people are being viewed as individuals rather than by race," she says. "I felt good about it (the

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Members of the Black Leadership Roundtable discuss strategies for registering voters (photo by Alan Guthrie).

Necessity's Child

Roundtable Plans To Remain Active

By LaTanya A. Isley
Staff Writer

Necessity, the mother of invention, gave birth to another child weeks before the June 29 primary elections.

A group of Winston-Salem blacks who saw what they considered a pressing need for informed and organized black participation in those elections, hurriedly formed the Black Leadership Roundtable, researched the candidates and the issues and released a slate of endorsements that were supported almost to the letter by the majority of the black electorate.

Alderman Larry Little says the idea to form the Roundtable was inspired when the Rev. Warner Durnell, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church, called for the formation of a "black leadership roundtable much like King Arthur's" to discuss strategies and battle "social systematic evils" in his speech at May's NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet (although Durnell maintains that the idea had been discussed long before the speech).

Alderman Larry Little, chairman of the Roundtable, says the group is the result of a lack of black leadership in the community during the primary.

"Groups who are active politically, such as the Baptist Ministers Conference (and Associates) declined to make endorsements, leaving blacks leaderless in this campaign," he says. "We decided to come up to address the election because no black leadership was being given to the black community."

Little describes the members of the coalition as a "group of young progressives" who are leaders in their respective fields.

Members of the group cover a variety of professions in the community and include the Rev. J. Ray Butler, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church; Clifton Graves, affirmative action officer at Winston-Salem State University; the Rev. Howard Wiley, assistant pastor of Galilee Baptist Church; NAACP President Patrick Hairston; Alderman Larry Womble, and Victor Johnson, assistant principal of North Forsyth Senior High School.

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