

Reassessing the party

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"My greatest disappointment was that Lafayette Jones was not elected North Carolina senator and I have much difficulty understanding why that could happen," says Cavanagh. "The black population of Winston-Salem has denied the Republican Party of hearing the thoughts and in-depth opinions of a black senator who could have given us valuable input regarding the plight of black people, their concerns, their desires...."

Jones Shortchanged

Cavanagh says he has trouble understanding why black voters, who preach about the lack of black elected officials, would not support Jones.

"Makes me wonder out of which side of the mouth black people speak," says Cavanagh. "Black people would have influence over Lafayette Jones and the Republican Party if they allowed him to win and it would have enhanced the Republican Party in understanding the needs of black people."

In Jones' own precinct, St. Stephens, he garnered only 122 votes to Ward's 590 and Kaplan's 540.

"That's pathetic," Jones says. "It hurts me and I just have to shake my head because I know my people helped me lose."

The only black candidates who won in Forsyth County were Dr. C.B. Hauser and Annie Brown Kennedy, both of whom represent single-member state House districts. Single-member districts, say Little and County Commissioner Mazie Woodruff, were what saved Hauser and Kennedy, but the two single-member districts removed the majority of the black voters from the three-member 39th House district, spelling defeat for white Democratic incumbents, Margaret Tennille, Tom Womble and R.J. Childress. Many people, says Little, have criticized the formation of single-member districts and chastised him for designing them.

"It's true that, had blacks remained at-large, Margaret Tennille, Tom Womble and R.J.

Childress would have won," Little said. "But Hauser and Kennedy would have lost. Hauser would not have come close and Kennedy would have maybe placed sixth (in a race where only five could win). I would have preferred to see them (the three whites) go than to see Kennedy and Hauser left at home. We must look out for ourselves."

Adds Little: "Single-member districts are not responsible for them losing; they were defeated by white Democrats -- the same white Democrats that elected Jim Martin, Jesse Helms and Ronald Reagan."

Says Woodruff: "We have always protected the Democratic Party. We have been the mainstay of the Democratic Party and this election proves it. I hate that we lost good people."

Though Woodruff, the county's only black commissioner, says she also hates that fellow Democrats like Mabel Holton and Neal Bedinger lost, black people were not responsible for those losses.

"I don't know what caused their demise," says Woodruff. "The black community gave them votes, but it was the rural vote that did it. The rural vote went Republican."

Voters Pick Party

Democratic incumbent Bedinger lost to Republican incumbent Richard Linville and newcomer Forest Conrad, giving the Republicans a 3-2 edge on the county commission. The only Democrat to survive that race was James Ziglar. And in a special election, Holton lost to Democrat-turned-Republican David Drummond. Drummond lost in the Democratic primary in May, but switched parties and won the general election.

The county commission race involved voting along party lines rather than the choosing of individual candidates, says Par-

mon. It's true, says Cavanagh, that many of the Republicans who won last Tuesday won on the merits of Reagan, but many others, he insists, were viable candidates themselves.

"Obviously Reagan had a profound effect on specific races in North Carolina and Forsyth County," says Cavanagh, "although we had sought long and hard for a well-balanced, articulate candidate slate that made it easier for people to vote Republican and still feel they were going to be well-represented."

But Parmon maintains that most of the Republican candidates who won did so because they held on tight to Reagan's coattails.

"Why did Reagan have a tail on his coat that long?" says Parmon. "He appealed to the racist people who are saying, 'We want America back to the old days.'"

"People were voting on personalities and not issues. People were listening to a lie and swallowing it whole."

Why the Republicans won and the Democrats didn't will be debated for the next four years, says Parmon. But, while the Republicans revel in their win, Parmon says, the Democrats will get down to business.

"As a people, we (blacks) have to assess where our future is," said Parmon. "The Republican Party does not embrace the blacks. They fought against legislation to make Martin Luther King's birthday a holiday and against the Voting Rights Act. The Republican Party is not the answer for black people."

"I feel like the Democratic Party in the past has been the one to give us the gains we have and I'm not one to jump ship. That's why the Democratic Party is in the shape it's in now; too many have jumped ship."

Democrats Woo White Voters

While the Democratic Party is revamping, Little said, its number one priority will be determining how to woo back the white worker who has deserted the party.

"The question will be how to get the white worker back to the Democratic Party," says Little. "Blacks will become less visible and be less vocal. Blacks will be ignored. Our loyalty will be taken even more for granted and that disturbs me to no end."

While black people may take a back seat in Democratic activities, Cavanagh says, the Republican Party will actively seek black support.

"The black population will be pleasantly surprised and they will not be x-ed out, but will be sought out," says Cavanagh. "(We will) try harder to involve the black population ... but black people have to reach out. We will prove we are fair and woo black people to a position to open their eyes and see both sides."

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Criteria

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work with people, be tolerant of differences of opinion and be able to develop institutional relationships with the community.

Ingram said she isn't sure the search committee will seriously consider the faculty criteria, but she said she hopes it will.

Copies of the criteria were sent to all faculty members, the faculty search committee, the WSSU board of trustees and Dr. William Friday, president of the University of North Carolina system.

One way to assure that the list receives some consideration, said Ingram, was to release it to the press.

"This is one way to hold the search committee accountable," she said.

Most of the comments listed, Ingram said, are in the same language used by the persons who submitted them. She said they didn't want to edit them because they then might not reflect what the individuals actually felt.

"We tried to keep it objective," she said. "In some instances, some people wanted the chancellor to be black and others wanted a white chancellor. We eliminated those things because we are an institution that doesn't discriminate. But the majority of the faculty want the institution to remain predominantly black."

The chancellor search committee will hold a public hearing on Monday, Nov. 19, at 3 p.m. in the WSSU board of trustees meeting room to give the university and community an opportunity to say what they want in a chancellor.

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