

Durham man wants to be next lieutenant governor

BY STEVE HARTSOE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — Thomas Stith, a candidate for state lieutenant governor, espouses traditional Republican Party themes: lower taxes, smaller government, conservative social views.



Stith

But what's unusual about the third-term Durham city councilman is he's a black man seeking statewide office on the GOP ticket.

Stith is one of only a handful of N.C. blacks to seek a place on the Republican ballot, GOP officials say.

Stith notes in his campaign brochure that he was told he couldn't win a City Council seat in the Democrat stronghold of Durham because he's a Republican. He was also told that Republicans won't support a black candidate.

"Well, they were wrong," the brochure reads. "I led the ticket with strong Republican support and the help of thinking Democrats."

Stith said he believes that kind of success can translate on a statewide level, in part because North Carolina's population is diverse.

Jim Snyder, a Lexington attorney, is also seeking the GOP nod for lieutenant governor. Snyder has been endorsed by former U.S. Sens. Jesse Helms, Lauch Faircloth and Jim Broyhill.

Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, a Democrat, is expected to seek another term. The candidate filing period will begin April 26.



Tina Shields wore a special accessory during a recent church outreach event: a snake. Shields wore the snake like a bracelet during the recent Blessed Fest sponsored by Messiah's House.

Sorority head to speak at Bennett commencement

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Bennett College for Women will hold its 74th commencement exercise May 8 at 4:30 p.m. in the Special Events Center of the Greensboro Coliseum. More than 70 students are expected to receive their degrees. Commencement is open to the public.

Gwendolyn E. Boyd, national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., will deliver the commencement address. As the sorority's national president, Boyd is the chief executive officer of the organization that has more than 900 chapters in the United States and other countries.

Boyd is an engineer and assistant to the director for development programs at the Johns Hopkins University

Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) in suburban Maryland. She is also the fund development officer for the Maryland MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) Program sponsored by the laboratory.

Professionally, she is affiliated with the National Society of Black Engineers and the Society of Women Engineers. Additionally, Boyd is vice chair of the board of directors of the APL Federal Credit Union. By appointment from the president of Johns Hopkins University, she also serves on the university's Diversity Leadership Council.

During the commencement exercises, honorary degrees will be bestowed upon Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Dr. Sheila C. Johnson and Dr. William H. Gray.



Symphonic Band to perform

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The WSSU Symphonic Band will present its spring concert April 25 at 4 p.m. in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium.

The concert will feature a wide range of styles and periods of musical composition — in keeping with the ensemble's focus on diversity. Concertgoers will hear works by

William Grant Still, Robert Smith, Wolfgang A. Mozart, William Latham and Jaime Texidor, among others.

Musical forms will include overtures, preludes, Spanish and Italian marches, serenades, a tone poem for concert band, and a medley of tunes from the popular motion picture "Pirates of the Caribbean."

concert will be a performance of "Serenade for Alto Saxophone and Band" by Frank Bencriscutto. Christopher Jennings, a sophomore majoring in music education, will be featured.

The concert is free and open to the public. Contact 750-2530 for additional information.

A highlight of this year's

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For more information, contact Lynn Howie at (866) 827-2862.



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