

After dismal year, N.C. GOP chair won't seek re-election

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Linda Daves, chair of the North Carolina Republican Party, announced last week that she will not seek re-election to the post.

Last year was not a good one for the N.C. GOP. In April, even Republican Presidential Hopeful John McCain criticized the party for running an ad that emphasized Barack Obama's ties to his former controversial pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

The party had tried to use the ad to discredit Bev Perdue and Richard Moore, two Democrats locked in a tight race for the party's nomination for governor. The ad stressed that both had endorsed Obama.

That ad and little else did anything to help N.C. Republicans in 2008. Obama won the state, becoming the first Democrat to win N.C. in a presidential contest in more than two decades. Perdue was elected governor over Republican Pat McCrory. GOP favorite Sen. Elizabeth Dole was also ousted from office by newcomer Kay Hagan.

In a statement, Daves thanked the party faithful for



Linda Daves

the opportunity to lead the GOP for the past two years.

"I think it is good and healthy for an organization to have fresh, new leadership periodically. At the conclusion of my term in June, I will step aside and allow someone else the honor and responsibility of guiding this party into the future," she said. "I am an activist, and I will continue my work with candidates and Republican leaders across North Carolina to ensure our progress forward and to advocate for conservative fiscal and social policies."

The North Carolina Republican Party will elect a new chairman at the 2009 NCGOP Convention in Raleigh in June.

Vigil

from page A1

harshly criticized for what some call sloppy and biased investigative work that helped convict Hunt. Many believe that cops were just as lax with Smith's investigation.

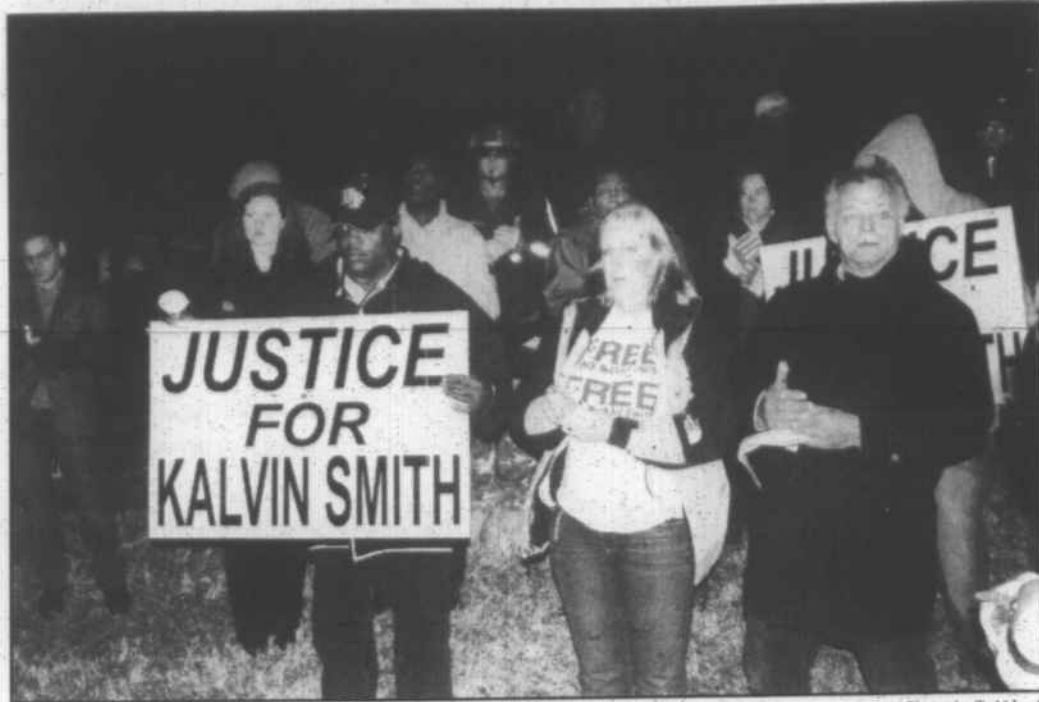
Both cases also had a racial element. Hunt and Smith are black men, while the victims in each case were white women. Critics of the way that Smith's case was handled believe that racism played a role in his conviction and possibly in the way the case was handled by the police and prosecutors.

Hunt attended the vigil to show his support for Smith. He said he wants to make Smith's case known nationwide. He also said there are plans to pursue charges of civil rights violations in Smith's case.

"This is not the end, this is just the beginning," said Hunt, who now runs the The Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice. "We're going to do whatever we can to make sure that Calvin Michael Smith gets justice."

The Hunt Project helps men and women recently released from prison with job placement and other services. The agency is also an advocate for those believed to be wrongly convicted. Friday night's vigil was sponsored by the The Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice, the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity and Mothers for Justice of Winston-Salem.

Last week's review of the case was seen by many as a chance to re-examine the evidence, but a judge dashed those hopes. Attorneys for Smith argued that the state's case relied on a witness who later said that his testimony



Photos by Todd Luck

Dozens came out to show their support for Calvin Michael Smith.

was untrue and made after he was coerced by police. They also argued that a videotaped police interview with Marker was withheld from Smith's attorney, and that Smith's court-appointed trial attorney was ineffective. Smith's next step will be asking the state appeals court to review last week's ruling.

Among the many speakers at the vigil were the Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church and a well-known freedom fighter; Mothers for Justice Director Lynn Warmath-Boyd; and Larry Little, a Winston-Salem State University professor who is well-known for his work on the Hunt case.

Wake Forest University Religion Professor Steve Boyd compared Smith's case to Hunt's. He said in both cases, it was an injustice not just for the wrongly incarcerated but for the victim, since the law let the perpetrator get away.

"The person is still out there. Do we care?" he asked the crowd. "Yes!" they shouted back.

He then asked "Does our justice system care?" to which they responded "No!"

Regina Lane tearfully told the crowd she had firsthand knowledge of how a wrongful conviction can compound tragedy. She's the fourth victim of Willard Brown, who committed the rape and murder that Hunt spent 18 years in prison for. She said her heart went out to Marker, who suffers from permanent brain damage from the attack.

"There's no way to bring Jill Marker back to what she was and the future that she had," said Lane. "There is no winner when someone goes to prison, because families are devastated by the loss of that loved one."

The Rev. Carlton Eversly, the president of the Winston-Salem Ministers Conference

and one of Hunt's most vocal supporters during his incarceration, said it was the color of Smith's skin and not the evidence that put him in jail. But he did see one encouraging sign of progress - the racial diversity of those who attended the vigil.

"The original Darryl Hunt Defense Committee was an all-black movement," said Eversly. "The fact that the Calvin Michael Smith movement for justice is as thoroughly integrated as this group reveals is a testament to the progress we are making in Winston-Salem."

After the vigil, a meeting was held at the Hunt Project's downtown office. About 20 interested individuals formed a group devoted to freeing Smith and launched a Web site, www.kalvinmichaelsmith.com, devoted to the case. Community forums at local churches about the case were also discussed.

Census

from page A1

door work will require many more workers next year. Not counting people in a census can be costly.

"Each person lost that we miss counting, over a ten year period, our county loses \$27,862 per person," said Loyd. "And that's a lot of funds if we miss a lot of people being counted."

Ken White, the area census office manager, said its not just the government that is concerned with census numbers. A business looking to move into an area looks at census numbers to determine if the population will meet its needs. He said the statistics

gathered affect every area of people's lives.

"It's probably the most important way to provide input in our democracy other than voting," said White. "The voting is who you want to represent you, the census determines who you are, where you live and what your needs are so the government can help you."

White said the biggest challenge in the count is enumerating people who speak English as a second language and that workers with bilingual skills are in need to reach those populations.

To apply for a local job with the census, call 1-866-861-2010.

Oakland

from page A2

charges," she said. "I don't know what degree, I don't practice law, but you cannot see a video like that and think that there shouldn't be some criminal charges brought against that particu-

lar police person."

The BART Police Officers Association issued a statement of condolence Saturday to Grant's family and said the union was working with investigators to "ensure that appropriate protocols are in place so this type of incident never happens again."

Meek

from page A2

never shied away from a challenge," said Ana Cruz, a Tampa-based political strategist who met with Meek on Monday.

Kendrick has traveled the state, class size is a perfect example of that, and he's here in Hillsborough County today. I think he has a firm grasp of what Floridians from the Panhandle to the Keys need in a voice in Washington."

If he succeeds, Meek would be the first black candidate elected to statewide office in Florida.

Meek, at Pelosi's request, has led the "30 Something Working Group," which uses creative ways to deliver House policy messages to younger voters. He serves in the same seat his mother,

Carrie Meek, held for 10 years.

Meek's announcement will likely be quickly followed by other candidates. Democrats considering a run include state Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, U.S. Rep. Allen Boyd and state Sen. Dan Gelber. Gelber is likely to announce plans to run late next week.

Republicans considering a run include Attorney General Bill McCollum, who unsuccessfully ran for Senate in 2000 and 2004; former House speakers Allan Bense and Marco Rubio; and U.S. Reps. Connie Mack and Vern Buchanan.

Martinez announced in December that he wouldn't seek a second six-year term. Former Gov. Jeb Bush had considered running for the seat, but said last week he decided against a campaign.



Jeb Bush

- Anesthesiology
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Cardiology
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Endocrinology
- Family Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- General Surgery
- Geriatrics
- Hematology/Oncology
- Infectious Diseases
- Internal Medicine
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics
- OTOLARYNGOLOGY**
- Pathology
- PEDIATRICS**
- Plastic Surgery
- Psychiatry
- PULMONARY MEDICINE**
- Radiation Oncology
- Radiology
- Rheumatology
- Urology
- Vascular Surgery

From left to right:
 Mary Fontana-Penn, M.D., Board Certified in Allergy and Immunology
 Brian L. Matthews, M.D., Board Certified in Otolaryngology
 Sarah O'Connor
 J. Whit Mims, M.D., Board Certified in Otolaryngology
 Tim O'Connor
 Wendy C. Moore, M.D., Board Certified in Pulmonary Medicine, Critical Care Medicine



DON'T LET ALLERGIES, ASTHMA OR CHRONIC SINUSITIS KEEP YOU DOWN...

FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS, the body of knowledge is constantly increasing about these critical quality-of-life conditions, and the role of immune deficiency as a potential culprit.

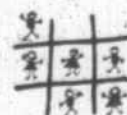
Doctors who are contributing to this evolving science are also the most qualified to provide state-of-the-art treatment. These physicians at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center have published more than 70 articles on allergies, asthma, chronic sinusitis and related disorders.

Tim O'Connor, an asthma patient, and his daughter Sarah, who suffers from both allergies and asthma, know the value of this knowledge and experience. **Their conditions were successfully diagnosed and treated, and remain under control.** "We're both breathing easier and enjoying our family time without the limitations we used to face," said Tim.

For more information about allergies, asthma and chronic sinusitis, visit wfubmc.edu/breathe.

To schedule an appointment, call Health On-Call® at 336-716-2255 or 800-446-2255. And whatever your insurance, chances are we take it.

KNOWLEDGE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.



Brenner Children's Hospital
 Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center



Wake Forest University Baptist MEDICAL CENTER
 Wake Forest University Physicians

Want to get a passport?

All kinds of government information are just a click or call away.

FIRSTGOV.gov
 1 (800) FED-INFO