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# The Charlotte Post

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

Volume 13, Number 49

Thursday, May 5, 1988

Price: 50 Cents



School board candidate Arthur Griffin watches election returns along with his wife.

## School Board Incumbents Out

By HERB WHITE  
Post Staff Writer

Tuesday wasn't a good time to be an incumbent on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board.

Only one incumbent--Jane McNlyre--was returned to the board outright in the non-partisan election. She led the 14-candidate field with 20,887 votes, easily outdistancing William Rikard and Joe Martin, who finished with 17,997 and 17,529 respectively.

After the top three, the field was bunched with a May 31 runoff likely.

Board chairman Carrie Winter, Arthur Griffin, Jan Richards and Linda Clement finished fourth through seventh in the balloting.

Less than 1,000 votes separated them and both Richards and Clement have said they will ask for a runoff.

Winter had 14,565 votes, Griffin 14,410, Richards 13,669 and

Clement 13,642.

Incumbents Don Austin and Sarah Stevenson, who served a combined 16 years on the board, lost in their reelection bids.

Stevenson finished ninth with 9,826 votes while Austin was tenth with 9,634.

Normally a low-key election, this year's school board race was viewed as a referendum on the performance of the state's largest school system.

Parents--black and white--expressed concern about the board's seeming indifference in dealing with inequalities in education and long bus rides.

Richards made the elimination of busing a prime issue in her campaign, while other candidates supported shortening bus rides or easing the burden of busing black students face.

Judging by the results, voters weren't very happy with the board.

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## Walton, Majeed In For Runoff

By HERB WHITE  
Post Staff Writer

After four months of campaigning, incumbent county commissioner Bob Walton and Nasif Majeed face the possibility of a runoff for the District 2 seat.

With all 25 precincts reporting, Majeed, Walton's top challenger, led the field with 5,669 votes to Walton's 5,463 and James Baldwin's 410.

Although Majeed led, he fell 103 votes shy of the 51 percent majority required to win outright. His total translated into 49 percent of the votes cast; Walton had about 47 and Baldwin roughly four.

According to state law, Walton has until Monday to file for a runoff, which would be held May 31. Walton has not said whether he would ask for one.

Entering the Grady Cole Center in a warmup suit that sported several campaign buttons, Majeed was greeted by supporters and reporters.

"Ma-jeeed! Ma-jeeed!" supporters shouted in unison. But as the returns came in, Majeed realized that a runoff was a definite possibility.

Majeed said his showing, while not decisive, was impressive, especially against Walton.

"We've done well against a person with 10 years as an incumbent," he said. "In a short period of time, comparably speaking, we've done better."

If Walton decides for a runoff, the issues will probably remain the same. The key to winning then would be organization, said Mecklenburg Elections Supervisor Bill Culp.

"The question will be which candidate can effectively turn out their voters on May 31," he said.

Majeed took 15 of 25 precincts while Walton took the remainder. Baldwin, who ran as the alternative to both candidates, siphoned off enough votes to make a runoff possible.

Majeed said that although Baldwin has criticized him during the campaign, they have a good relationship and would try to get his support for the runoff.



County Commission candidate Nasif Majeed accepts congratulations Tuesday during election returns at the Grady Cole Center.

"I'm very pleased with the outcome," he said as the returns were slowly winding down. "What are we ahead by, 250 votes?"

"We've had a good relationship with him during the campaign," he said. "And if there's a runoff, we'll certainly ask him to work with us."

Roosevelt Gardner, the Republican who will face the Democratic nominee in November, was on hand to watch the returns. He said he would prefer to face Majeed, whom he said could be vulnerable after a tough primary.

The coalitions that make up westside politics is undergoing a change which he believes can help him in the general election.

"It'll make the preachers realize how much their power has eroded over the past two years."

The campaign has been domi-

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Incumbent county commissioner Bob Walton talks to reporters after the primary.

## NAACP Member Sues Mecklenburg Co.

Mary Clarke, President of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Co. Branch of the NAACP, recently announced that the Charlotte Branch had contributed \$1,000 to the defense fund of long-time branch member and organization Vice President, Valorie Woodard.

Woodard will this week file a \$1 million civil action against the Mecklenburg Co. Department of Social Services and the County Commission for violations of her First and Fourteenth Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

Woodard alleges in her suit that because of her "active" and "vocal" participation in the NAACP, she was denied promotion more than 50 times prior to 1984; that after she was granted a temporary promotion management at the Department of Social Services attempted to dismiss her through the vehicle of inaccurate performance re-



Woodard

views; that after being unable to sustain the inaccurate performance evaluation, they singled her out for a demotion into a lower paying position through the vehicle of "re-classification"

and attempted to cause her resignation through "unfair" job performance evaluations that denied her earned merit raises.

Kelly M. Alexander, Jr., President of the North Carolina Chapters of the NAACP said, "The time is long past when we can tolerate employers violating the constitutional right of every citizen to freely associate in organizations of their choice. The NAACP is a respected civic and civil rights organization that has been active in the Charlotte community since the 1920's."

"I have asked the NAACP National General Counsel, Grover Hankins, to work closely with Mrs. Woodard's attorney, Mike Sheely to correct the wrongs that she has suffered. Cases like Valorie Woodard's illustrate why Mecklenburg Co. needs a Minority Affairs Office; a strong Affirmative Action plan and an independent EEO Administrator."

## N.C. Teachers Paid Less Than Average

North Carolina lost ground on the nation in terms of teacher salaries this year, despite the five percent increase granted by the 1987 General Assembly, the president of the North Carolina Association of Educators said today.

"It just shows what we have been saying," Gladys Graves, NCAE president, added. "If we want to attract and keep the best young people in our classrooms, we have to run fast just to keep up with the nation."

Graves said that North Carolina ranks 29th this year in average teacher salary, down from 28th last year despite the fact that the average salary paid in North Carolina increased from \$23,879 in 1987 to \$25,073 this year.

"What that says to us is that the nation is also trying to improve teacher salaries and that they are doing a better job than we are doing," Graves said.

She said that North Carolina did make some progress in per pupil expenditures, going from a ranking of 30th a year ago to a ranking of 26th this year.

"That is basically because of our investment in the Basic Education Program which is putting more money and more personnel in our schools," Graves said.

Southern states ranking lower than North Carolina in average teacher salaries include Kentucky (\$24,274), South Carolina (\$24,241), Tennessee (\$23,785), Alabama (\$23,320), Louisiana (\$20,885), Mississippi (\$20,669),

and Arkansas (\$20,340). South Dakota ranks last in average teacher salary at \$19,750. Alaska ranks first in average salary with \$40,424 followed by the District of Columbia at \$36,465.

Graves said NCAE will ask the short session of the General Assembly to approve a 12 percent increase in salary for North Carolina teachers, a move which, if successful, "would move the state up in the salary rankings by a few spaces." She said NCAE feels the nation will move teacher salaries up at something around 10 percent this year.

NCAE's goal is a salary schedule for teachers which begins at \$20,000 and reaches to at least \$40,000.

## Unbowed, Jackson Forges On In Pursuit Of Democratic Victory

By Chester A. Higgins, Sr.  
NNPA News Editor

Jesse L. Jackson's phenomenal race for the Democratic Presidential nomination, slowed somewhat by New York and Pennsylvania primary setbacks, won't materially affect his impact on the Democratic National Convention, in Atlanta. In fact, according to Ron Walters, a 1984 deputy chairman for issues in the Jackson campaign, even if Jackson fails to win another state caucus or primary, he will arrive at that convention with a considerable amount of clout in delegate and voter support strength.

So this leads to all kinds of speculation, much of it still being kicked around like a National Football League pigskin in pundit columns and on TV/radio talking heads shows. The what will Jesse want? pliant has taken over from that other nervous query, what does Jesse want?

Speculation that Jackson might accept a place on the Democratic ticket as vice president (he constantly expresses disdain for this office saying it only involves a vote to break a Senate tie), or become the nation's drug czar or some kind of an ambassador plenipotentiary, any of which he may be temperamentally unsuited for, in the case of Vice President, add to "the discomfort level" of the front runner, is just that -- so much speculation.

According to Walters, a professor of political science at Howard University, Jackson's considerable leverage -- both backward and forward-- should be used at the convention to bring three things to the bar-



Jesse Jackson and Bruce Lightner confer during the North Carolina campaign.

gaining table:  
1.) A stronger role for blacks within the campaign structure, and greater resources to enable Jackson and his Rainbow supporters to help get out a big Democratic vote. (During

the Mondale campaign, Walters said, Mondale ignored Jackson and Blacks and although Jackson campaigned for the ticket, he did not receive a plan to

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