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The Charlotte Post

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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

Upset Brings Plans

By WINFRED CROSS
Post Staff Writer

Less than a day after his historic win over city councilman Charlie Dannelly, Democratic nominee Hoyle Martin was making plans on how he will better serve the district.

"The groups and organizations in the district will receive some type of written communication from me quarterly. I've already let it be known that my phone and answering service will be available 24 hours a day," he said.

"I will be able to attend community meeting as they relate to city business and other wise if need be. And I will give a lot of attention to the needs of the district as expressed by the people in the community. This will influence many of my actions as a councilman."

To become District 2's councilman, Martin must first face Republican Ed Gormley. It is not

expected to be much of a contest because most of the registered voters are black Democrats.

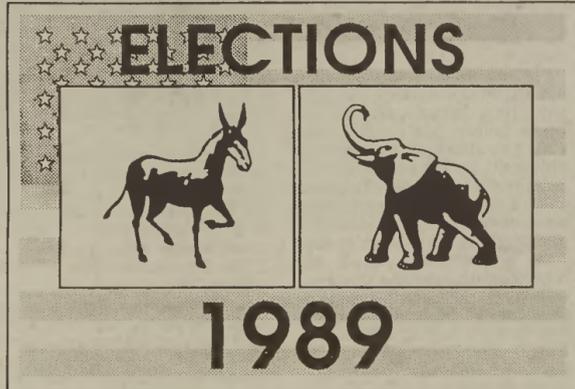
Martin, however, is not taking him lightly.

"I view any race as a real challenge," Martin said. "While we're not going to be complacent we see it as less difficult than Mr. Dannelly. But we are going to put forth the necessary effort. We've already begun making plans."

Martin is also making plans to be much more vocal on the council than the person he would replace.

"I've said in my campaign all along that there needs to be someone who is more vocal and out spoken on council. I do plan to be a good listener and be as outspoken as necessary. As a new council person obviously I will have a lot to learn, but I will be aggressive in getting up to speed so that I can do that."

Martin defeated Dannelly, the longest serving member of coun-



cil and the only councilman District 2 has ever had, 1,338 to 1,035 in Tuesday's runoff election.

Dannelly, who represented the

district since its creation in 1977, said Tuesday night: "I only hope Hoyle serves with the dignity that I served with."

Council member Ella Scarborough, who was reelected as District 3 council member last week and is a friend of Dannelly, said: "The constituency in Charlie's district must have felt they needed a change. I guess they voted their conscience."

Martin was able to defeat Dannelly with the help of white candidate Steve Barker, who supported and campaigned for Martin after placing third in the primary the week before.

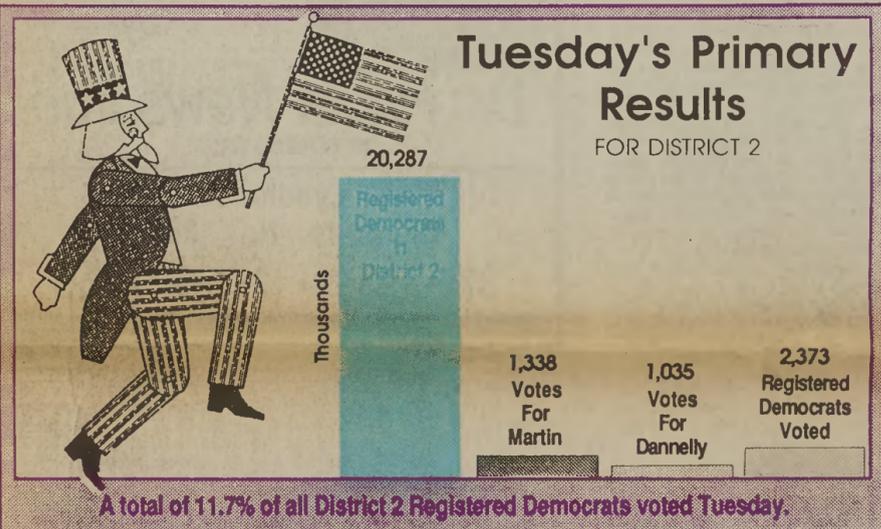
Only 11 percent of the registered voters turned out. That's 2 percent less than the turnout in the Democratic primary held the week before. Martin said primaries and runoff elections usually have low turnouts but he did express concern about the low numbers.

"What I'm concerned about is that high voter turnout signals to other council members that this is a district that is concerned and that when their representative speaks, he represents an active and concerned constituency," Martin said.



Nice Day For A Parade

Hundreds of spectators lined the streets of uptown Charlotte to watch Johnson C. Smith's homecoming parade last week. The procession started under cloudy skies, but cleared in time for the football game between Smith and Livingstone, the oldest rivalry between historically black colleges.



Energy Help Is Ready

RALEIGH - Human Resources Secretary David T. Flaherty announced that as many as 166,000 low-income families in North Carolina may be eligible for special financial assistance through a federal energy assistance program.

"The purpose of this program is to provide families with some relief from high energy costs during the winter," Flaherty explained. "Priority will be given to the elderly, disabled citizens and families with young children." Flaherty emphasized that the program provides a one-time payment to help persons pay heating bills.

To be eligible for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, families must have incomes at or below 110 percent of the 1989 federal poverty level which is \$735 per month for a family of two, and \$1,109 for a family of four. In addition to these income limits, a household's financial assets cannot exceed a value of \$2,200.

The size of payments families receive will depend upon the number of people in the household, their combined incomes, where they live, and the type of heating fuel they use. Last year, more than 160,000 families in the state received this federal assistance with payments averaging \$112.56 per household. This year, North Carolina's expenditure for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program is expected to be about \$17.9 million.

The N.C. Department of Human Resources' Division of Social Services has been designated as the state agency responsible for administration of the program with county social services departments deter-

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Task Force Goes Public

By HERB WHITE
Post Managing Editor

A minority affairs task force has recommended that Mecklenburg County commissioners create a citizens committee to implement an office.

In a report submitted to commissioners Monday, the 14-person task force proposes that the county set aside \$30,301 for the remainder of fiscal year 1989-90 to fund the minority affairs office, which was shelved by commissioners in 1987.

A year later, after charges of racism were leveled at commissioners, the task force was formed, charged with finding if a minority affairs office is needed and how far-reaching would its scope be.

The task force recommends that a 15-person committee, which would be named by commissioners, begin operation by Nov. 15 and for an executive director to be named by Feb. 1990.

Dr. Jewett Walker, chairman of the task force, recommended in a letter to the commissioners "seriously consider" naming task force members to any committee.

"Their experience, knowledge, and ability would provide a foundation essential to the success of any ongoing effort," he said.

The minority affairs office would be responsible for providing county government with information about various ethnic communities, such as their size, location and needs.

"There ought to be an independent body for this kind of thing," Walker said.

A minority affairs office could offset some of the gaps in services to nonwhites, the task force concluded in its report.

"It is the conclusion of the task force that few services fully meet the wide-ranging and extensive needs of minorities in Mecklen-

burg County. These gaps are rooted in the nature of those needs and the inherent limitations on any public effort to meet those needs; the problems are profound, the resources are limited," the report said. "While there exists a multitude of agencies and organizations to provide services, the gaps remain; individuals go unserved and underserved."

Walker said that a minority affairs effort would bring "a little duplication" in services now provided by some agencies, but not enough to warrant not having it.

With Mecklenburg's growth in overall population, so does its racial makeup, the report said.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the combined population of various ethnic groups amounted to 24 percent of the county's population. That trend may be lost at times on government officials, who in most cas-

es are white.

"At times, this fact causes problems for county government, especially when members of Charlotte-Mecklenburg's minority communities feel slighted by certain county policies or actions that, in effect, ignore minority concerns and issues," the report said.

In its initial stage, the minority affairs office would consist of an executive director, who would be paid \$30,872 annually, and a secretary at \$15,726.

The task force initially concluded that Mecklenburg fund the minority affairs effort, but changed its mind.

"As the proposed program grows and its credibility develops, other governmental and private sector entities would be expected to take up their share of the responsibility," the report said.

King Book Stirs New Controversy Among Allies

BY ROBERT BYRD
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) --- The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy on Monday defended his controversial autobiography, which includes details of Martin Luther King Jr.'s infidelity, saying he would never hurt his "dearest friend" but felt he had to tell the truth.

Abernathy said he had little choice but to write an honest account of what he knew because previous King histories have detailed the slain civil rights leader's private life.

"I knew that if I ignored the subject, then reviewers and readers would say, 'He's not telling the truth,'" Abernathy said in a statement to reporters. "In writing one's autobiography, the implication is that it is a true story."

Fielding questions at Atlanta's West Hunter Street Baptist Church, where he is pastor, Abernathy said he has always held King in "the highest regard" and meant no harm.

"He was my buddy and my friend," he said. "I would never do anything to hurt my friend."

In "And The Walls Came Tumbling Down," Abernathy writes of King's "difficult time" resisting sexual temptation and says that on the night before his April 4, 1968, assassination in Memphis, King spent the night with two different women and brawled physically with a third who had been unable to find him.

King "was not a Jesus, he was not a saint, he was not an infallible person," Abernathy said. "I have told no lies."

Abernathy said he had "spoken

with Dr. King concerning some of these activities" during their years together, but he did not elaborate.

About 200 people lined up at Oxford Book Store in midtown Atlanta on Monday night for Abernathy to autograph their copies of his book. Some cus-

tomers said Abernathy's revelations about King didn't bother them.

"I just want to read what he has to say," said Robert Moore, 33, of Atlanta. "I'm not picking sides."

A coalition of civil rights leaders, including former King colleagues Jesse Jackson, Andrew



Wilkinson Public Hearing

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission for Thursday, November 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room at Spauld Middle School, 1901 Herbert Spauld Lane.

The purpose of this meeting is to update the Wilkinson Boulevard area businesses and residents on the City's plans to beautify a three-mile stretch of the Wilkinson Boulevard Corridor (from Morehead Street to Billy Graham Parkway) with landscape improvements. This meeting is the first scheduled for this project and will be open for public input.

Leaders Hit Abernathy Book

BY SONYA ROSS
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) --- Civil rights leaders are demanding that the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy retract implications in his new book that the Rev. Martin Luther

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