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To  
School Bond Issue

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# The Charlotte Post

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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

## How Valuable Is Political Caucus?

It All Depends On How You Look At The Organization's Contributions, Political Leanings, Most Observers Say

By WINFRED B. CROSS  
Post Staff Writer

Members and observers of the Black Political Caucus agree the organization has a purpose in the African-American community but some disagree on what that purpose should be and how to accomplish its goals.

City council member Ron Leeper has been an active member of the caucus. He says he is no longer a dues-paying member because, "I'm not sure they are where I think they should be or even if they want to be where they should be."

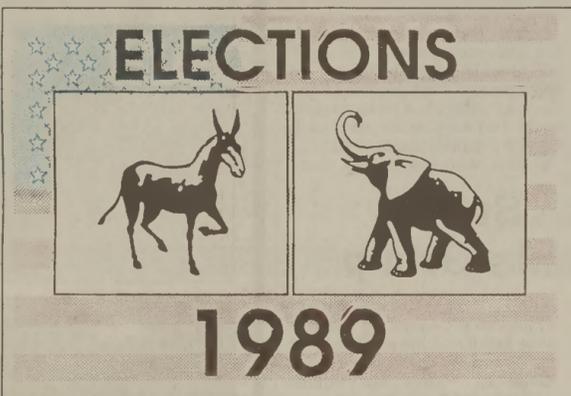
"I don't think we are developing people. We have to do more than just endorse candidates," Leeper said. "You've got to purposely have training workshops

so people can get a feel for the system. Any organization that says 'we are about affecting the political system' should make preparing people to get involved in the system (its) priority."

Frank McCain, chairman of the caucus' issues and candidates committee, said one of the organization's main goals is to promote new political talent.

"Out of that effort came Focus on Leadership, which was the brainchild of the caucus. That's not talked about much but it's a fact," McCain said.

Focus on Leadership is a program designed to train African-Americans to become community leaders and to become interested in the political system. City council candidates Hoyle



Martin and Darryl Broome participated in the program.

"The caucus recognized a void in that area and did something about it. The community needed something more and we certainly responded to that need."

McCain said the other goals of the caucus are to promote and encourage voter registration and voting; discuss issues that relate to the African-American community as well as the entire community; provide debates and forums and to form coalitions with other groups. It also endorses candidates.

"I don't know of any candidate that does not seek our endorsements. There are very few candidates who don't call and ask to present their views to our mem-

bership and candidates committee. That's not just local but statewide as well. That kind of says something to us about our endorsements," McCain said.

Broome, who is a caucus member and the first African-American to be nominated by the Republican party in Charlotte, received an endorsement from the caucus for the Tuesday election. He said he is happy with the endorsement and it is a "very progressive move" by the caucus but he had mixed feelings about how much clout the endorsement carries.

"I think it means a great deal for those who are not in the political know, particularly older black church people. From the

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## Group Opposes New Bonds

By GWENDOLYN DANIELS  
Post Staff Writer

Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools haven't given taxpayers the whole picture in pushing for school funding, officials of Citizens for Effective Government (CEG) say.

As a result, the watchdog group is pushing to defeat the \$80.1 million school bond referendum Tuesday.

CEG said Mecklenburg County needs more effective teachers and parental involvement, not new school buildings.

Don Reid, CEG president, and Joe Miller, past president of the group told a group Monday at the Adams Mark Hotel that the group's opposition to the bond is based on the fact that the school population growth doesn't warrant new and larger facilities.

"There were 79,000 students in 1979, and in 1989 there are 75,000," Reid said. "That's a 4,000 decrease."

Miller said the schools planning and research committee predicted a 48 percent increase

in student population, but the N.C. state demographer has predicted an increase of only 11 percent.

"This (school's projection) is just not plausible," Miller said.

According to research done by CEG, the instructional cost per pupil has gone up 19 percent in nominal dollars while the administrative cost per pupil has gone up 54 percent in the same period.

Miller said that the county has also spent bond money on projects that the money was not allocated for.

"To our surprise it is apparently legal to spend bond money on any project," Miller said.

CEG reports show that citizens of Mecklenburg County voted for school bonds in the general election of 1985 in the amount of 7.1 million to build Providence High School, which opened in the fall of 1989. The reports show that at last count the high school cost the taxpayer \$20,000.

The reports also showed that in the general elections in 1985

and in 1987, \$6.2 million and 7.8 million were approved to build a Junior High School in Old Providence and a Junior High School in South Mecklenburg. Neither school was built.

Voting to build a particular school in a designated area is reason to believe that the school system has not been open and honest about what the bonds are being used for.

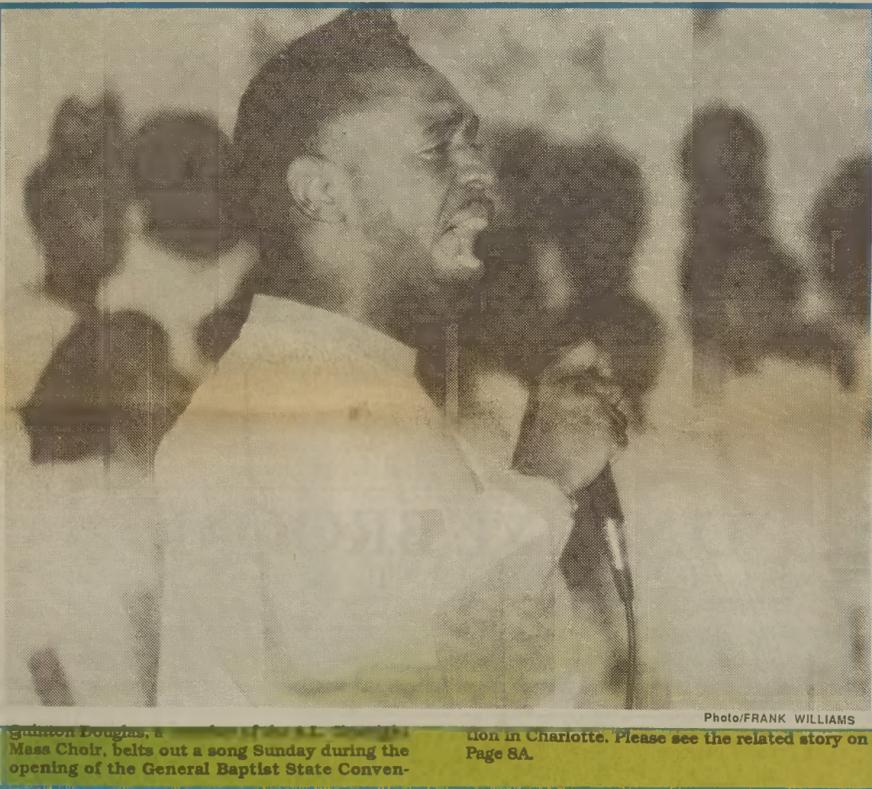
"I hope that they have been good stewards of money," Miller said.

Reid said CEG did not give this information to the public until a week before the bond referendum because the organization had problems getting information from the schools.

"They were difficult to work with," he said.

Reid said he wants the probation people to join them in an open forum to address the school bond issue.

He said he wants to let the public know the issues before Nov. 7.



Quinton Douglas, a Mess Choir, belts out a song Sunday during the opening of the General Baptist State Convention in Charlotte. Please see the related story on Page 8A.

Photo:FRANK WILLIAMS

## Woman Continues Search For Spouse

By MILLICENT LINK  
Post Staff Writer

December 10, 1974 is a day that Annie Bynum will forever remember. This is the day her husband Robert Bynum disappeared leaving her with four small children to raise alone.

On this particular day her husband Robert asked his wife whether she would take the children to school. Then he left in his wife's Buick.

Five days later, Annie Bynum's car turned up in her mother's driveway with a note stating that her husband was going to Winston-Salem to get his mind together and telling her that he should be back by Christmas. He also left a \$1 explaining that the money was for bread and gas.

For nearly 15 years she has searched for her missing husband. "It is not fair for one parent to do it alone, because it takes two people to make a child," she said.

If her husband is alive she wants child support and if he is dead she wants to collect Social Security.

Two of her children are under the age of 18 and are still eligible to receive child support.

The Bynum's first born, Valerie Kay was fatally shot at the age of 12. Annie Bynum tried to find her husband to let him know of his daughter's death, but there was no such luck.

She has tried to declare her husband legally dead, but has not been able to do so. The North Carolina law stipulates that a person can be declared dead after seven years under certain circumstances such as plane crashes or automobile accidents. However, death cannot be presumed from someone's mere absence.

Therefore, it will be up to the



Annie Bynum

courts to find sufficient evidence of Robert Bynum's death.

In June 1983, Annie Bynum filed suit in federal court asking to see her husband's confidential Social Security records, indicating his employment and whereabouts. The records indicated that Robert Bynum had lived and worked in Inman, Greenville, and Spartanburg, S.C.

Because of her plight to help parents that have been abandoned by their spouses and children, Annie Bynum has established a support group called the Runa-

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## JCSU To Phone For Dollars

The Johnson C. Smith University Alumni Affairs Office will hold a three-day Phonathon each evening between the hours of 6-9:30 p.m., November 14-16. At that time, a student, staff member or an alumnus of JCSU will call Smith graduates, soliciting their support for the University's One Million Dollar campaign. The funds will establish a \$1 million Endowed Fund for Students of Academic Merit, \$500,000 for University Professorships and \$500,000 for Faculty Sabbaticals.

For more information on the November 14-16 phonathon and the One Million Dollar Campaign at JCSU, call 704-378-1026.

## Ready To Make History

Virginia's Douglas Wilder May Become Governor

BY JEAN MCNAIR  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

VINTON, Va. (AP) --- Democrat L. Douglas Wilder enjoys recalling that a political analyst predicted his bid to become the state's first black lieutenant governor in 1985 would doom the entire Democratic ticket.

"Now that analyst says the race is mine to lose," the lieutenant governor said last week at a fund-raiser in his campaign for governor.

"We've come a long ways," he said with a chuckle shared by the crowd of about 400 supporters in a banquet hall.

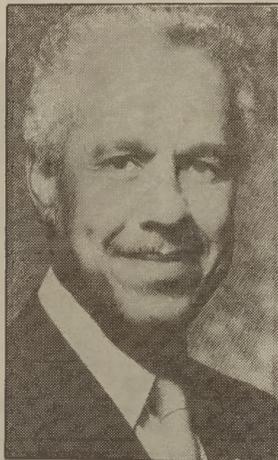
Wilder's campaign style in his race against Republican J. Marshall Coleman shows the contrast from his underdog victory that surprised the pundits four years ago.

The 58-year-old Democrat, who is seeking to become the first elected black governor of a U.S. state, attracts a large pack of national news media and spends almost as much time signing autographs as he does shaking hands.

After delivering an anti-drug talk in a classroom at Churchland Academy Elementary School in Portsmouth, all the students wanted to know was whether they could have his autograph. The candidate bent over each student's desk and signed his name on lined notebook pages.

"If you come out to our school again, I'm going to make a rap for you," Lamont Askew, 11, told Wilder.

Wearing microphones attached



Wilder

by crews from Cable News Network and the USA Today television show, Wilder greeted workers outside the Dan River Inc. textile plant in Danville.

Plant employees who seemed dazed by the cameras and reporters briefly shook Wilder's hand and said little before heading through the gate.

But a city bus driver stopped and opened his door to yell at Wilder, "You've got my vote." A few minutes later, a man driving by in a car shouted, "Coleman for governor."

Even in the conservative Southside city where residents admit racism lingers, Wilder has a chance of doing better than Democrats have in the last

two gubernatorial elections, his supporters said.

"I think things have improved significantly in the past few years," said Joyce Glace, one of two blacks on the Danville City Council.

Older voters are more likely than younger residents to be influenced by race, said John Davis, 24, a white electronics technician who's leaning toward Wilder.

"When they were brought up, you wouldn't have thought of electing a black official to anything," Davis said. "We judge people by what they do, not what they are."

Pittsylvania County Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Carper, another Wilder supporter, said working-class residents remain the most segregated.

"The people that are middle-class socialize and race is not a big issue," Carper said.

Carper's father, Joseph W. Carper, said he is a Ronald Reagan fan who likes Wilder.

"I take the man that I like the best," he said. As for Coleman, "all he's ever done is pick on the opposite team."

Abortion, one of the biggest issues in the race, is not talked about much in southside Virginia. But Wilder supporters said Coleman could be hurt by his anti-abortion views even in this conservative area because residents are suspicious of government intrusion in anything.

In his stump speech, Wilder focuses on his themes of not turning the clock back and support-

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