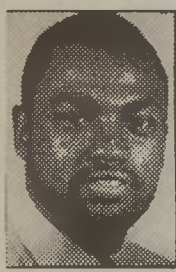


Caucus chairman election marks split

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Darryl Broome says several candidates will be on the ballot.

be the tail that wags the Democratic dog," he said.

Davis said he's seeking to head the caucus again because of the critical issues at stake during this election year.

"This is a serious time in the competition between Democrats and Republicans," Davis said. "We need to be in a position to support (U.S. Senate candidate) Harvey Gantt, to support (Gov.) Jim Hunt and to support (President) Bill Clinton. Republican mean-spiritedness is making it difficult for people to survive."

Gantt faces four-term incumbent Jesse Helms. Hunt is running against staunch conservative Robin Hayes and Clinton faces former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

"If I run, I will try to make the caucus whole, but I will make sure we support the Democratic candidates," Davis said. "I don't plan to stay forever. I just want to make sure for the next two years, or though November, I'm in a position to influence Democratic votes."

The schism was apparent when Republican caucus members got the caucus to endorse some Republican candidates in the May primary, including Hayes, over former Charlotte mayor Richard Vinroot, in the gubernatorial race. Vinroot

lost to Hayes.

Walker said he feels it is his time to lead the caucus.

"I'm not trying to make the caucus Republican," Walker said. "I have supported Democrats. I am not going to stop supporting Democrats."

"I think it is a mean-spirited if they try to do anything else. It is unchristian and unbrotherly to have a man serve down through the years and then when his time comes, say they are not going to support him."

"I'm Republican, but I'm black. My blackness supercedes my political philosophy and my record speaks for itself. I've worked with Harvey Gantt. I've supported Bob Davis down through the years. This is not a Democratic organization. It is supposed to be a bipartisan organization made up of black concerned citizens."

Hood said she stepped down because she wanted to do other things, including work on other community and church organizations.

Asked about the schism, she said she "read about it in one of the papers."

"I'm not aware of the depth," she said. "I'm not aware of how serious it may or may not be. I think we have to involve all people, regardless of party, as long as positive contribution can be made."

"I've tried to involve persons regardless to the party. We want to bring along our younger persons, train them and let them get experience."

Hood said her decision to step aside was not based on the schism between the African American Democrats and Republicans.

"I just decided that I want-

ed to step aside to do some other things. I'm involved in a lot of community activities and some I want to get back to, to give more time to."

"I suppose one of the reasons you can say is I want to see some younger persons at the helm" Hood said. "Whether that comes to fruition will be left to the body on Sunday."

Broome said several names will be put forward for chair and three vice chair positions Sunday.

"What we are going to do is present a slate of names, which may have more than one person that we recommend to the body to vote on," Broome said. "In the past, for most offices, there's just been one person on the list. But because of the interest in the chairmanship and vice (chair), there will be more than one presented. We will basically make a recommendation that they choose from that list. The floor is always open for nominations for any position."

For chairman, Broome said, the nominations will include Malcolm Graham, Walker, currently third vice chair, and Davis. He said a possible fourth candidate had not been confirmed by Wednesday.

"We couldn't come to a consensus as to who we wanted," Broome said.

For first vice president, Frank McCain, the incumbent, and former city council candidate Kyle Winston will be nominated, Broome said.

For second vice president, Troy Watson and Samuel Love will be nominated and for third vice chair, Eric Douglas and Norman Mitchell will be nominated.



Bob Davis said Republican "mean-spiritedness" has hurt blacks.

Broome acknowledged that there was some concerns expressed about the Republican endorsements.

"There were some grumblings," he said. "That has come more from black elected officials than the body at large. (N.C. Rep.) Pete Cunningham made a motion that no Republican be endorsed at all. That was defeated by the body at large."

"It looks like 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' has been reversed," Broome said. "We are acting like one main group or party should control all black people."

Concerns about the caucus president being a Republican are "ridiculous," Broome said.

"It is the most ridiculous thing I've heard yet, in terms of an office. My view of what an officer of the caucus should do is be able to bring people of different beliefs together and debate issues and let caucus decide what to do. What some people want to do is cut off debate."

But Davis said the organization has taken a turn away from being a grassroots organization.

Davis said if he wins, he will work to make the caucus more inclusive, not a "bourgeoisie" organization.

"I'd like to bring back the caucus as near to grassroots as possible," Davis said.

Graduates ready for a chance at future

continued from page 1A

my English degree to obtain a job in just about any area," Dillard said.

Graduation is the most celebrated day for college students, but it is also a thought-provoking time. Across the Carolinas, members of the Class of '96 are trying to find jobs or get into graduate school.

"It helps to have done some work in your major through an internship before you get out of college," said Appalachian State

University graduate Liteca McDowell. Not finding a job and wondering if you will measure up to a company's requirements can be scary, the Winston-Salem native said.

"I still look forward to graduation because I believe that ASU has done a good job in preparing me for the real world," McDowell said. "I know that college couldn't teach me everything, but I realize that college gave me discipline and taught me to be responsible with the decisions that I make."

"The consequences are greater when you make a mistake outside of college because you are now considered an

adult."

Dillard, a Greenville, S.C. native, said interviewing has been an eye-opening experience already. Potential employers are looking for experienced employees, but she's not giving up.

"It is a little degrading when an employer expects you to have so many years of experience when you have spent those years trying to obtain an education," Dillard said. "Even though it may be a tough market in the work force, I encourage others not to limit themselves and to continue to work towards their desires."

Stand For Children in D.C. draws area interest

Continued from page 1A

Scout Council, Children's Service Network, Council for Children, Piedmont Unitarian Universalists Church, YMCA, Child Care Resources, Rockwell Park Association, Covenant Presbyterian Church and the Mecklenburg Partnership for Children.

The Charlotte Area Black Women Entrepreneurs is also planning to take a contingent to Washington.

Groups taking buses are Covenant Presbyterian Church, Youth Homes, Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church and the Mecklenburg Child Care Association.

National interest and support for the Stand for Children has soared since it was announced in February by Marian Edelman, president and founder of the Children's Defense Fund. Over 1,700 organizations have endorsed the event.

"It is within our power to make the June 1 Stand for Children a turning point for our nation's children," Edelman said. "At this defining moment every American who cares about children must stand up and be counted."

While in Salisbury last week for Livingstone College's commencement, Edelman urged universal acceptance of the event.

"As tough as times are and as hard as families are struggling for children, each and every one of us can do better," Edelman said. "It is time to hold ourselves to a higher standard in our homes, in our communities, and in our government at all levels. And that is why we are coming together at the Lincoln Memorial on June 1."

Edelman's call transcends age, race, sex and political persuasion.

"It will be a day of family and community renewal, celebration, and commitment to children; a day for all Americans to transcend our differences and affirm what unites us as a people: a loving desire to raise moral, healthy, and educated children, a sense of fairness, and a belief that in the richest and most powerful nation on earth, no child should be left behind."

For more information about Stand for Children, call the hotline at 371-6372.

Crusiers, neighbors meet to air specific concerns

Continued from page 1A

also taxpayers and they want to be able to drive on the streets too, especially in the event of an emergency.

"The purpose of this meeting is to try and find solutions and to let the youth speak out for themselves on how they feel," said Terry Belk, chairman of the NAACP Political Action Committee.

The NAACP created the task force to organize efforts of those who want to find common ground among residents and the crusiers. The task force is mainly com-

want to work with community and government leaders to formulate short-term and long-term ideas to address their concerns surrounding cruising.

Possible solutions were bandied about. Curtis Chisolm, a Beatties Ford Road resident, suggested that crusiers park in the old airport and pay an admission per car. Re-routing cruising to vacant parking lots and secluded parks were among the solutions that surfaced.

"Crusiers can park at vacant parking lots like the K-mart on South Tryon and

ing by having car shows and giving prizes to the best looking car" said Curtis Crow.

Vince Johnson of Grounded Sounds Studio made the proposal of sponsoring entertainment events for the crusiers that would showcase local and national artists.

Cruiser Alonzo Cannon asked "If the city can afford to spend \$20,000 every Sunday for extra police protection, why can't the city take that money and use it to expand Beatties Ford Road or Hornets Nest Park? District 2 County Commissioner-elect Hayle-

much more money than \$20,000 to expand Beatties Ford Road."

Task force members collected information from crusiers last week to gauge how they would solve concerns over cruising. The task force will interview crusiers throughout May and then give the information to City Council and County Commission on June 10.

"People are looking for an immediate solution and that is not going to happen," Michael Porter said. "It is going to be a little give and

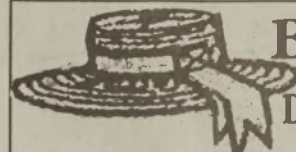
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