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THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

SERVING CABARRUS, ROWAN AND YORK COUNTIES

NAACP calls off audit

Board to get report on Alexander

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The NAACP is unable to complete an audit of N.C. conference finances because suspended state president Kelly Alexander has not turned over needed financial records, says acting state president Melvin Alston.

Alston, a Guilford County commissioner, said auditors are putting together the best report they can and will present it to the NAACP's national board prior to its October 20 meeting.

The board is supposed to determine at that meeting if Alexander, who was suspended in May, will be reinstated or permanently suspended.

"We couldn't find any bank statements for the last seven years (on the Merrill Lynch account)," Alston said. "We have some from Mr. Florence, from the United Guaranty account. Mr. Florence handled this account, but Kelly handled the Merrill Lynch account and a few other accounts we can't find any records about. There are no bank statements or cancelled checks for the Merrill Lynch account. This is the account that is in question."

Alexander could not be reached for comment and did not return a call to his office at the family funeral home Wednesday.

Linda Crite Gaines, bookkeeper to the state conference and treasurer for the local NAACP branch, said she sent some financial documents, including a check register for the Merrill Lynch account, to the state office in August.

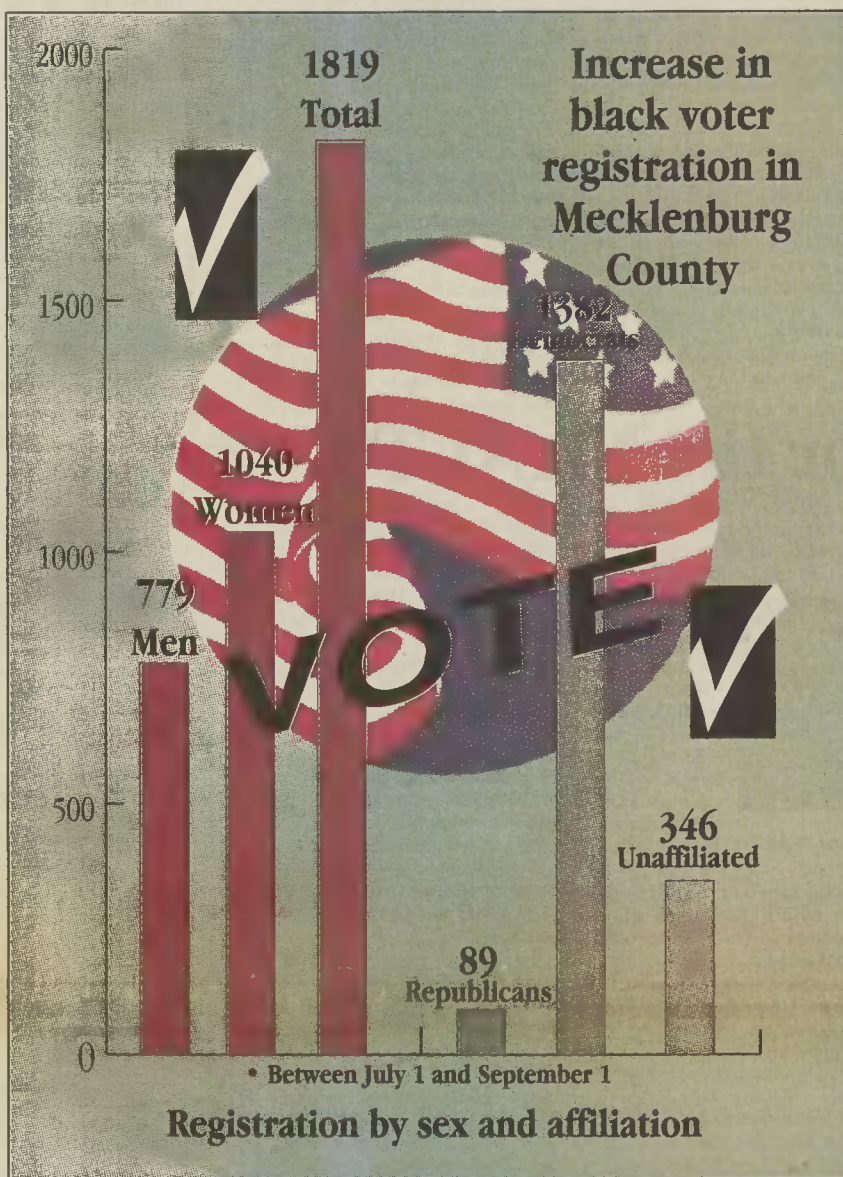
That package apparently was not received by the auditor to whom it was addressed, Gaines said. She said she has the Postal Service tracing the package, which was sent by priority mail on Aug. 23.

Some records may be in a post office box sealed by the local postmaster because of a dispute as to whom it belongs. Alexander contends it is his personal box, though it was opened in the name of the NAACP under Alexander's name.

Postal officials say Alexander refuses to accept an agreement allowing the box to be opened in the presence of a neutral observer and split

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Politically correct



ILLUSTRATION/W. MICHAEL HARRIS
SOURCE/MECKLENBURG BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Registration of black voters is rising

By Jeri Young
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A small army of African Americans are canvassing North Carolina to educate other African Americans on the power of the vote.

Considered to be a key election because the next president is likely to nominate the several Supreme Court justices, blacks have taken the message across the state.

Local efforts have been effective. Black voter registration has increased by almost 1,900 and both parties have benefitted. The Democratic Party has seen its ranks swell by 1,382, while the Republicans gained 89 new members.

One of the most significant jumps has been in the "unaffiliated" category which gained 346 African Americans.

Tammy Johnson, a registered Democrat, will proudly cast her vote on Nov. 4. She registered at 18 and has been a loyal supporter ever since.

"The Democratic Party has just been more suitable to minorities and others," Johnson

said. "The issues - health issues, medicare, senior citizens and welfare problems - affect a lot of people."

The Young Democrats of Mecklenburg, of which Johnson is president, have placed voter registration at the top of their agenda. They have registered more than 600 new voters this year.

While the message has reached many, some African Americans express discomfort with the process.

"I am not voting, and I never will," said Tonya, 21. "It won't make no difference anyhow."

Tonya, who asked that her last name not be used, feels that voting is a waste of time. Her vote, she contends, "will not count."

"I'm saying that is because I am black," she said. "But nobody out there really knows what I am feeling or thinking - they don't care."

"They say black people should be Democrats. What have they done?" she asked. "Every person with power in the thing has been taken down and they done changed welfare. Those

See REGISTERED VOTERS on page 2A

Wallace trial opens wounds for families

By Paul Nowell
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The busy corner of Sharon Amity Road and Central Avenue is a place of dark memories for Alphonso Slaughter. But still he finds himself drawn to the spot where his daughter was murdered two years ago.

"I have to go back there ... for sentimental reasons," the retired minister said, carefully choosing his words. "But two years is not enough time. I don't think there will be enough time."

In early March 1994, Debra Slaughter was found strangled in her home at the Glen Hollow Apartments on Central Avenue.

Police investigators say she was the 10th young black Charlotte woman whose life was snuffed out by the same man over a 20-month period. An 11th victim was in South Carolina.

On Monday, Henry Louis Wallace, a 30-year-old Navy veteran and former restaurant worker, went on trial for nine killings - including the death of Debra Slaughter. Attorneys expect the trial to take up to



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Dee Sumter has turned the murder of her daughter Shawna Hawk (background) into a crusade to help the families of violent crime.

eight weeks.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty in each of the killings.

Debra Slaughter, a 35-year-old mother who had recently moved to Charlotte from Atlanta, knew Wallace. They worked together at a Bojangles restaurant a few

See TRIAL on page 2A

Pupil reassignment promises to be a major test for superintendent

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Eric Smith, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' new superintendent, is getting ready for one of the most challenging and emotional tests of his young administration.

Pupil reassignment, an annual affair for the district, will be especially emotional this year. Smith and his staff will have to find a way to populate two new high schools; one in the northeast in the new Education Village and the other in Matthews. Each has room for about 1,600 students.

Doing so is likely to affect West Charlotte and Garinger high schools, as well as East Mecklenburg and North Mecklenburg.

But Smith says he and his staff are going to take a hard look at the entire pupil reassignment plan, rather than those schools. "It is an important time for Charlotte-Mecklenburg to re-evaluate its commitment to key principles," Smith said. "We will be working through those issues with the community."

"There's a great deal of personal feelings and emotions that go with (opening new high schools)," Smith acknowledged.

He should know. Smith had to populate two new high schools in Newport News, Va., school system last year, before taking over Charlotte-Mecklenburg in August.

"I'm very familiar with the process," Smith said. "There's a lot of emotions that go with it. Hopefully we can continue to see the celebration that goes with it, too."

School board member George Dunlap expects an emotional and heated debate before a final plan is adopted.

See PUPIL REASSIGNMENT on page 3A

Communities line up to fight trash transfer station

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Northwest Charlotte neighborhoods fighting a proposed garbage transfer station on Hoskins Road plan to take their case before Mecklenburg County Commissioners on Tuesday.

The group got another scare when they learned funds for some widening of Hoskins Road are contained in the upcoming bond issue, but apparently that project does not include the section between N.C. 16 and Beatties Ford Road.

A widened Hoskins would bring more truck traffic, neighborhood leaders said.

The proposed transfer station would be about 200 yards from homes on Plumstead Street in University Park North on a site westside communities thought would be offices.

The announcement surprised the neighborhoods and has added fuel to a debate about when and how communities should be notified about certain kinds of industrial developments in their areas - even those not requiring rezonings for approval.

The group of 11 communities have been consulting with an attorney about how to stop construction of the transfer station by NationsWaste, Inc., a Kentucky based firm which

is a subsidiary of a firm based in New Jersey, Continental Waste.

The company's plans has hit two snags already. First county officials have requested more information before issuing a building permit and Chester County, S.C. has refused to sell NationsWaste a landfill site to which it would transfer garbage collected in Mecklenburg County.

Barbara Atwater, president of the University Park North community and coordinator of the neighborhood group, said they will speak to the commissioners during a public concerns section.

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PHOTO/SUE ANN JOHNSON

The proposed widening of Hoskins Road stirred resistance among communities that thought the project would affect them.

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