

Reputations On Line

Candidates Urged To Serve Voters

BY DENNIS SCHATZMAN
Contributing Writer
An Analysis

They do the same thing every year. They cause themselves a great deal of grief and, when unsuccessful, blame an "apathetic black community" for their troubles. Will they ever learn? Who am I talking about? If you guessed candidates for local and regional political office, you're right. Even though most are well qualified to serve in the offices they seek, they are doing a great disservice to the voters and to themselves by running for office.

again, these candidates throw their hats in the political ring without having the slightest notion of what the heck they are doing. They have put their reputations on the line, devoted the lion's share of their time to a campaign they are doomed to lose because they are ill-prepared to run in one.

Most of the candidates have decided to run a few months or weeks before the filing deadline. Thus, they have not raised any money, established any committees or conducted any research on the issues, potential opponents or the office itself. Therefore, most potential volunteers, con-

tributors and voters do not take them seriously because the candidates have left them with the impression that they are not serious. What results is a low turnout and, most important, the experience leaves a bitter taste in the mouths of those candidates who are more than likely good men and women.

Future candidates ought to learn valuable lessons from those who are running for office the wrong way. Do it the right way.

•Know yourself and your limitations. If you have any skeletons in your closet, you might have second thoughts about running. Your op-

ponents are going to find out about them and use them against you. Also, determine if you have the right kind of demeanor to run for office. Campaigning is not for the faint at heart or for those who can be angered easily or reduced to crying in public. The potential candidate must ask himself whether he and his family are up to the serious rigors of campaigning.

•Know the office you are running for. Candidates often run for offices knowing little or nothing about the position's history, jurisdiction, or authority. Usually all they know is that they (or their friends) are unhappy with the person who currently occupies the position. A successful candidate is often the candidate who knows the function of the office or at

least gives the impression that he does.

Research the pertinent issues. The candidate who wins is usually the one who demonstrates that he has a firm grasp of the pertinent issues. This requires doing one's homework, researching the voting records of incumbents, studying the news clips (See CANDIDATES, P. 2)



DEVOTION TO EXCELLENCE—English Teachers at North Carolina Central University confere about their excellence.

Predominantly Black NCCU Has Rich Tradition, Proud Legacy

DURHAM—Well into its fourth quarter-century of existence, North Carolina Central University is both a shrine to the history of black Americans in the United States and a center for the study of that history. The History and Social Science Department of the university has long been home ground to distinguished black historians. Dr. John Hope Franklin was a member of the faculty of what was then North Carolina College when he wrote his pivotal work on black history, "From Slavery to Freedom."

A book by the late Dr. James Brewer, then a faculty member at NCCU, "The Confederate Negro," also won critical recognition as it examined the lives of the black men who worked and in some cases fought on the Confederate side in the Civil War. Today, under the leadership of NCCU alumnus Dr. Percy Murray, its chairman, the Department of History and Social Science at NCCU remains a frontier for the examination of the history of black Americans.

Veteran faculty member Dr. Earle E. Thorpe is the author of a number of books which examine black history with the tools of what is called psychohistory, applying the theories of psychology to the workings of

history. Dr. Sylvia Jacobs works to complete a two-volume work examining the critical role of the African-American missionary in Africa from the early 19th century to the 20th. Her subjects founded schools which produced many of the African leaders of today; many of the black missionaries are still remembered in Africa half a century or more after their work there ended.

Dr. Beverly W. Jones has applied the techniques of oral history, and the perspective of women's studies, to examine the role of black women workers in the tobacco factories and the mills of Durham. These NCCU faculty members and former faculty members would (See NCCU, P. 2)

Building The New South Ex-Mayor Views Status Of Women

"Building the New South from the Grassroots Up," is the challenge that the South's first black woman mayor will bring to Charlotte at this year's International Women's Day celebration.

Geraldine Sawyer, former mayor of McMullen, Ala., will be the keynote speaker at the Woman of the Year Awards Luncheon on March 5, part of

the two-day conference to be held at UNC-Charlotte's Cone Center. Children of the Sun Choir will also appear at the luncheon, which will celebrate the contributions of women working to improve life in our community.

Sponsored by the UNCC Women's Studies Program and International Women's Day Committee, the con-

ference is open to the public and will be interpreted for the hearing-impaired. All activities will be held in the Cone Center, which is wheelchair-accessible. Luncheon reservations must be made by Friday, Feb. 26, by calling (704) 547-4312, daytime hours.

Mayor Sawyer, a voting rights activist in the Alabama "Black Belt" for many years, will discuss the role of women in the struggle for political power of the formerly disenfranchised people of the South. Her remarks will also focus on the importance of "Super Tuesday" (March 8), when the whole world will be looking at the South.

"It's people at the grassroots who are making real changes, and women are playing a significant role because we carry the load," said Sawyer. "We are fighting for basic things—water,

sewers, jobs—we don't have these in the Black Belt. We are fighting for political power."

The annual "Woman of the Year" award will be presented to a woman who has been actively working to improve life in the Charlotte community, but who has not been previously recognized.

The two-day conference begins Friday, March 4, with a play, "Lillian," performed by Hancy Nixon, based on the life and writings of Lillian Hellman, a writer and fighter for civil liberties in the 1950s. The play begins at 7:30 p.m. and is free to the public.

Saturday's conference begins at 9 a.m. at Cone Center and continues through 5 p.m. with a variety of workshops, films, panels and exhibits. The conference is approved for recertification credits by the (See EX-MAYOR, P. 2)

Educator, Businesswoman Ms. Vivian Brown Dead At Age 89

Ms. Vivian T. Brown was born in Halifax County on Sept. 18, 1896 and went home on Tuesday, Feb. 16. She was the sixth of seven children born to the union of James Christopher and Hattie L. Toney.

Her early education was received in the public schools of Halifax County. Further education came from J.C. Brick School, Hampton Institute, and Shaw University. She received her bachelor of arts degree from the latter institution.

Her religious education and experience began at Carter's Chapel Baptist Church, Roanoke Rapids. She was baptized at an early age and remained an active member of an organized church until her health failed. Christian principles were continually taught through her lifestyle.

After teaching several years in Halifax County, she was united in marriage to the late widower, Samuel Harris, on July 8, 1930. Her home was then made in Raleigh. One child,

Geraldine Sandra, resulted from this union.

Ms. Brown's church membership was transferred to Fayetteville Street Baptist Church, now known as First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, when she moved to Raleigh.

Her teaching career continued in Wake County until the illness of her husband. She left the classroom to manage the Harris Barber Shops and Harris Barber College. Following his death in June 1947, she continued to manage the barber shops and remained as president of Harris Barber College until her retirement in 1971. She continued to lease the college until her death.

Ms. Brown then married the late widower, Alexander Eugene Brown, district manager of North Carolina mutual Life Insurance Co., toward the end of the '40s. This marriage lasted until Brown's death in June 1970.

(See MRS. VIVIAN BROWN, P. 2)

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Engaged In Violence

Hate Groups Increase Bigotry, Violence In Action

At least 71 racist and anti-Semitic hate organizations—many of which engage in violence—are active in the United States today and there are more than 50 publications which regularly spread bigotry, according to a study made public recently by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Based on the league's monitoring of hate groups, the study, "Hate Groups in America: A Record of Bigotry and Violence," was made public at ADL's National Executive Committee meeting in Palm Beach, Fla. The policy-making session brought together Jewish community leaders from all sections of the country.

The 139-page publication describes the activities, structure, history and personalities of the 71 hate groups, including the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi organizations—such as Skinhead gangs which have recently appeared in several U.S. cities—as well as groups such as the Aryan Nations based in Hayden Lake, Idaho, the Christian Patriots Defense League of Flora, Ill., and Posse Comitatus, whose loose paramilitary bands are scattered throughout the Midwest and West. The latter three organizations are part of the so-called "Identity Church" movement.

According to Abraham H. Foxman, ADL's national director, "The survey is the most comprehensive on the contemporary hate movement available in the U.S. today." He called it "an invaluable resource" for law enforcement officials, educators, scholars, and community leaders in combating bigotry and violence.

(See RACIST GROUPS, P. 2)



CRIME COMMISSION—Greenville Mayor Ed Carter was recently appointed to the North Carolina Crime Commission by Governor Jim Martin. The commission was created, by legislative act, to research matters relating to crime and crime prevention in the state. Carter was selected to serve on the victims of crime act and the jail system committees and will provide leadership and representation from the Eastern part of the state. (Photo by Bill Walls)

Church Youths Tackle Tough Issues On AIDS

Throughout the nation, various organizations are trying to help make the public aware of the facts regarding America's number one health threat. In North Carolina, the Links, Inc., in conjunction with several local churches, are holding forums and workshops on AIDS.

The number of new cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome reported in North Carolina more than tripled in 1987, climbing to 247 from 81 the previous year, state health officials said Friday.

The high jump was due partly to a broader definition of what constitutes AIDS, made effective last fall by federal health officials. About 70 of the 419 cumulative North Carolina cases reported by the end of December were due to the new definition, health officials said.

The figures nevertheless show that North Carolina, although it still has far fewer cases than states like New York and California, is keeping pace with the rest of the nation in its rate of increase.

Youths from Tupper Memorial Church recently held a workshop on AIDS and reported on the subject.

The mysterious disease first appeared in 1977-79, and since then there have been 24,000 cases, with a mortality rate of 54 percent. This disease affects the body's ability to fight off infections and illnesses by breaking down the immune system.

The disease, which affects most of the body fluids, can even infect the brain itself. The HIV virus, which

causes AIDS, can be diagnosed through the appearance of two of the most common symptoms. The first is pneumocystic carinii, which is a parasitic form of pneumonia, and the second is Kaposi's sarcoma, a rare form of skin cancer.

There are some cases where persons have been exposed to AIDS and become carriers of the disease instead of acquiring the infection themselves. Their symptoms include fatigue, fever, loss of appetite, weight loss, diarrhea, night sweats, and swollen glands, especially those in the neck, armpits and groin area.

There are an estimated 1 to 1.5 million people who have AIDS-Related Complex or ARC. They must practice the same precautions as AIDS patients to reduce the transmission and spreading of the disease.

As with all diseases, there are some people who are more at risk of infection than others. They include homosexual or bisexual men, those who have both male and female partners in sex since 1977. The percentage of people with AIDS who fall into that (See CHURCH, P. 2)

WIC Seeks New Funds To Help In Child Care

Only 44 percent of North Carolina's population eligible for the WIC program (Women, Infants and Children) can be served with current funding, according to state WIC Director Alice Lenihan. The WIC program provides nutrition education and supplemental foods to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants and young children.

In an effort to increase their resources and serve more clients, the WIC program, which is part of the N.C. Department of Human Resources' Division of Health Services, held a public hearing last week to obtain citizen input on rebate systems for infant formula.

"By obtaining rebates on infant formula, the state would be able to use the rebates from participating formula manufacturers to serve more WIC clients," Lenihan said. "Providing nutritious food to more clients could help to improve pregnancy outcomes for many women, as well as improve infant and child health."

She pointed out that the cost of the WIC infant food package (including three boxes of cereal at approximately \$1 each, 17 small jars of baby juice at about 35 cents per jar, and 31 cans of infant formula at about \$1.55 per can) has risen more than 24 percent over the last six years, while the cost of the women's and child's food (See WIC SEEKS, P. 2)



CONTRIBUTION GIVEN—Cynthia J. Moore, left, Director of Community Affairs at Seagram, presents the Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc. Fund \$5,000 contribution to Dorothy I. Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women.