

Election Year '84

To Endorse Or Not?

Though candidates love to receive them, some black newspapers aren't so keen on political endorsements.

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Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

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Realignment of wards will be unveiled soon

After last-minute fine-tuning, changes, plan will be made public next Tuesday

By GREG BROWN
Chronicle Staff Writer

There was a flurry of activity in the city-county planning department this week, as city aldermen studied plans to redraw ward boundaries, studied revisions of those plans and then studied revisions of the revisions.

Six weeks ago, the aldermen instructed Planning Director Douglas Carroll to redraw the boundaries to equalize the number of residents in each ward as much as possible.

"We need to be open, plain and clear about the number of blacks and whites in a ward."

-- Alderman Vivian Burke

Winston-Salem has annexed two areas since the wards were drawn last and Carroll had recommended that new boundaries be set before next year's aldermanic elections.

The South, Southwest, West and Northwest wards, all represented by white aldermen, are now larger than the ideal mean ward size.

But the issue is of particular concern to the city's four black aldermen, who worry about the long-term effects of the boundary changes.

Black Alderman Larry Womble, whose Southeast ward already is 60 percent white, could gain more white residents in his district, although the planning staff was instructed to draw the lines in a way that would not threaten any incumbent alderman.

Womble met with the planning staff Tuesday afternoon to study last-minute changes before the staff officially submits its recommendations to the

aldermen's General Committee next Tuesday.

East Ward Alderman Virginia Newell also viewed the staff's recommendations Tuesday, while Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian Burke was to examine the revisions yesterday.

"The last I heard, there were two plans," Womble said earlier this week. "I've looked at what they originally proposed and the revisions. I've just given my input about the way the ward is drawn now and how it could be changed."

"From what I've seen at this point, I'm comfortable with the work that the planning department has done. I think they've given serious consideration to my comments."

The planning department declined to make available copies of its draft proposals, first because all of the aldermen hadn't had an opportunity to review them and later because the aldermen were still recommending changes.

"I don't think we ought to be too hasty with this," Burke said, "because this is something we'll have to live with for a long time."

"The only thing I can say about realignment is that it's okay when people move into an area, but we have to look very clearly at the percentages. We need to be open, plain and clear about the number of blacks and whites in a ward."

The reason for this kind of intense scrutiny, Burke said, is that many Winston-Salem residents don't think blacks are qualified to hold elective office. She said that Winston-Salem had demonstrated some degree of "emotional growth" with the election of four black aldermen, but that it remains to be seen whether that growth will be sustained.

She did, however, reveal one planning staff suggestion that had been rejected.

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Cheers!

North Forsyth cheerleader Beverly Dobson shows perfect form during the recent game between North and Parkland. But the Vikings fell to Parkland 19-10 (photo by James Parker).

In Carver area

Residents oppose apartments

By GREG BROWN
Chronicle Staff Writer

Approximately 50 black residents of the Carver School area stood in opposition to developers' plans to build a 96-unit apartment complex in their neighborhood during Monday night's meeting of the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen.

Northgate Associates had asked the aldermen to rezone 8.12 acres on Berl Street near the Carver School Road intersection to allow construction of the project, to be called the Oak Hill Apartments. The city-county planning board had recommended approval of the rezoning request, subject to certain conditions.

But, although the developers sought and received postponement of a public hearing on the rezoning

until the aldermen's Nov. 5 meeting, about 50 persons stood up in Monday night's meeting to demonstrate their opposition to the proposal.

"We have worked very hard to maintain our community, which we feel is already heavily populated," said Naomi Jones of Sawyer Street, a spokesman for the group.

She said Carver School Road already serves as a connector between U.S. 311 and Old Walkertown Road and that an apartment complex of that size would only worsen traffic conditions. Jones said Carver School Road contains a considerable amount of school-related traffic and that there are no sidewalks for children walking to and from the school.

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Endorsements

Newspapermen differ on their value, ethics

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Unlike their daily counterparts, most of the state's black newspapers shun political endorsements.

Endorsements are often done haphazardly, insult the readers and carry little or no weight, say a number of black newspaper editors and publishers. Instead of endorsements, they say, the emphasis should be placed on news stories about the candidates and their records.

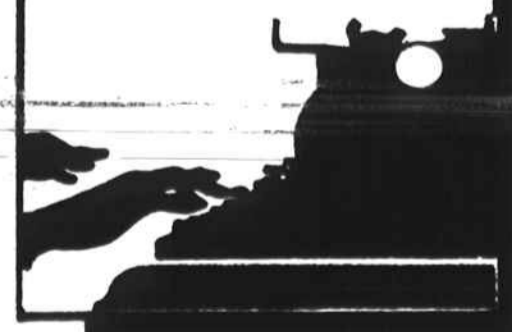
"I don't think endorsements from any newspaper is a good idea," said Milton Jordan, executive editor of *The Carolina Times* in Durham. "The role as a publication should be to say, 'Here are the issues and this is how the candidates stand.' Then the burden of making a decision falls on the voter."

Bill Johnson, publisher of the *Charlotte Post*, said his paper does not make endorsements either but, like the *Carolina Times*, provides the facts and lets the reader make his own choice.

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The last of three articles

THE BLACK PRESS AND THE CAMPAIGN



Roland Hayes takes oath as District Court judge

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Forsyth County's first black District Court judge, Roland Harris Hayes, was sworn in last Thursday before a standing-room-only audience.

As Hayes read his oath during the Hall of Justice ceremony,

members of his immediate family, including his wife, Barbara, two sons and one daughter and sister Velma Friende, watched. Chief District Court Judge Abner Alexander presided.

"I know that, with the robe and position it's a very awesome responsibility," said Hayes. "I

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Jackson, Young to visit

Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young will visit Winston-Salem Monday to support a massive voter registration drive sponsored by the Forsyth County Democratic Party.

To kick off the drive, Young, a supporter of presidential hopeful Walter Mondale, will speak at Shiloh Baptist Church from noon until 1:30 p.m. Admission will be charged and will include the price of lunch.

At 1:30 p.m., Young will speak in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium on the

Winston-Salem State University campus. Young's appearance at WSSU will highlight a massive voter registration drive on campus, said Earline Parmon.

For more information, call Parmon at 788-7382.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Jesse Jackson will return to the Triad once more for an 8 a.m. meeting at Greensboro's Trevi Fountain restaurant Monday.

Parmon said Jackson will confer with black leaders from across the state to plan strategy for the Nov. 6 election.

'I used to help... Now I need somebody to help me'

By ALBERT NICKERSON
Chronicle Staff Writer

As a young woman, Mrs. Duruar Jones would help care for older people. Now, at age 70, she herself needs a helping hand.

Time has eroded her strength and recently she was hospitalized with bronchitis. She uses a cane these days to get around her four-room, duplex apartment at 1231 E. 15th St.

Her neighbors say she often is unable to perform routine cleaning chores. And they say they are concerned about her health and safety.

A next-door neighbor, Irma Hairston, says she often has to cook for Mrs. Jones and clean her house. Otherwise, she says, Mrs. Jones leaves the house uncleaned for months.

She says Jones sometimes leaves garbage and other debris stacked in the living room. She says the elderly woman leaves her toilet unflushed, causing waste to spill onto the floor. She says she also has seen

mice and roaches running from the apartment and decayed food in her neighbor's refrigerator.

"I used to help older people when I was younger," Mrs. Jones says. "Now, I need somebody to help me."

Suzanne Merrill, supervisor of the Forsyth County Social Services Department's Home Health Services, says her unit took on Jones' case after an appeal from Mrs. Hairston. Last year, Merrill's unit handled 3,720 similar cases. So far this year, it has handled 2,781 clients.

Mrs. Jones lives alone, and no members of her immediate family live in the city. She says her husband has been dead since 1952, and her nearest relative is a sister who lives in Eden and rarely visits her.

A daughter lives in Connecticut. But Mrs. Jones says the daughter can't afford to take care of her.

Mrs. Jones acknowledges that she needs help with housecleaning. Please see page A14