

**Winston Lake Y:
New challenges.**

PAGE A4.

**Lady Rams
adjusting.**

PAGE B1.



**Jim Thorpe
interviewed.**

PAGE B3.

**She still believes
in miracles.**

PAGE A6.

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30 Pages This Week

Campaign Notes

Chavis: He'll support Kinney

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Rev. Benjamin Chavis, executive director of the United Church of Christ's Commission on Racial Justice, announced his endorsement of Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Ted Kinney at a press conference Friday in Raleigh.

Kinney is the first black in this century to run for the Senate from North Carolina. He is one of 10 Democratic hopefuls competing in the May 6 primary for the seat being vacated by Republican Sen. John East.

Chavis flew in from his office in New York to make the announcement, and also made appearances on Kinney's behalf in Rocky Mount and Franklinton.

"As a native North Carolinian, I am proud to support Ted Kinney and what his campaign represents," Chavis said at the press conference at Shaw University.

He praised Kinney for his stand on major issues, particularly Kinney's opposition to run-off primaries and support for full enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

"Run-off primaries discriminate against minority candidates, and Ted is courageous enough to fight to end them," Chavis said. "His opposition to Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, his support for farmers and his calls for tough economic sanctions against South Africa definitely make him a people's candidate."

Kinney, 54, is a retired Army officer who is now employed as a realtor with Cross Creek Ltd. in Fayetteville. He has not run for public office before....

Local attorney Harold L. Kennedy Jr., said this week that he is supporting Democrat William I. "Bill" Belk in the U.S. Senate race.

Belk, 36, is a vice president of several groups of Belk Corp. stores, a family-owned business, and is also vice president of Monroe Hardware. He is the immediate past president of the Young Democrats of America and has served as president of the North Carolina branch of the organization. This is his first try at elected public office.

Please see page A3



WSSU Chancellor Cleon F. Thompson Jr. ing last week's inauguration ceremonies seems to ponder the challenges ahead dur- (photo by James Parker).

Howard U. president praises and challenges an old friend

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

The president of Howard University challenged his friend and counterpart at Winston-Salem State University last Friday to preserve the "radical audacity of faith" on which WSSU was founded.

Dr. James E. Cheek, Howard's president since 1969, delivered the keynote address at Chancellor Cleon F. Thompson Jr.'s inauguration as the university's eighth chancellor.

"Needless to say, my chest

bursts with pride as today we bear witness to, and participate in, these exercises officially inaugurating and anointing Dr. Thompson as your new leader," said Cheek, who worked with Thompson for six years at Shaw University. "You have chosen well and wisely. Dr. Thompson knows where to go and how to get there."

A longtime friend of Thompson's, Cheek said the two share a special kind of relationship that develops between friends.

Please see page A15



Dr. James E. Cheek

"We propose ... to continue to build here a university that befits the dream of a new day."

-- Cleon F. Thompson Jr.

A new era begins

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

AFTER BEING installed as the eighth chancellor of Winston-Salem State University, Dr. Cleon F. Thompson Jr. was literally speechless.

Thompson, suffering from a mild case of laryngitis, was officially sworn in as the university's newest chief executive during inauguration ceremonies last Friday morning in Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium. U.S. District Judge Richard C. Erwin administered the oath of office to Thompson, who was joined on stage by his wife, Edwina.

Although his usually deep, firm voice was ailing, Thompson made his plans for the university clear in his inaugural response.

"I have as one of my primary objectives to preserve the heritage and the excellent character of this institution," said Thompson, who assumed the chancellor's position last Aug. 1. "We are entering a new and complicated decade. Winston-Salem State University must face the challenges that tug at the very fiber that has held it together as a fine institution all of these years and make the necessary adjustments to insure that we remain a viable, responsive and resourceful institution."

Thompson's game plan for

Winston-Salem State's future centers around five key areas, he said. They focus on strengthening the quality of the faculty, increasing the selective recruitment of high school students, admitting a percentage of low achievers as freshmen, insuring excellence in the general studies program and meeting and surpassing accreditation standards.

"We propose, then, to continue to build here a university that befits the dream of a new day," Thompson told the capacity audience. "As your chancellor, with God's help, I pledge my best effort to this end."

Guests and speakers were confident that the university will prosper with the new chancellor at its helm.

"The university is pleased to place the leadership of Winston-Salem State University in the hands of Cleon Franklin Thompson Jr.," said C.D. Spangler Jr., president of the University of North Carolina system. "Usually a national search is conducted for a chancellor. What comfort there is in finding the right person right here."

Howard University President James E. Cheek delivered the inauguration's keynote address and applauded the selection of Thompson as chancellor.

Please see page A15

Clark: 67th District seat should go to the best candidate

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Next Week: Burke's view.

Democratic candidate John D. Clark says there's nothing wrong with him running for a seat representing the 67th State House District.

"If someone were elected just because they're black, that would be wrong," Clark said Monday while answering the question of why he, a white man, is seeking to represent a predominantly black district.

"I don't see it as a black-white situa-

tion," Clark said. "Blacks were disenfranchised in this country for too long, but it's just as wrong to say the seat is not for whites.



"It would be unconstitutional to say this district can't have a white representative."

Clark, 64, is running against former

educator Logan Burke in the May 6 Democratic primary. The winner will face Republican Diane Williams-Henry in the November election. C.B. Hauser, who was elected to the seat in 1984, is not seeking re-election.

Both the 67th and the 66th House districts were created as predominantly black single-member districts in 1984, redrawn out of the then-five-member 39th district. Local black leaders, led by former Alderman Larry D. Little, pushed the measure through the state's General Assembly hoping to increase black representation in state government.

Clark said he was buoyed by comments attributed to former alderman candidate Victor Johnson Jr., a black man, who said last week in an interview with the *Chronicle* that, if the primary were held today, he would vote for Clark.

Clark said he has not taken Johnson's statement as an endorsement, but he is encouraged by it.

"I have a number of black friends and I'm sure they would have no trouble supporting me," the 20-year manager of a local Sears Roebuck and Co. store said. "But I'm not sure they would come

Please see page A3

Wake Forest

Incident involving fraternity isn't isolated, students say

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

A group of black Wake Forest University students are charging school officials with racism and inaction, following a March 24 incident in which a white student exposed himself to protest the presence of black students at a fraternity party.

The black students said last

week that school officials are perpetuating racial prejudice and intolerance by not dealing more effectively with such actions.

"The administration acts too slowly and too ineffectively in dealing with these kind of problems," Beverly T. Stewart, president of the Black Student Alliance and one of

Please see page A2



Stewart: The party offended black students



Leftwich: The university is insensitive.

UNC

Shanties built by protesters dismantled by university

By The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL - Shanties set up at the University of North Carolina to protest the racial policies of South Africa were torn down Monday, and five students who refused to leave one of the shacks were arrested.

UNC Chancellor Chris Fordham, who had ordered the removal of the shanties, shook

hands with the protest organizers and said he was proud of the students' stand. The protesters had called for UNC to stop investing in companies doing business in South Africa.

"The students have made the best possible case for further negotiations with their non-violence and their conviction," Fordham said.

Please see page A14