



Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

Vol. XIII, No. 52

U.S.P.S. No. 067910

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Thursday, August 20, 1987

50 cents

34 Pages This Week

"Can we win? Whoever
gets the most votes wins.
Yes!"

-- The Rev. Jesse Jackson

Unofficial run is 'exploding'

By MARDELL GRIFFIN
Chronicle Staff Writer

Although the Rev. Jesse Jackson has not officially announced that he is running for president, he sounded like a committed campaign stumper at a fund-raising luncheon in the Triad last week. And he said if the convention (Democratic) was "held today, I would win."

"We are not just exploring the candidacy -- we are exploding the candidacy," the Democratic front-runner said to a group of supporters gathered for lunch and check-writing at Greensboro's City Club. "The interest is just exploding."

In remarks made earlier at his alma mater, North Carolina A&T State University, Jackson said he will not back an independent candidate for president if he fails to win the Democratic nomination. And he did not rule out accepting a vice presidential nomination.

"It seems to me that there are two options," Jackson told the *Chronicle*. "A -- to win the nomination. And B -- if not win, to support the Democratic nominee to insure that person's election to president."

Jackson had previously stated that he would stay loyal to the Democrats if his attempt to become the party's favorite fell short.

"I remain available to serve," he said when asked if he would accept a vice presidential nomination if he lost his try for the presidential nomination.

During the luncheon, Jackson scoffed at people who say he is currently the leader of the Democratic presidential hopeful pack solely because he has the highest name recognition on the list since Gary Hart left the race. He had no "name recognition" when he was born in Greenville, S.C., and "Jesse Jackson was



During his recent visit to the Triad, the Rev. Jesse Jackson points the way to voter registration tables for unregistered A&T students following his orientation speech (photo by James Parker).

just the stepson of a janitor," he replied.

He compared his rise to the top of the popularity polls after Hart's departure to Lyndon Johnson following John Kennedy and Gerald Ford following Richard Nixon as presidents.

"I was next in line," he said. "They don't just have a lottery and pick out someone's name. I was next in line."

Jackson quoted remarks he made prior to the luncheon when he spoke to entering freshmen at A&T. "If I can be president of the student body at A&T and be the front runner of the Democratic Party and be the president of the United States of America, then you can do what you want to do, and be what you want to be and go where you want to go. There are no more excuses about what you can be."

The City Club audience responded the same way the A&T students did to the statement -- with cheers and applause.

"Can we win?" he asked laughing. "Whoever gets the most votes wins. Yes!"

He reminded the audience that he raised the issue of the danger "of corporations merging and purging workers and submerging our economy" four years ago. At the time he was answered with words like "corporate freedom" which have now been replaced with "corporate responsibility," he said.

And, four years ago, he was called a radical for leading a "free South Africa" movement. Now the movement is "main stream," he added.

While his supporters ate lunch, Jackson outlined his campaign platform.

Calling for a tie-in between labor rights and human rights, he said "slave labor" in foreign countries is repressing labor and undercutting prices in the U.S. and must be stopped. "It's called making the playing field even."

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COVER STORY

ABC profits boost three drug programs

By MARDELL GRIFFIN
Chronicle Staff Writer

Area substance abuse agencies will receive funds from profits generated by Alcohol Beverage Control stores in Winston-Salem following a move by the city aldermen Monday night, that obviously pleased representatives of the drug prevention and treatment organizations.

The board unanimously approved a resolution granting at least \$75,000 and up to \$100,000 of ABC profits for division between three local agencies.

The original resolution called for a \$75,000 slice of ABC profits for the drug programs. But Southeast Ward Alderman Larry W. Womble called the amount "paltry" and said it was a "sin and a shame" not to up the dollar amount of the measure to \$100,000.

This is the first time the city has appropriated money for use in drug rehabilitation, prevention and treatment programs administered by the three agencies.

John Shields, executive director of Step One, said, "We have never received any support from the city, so this is a fine start."

Step One Inc. is allocated 20 percent of the \$75,000-plus ABC funding. Another 20 percent is slated for use by the Alcohol Residential Care Authority Inc. (ARCA) and the remaining 60 percent goes to the Forsyth-Stokes Mental Health Substance Abuse Program.

West Ward Alderman Robert S. Northington suggested allocating the stipulated \$75,000 of ABC board profits plus any other profits above that mark which were not already set aside for other city uses up to \$100,000. The board approved Northington's altered resolution.

Originally, ABC board members approached city staff while this year's city budget was being prepared

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Rann top choice to replace Aldridge

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

A Greensboro man is expected to be recommended as the city's next human relations director when the Human Relations Commission meets Thursday.

A member of the commission's personnel committee confirmed reports Tuesday that the committee will recommend that Emery L. Rann III, director of Minority Affairs for the Office of the Governor, be named human relations director.

The commission is expected to meet Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

The member, who did not want to be named, said that Rann, 35, will be the only name recommended to the commission. Rann, who currently earns \$29,304, would receive a starting salary of \$30,472 if chosen for the human relations position.

"We ended up with a very top candidate that we felt strongly about," the member said.

City officials, however, are saying little about the selection process.

Alexander R. Beaty, assistant city manager for administration, said only that the search is continuing. He would not say whether the selection had been narrowed down to finalists.

He did say that a new human relations director may be selected before the end of this month.

The city has been without a human relations director since Herman L. Aldridge, the city's first director, was suspended without pay in April and subsequently fired in May.

Rann, when contacted at his Raleigh office, declined to comment.

As the state's director of minority affairs, Rann

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Emery Rann III

50 percent go to minorities

City loans help 13 firms

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Nearly 50 percent of the 13 loans given to small businesses under the city's two-year-old revolving loan program have gone to African-American businesses.

The fact that the program was able to help 13 businesses is a good sign, said Frieda G. Williams, the city's economic development coordinator.

"The program has been very effective," Ms. Williams said. "We've been able to have some

additional growth in the downtown area. Some businesses have been able to hire more than three employees, and that's good."

And fostering downtown growth was the intent in establishing the program. "Part of the city's emphasis was to stimulate revitalization in the downtown area," she said.

Since the program began in 1985, it has loaned about \$400,000, she said. The six African-American businesses who have received

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VA: Racism claim untrue

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Alleged racial discrimination charges against the Veterans Administration made by a World War II veteran are not true, a VA official says.

"We don't award benefits based on race nor do we deny them," said Mike Hampton, veteran services officer in the VA's regional office in Winston-Salem. "We have approximately 600,000 veterans in North Carolina. The only way to say we're prejudiced is to say that we're prejudiced in favor of all veterans."

In a letter to the *Chronicle*, veteran Borkin Malachi of E. Ninth St. in Winston-Salem says that

although he has no witnesses besides himself, he believes that the Winston-Salem VA office practices discrimination.

"Many white veterans receive benefits that are denied black vets that are rated under the same status," Malachi writes in the letter. "White non-service connected vets receive all the medical attention and medications they need, while black non-service connected vets spend all their allowance on doctors' bills, medicine and (they) damn near starve the rest of the month."

Malachi says he is 63 and receives benefits from the VA but has no other income. He also states

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QUOTABLE: "The (African-American) church must be involved with economic development. Its long-term survival depends on it."

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N.C. minority legislators wield clout

By The Associated Press

RALEIGH (AP) -- Women and blacks were key players in a broad range of issues during the 1987 Legislature, instead of just matters traditionally viewed as "minority issues," lawmakers say.

Having gained seniority and experience, many female and black legislators wielded influence in areas such as the budget where white males long have dominated.

Women are still "addressing social and education issues, but we are also becoming more involved in the budget areas," said Sen. Wanda Hunt, D-Moore, who sponsored a successful bill to let women charge their estranged husbands with rape.

Rep. Dan Blue, D-Wake, head of

the Black Legislative Caucus, said the 1987 session saw "the emergence of blacks as a returning phenomenon in developing seniority," noting that 11 committees had black chairmen. They were "able to influence it (legislation) in ways that ensure it's fair," Blue said.

Ms. Hunt, meanwhile, cited Sen. Helen Marvin, D-Gaston, who chairs the Justice and Public Safety Appropriations Subcommittee; Sen. Mary Seymour, D-Guilford, who chairs the ABC Committee; and Sen. Lura Tally, D-Cumberland, chairman of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee.

"It shows we are addressing diversified issues," said Ms. Hunt, who spearheaded a lobbying effort

to enact her marital-rape bill.

After the measure passed the Senate, it floundered in the House. But in a rare show of unanimity, all 20 women representatives -- who represent a broad ideological spectrum -- signed a letter distributed to each male representative urging support for the bill. It then passed easily.

The bill did not change the state law that prohibits spouses living together from charging each other with rape. Instead, it allows spouses living apart, whether or not the separation is official, to file rape charges.

Previously, a husband could not be prosecuted for rape or any other sexual crime involving his wife unless their separation had been agreed to in writing or was ordered by the court.