

# From Black



JOHN HUDGINS

By JOHN HUDGINS

After looking at the results of the last local election there are several things that seem to jump out very clearly in my mind. As we look at the Black community it is clear that among other things, Durham has:

- 1) A very reactionary class of Blacks or Negroes.
  - 2) A very apathetic majority of Black folks.
- If we try to look at these things perhaps we can put the last election in perspective and thus understand its results. First of all it is very clear that there is a group of Blacks in Durham who are very content with things as they are. These Blacks fall into two groups: A) those who have a lot of money and own businesses and who clearly identify more with the money interests of Durham than with Black needs. Members of this group prefer not to disturb things in this peaceful town. By professing to represent the Negro they have working acquaintances with the white power structure of Durham and are content to continue bargaining for a few crumbs and avoid the issue of real power. In the old days they were known as the "Parish Street Gang."

The second part of that group B) are those who are with the help of credit relatively comfortable. They are some of the people who work for the above but more of them tend to work at "the college"; in the Research Triangle; and in other white collar jobs. These people are not secure and a lift of the finger and they lose their jobs and what little they have accumulated. They correctly recognize that individually they can do nothing but risk everything. What they refuse to understand is that if they come down off their "high horses" and deal with other Black folk in Durham, much can be done through unity. On the other hand some of them are young and scared of the Black power structure in this town, or plain scared of reactionary white folks in this town. However it seems to me that the basic thing is a matter of indifference. Much the same as the case with the older or middle age they prefer to ignore the "projects" and drive on out to Forest View Heights, or Weaver Street.

The other part of the problem is the more than apathetic majority of Black folks. For one reason or another they seem content to sit and wait for leadership from uptown or someplace where it never comes from. They are very happy to let the DCNA and others act as through they are the Black community. Nobody raises questions about what happens. Some of them vote, some of them pray it away at church, but things get worse and seemingly nobody cares. This I have no explanation for. Have we given up? Are we waiting for something? Are we afraid of being sold out again?

It is unfortunate but it is true that Durham is a dead city and Blacks are paying for it. Despite the so called Black capitalists at the Mutual or downtown most Blacks in this town would not be any worse off if they were in Backwoods Alabama. There is just enough Black progress in this town to make those who would do something, fat and happy, and snobbish. It is strange to look around and see a Black mayor in Raleigh and Chapel Hill, and to see Blacks in Durham quietly accept a racist to the bone. Its strange how 4 or 5 Mr. Negroes can sit around and decide without consulting anybody what will happen in this town as far as Blacks are concerned. Its pathetic how they can slate one man to win and another to lose or scare another out of running. Yes this is a strange town, where strange things happen, but the strangest is what does not happen, or maybe its what does happen, either way NOTHING.

## Theatrical World

NEW YORK — Superfly Ron O'Neal and his best gal, Carol Banks, were married Saturday, Nov. 10 in a civil ceremony performance by Supreme Court Justice Oliver Sutton (brother of Manhattan Boro Prez) in Ron's Manhattan apartment. Actor Roscoe Browne was best man. Ron's mom, Mrs. Eunice O'Neal, headed the delegation from Cleveland for the quiet ceremony.

It's fairly common knowledge now that Sidney Poitier and Joanne Shimkus are expecting their second baby.

And in Rome's city hall, actor Peter Finch and his Jamaican companion of seven years, Eletha Barrett were married in a civil ceremony. They have a 3-year-old daughter.

The teaming of radio stations and record shops is being used

successfully by Warner Bros. to hype engagements of the musical documentary, "Jimi Hendrix", which explores the life and career of the late rock superstar. The film is now opening at theaters cross country.

Director Michael Campus predicts a big future for 12-year-old Thomas Hicks who will be seen as Young Sonny, in Paramount Pictures' "The Education of Sonny Carson", now on location in Brooklyn, N.Y. "The kids a natural," says Campus who, along with producer Irwin Yablans, interviewed hundreds of kids before finally picking Thomas.

Motion Picture Pioneers representing all 50 of the United States will attend the 35th Annual Dinner of the Foundation of Motion Picture Pioneers honoring Ted Ashley, chairman of the Board of Warner Bros., Inc., as "Pioneer of the Year for 1973". It will be the first in the dinner's 35-year history to be held outside New York City and the first to which women will be admitted.

That new TV comedy, "Roll Out", with Stu Gilliam and Hilly Hicks will roll out of CBS-TV's schedule in January and be replaced with "Great Day," a comedy about a black family living in the Chicago ghetto and co-starring Edther Rolle and John Amos.

Godfrey Cambridge now spends more time promoting his anti-narcotics film than he does in night-club appearances. The 28 1/2-minute film is entitled "Close the Door, I'm Shooting...or Dead is Dead" and he uses real people, not actors to get his point across. He expects to see it shown on the educational TV stations but not the commercial ones. Too real for the latter.

There was plenty of flack when the Corporation for Public Broadcasting held its first public board meeting. The testimony was dominated by witnesses who criticized the handling of such black programs as "Black Journal" and "Soul", two nationally distributed programs cut back drastically this season.

## Supporters of Tobacco Work. Calls Boycott

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Supporters of black workers at the P. Lorillard Tobacco Company here have called for a boycott of the company's cigarettes and tobacco.

The black workers are demanding the reinstatement of seven workers who were fired last August after a protest against discrimination in hiring and upgrading. They are also demanding that Lorillard begin a positive program to deal with discrimination in its plant.

The boycott has been called by Concerned Citizens, a coalition of members of religious and community groups.

Lorillard products include Kent, Old Gold, True Green, True Blue, Spring and Newport cigarettes. Other products are Beechnut and Big Red Tobacco, and Omega Slims, BTA, and ERIK cigars.

Black workers staged their

demonstration in August after trying unsuccessfully for months to get representatives of both the company and their union to talk with them about discrimination. The union is Local 201 of the Tobacco Workers International Union.

the entire plant for a full shift. It was believed to be the first time that black workers in the South have used an on-the-job sit-down to dramatize their demands.

The company called police and had the workers arrested and fired all of them. Since

then they have refused to negotiate with the fired workers.

The Lorillard plant is located in the heart of Louisville's black community. It hires only about 150 black workers out of a total employment of 1500.



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Federal mediators have helped coordinate a safety program at a Columbus, Ohio, vinyl-materials plant that ended a work stoppage among workers afflicted with a unique nerve damaging disease.

W.J. Usery, Jr., Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, said that a series of recommendations worked out by Federal and State health authorities are being finalized today in meetings with company and union representatives at Columbus.

The disease, called peripheral neuropathy, which severely weakens nerves which control muscles in the arms and legs was first noticed by workers in the Columbus Coated Fabrics plant last August. Tests showed that some 46 workers were deemed severely afflicted, some others distribution of doctors in urban and rural areas. In Dr. Edwards' speech, he spoke of few realizable plans to ensure decent medical accessibility for all Americans. Medical education costs are soaring and the government has seen fit to offset such costs through subsidy. It is now time for us to place restrictions on the localities where a physician can practice who has in large measure had his education subsidized by government. We must take a firm stand to promote an influx of physicians to the areas where they are needed most.

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