

## Candidates From page 1

for re-election made remarks just loud enough to be heard by the candidates and titillate the audience, who had become aware of each party's attempts to outdo one another.

Pegg, then proceeded to correct Tennille, who continued to explain. As the two legislators' voices got louder and louder, the moderator again called for order. Replied Ms. Tennille, who is seeking a fourth term, "Just ask her to let me finish what I was saying without interruption." Pegg did not apologize.

The forum, which all 14 candidates attended, saw all express a profound interest in the black community and all promised if they were elected or re-elected some distinct changes in minority-oriented legislation.

Totherow, said that he would like to see minority owned construction firms get adequate bonding and receive better training so that they will not be flustered by limited licenses. "Once a company has proven itself, they should be able to go ahead and pay a bond like everyone else," he said. Rep. Dick Barnes, also a Democrat, said that he would like to see the state study the feasibility of setting aside a percentage of its contracts for minority firms only.

Rep. Ned R. Smith, a Democrat who is seeking another term said that he would like to see relaxed bonding requirements, as did former realtor Frank E. Rhodes, a Republican candidate.

Sen. Marvin Ward, a Democrat, who is the retired superintendent of schools said that he would like to see the community colleges and technical schools in the state upgraded so that they would have more to offer students who wanted to go into construction and technical fields.

Tennille echoed by saying that she would like to see vocational counseling upgraded and begun sooner in the schools.

John F. Moss, a Republican for the House, said that he would like to see more work-study programs in the schools so that students could become part of the world of work sooner.

All of the candidates agreed that unemployment of minorities was a major problem. Democratic Rep. Ted Kaplan said that the unemployment was "like a domino complex." Kaplan said that the staggering statistics "were the end result of a long chain of things, from education to health care to training. We need to support the system we have in place with appropriations," he said.

Kaplan also said that if members of the audience had fact sheets with data pertaining to the high rate of unemployment and other problems to bring the information to him.

Atty. Donald R. Billings, a Republican looking for a first term in the House told the audience "you'd have to be blind not to know there's not a problem. He continued, "if qualified blacks are being turned down for jobs and unable to get jobs, then maybe something is wrong with the present system."

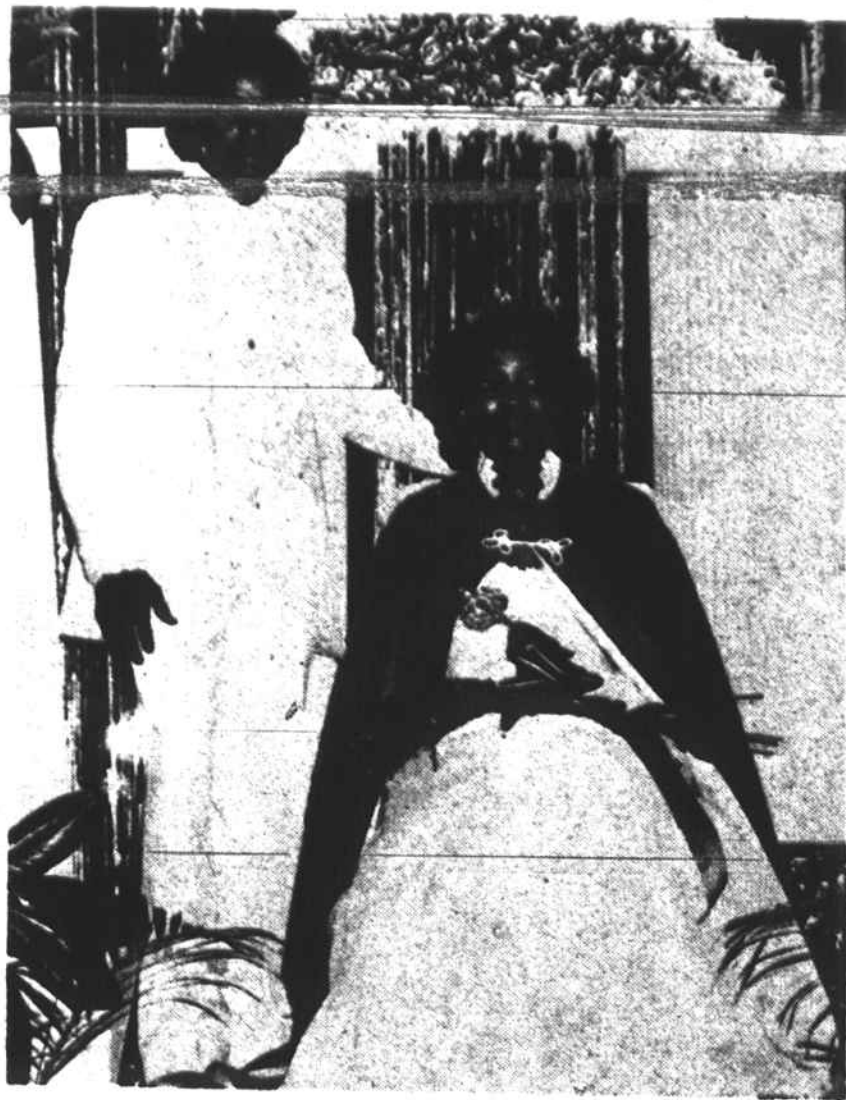
Billings and several other Republicans including L. Hackett French and C. David Kepple, urged the audience not to vote a straight Democratic ticket. "You might be surprised, but the minority party really understands a minority peo-

ple's needs better than the majority," Billings said.

Other candidates on hand were Robert F. Joyce, Gov. Jim Hunt's representative, who said that Hunt had hired more minorities to work in state government than any other governor in the state's history.

Rep. Annie Brown Kennedy, who was appointed by Hunt to fill the unexpired term of Jusdon DeRamus after he was appointed to a judgeship, emphasized that all seven Democratic candidates support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. She also noted that all seven Republican candidates oppose it.

Republican gubernatorial candidate I. Beverly Lake Jr., did not attend the forum and did not send a representative.



Miss WSSU (Lauretta Battle) and Mr. Ram (Robert Blount) pose for photographers after Coronation ceremonies last Friday night. Miss Battle is a sociology major from Rocky Mount, and Blount is a music major from New York City.

## Founders' Day From page 1

WSSU campus. The governor appealed to the audience, however, that while progress was eagerly sought, that the school should not lose site of its original goals.

"I've talked a lot here about growth and change, but, I don't want that taken to mean that Winston-Salem State should abandon its historical mission of training teachers for our public schools. It is that mission that has made this institution the great university it is."

He continued, "It must be our goal now to see to it that every child not only learns to read, but has the opportunity to graduate. Every child--rich or poor, black or white--must have the chance to burgeon out all that is within him or her, to achieve excellence."

"That is where those of you who are preparing for a career in teaching come in. You must prepare yourselves now to be the best teachers you can be, because when you leave here, you will have a direct and daily impact on the kind of future North Carolina's children are going to have." The governor said that he could think of no better example of one person's impact on so many as that of Clarence E. "Big House" Gaines, the WSSU head basketball coach and athletic director.

Gaines, who is the nation's winningest active basketball coach, was being honored with the dedication of the C.E. Gaines Sports Complex, during the same Founder's Day ceremony.

Besides the dedication of the Gaines Complex, and the unveiling of a portrait painted of Gaines, Hunt was presented the honorary Doctor of Laws Degree.

This year's Founder's

## Prisoners From page 1

the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Tennessee Branch warned "prison inmates may stage some kind of protest which could even lead to a riot."

Denver McMath, an inmate at Tennessee State Penitentiary in Nashville and President of the Lifers Club of Tennessee, Inc., predicted that more than 60% of the prison population will exercise their voting rights even though final registration figures have not been compiled. McMath confessed that inmates have suffered as a result of not being able to vote and have been deprived of that right for too long. "Voting affords us the only opportunity to express ourselves on a broader level."

Attorney Harmon Wray, Tennessee Director for the Southern Prison Ministry agreed, explaining that "voting gives prisoners a sense of dignity, pride and responsibility, further increasing their chances for a successful transition into the free society." The Southern Prison Ministry, and advocacy organization for local and state prisoners, in Tennessee, publically supported the Memphis Legal Services' lawsuits filed on behalf of the state prison inmates.

The initial class-action lawsuit, filed back in July was against State Election Coordinator David Collins, members of the Shelby County Election Commission and Shelby County Mayor Bill Morris. It charged, according to Wray, that state laws prohibiting prisoners from voting, were out-dated, arbitrary, and inconsis-

tent, thus denying some prisoners equal protection under the law. That suit was filed, however, only on behalf of all prisoners convicted of "infamous" crimes.

The original "infamous" crime statute, enacted in 1829, covered crimes ranging from horse thievery and rape, or destroying a person's last testament and will, while other serious offenses including murder, kidnapping or selling hard drugs were omitted.

U.S. District Judge Robert S. Brandt concurred in a decision last month, ruling that prisoners convicted of "infamous" crimes are not prohibited from voting by any state law.

That action, coupled with an earlier decision by U.S. District Judge Robert McRae in Memphis which granted prisoners convicted of "non-infamous" crimes the right to vote, led to the stunning victory now shared by all inmates. McRae at the same time struck down another state law which prohibited prisoners from voting by absentee ballot.

State Election officials, in complying with Judge McRae's decision, have now developed a plan allowing inmates to mail requests for absentee ballots directly to their county registrar before October 14th.

The actual voting for inmates receiving absentee ballots will take place on October 28th according to Assistant State Elections Coordinator, Bert Chrismon. Each prison facility will designate a specific area of the institution for voting, presided over by an election official.

## Shertzer Suspended

Jim Shertzer, the Winston-Salem Journal's arts reporter pleaded guilty last week in Forsyth District Court to a charge of driving under the influence. The state voluntarily dismissed a charge of driving 55 mph in a 45 mph zone.

Shertzer, who was charged Oct. 6, was given a six-month sentence, suspended for three years and fined \$150 plus court costs by Chief District Judge Abner Alexander.

Charles C. Baker, a

Republican candidate for District Court judge who was charged with giving a worthless check last week, said that he has paid the check off.

## Candidate Cleared

Baker was charged with writing a check for \$115.36 to Central Communications Corp., an answering services he uses, without having sufficient funds in the bank to cover the check.

He called the charge a mistake, saying that he deposited the money for the

check in the wrong one of his four accounts at Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. Baker said that he did not receive notice that he was overdrawn because he had recently moved his office and had had problems receiving his mail at the new address.

## Exam From page 1

North Carolina. The group of plaintiffs, graduated from various law schools across the country including Duke, North Carolina, Central University; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Texas Southern University; the University of South Carolina; Howard and Georgetown University. Each has taken the bar exam at least once.

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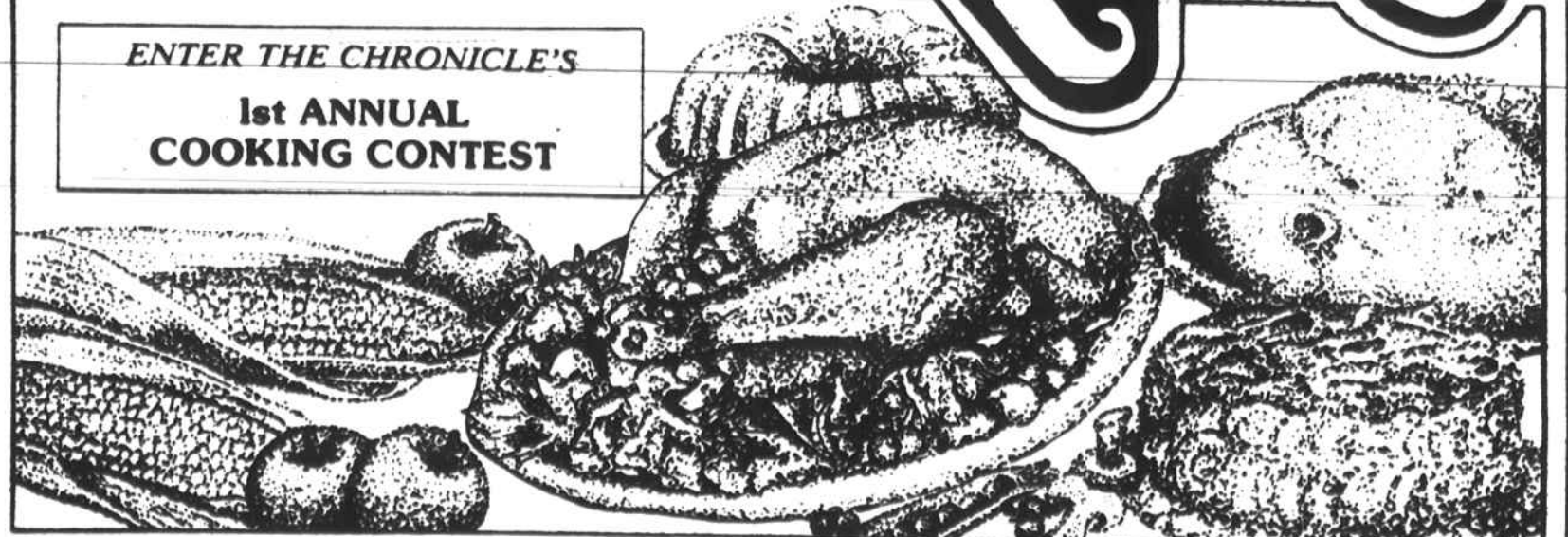
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