

Community Calendar

Black Voter Turnout Reaches Record Level

Thursday, Nov. 20

- Guitarist Gordon Kreplin will perform and lecture today at 3 p.m. in room 111 of the Fine Arts Building at Winston-Salem State University. The event is free and open to the public.
- Evelyn Terry will serve as the facilitator for today's session of the YWCA's series on Black Women; Coping. The topic will be "Being an Assertive Woman" and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.
- Sample a variety of international foods as part of the YWCA's World Mutual Services Week. Luncheon will be held today from 11:30 to 2 p.m. Call 722-5138 for more information.

- Area Mental Health meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Clinic.
- Forsyth County Commissioner's Briefing, 3 p.m., Hall of Justice.

Friday, Nov. 21

- The East Winston Club and Restaurant Coalition will present the First Annual Miss Minority Business Pageant Beginning tonight at 7 p.m. at the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium at Winston-Salem State University. Proceeds will go to the United Negro College Fund, the N.A.A.C.P., and the Urban League. Pageant continues tomorrow night at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 22

- The Crafters 6th Annual Holiday Arts and Craft Fair, today from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the National Armory on Silas Creek Parkway.

Monday, Nov. 24

- The Salem College Chamber Music Players will present its final program in Shirley Hall today at 8:15 p.m. Members of the newly formed ensemble are all members of the Winston-Salem Symphony and perform in various chamber groups in the area.
- Board of Commissioners meets today at 7:30 in the Hall of Justice.
- Employment and Training Advisory Committee meets at 2 p.m. at the NCNB Conference Room.
- School Board Action Session, 7:30 p.m., Adult Administration Center.

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for community relations.

Mrs. Barbara K. Phillips, supreme basileus of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, is also active in many civic and community affairs, and holds the distinction of being listed in Ebony's 100 most influential black Americans. She has been listed in Who's Who.

R. V. Boone Jr. said that he was pleased to be so highly honored. "The fact that it comes from professional brothers lends much more credibility to the honor," he said. Boone is employed as a band director for Carver High School, and is active in many civic organizations as well as fraternal activities.

The theme of the contest was "Manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplifting". Fraternity member C. B. Hauser who served as Master of Ceremonies gave brief remarks stating the fraternity's intent to uphold the theme through such activities as the talent hunt.

The talent hunt was created by the fraternity in an effort to expose black talent and inspire racial pride. When the talent hunt first started in 1945, many accomplishments of blacks did not get in the newspapers, and often still do not get proper exposure. This is the Omegas attempt to provide some of that exposure, and uphold their theme of "Manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplifting."

Omega Psi Phi talent hunt chairman, R. V. Boone chose four outstanding performers to compete this year in the contest.

The winner of the talent contest was William Bess, a 17-year old senior at East Forsyth High School, who played J. Quantz Sonata #1 first movement on the flute. Bess has won several awards in music including nomination for the North Carolina Governor's School of Music, and the Who's Who in Music award.

Placing second was Joy Waggoner who played Claude Debussy's "Reverie" on piano, and in third place was Julie Flinchum, who played Chopin's "Scherzo". An honorable mention was given to Sherri Damon, who performed Bach's Invention #4, in D minor.

As many as 65-70 percent of all registered Black voters took part in the Nov. 4 national election according to projection figures released by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

NAACP Executive Director, Benjamin L. Hooks, speaking the morning after the elections noted, "No other single interest group, including the elderly and women, demonstrated the great strides that Blacks showed in realizing their full voting potential. These gains are especially important, since most political observers had expected a continuation of the downward trend that had been evidenced over the past 15 years."

Even before the election, Hooks noted "NAACP data revealed a keen interest in the presidential race among Black voters. After checking the almost 200 branches involved in voter registration, we discovered that we had managed to raise the number of Blacks registered to almost 11.5 million, or 67 percent of Black eligibles. This represents the highest percentage of Blacks registered in our history, and is even better than the 63.8 percent registered among the 133 million white eligibles."

Joe Madison, National Director of the NAACP Voter Education Department, noted also that Black voters maintained their tradition of supporting the Democratic Party. "Preliminary results show that in spite of Catholics, blue collar workers, ethnics and women going heavily for Ronald Reagan, President Carter received a solid 80 percent of the Black vote. Those same figures showed Ronald Reagan and John Anderson splitting the remaining difference."

"More importantly," Madison maintained, "these preliminary results illustrate the political maturity developing within the Black community. That maturity and motivation must be continued in future elections."

Hooks pointed out a serious departure from the record Black turnout statistics, when he talked about results from key precincts on the West Coast. NAACP officials there reported the Black turnout was 10-15 percent lower than the national average, and as much as 12 percent lower than the turnout in 1976. The Executive Director said, "This was clearly the result of the news announcements of Carter's defeat, and a few minutes later the President himself conceding."

According to an NAACP official in Los Angeles, many community canvassers reported their turnout

had been almost 50 percent, with three hours left to vote, when the news was broadcast. "Thereafter, the turnout was light. Canvassers who were contacting Blacks, were met with a response that the race was over and their vote was not necessary."

All of the preliminary reports and findings were the work of the NAACP Election Watch headquarters, established for the first time to chart and assess the election, and the NAACP Voter Education department. The complex network of field representatives and volunteers monitoring the polling booths--and key NAACP officials in precincts throughout the country providing interviews to newspapers, radio and television stations--according to the media proved to be invaluable.

Madison said the work of the Election Watch was made easier through the efforts of technical consultants, field coordinators, volunteers manning telephone banks, transportation coordinators getting senior citizens to the polls and the continuing neighborhood get out the vote canvassers. These activities represented the final phase of the NAACP's massive Registration/Get Out The Vote campaign which impacted upon over 11 million Black voters.



The Urban League Minority Business Program Seminar featured (left to right) Charles Stevens, Assistant Purchasing Agent for Winston-Salem Forsyth County; Gordon Slade, Accountant; Fred Farmer, Trade Specialist for the U.S. Department of Commerce; and seminar director James Lassiter of the Winston-Salem Urban League.

Urban League Sponsors Seminar for Businesses

By Art Blue Staff Writer

Assistant Purchasing Agent for Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, were the guest speakers.

Each of the speakers presented a description of their job function and discussed how they could be of assistance to minority enterprises.

Farmer, who is a trade specialist and works out of the Greensboro office of the Commerce Department, detailed information on specific aid the minority business person receive by means of numerous Department of Commerce

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The Minority Business Development Program of the Winston-Salem Urban League sponsored a working seminar that attracted 40 or more black businessmen and women last Thursday night at the First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue.

Fred Farmer of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Gordon Slade, a local accountant, and Charles Stevens.

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