

Sept. 17th  
Press for  
Power



# Winston-Salem Chronicle

Serving the Winston-Salem Community Since 1974

Vol. VII No. 50

U.S.P.S. No. 067910

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

Saturday, August 15, 1981

\*20 cents

22 Pages This Week

## At Mass Community Meeting

# Hooks Blasts Reagan-Black Apathy

By Yvonne Anderson  
Staff Writer

Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Benjamin L. Hooks, made a short visit to Winston-Salem last Monday, taking just enough time to blast the Reagan budget cuts and the apathetic attitude of black people.

Greeted with a standing ovation from an audience that packed the annexed room of Shiloh Baptist Church on Highland Avenue, Hooks began his speech by describing the times in which we live as difficult.

"I've met with the president three times and if you think he's a dumb washed-up actor, you're wrong," said Hooks. "He's the best politician since Franklin Roosevelt and he's about the business of changing this country."

Hooks stated that he didn't believe Reagan was a racist. "He (Reagan) sincerely believes that what he's doing is going to help black people, I sincerely believe that he is wrong," said Hooks to the roaring approval of the audience.

Hooks attacked the administration for promoting the myth that the social programs have not worked in the past.

"They have worked, we've seen senior citizens become able to live in dignity, low income children receive a hot meal everyday, and ensured the people who couldn't afford to buy the necessary amount of food, feed their entire family. You can't tell me those programs have not worked," Hooks belted in the tone of a Sunday sermon.

He also chided the black community for its attitude and apathy while addressing recent comments about the poor state of the NAACP.

"I understand that the NAACP is not what it ought to be, but it's the best thing black folks have to fight the injustices in this country and we ought to support it better than we do."

Hooks went on to say that blacks generate a gross national product of \$140 billion a year and that the time has come to spend that money wisely. He said that blacks should use education and the vote to combat the current conservative trend.

"We need to use our vote wisely, if we vote right we could have a black senator from North Carolina who understands what it is to be poor and underprivileged," Hooks said, alluding the conservative N.C. cartel of

Sens. Jesse Helms and John East.

Security for the event was tight as sheriff's deputies and city police stood watch outside the church while Hooks spoke. Inside, the atmosphere was one of excitement as the audience responded jubilantly to Hooks' remarks.

"We've got to rebuild a white alliance because throughout our struggle, there have always been whites who helped us," stated Hooks. Giving a plug for the September 19 Unity Day march to be held in Washington, D.C., Hooks called for busloads of Winston citizens to descend on the White House to let the administration know that the people are not in agreement with their domestic policies.

Hooks also commented on the status of the Voting Rights Act which is due being debated for extension in Congress. He said during reconstruction, there were stronger civil rights laws on the books than the Voting Rights Act and they were outlawed.

"The Voting Rights Act changed the complexion of this country and we must fight to keep that law on the books."



Photo by Michael Cunningham

Benjamin L. Hooks smiles as he makes a point during a 45 minute speech held at Shiloh Baptist Church.



**BETA ALPHA CHAPTER Welcomes BETA PHI SORORITY**  
**Woman of the Year**  
Lola M. Parker Achievement Award presented by Dr. Fredda Witherspoon, National President, to Dr. Violet Malone. Photo by Michael Cunningham.

## Little Will Run Again

By Yvonne Anderson  
Staff Writer

After many weeks of speculation and rumor, Larry Little, alderman of the North Ward, has announced his intentions to seek re-election to the aldermanic seat.

Little said that after careful consideration he had decided to seek another term as alderman of the North Ward because of the amount of trust the people of the Ward had given him.

"I'm very appreciative of the confidence that the peo-

ple of the Ward have placed in me by electing me to serve as the elected representative of this district for three-and-one-half years," Little said.

He stated that he believed his record would reflect his conservative budgetary attitude in not supporting tax increases and such extravagant ideas as the building of a new coliseum.

"At the same time, I've been strong in my support for programs that would benefit the disadvantaged," Little stated. He added that he would not support any tax in-

See Page 21

# Coke Responds To P.U.S.H. Boycott

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Founder of People United to Save Humanity (PUSH), has agreed to end its boycott of the Coca Cola Company in return for the company agreeing to spend some \$30 million in the black community.

The national boycott was spearheaded by PUSH and supported all over the nation by black leaders and community organizations. Specifically, the boycott grew out of Coca Cola's general policies toward the black community. PUSH complained that: Not one black sits on the company's 18 member board of directors.

--Out of 550 bottler franchises and 4,000 fountain wholesalers, none are owned by blacks.

--Out of \$169 million spent on domestic advertising, less than \$500,000 is spent with Black newspapers and magazines.

--Coca Cola has reneged on its promise to create a venture capital company to aid Black entrepreneurs in

the Coke business. --Coca Cola's minority banking program is totally inadequate in that it provided for only a \$1,000,000 deposit in one bank and an additional \$154,000 to be deposited among eight See Page 2

## Commissioners To Meet On 'Wing And A Prayer'

Faced with uncertainty over federal and state budget, decisions county commissioners will open the 74th Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners here in a light of vein and close it with prayer.

In between, the conference, scheduled for the Benton Convention Center August 13-16, will feature workshops dealing with the overall theme "Managing With Less."

Governor Hunt is scheduled to address the Conference on Friday evening, August 14.

Workshop topics will include: "County Impact of Federal and State Budget Cuts," "Human Services: Matching Management and Services to Fiscal Restraints," "Understanding Public School Budgets," "Revaluation," "City/County Relations," "The 1981 General Assembly," and "Public Relations."

President Claud (Buck) O'Shields of New Hanover County will preside over a resolutions committee meeting Thursday morning. Resolutions submitted in advance for consideration so far deal with federal block grants, domiciliary

care cost, Medicaid, inter-county annexation, public assistance funding and mandates/Financial strain.

Members of the Council of State and the Governor's Cabinet will be honored at a Shrimparoo on Thursday evening; and at that event, awards will be presented to outstanding members of affiliate organizations.

The annual business session will be held Saturday afternoon, with First Vice President Grover Lancaster of Craven scheduled to be elected as incoming president.

Second Vice President See Page 2

## Ex-Offender Spreads Message Through Song

By Yvonne Anderson  
Staff Writer

In his 31 years, Donald Lowry has experienced more of life than most people have at 50. He has been through the rituals of education, the conglomeration of banking and the ordeal of prison. Having just been released seven weeks ago, Lowry is starting a new life as a gospel singer while working as a cook at Reynolds Cafeteria.

"Singing has always been my dream and now I'm going to actively pursue those things that I've always wanted to do, but never did," said Lowry in a soft voice, full of emotion.

Lowry is no stranger to music, working with the group the Mighty Wonders, since high school. But, he was also interested in business. He attended St.

Andrews Presbyterian in Laurinburg, N.C., majoring in business administration. Lowry worked for Wachovia Bank and Trust during his summer breaks which later lead to a position in the stock transfer department of the company.

"I knew that singing wouldn't pay the bills," he explained, "But, it was my family who put the idea in my head to study business. Once I got into it I liked it and I really wanted to become a business man."

But Lowry's life turned full circle when he was convicted of forgery and armed robbery in 1974. He was sentenced to 25 years and remained in prison for seven and a half years.

"When I first went to Central prison I felt a lot of hopelessness," Lowry reflected. "I mean I couldn't face the fact that I was going to be in there (prison) for 25 years."



Donald Lowry

He said that while in prison he stayed secluded and made few friends. His inspiration to survive came through the being of his younger brother, who was attending school out of state at the time.

"I felt that if he could conduct his life away from home and he was younger than me, then, I too, could take advantage of some opportunities and change my life," Lowry said forcefully.

He then began taking courses in the extension program from University of North Carolina. When he transferred to the Yadkinville prison, Lowry entered Surry Community College on the study release program. He took all the vocational classes he could, including cooking and pastry-making, which later enabled him to get his present job with Reynolds

See Page 11