

NAACP begins Food Lion boycott From Page A1

"You have to hit your enemy where he is most vulnerable," said Hairston, when asked why he is targeting stores in the black community. "And, with those two stores, we are talking about black dollars. And we hope our white friends will know why we are boycotting this foreign-owned company (the chain's majority stockholder is a company based in Belgium.)"

The Winston-Salem boycott is part of a nationally-called NAACP boycott against the Salisbury-based grocery store chain. Last year, the NAACP talked of boycotting Food Lion, but those talks were quieted when Executive Director Benjamin Hooks said negotiations with Food Lion for a fair share agreement would continue.

After several months of meetings, however, the NAACP voted at its national convention in Kansas City, Mo., two weeks ago for the national boycott.

According to the NAACP, Food Lion does not employ enough black store managers, does not do enough business with black contractors, insurance firms, banks, advertisers and suppliers, and does not spend money, in the form of charitable contributions, in the black community.

Food Lion officials said in a printed statement that they cannot agree to a fair share agreement that awards contracts based on race because they award contracts based on competitive prices.

"We feel it isn't right to prefer any single group over all other groups in doing business or in employment," said Eugene McKinley, vice president of personnel for Food Lion, reading from that statement during a telephone interview last week.

"... We welcome receiving bids from any source; however, we are not in a position to favor any

supplier group without regard to quality, service and price. To do so would increase our cost of doing business and force all customers, including blacks, to pay higher prices for their groceries."

When the national NAACP executive board voted to boycott Food Lion two weeks ago, the local office decided that, before proceeding with the boycott, it would seek the support of the local community. But Hairston said Monday morning that some members of the religious community are against such a boycott of the store in East Winston because they fear it could possibly force the shopping center out of business.

But that should not be the issue here, said Hairston.

"This is not a boycott against one store; this is a boycott against the whole chain, and it just happens to include the East Winston store," Hairston said. "We in-

end to organize a motor pool to take people from the highrise (Sunrise Towers, an apartment building for the elderly on Claremont Avenue, across the street from the shopping-center) to other stores to shop.

"We don't have to support injustices with our money. We are not asking them to give up anything. You can buy grocery anywhere. Where did they buy food before it (Food Lion) came?"

Because the Baptist Ministers Conference and Associates is not meeting during the summer, the local organization of black ministers has made no official response to the boycott.

"We haven't discussed it as a group and will not make any statements until we talk," said the Rev. Warnie C. Hay, pastor of Galilee Baptist Church.

Graves: Only his turf is changing From Page A1

Graves during an interview in his office last week. "I would stay here and consider private practice.

"When I moved here four years ago, my plan was to have my license and go into private practice. But it didn't work like that. And, of course, there is some bitterness and frustration about that. For one, it's a very humbling experience."

After trying three times, Graves, 31, was still unable to pass the North Carolina bar exam and, as a result, could not do what he was trained to do or had spent all his life preparing to do -- practice law in North Carolina.

Still, that didn't stop him. Although he didn't have a list of clients to devote his time to, he did have a long list of clubs and organizations he actively participated in.

He was a member of the Black Leadership Roundtable Coalition, Black Political Awareness League, NAACP, Winston-Salem Bar Association, East Winston Noon Optimist Club, Forsyth County Juvenile Justice Center Executive Committee, TransAfrica, North Carolina Black Repertory Company and Nell Lite Productions, among others. He also found time to be an editorial columnist for the *Chronicle*.

"Since I announced that I was leaving, the response I received from the community about my leaving underscores the mixed emotions and regrets I have about leaving this job and community," Graves said. But he added that his time here has been rewarding and filled with experiences he is proud of.

For one, he said, he is glad that he had the opportunity to work with Dr. H. Douglas Covington, chancellor at WSSU. Although Covington, whom Graves calls "one of the most misunderstood men in Winston-Salem," has often been criticized, Graves said he will be forever grateful for having the opportunity to work with him.

He is also proud of a number of projects he participated in while here.

"I like what I did at the Legal Aid Society," Graves said. "It was good careerwise and politically because it gave me a viewpoint of the grassroots level and the problems of the poor black and white in Winston-Salem."

The Street Law Program, which provides informal seminars on various aspects of the law at local community centers; the Haitian Refugee Program, organized to give aid to Haitian immigrants; the first statewide conference of the National Black Independent Party in Winston-Salem; the organization of the local chapter of TransAfrica, the only black group that lobbies nationwide for African and Caribbean countries; the coordination of People's

Market Day, which gave black farmers an opportunity to sell their produce to local buyers; the organization of the Jack Atkins Pre-Law Society at WSSU, and his writing for the *Chronicle* are only a few of the projects Graves had a busy hand in.

But one of his most prized projects was the Black Leadership Roundtable Coalition.

"Having seen that organization come into being and weather the storms of internal and external strife and become a viable organization has made me proud," Graves said. "There are

a lot of factions in Winston-Salem pulling against each other and the Roundtable could be the group that bridges some of those gaps and brings the people together."

As a whole, Graves said, he found Winston-Salem receptive, but there are areas that need improvement.

"Winston-Salem does have a lot of potential for growth and development and the black community stands to gain a tremendous amount," he said, "and Winston-Salem has a whole lot of problems. But the reality is you

would probably have similar problems, if not worse, in a city of comparable size."

Graves, who is hesitant to accept compliments, said there are dozens of young blacks who are "just screaming" to take up where he left off and travel paths he never reached.

"There are a lot of folk working behind the scene who will soon come to the forefront," he said.

With that in mind, Graves said, he knows the struggle will continue in Winston-Salem -- and in New Haven.

Open Line From Page A 2

celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, got its name from the merging of two rival teams.

The Ponds were from the Boston community and their biggest rival, the Giants, were from East Winston. "Most of the time, when they would play each other the games would end up in a tie," says Petree, "or they had to stop playing because they didn't have any lights." The two teams so seldom defeated one another, Petree adds, that it was decided they would be better off as one team.

Only In Extraordinary Circumstances

Q: I want to know why the *Chronicle* doesn't cover weddings. I saw a picture and a story of Sidney Lowe's wedding to a local woman from here in the *Journal and Sentinel* and I was really bothered by the fact that your paper didn't cover the event.

E.E.

A: To our knowledge, very few newspapers, daily or weekly, routinely cover weddings because there are so many of them. Only in extraordinary cases, such as the *Chronicle's* coverage of a triple wedding last year, do we make exceptions to the rule. More importantly, if we cover one wedding, says Executive Editor Allen Johnson, we're obligated to cover them all since "no one person's wedding is any more important than another's." The *Chronicle* is ready, willing and able, however, to print wedding and engagement announcements as well as photos. Forms for such announcements can be picked up at the *Chronicle's* offices at 617 N. Liberty St.

If you have a question you'd like to have answered or a problem we might help you solve, write Open Line at P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27102, or call 723-8428 and ask for Audrey Williams.

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