Republican Candidates Spend Little Money in Landslide Victories

By VERONICA CLEMONS Chronicle Staff Writer

It wasn't the money.

The incoming school board members who won in the at-large race didn't grasp their victories by spending a lot of money.

In an analysis of unofficial election totals and reports of candidate contributions and expenditures, democratic candidates spent almost 10 times as much as their Republican counterparts.

Nigel D. Alston, who was the next-to-last vote-getter in that race, got the most contributions and had

the highest expenditures of the six at- /surprised at the Republican victory. large candidates.

From the period of April 16 through Oct. 21, Alston's contributions totaled about \$14,000 and his expenditures were about \$9,000.

The top vote-getter in the atlarge race, Donny Lambeth, from Feb. 7 through Oct. 21 received contributions of about \$1,600 and spent about \$1,500. Because Lambeth did not carry over a balance from the previous period, he spent less than \$.04 per each vote he received.

Lynn Thrower, one of the winners who said she spent a little over \$1,000 in her campaign, said she was

Thrower and Alston agreed that what hurt him and the rest of the Democrats was the anti-Democratic mood that was shown by the large number of straight ticket Republican

"I don't know what else I could have done," Alston said. "I don't know if I had shaken one more hand or gone to one more church that it would have made a difference."

Larry Little, a political science professor at Winston-Salem State University, said it's unusual for candidates who spend the least amount of money to win. He said when this

situation occurs, it's usually because the candidate has the power of incumbency or name recognition. Neither one of these attributes helped Democrats in any local race.

"People didn't care," he said. "It could have been a Republican horse. and the horse would have won."

Little did say it's not so unusual for white Democrats to cross party lines in an election. He added that it, is the usual scenario for black Democrats to overwhelmingly stay loyal to the party, which was true in Winston-Salem elections. Blacks only crossed party lines to vote for Sheriff Ron Barker.

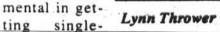
Many white Democrats crossed party lines in the election because Republicans led them to believe the Democrats essentially sup-

Nigel Alston port big government and more

taxes, and the Republican candidates will offer some relief from that, Little

In addition to the election being a bad night for Democrats, Little said. Alston's loss has usually been the result of most black candidates who have run for atlarge seats in

Winston-Salem. This is why Little was instru-



member districts for the state House. He was the plaintiff and actually drew the lines for the 66th and 67th districts. Subsequently, minority districts were achieved on the board of county commissioners and the citycounty school board.

Darryl Hunt's Quest for Freedom Suffers Yet Another Setback

By DAVID L. DILLARD Chronicle Staff Writer

In 1984, Larry Little was alderman of the city's North Ward and had mass appeal with the black community from his days as a leader of the Black Panther Party.

Politically, he was seemingly unstoppable and contemplated running for mayor, but things came to a halt on Sept. 14, 1984, when Darryl Eugene Hunt was charged with the murder of Deborah Brotherton Sykes.

"I had a successful political career and I knew this case could destroy my ability to broaden my base and run for (mayor)," Little said. "I knew it was a frame-up and my conscious wouldn't allow me to ignore the situation. This was a classic railroad and I was compelled to speak out. If I didn't it would have gone against everything I've ever stood for."

Little got to know Hunt when the two played basketball together at the old Patterson Avenue YMCA.

"I didn't' know him well, but because I played ball with him I felt when he was charged that I owed it to him to at least inquire and see to it that he would receive a fair trial." he said. "I just got consumed by it and couldn't let go of this quest for truth and justice."

Little was in the Black Panth Party from 1969 to 1976. As a Panther, he rallied community support for the Joanne Little and the Wilmington 10 cases. His first involvement in the Hunt case was raising \$5,000 for Hunt's defense.

"I wasn't an attorney at the time. I had worked with other cases before and I had thought about going to law school, but this case convinced me to go to law school."

He said then-District Attorney Don Tisdale said Little was only helping Hunt because Little was a Panther and he would help any

black person. Little said he questioned Hunt and tried unsuccessfully on numerous occasions to trap him in a lie.

"Some people will believe anything that the prosecution says, but the black community for the most part-doesn't feel that way," he said. "We have given Darryl 14 polygraph tests over the last 10 years and everyone shows that he knows absolutely nothing about the rape and murder of this woman."

Little has vowed never give up on seeing Hunt freed - not even after last Thursday's ruling by Forsyth County Superior Court Judge Melzer A. Morgan who refused to dismiss charges against Darryl Hunt or deny him a third trial.

Morgan issued a 12-page order saying that DNA test results didn't flaw the state's case. Morgan said Hunt could have had sex with Sykes without depositing the sperm in her

"The newly discovered evidence only establishes that the defendant didn't deposit this sperm in the victim. It doesn't eliminate the defendant from other participation, even more limited sexual participation," Morgan said.

Morgan acknowledged that the state's case had been weakened by the DNA test, but said it didn't have any bearing on the kidnapping and murder charges.

"Newly discovered evidence does not bear on kidnapping or robbery or homicide," Morgan said. "While the state's theory on rape and sexual offense is somewhat weakened by the DNA-evidence, its case overall is not fatally flawed."9

Morgan ordered the DNA test be done on Hunt and Sykes in April. Test results showed that neither Hunt, Sammy Mitchell, his codefendant, nor Johnny Gray — the state's key witness and whom many Hunt supporters believe was

involved - was the source of the sperm found in Sykes' body.

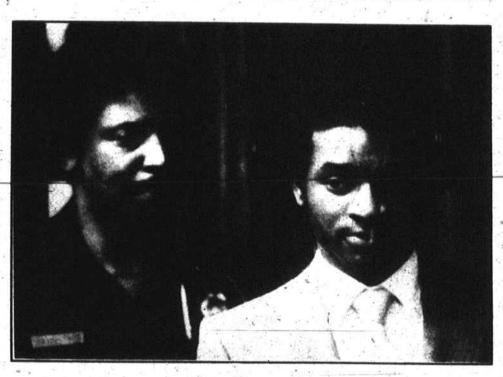
Sykes was raped and stabbed to death on Aug. 10, 1984, and her body was found near West End Boulevard. Hunt was charged with the murder in September.

Morgan also denied Hunt a third trial in August when he held a hearing of witnesses, whom Hunt's defense claimed were intimidated by prosecution and police, from testifying at the second trial in 1990.

Hunt was first convicted on June 17, 1985, by a jury of 11 whites and one black. Inaccuracies in the state's case, a 1985 report from the city manager criticizing police investigation of the Sykes murder, led the Supreme Court to order Hunt a second trial in 1989. Again, Hunt was convicted on Oct. 11, 1990, by an all-white Catawba County jury.

Many blacks feel Morgan has "slapped us in the face" twice and that Hunt will never get a fair ruling from Morgan or in Forsyth County:

Little and other Hunt supporters believe Johnny Gray is involved. He identified himself as Sammy Mitchell when he called the police.



A judge last week denied Darryl Hunt an opportunity for a third trial.

"When Mitchell was ruled out, that should have been the end of the case, but they are not going to admit that they were wrong," Little said. They are too racist and arrogant to admit that they made a mistake. Even a child can see the gross injustice.... It's ridiculous and it's really a holocaust against black people."

However, Little remains opti-

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mistic that Hunt will receive a fair trial one day.

"Ultimately yes," he said. "We have waited too long for justice, but we are not going to give up because we believe in (Hunt). If we don't get justice at state level, we will go to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, and even the U.S. Supreme Court if we have to. It's worth it to save an innocent man's life."

The Rev. John Mendez said Morgan's decision was racist and devoid of truth. After the ruling, a bailiff escorted Mendez out of the courtroom.

"All you can do is ask me to leave. That's all you can do," he said, confronting the bailiff. "This is racist and shameful. African-Americans don't have a chance with the corrupt and racist justice system."

The Rev. Carlton A.G. Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church, said Morgan's ruling continues to uphold the 1857 Dred Scott decision.

"It's simple. A white woman is dead, so the nigger has got to pay," Eversley said. "Morgan is acting just like that cracker judge with Dred Scott. That's the way he's defining himself."

"Science can't clear you, justice can't free you, but there is a higher court and a higher justice. We know that one day Darryl Hunt will be

Appellate attorney Ben Sendor will defend Hunt before the Supreme Court.



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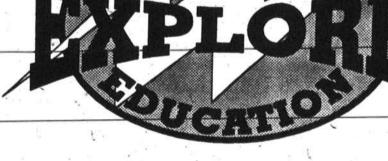
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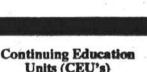
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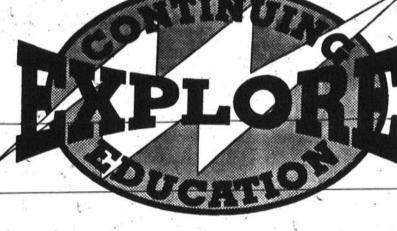
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Larry Little (right) has stood beside Darryl Hunt since Hunt was first

arrested in 1984 in the murder of Deborah Sykes.



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