

Winston-Salem Chronicle

Founded 1974

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The chancellor

Chancellor H. Douglas Covington, an often-maligned, much-misunderstood man who leaves behind him new buildings, new corporate allies and a new direction at Winston-Salem State University, will leave soon to become president of Alabama A&M University -- where new problems and challenges await.

As for the old problems, Covington had his share. Though he worked tirelessly at his job, Covington was perceived by many as a distant man who wrapped himself in a cloak of tact and decorum.

He could choose his words so carefully during interviews that he often appeared to dictate his answers and more than one associate has said that you could never get close to the man -- that he usually said what was the right thing to say, not what he necessarily meant.

Then again, given the nature of the job and the myriad pressures that come with it, perhaps such a cloak is needed.

Others criticized Covington for such trivial matters as how he wore his hair (We pray for his sake that the next chancellor, if he is a man, is bald).

Some also say Covington seemed too intent on bringing white students to WSSU. Many faculty members voiced displeasure with the glaring inconsistencies in salaries. Alumni were displeased with other policies and met with University of North Carolina system President William Friday to discuss them.

Still other critics felt that Covington, whom many termed a "development man," was more concerned with the glass and brick of new buildings than the human beings who taught and learned within them.

To make matters worse, salt was rubbed into the administrative wounds when the school, and the media, discovered that Social Science Department Chairman Michael Montgomery, a favorite of Covington's, had faked most of his academic degrees.

Some of those complaints are justified; others are not. It is no easy job to be the chancellor of a predominantly black, state-supported school. Ask A&T's Edward Fort.

Moreover, Covington made an indelible mark during his tenure at WSSU.

He had the foresight to recognize that, as the society around it changes, so must WSSU.

Thus, during his time at the helm, WSSU has added new majors in accounting, chemistry, commercial music and computer science. The school has also introduced a medical technology program, which, in tandem with the other new offerings, has made WSSU more attractive to a shrinking pool of potential students.

There also are impressive new business and nursing buildings on campus and Covington spearheaded the school's first capital gifts campaign, which was an unqualified success.

In short, Winston-Salem State University is better off after Covington's departure than when he arrived.

We wish him well in his new endeavor and hope he'll repeat his triumphs and learn from his mistakes.

Crosswinds

Burger and prisons

From The Carolina Times. While we agree that America must reform its prisons, we think what Chief Justice Warren Burger proposes stops far short of attacking the real crime problem in this country.

Justice Burger's proposal to turn America's state and federal prisons into intense educational institutions and "factories" to employ inmates offers no solutions.

He simply wants to expand the existing programs and lift federal and state bans against selling prisoner-made products on the open market.

That could produce quite a bit of revenue. If the nation's nearly 450,000 inmates were producing profit at the rate of \$2 per week per inmate, the total annual profit would be \$46.8 million.

Certainly, that could provide a new source of financing for prison operations, and maybe even prison construction. But we doubt if it will rehabilitate criminals the way Justice Burger apparently believes it will.

Rehabilitating criminals goes a lot further than providing them with skills training, a job and money. By definition, rehabilitate means to restore to a condition of health, or useful and constructive activity.

In essence, that is a matter of attitude. Thus, the criminal mind is developed by an attitude that either denies or ignores most boundaries of human behavior.

To truly rehabilitate an individual, one must alter the person's attitude. Unfortunately, the final process cannot be accomplished by someone else. The individuals must choose to walk in a new direction, develop a new lifestyle,

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TELL ME SOMETHING -- WOULD JESSE JACKSON EVEN BE A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ...



IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE FACT THAT HE'S BLACK?

WELL... TELL ME SOMETHING --

WOULD RONALD REAGAN BE PRESIDENT IF HE WEREN'T WHITE?



Farrakhan, Jesse and the Jews

By CLIFTON GRAVES
 Chronicle Columnist

(Author's Note: Just when you thought you had seen or heard the last of me ...)

By the time you read this article, the 1984 Democratic National Convention will be history.

More than likely, Walter Mondale will be the party's nominee for president of these, as James Baldwin writes, "yet-to-be United States" and progressive-minded Democrats, independents and some Republicans will be gearing up to enthusiastically support the precedent-setting duo of "Fritz and Geri" ("Geri," of course, being Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, the first woman nominated by a "major" party to run for vice president).

Further, by the time you read these words, the Rev. Jesse Jackson may have decided whether (or how much) he plans to campaign for the aforementioned party ticket, a decision that will ultimately rest upon how much the Democratic Party leadership fairly and effectively addresses issues such as the notorious second primary system, military



Clifton Graves

spending, Central America, ties to South Africa and political and economic empowerment for America's "locked out."

Clearly, how the party leadership deals with Jesse will determine how Jesse deals with the party. We'll await the signal.

But irrespective of what deals, compromises or peace offerings are made in San Francisco -- indeed, irrespective of what transpires in the critical November elections -- the fact remains that the impact of the movement spearheaded by Jesse Jackson will be felt for years to come, not only within the Democratic Party, but within

America itself.

Obviously, Brother Jesse has raised the controversial issues, from the second primary to South Africa -- issues which have been, and will continue to be, thorns of hypocrisy in the American body politic, and issues which will not and not go away until they are rectified.

But, if there is one issue -- one concern, one relationship -- which justifiably has been put on the table, discussed, debated, criticized and confronted as a result of Jesse's movement, that is the issue of African-American/Jewish-American relations, which have been historically strong, yet are presently strained.

Now, I realize that most of you are probably sick of being inundated with stories about Jesse's "Hymie" remarks and his continuing relationship with Minister Louis Farrakhan, the brilliant Muslim leader whom I have known of and respected for more than a decade.

Furthermore, given Jackson's recent condemnation of brother Farrakhan's alleged commentary implying that Judaism is a "gutter" religion (an inaccurate accusation),

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What's a 'special interest'?

By JOHN JACOB
 Syndicated Columnist

I'm old enough to remember when the term "special interest" referred to a narrow group supporting measures for its own private gain.

But in recent years the pollution of the language has extended to include a distortion of the phrase -- instead of referring to private greed it has been applied to those advocating the public good.

The perversion of the term's traditional meaning and its transformation into a means of abusing advocates of measures that would benefit the total society is not something to be shrugged off, for it reflects a way of thinking that could frustrate efforts to improve our society.

At the turn of the century, "special interests" was used to describe monopolists. Today it is used to describe -- and to condemn -- groups working to make our nation a better place for all.

Just pinning a label like "special interest" on those working for the public good replaces thinking. Instead of projecting a vision of a better

America from a different standpoint, the demagogues just pin the "special interest" label on whatever they oppose.

The civil rights movement, for example, was never perceived as a "special interest," for it was recognized that measures to assure the constitutional rights of all and to bring the large black

group stigmatized by the special interest label. But unions represent over 20 million working people and advocate positions like full employment and wage and labor standards that benefit all working people.

In the context of national policy, you can't fairly label such a mass organization of

"The civil rights movement, for example, was never perceived as a 'special interest,' for it was recognized that measures to assure the constitutional rights of all and to bring the large black majority fully into the mainstream are in the national interest."

minority fully into the mainstream are in the national interest.

Sure, the policies it advocates would primarily benefit blacks, minorities and all of the poor. But they would also put America well on the road to being a nation of peace and prosperity for all.

That's not a special interest but a national interest. How can it possibly be described by a term that used to be reserved for a handful of speculators trying to ram through some legislation that would benefit them alone?

Organized labor is another

Americans as a "special interest" nor can you pretend that advocates of civil rights, better working conditions and other social reforms are spokespeople for narrow viewpoints at odds with the general good.

You might oppose some or all of the things such groups stand for, but to refuse to take their ideas as serious debating points and to try to smear them with the brush of "special interests" is unfair, unprincipled and untrue.

The new, distorted meaning

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Letters

NAACP youth need support

To The Editor:

Recently, several young, bright black students were let down by not being able to attend the NAACP National Convention due to the lack of funds.

Neither black nor white companies gave a little of themselves for the benefit of others. Not only the companies but also people in general were unwilling to give. To fly to Kansas City, Kan., and stay from July 2 through July 6 would have cost an average of \$800 per person. This is a small price to pay for America's future. After all, youth are America's future.

The lack of funds isn't the only problem the NAACP Youth face. There is apathy among young people to get involved with an organization as useful as the NAACP Youth, which can help them to better themselves not only now but in the future.

All the blame doesn't go to the youth but also to the parents who don't encourage their children to get involved in our organization to help improve the situation young blacks are in today.

We, as the NAACP Youth, cannot get anything done without the help of younger and older people.

If an NAACP Youth member knocks at your door or you hear of an NAACP Youth function, please contribute in anyway you can. A little can go a long way.

Thank you very much.

Othello Hines Jr.
 Vice-president, NAACP Youth
 Winston-Salem

Where's my poem?

To The Editor:

Around the first of June, I sent you three of my poems to be put in your poetry section. Will you please write me and let me know why you haven't printed them yet? They were sent straight to you.

Why does your paper say we can send poems to be printed, and, when I do send them, you don't print them?

I hope to see my poems soon in your paper -- if you will print them.

Thank you for your understanding.

James L. Galloway
 Mocksville

Editor's note: We're sorry, but we seem to be the victims of good fortune. Our "Poetry Corner" feature has been so popular that we've got a thick backlog of poems from our readers that haven't been published yet.

Rest assured, however, that they will be published as time and space permit. Also, we plan to expand the feature soon so that we can run more poems each issue. Thanks for your interest and patience.

Congratulations

To The Editor:

I am happy to add my congratulations to you and your staff for the honors awarded. Please see page A5