

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Picture imperfect

The people who own *Penthouse* magazine will sell lots of copies this month.

In a move borne of sheer greed and opportunism, Publisher Bob Guccione has parlayed a series of nude black-and-white photos into a media event -- and several trips to the bank.

Unless you've been marooned on a desert island during the past week, you know, of course, that the photos in question depict Vanessa Williams, the first black woman to be crowned Miss America, sans crown and clothing in sexually explicit poses, five of them with another woman.

Penthouse also self-righteously mentions the hypocrisy involved in Miss Williams' status as the "exemplar of simon-pure American femininity," and, in a column signed by Guccione on the same page, boasts of the "taste, energy, goals and ideas" of his magazine's readership.

Both contentions are laughable, and display nerve that is about as raw as the bodies *Penthouse* regularly deoicts.

In the meantime, the blow to Miss Williams' career will be, for at least a while, devastating. She has been asked to resign her title (to another black woman, runnerup Suzette Charles) and could bear the double embarrassment of being the first black Miss America as well as the first titleholder ever forced to step down.

True, she posed for the photos before becoming Miss America (*Penthouse* says the photos were taken in September 1983, Miss Williams' mother that they were probably shot in 1982) and there is a certain amount of hypocrisy in pageants such as the Miss America contest, which tend to lay the saccharine on in nauseating doses.

But, as most of our parents tend to remind us in their "I told you so" lectures, you reap what you sow in this world, and Miss Williams sowed a wicked crop, when, for whatever reason, she posed for those photos.

Yet, our parents also taught us that the past should be placed in its proper perspective, and that we all deserve forgiveness for past mistakes.

If Vanessa Williams is as resilient as she appears to be, she'll face the pain now -- then resume her life.

Goodbye, Clifton

It is, with apologies to Dickens, the best and worst of times for friends and co-workers who must watch Clifton Graves leave Winston-Salem soon.

On the one hand, Graves has the type of talent and potential that require new horizons and fresh challenges. His job as an assistant city attorney in Connecticut will offer both.

An added bonus, Graves has noted, is that he will be closer to his family, which moved from Winston more than two decades ago to settle in New Haven.

On the other hand, Graves' youthful idealism, eloquence and social consciousness served him and the community well during his stay in Winston.

In fact, if he has a weakness, it may be his tendency to involve himself in too many causes and organizations, from the NAACP to the Black Leadership Roundtable to the National Black Independent Political Party.

But, with firm advice from family and friends, Graves eventually learned to slow down -- at least a little -- and managed to reduce his level of involvement from very heavy to heavy.

We also expected the Georgetown University law school graduate to carve a prominent place for himself here in the political arena.

After all, Graves, who calls all of us his brothers and sisters, has the rare gift to relate effectively to white and black, rich and poor, college faculty and high school dropouts, without shifting gears.

And he was popular enough to merit not one, but two farewell parties.

Anyone who knows him would have bet his last dollar that he was destined to run for *something*. However, that dream remains to be fulfilled, probably elsewhere, but you never know.

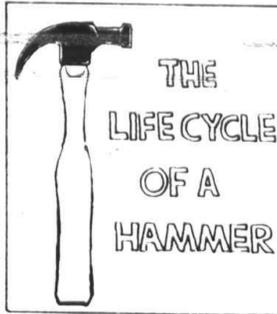
The prodigal son may return home once again some day. Then New Haven can mourn his departure.

About letters

The *Chronicle* welcomes letters from its readers as well as columns. Letters should be as concise as possible and typed or printed legibly. They also should include the name, address and telephone number of the writer.

Columns should follow the same guidelines, and will be published if we feel they are of interest to our general readership.

Submit your letters and columns to Chronicle Letters, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.



Support the Food Lion boycott

By CLIFTON GRAVES
Chronicle Columnist

Author's note: In last week's column, titled "Farrakhan, Jesse and the Jews," a sentence near the end should have read: "Hopefully, though, the ongoing controversy surrounding Jesse and Farrakhan, as well as the crucial issues they both have raised, will motivate you -- be you, black, white, Jew, Arab or Muslim -- to study, analyze, critique and challenge what heretofore has been spoon-fed you about Israel, Judaism, Semitism and Zionism. They are not the same." The author and the Chronicle regret the error.

At the risk of being labeled a "lame duck" citizen of this community, I nevertheless offer an opinion as to why everyone should support the NAACP's boycott of Food Lion stores.

Simply put, the "selective-buying" campaign being launched against the foreign-owned and Southeast-based food chain is the last resort after months of negotiation sessions proved fruitless.

Black families and racism

By JOHN JACOB
Syndicated Columnist

At a conference sponsored jointly by the National Urban League and the NAACP, major national black organizations came together to discuss what the black community can do to help strengthen the black family.

All agreed that the problems facing black families in part stem from the inequities in our society that discriminate against black parity in jobs, in housing, in health care, in education, and in a host of other key areas affecting family life.

But, at the same time, it is important to strengthen individual self-discipline and community values. That suggests, too, a greater emphasis on male responsibility and the importance of the male role in family relationships.

While concentrating on the wrongs of discrimination and poverty, it is also important to do what we can about the family's problem ourselves. Government and private sector action is necessary, as are the services and the concern black organizations can pro-



Clifton Graves

Specifically, the NAACP negotiators have pressed Food Lion to hire more black managers and assistant managers; to aggressively seek and use minority suppliers for its stores; to engage in more business with minority contractors, vendors, public relations firms and insurance companies, and, finally, to become more of a corporate citizen in the black community by contributing to non-profit and charitable causes.

Now, to be sure, there are some of you who firmly believe that protest tactics, such as boycotts, are historically passe.

Others of you no doubt feel that you are too-sophisticated and/or educated to actively participate (i.e., carry a sign, distribute a leaflet) in such a protest.

A few of you probably are shrugging your shoulders over such an effort, feeling perhaps that it is a waste of time " 'cause white folks gonna do what they want to, when they want to," and, further, that "black folk ain't gonna participate anyhow."

And finally, there is a segment of this community that makes the rather cogent argument that:

- The boycott should exclude the East Winston store because some black folk have some stock in that store.

- The East Winston store has a black manager, Waverly Martin, and 90 percent black employees.

- The East Winston store has been a long time coming and does meet a serious need in this section of town (i.e., convenience and access for our senior citizens in particular.)

Yet, with all due respect to the aforementioned concerns, reservations and arguments, Please see page A5

vide. About a fourth of all black births occur to a teen-aged mother, and four-fifths of those occur outside marriage. That results in a disproportionate rate of female-headed households and one-earner families are more likely to be poor.

The birth of a baby often means the end of schooling for adolescent mothers. Forty per-

"The birth of a baby often means the end of school for adolescent mothers. Forty percent of black female school dropouts leave school because of pregnancy."

cent of black female school dropouts leave school because of pregnancy. That's about 45,000 young women per year, or more than the number of black women who graduate from college each year.

About half of those young mothers never get a high school diploma. So it is not surprising that the majority of adolescent mothers are poor; the median income of households headed by young black women is under \$4,000.

But the shockingly high incidence of poverty among

children is not simply caused by the growth in female-headed households. Those families are poor not because they are headed by women, but because jobs and training opportunities for disadvantaged single mothers barely exist.

Racial discrimination is an important factor, too. More than two-thirds of black women family heads with children are poor; only about

two-fifths of similar white families are poor. That tells us race is as important as the gender of the head of the household.

Whites also have had similar growth in teen pregnancies and in female-headed households. Their rise in recent years may be large, but they still are a relatively small part of the white community. And they aren't penalized to the extent that black families are.

Black families simply can't Please see page A5

Letters

More messages from friends

The following letter was addressed to Chronicle Publisher Ernest H. Pitt.

To The Editor:

Just a note to offer congratulations on your latest conquest: being named the best black newspaper in the USA! I was so glad that I was at the NNPA convention to see and hear what took place.

All of us at the *Journal* are proud of you.

As the senior black newspaper editor in North Carolina, I have had a long and successful career (around 50 years). And I have never witnessed the attainments which you and your fine staff have reached, not to mention the very short time in which you have done so much -- about one-fifth of my career.

It has been a great pleasure to work with you over the past 10 years. I hope that I will be spared to continue to work with you and that your success will be even greater than it presently is.

You all have honored yourselves and the Tar Heel state -- not only our race, but all Tar Heels.

God bless you all, and, in the words of scores of letters I have received from my readers, "keep on keeping on."

Best personal regards to my friends at the *Chronicle* and your family.

T.C. Jervay
Publisher
The Wilmington Journal
Wilmington

A good feeling

To The Editor:

I want to extend my personal congratulations to you on the *Chronicle's* being selected as the best black newspaper in the nation. It gives me a truly good feeling to see you and your staff recognized for the outstanding job you are doing. I know there has been a lot of blood, sweat and tears to get you to this point, and I also understand the challenge now facing you to maintain the excellence. I have no doubt that the award will come your way again next year, as will others.

I look forward to touring your new facilities.

Nancy P. Lovelace
Media Relations Manager
Wachovia Bank & Trust Co.

A unique service

The following letter was addressed to Chronicle Publisher Ernest H. Pitt.

To The Editor:

Congratulations to you and the *Chronicle* staff on your recent award and recognition. The *Chronicle* not only has provided a unique service to the black community, but I personally have found it quite informative and enjoyable.

As recruiters for Hanes Knitwear, we have found the

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