

Winston-Salem Chronicle

Founded 1974

ERNEST H. PITT, Publisher

NDUBISI EGEMONYE
Co-Founder

ALLEN JOHNSON
Executive Editor

ELAINE L. PITT
Office Manager

MICHAEL PITT
Circulation Manager

EDITORIALS

Brown: Defying labels

CALL HIM what you will, Robert Brown, a black High Point businessman who may be the next U.S. ambassador to South Africa, defies labels.

Brown, who owns B&C Associates, a public relations firm, is a former policeman and federal narcotics agent who rose to power as an adviser to President Richard Nixon on minority affairs.

He has received glowing endorsements from Sen. Jesse Helms and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

His impending appointment is supposed to signal a change in the Reagan administration's embarrassingly lame policies toward apartheid, yet his firm represents two Winston-Salem-based companies, RJR Nabisco and the Sara Lee Corp. (formerly the Hanes Group), that do business in South Africa.

Mayor Andrew Young of Atlanta, who is not known to mince his words, especially where South Africa is concerned, hails Brown as an excellent choice for envoy.

"I can't think of anyone more qualified to represent this country than Robert Brown," Young told the *The Charlotte Observer*. "He has my highest endorsement; in fact, he is the only person Jesse Helms and I could both support."

Yet, anti-apartheid leaders in America are not so impressed. Randall Robinson, co-chairman of the Free South Africa Movement, has pooh-poohed Brown as simply a potential figurehead for the president's misguided South Africa policies.

"I don't think it serves any useful purpose to put a black face on what is perceived globally and particularly in South Africa to be an anti-black policy," Robinson has said.

Longtime friends have praised Brown as strong, intelligent and well-versed in matters concerning South Africa.

Opponents say his past is dotted with controversy, including charges that he used money earmarked to help disadvantaged businessmen in the early '70s to help himself, even when his salary exceeded \$40,000.

Despite the seeming inconsistencies, and the fact that Brown's opponents and proponents include strange bedfellows indeed, it is encouraging that the president is considering a black man for a position that is well-suited to a black man.

In fact, we are somewhat heartened that Brown isn't one-dimensional -- that he is equally comfortable as the host of a fund-raiser for a black Democratic candidate for president as he is among circles of power in the Republican Party.

He also seems to be a strong, forthright man, and he would need both of those characteristics to survive amid the continuing political and social turmoil that his job would entail.

Because of Brown's unique ability to relate to diverse groups and individuals, he seems eminently suitable for the job. He also has a calm manner about himself that exudes confidence and concern. We can think of no better person to handle this sensitive and important role.

The key to his success, however, lies in the sincerity of the Reagan administration in allowing him to utilize his talents.

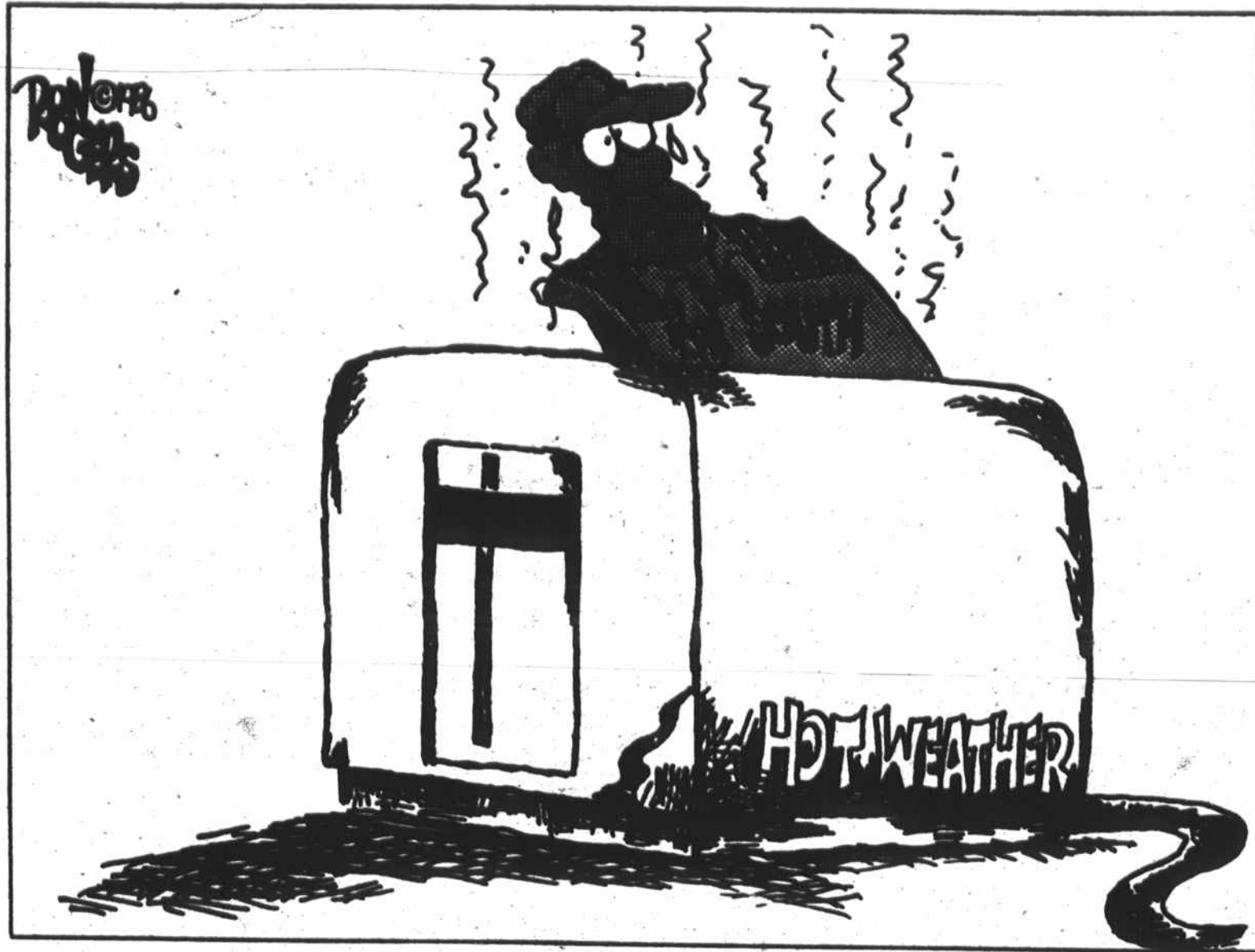
ABOUT LETTERS

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.

We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and grammar.

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



Ballot-security program is reasonable

The author is a local black Republican, who is chairman of the 21st Center Political Action Committee.

THE QUEST COLUMN

By VERNON L. ROBINSON

A recent Associated Press story carried charges by Rep. Dan Blue (D-Wake) that the North Carolina Republican Party was guilty of a ballot-security program that attempts to intimidate black voters and that this effort is the latest "evidence" that the GOP really does not like black folks.

The GOP denies anything of the sort. However inept the state's Republicans have been in handling this matter, truth be told, this ballot-security program is a reasonable effort in reducing voter fraud, and Blue's fears, while understandable, are greatly exaggerated and misdirected.

There are several issues in this debate. They include:

- what ballot security is and why it is important.
- whether the steps taken by the state's Republicans are reasonable.
- if there is a track record by a particular political party or parties to deny black voters the right to vote (is there basis for Blue's concern?).
- if the bill that Blue sponsored is the best way to handle that concern about GOP tactics and what should be done to

reduce tension and meet the concerns of black Democrats and GOP leaders.

Ballot-security programs are run by both political parties and the State Board of Elections to insure that only eligible voters cast ballots and only legitimately cast ballots are counted. The cornerstone of the parties' ballot-

Republican Party has been denied its first line of defense against fraud and voting irregularities.

This issue is not a race question. It is a partisan question with racial implications that should have been, but were not, handled delicately.

However insensitive the GOP has been at handling this affair,

"This issue is not a race question. It is a partisan question with racial implications that should have been, but were not, handled delicately."

security programs are the precinct registrars and judges (one for each party) that oversee the Election Day process. In theory, each party has its own people over the process to detect and discourage fraud.

The N.C. GOP has had problems not faced by the Democrats with regard to security. First, in many Eastern countries, there are very few Republicans and, as a result, many precincts have no GOP representatives to insure against fraud. The same can be said for the overwhelmingly black Democratic precincts in urban areas. Because of a low GOP presence in these areas, the

as far as I know, the tactic of mailing literature to households and using returned cards to challenge those who are voting illegally is fair and appropriate.

But there are other practices that, while not illegal, are immoral and should not have a place in our democracy. In 1981, the GOP in New Jersey executed a ballot-security program that featured white armed off-duty policemen with red armbands at polling places with high minority populations who challenged black and Hispanic voters to produce voting cards. Clearly, this effort was aimed not to discourage fraud, but to keep

Please see page A5

More on the case of Marjorie Gregory

To The Editor:

I am deeply grateful to Walter Marshall, president of the Winston-Salem Chapter of the NAACP, for the article, "The United Way Needs To Clean House," and the *Chronicle* for printing it.

I was a spectator during the entire trial of Marjorie Gregory. I was shocked then and have been depressed since to watch a competent, professional and honest woman be low-rated because she was black and dared to be superior.

To learn that a Christian-based organization such as The United Way would stoop to such tactics as the use of white supremacy, glorified Uncle Toms and belittling the efforts of blacks to bargain was incredible.

No one proved that Mrs. Gregory was incompetent; it was quite apparent that she could have done an outstanding job in the role assumed by her replacement. Where did they find the gall to replace her?

To learn of the methods that whites use to get blacks to undermine blacks was, to say the least, heartbreaking.

When I left the trial I wanted to call a news conference and let the whole black community know that racial justice is still something to be desired in this American society. Instead, I spent my time trying to convince Marjorie that her refusal to settle

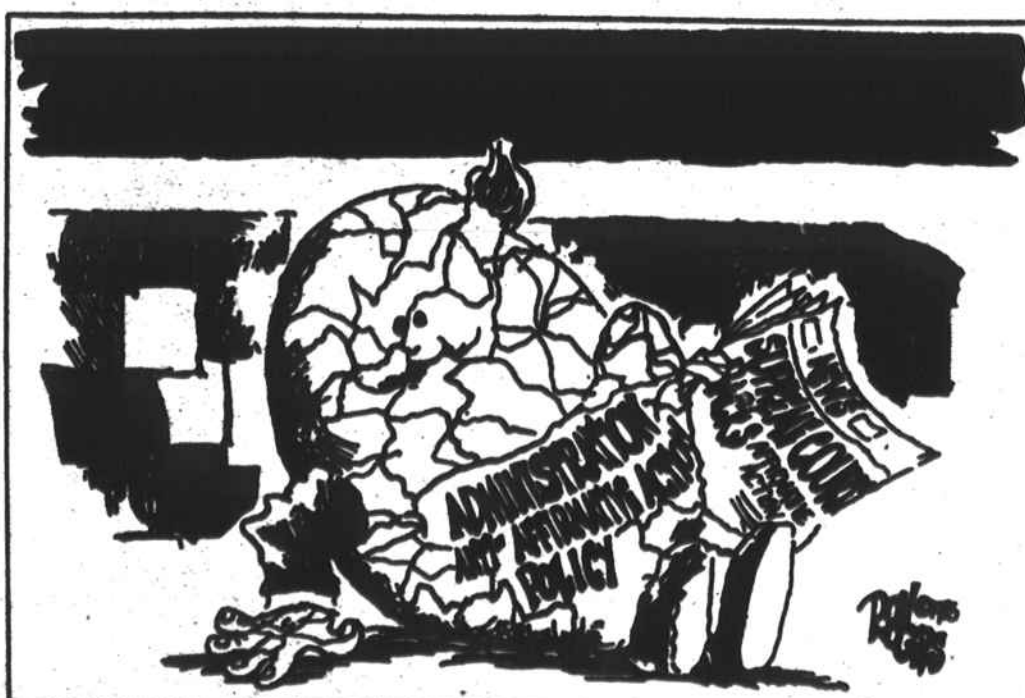
CHRONICLE MAILBAG

OUR READERS SPEAK OUT

out of court exposed the fact that racial discrimination is still at large, and was a victory that would benefit the younger generation.

Bessie Allen
Winston-Salem

read your paper with great interest. You provide a valuable resource and awareness to the black community that is increasingly important in these times. Reporting of events in the community, nation and world through the eyes and minds of



A native son's praise

The writer is chairman of the county commissioners in Durham.

To The Editor:

This is just a note to say that you are doing an excellent job. I grew up in Winston-Salem and

black reporters provides a very useful and meaningful, as well as believable, perspective of events most important to us that cannot be obtained as comprehensively by any other form of media.

Keep up the good work.

William V. Bell
Durham
Please see page A5

CHILDWATCH

How to locate good day care

By MARIAN W. EDELMAN
Syndicated Columnist

WASHINGTON -- As a working mother of three sons, I know that finding the right child care for your youngster can make locating a needle in a haystack look simple. I also can share, from experience, some basic "how-tos" that should make your search go a little easier.

Step One: Finding The Right Care: Available child-care services in your community will range from child-care centers to nursery schools and family day care homes to neighborhood friends. To find out what is available near your home, look in your Yellow Pages under "child care" or "day care." If your community has a Child Care Resource and Referral Program, it can help you find care that fits both your child and your schedule. These programs can often save you time and trouble by answering many of your questions and steering you toward child-care facilities that can best meet your needs. If a child-care facility does not make you feel welcome and let you visit, look elsewhere.

Step Two: Sizing Up Child-Care Services: As parents, we are naturally concerned about how well our children will be looked after in child care. We have every reason to be. "The quality of care is significant in a child's development," says a new fact sheet from the American Academy of Child Psychiatry. In its new publication, "Making Day Care a Good Experience," the Academy recommends that you:

- check into the licensing status of the child-care facility to see whether it complies with your state's particular requirements for licensing. Further, check the references of the caregivers and drop in and watch them working with your child.
- Find out how long the caregiver plans to remain at the facility and what the turnover has been. Stability is important to your child, and a fast turnover of individuals could cause distress. This concern should not, however, stop you from moving your child to another facility if you feel that a child-care arrangement is unsatisfactory.
- Especially if your child is three or older, look for group day care that will enable him or her to have fun and interact with other children. The ingredients of good group day care are trained, experienced teachers, small groups of children, caregiver/child ratios of no more than one to five and ample space and play equipment for youngsters to exercise both their bodies and their imaginations.

Step Three: Paying for Child Care: If finding good child care is hard, paying for it -- at least for most low- or moderate-income families -- is even harder. Unfortunately, federal and state governments have done too little to ease this enormous cost burden on working families.

But our tax code does offer a bit of relief, in the form of a dependent-care tax credit. This credit, now available on the short tax form, allows you to deduct a portion of your child-care expenses from your federal income taxes. Also, low-income families can apply for direct child-care assistance through the federal Title XX program. Your Resource and Referral Program or local Department of Social Services day care unit will be able to tell you if you qualify.

Marian Wright Edelman is a National Newspaper Publishers Association columnist and president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for youth.