

## Blacks: Love and hate for our nation

NEW YORK -- The Fourth of July celebration is a reminder of the greatness and beauty of the concept of freedom, justice and equality. When we look up to the Statue of Liberty, we can feel this concept.

But if one of those who was involuntarily brought to these shores from Africa was an ancestor, you might have the feelings of regret mingling alongside the feelings of pride. You might even have a tear trickling down your face, because of a disappointing love affair with America.

African-Americans have fought for the right to die for a country that called them

**TONY BROWN**  
Syndicated Columnist

"cowards" and members of a "sub-species" in an official military document. Always, when the nation's interest was at stake, the second class put country before race.

It reminds me of my seventh grade "love" affair, if it can be called that. For sure, I was in love with her (and I had an accelerated heartbeat to prove it), but she was tolerant of me at best. Even after the truth hit me like a two-ton truck, I still had this unmanageable heartbeat in her presence.

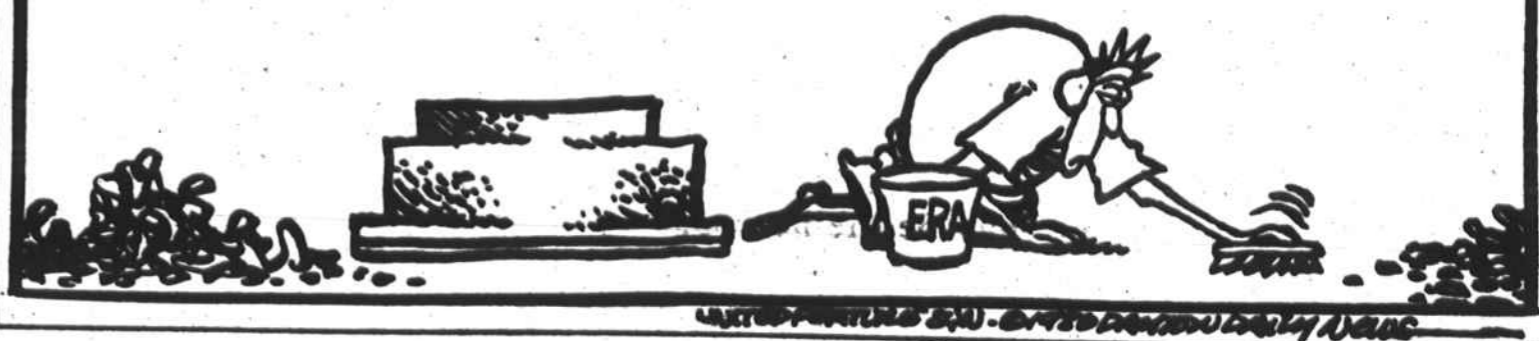
My country does that to me because of its benevolence to the foreign-born; its ability to feed, clothe and house a population; the freedoms; the personal dignity that a citizen can enjoy, and, most of all, the constitutional right and guarantee of free speech.

But on July 4, 1986, while the country celebrated the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty and all that these two great institutions represent, I was once again reminded that in, spite of my love for them, they only tolerate me -- and those of my ancestry -- at best.

Artis Lane is a great painter of African descent. Of a series of 12



THE DAY AFTER...



paintings, she produced 12 poster-sized pictures in four colors. One of those 12 shows the head of a young black boy,

draped in the American flag, with the Statue of Liberty overseeing the scene.

The boy has a tear streaming

down his left cheek. That's my tear and your tear, if you've not had the dream fulfilled. That's Please see page A13

### Winston-Salem Chronicle

An independent, locally owned newspaper

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**CIRCULATION:** Jacqueline Hale, Harry McCants, Blandella McMoore, Angela Ross, James Dixon.

### Robinson

From Page A4

minority voters away from the polls.

The ballot security program of the North Carolina Republican Party does not feature such activities and to make such groundless accusations merely promotes partisan advantage and political careers in the short term and mistrust and fear in the long term.

Blue's concern about disenfranchised black voters is commendable but a bit misdirected. At the risk of beating a dead donkey, I must point out that it is the Democratic Party in North

Carolina that has been and still is the major organizational obstacle to greater black political participation. The party of Jackson (Andrew), not Lincoln, invented white-only primaries, literacy tests and racial intimidation at the polls.

Lest you think this is merely a historical footnote with little bearing on today's events, I direct your attention to which party supports second primaries, gerrymandered black districts and multi-member districts.

And, while you are doing that research, please talk to former

Jesse Jackson delegates about 30-percent delegate thresholds (courtesy of Jim Hunt).

Blue has reason to be concerned, indeed, but not with the GOP.

Further, Blue's "solution" of banning returned mail to challenge voter-eligibility treats symptoms and encourages disrespect for the law. If the law says you must live in the precinct that you are registered in and that law in some way discriminates against blacks, change the law. But he knows that is not the case. And instead he offers a bill

that prevents evidence of actual voter fraud to be used to challenge voter eligibility because he says such tactics may intimidate legitimate voters. It is really unclear to me how challenging illegitimate voters intimidates legitimate voters.

Regardless of Blue's motivation, the motivation of the Legislature in passing the bill was to keep as many Democrats voting as possible, legally or not.

But there still are mistrust and legitimate concerns on both sides that must be addressed. All par Please see page A12

### Mailbag

From Page A4

#### Congratulations

The writer is Northeast Ward alderman and addressed her letter to Chronicle Publisher Ernest H. Pitt.

To The Editor:

Let me join others in offering congratulations to you, Mr. Pitt, and the dedicated employees of the *Chronicle* for awards and honors received during the National Newspaper Publishers Association contest for 1985.

Our city can truly be proud of the recognition which the *Chronicle* and various members of your staff have received.

Best wishes for even greater success in the future.

Vivian H. Burke  
Winston-Salem

#### A pleasure

The writer is coordinator of the Guardian Ad Litem program.

To The Editor:

I am writing to let you know what a pleasure it was to meet and be interviewed by one of your reporters, Cheryl Williams. Aside from being a good listener, she managed to ask all the right questions about subject matter that needed to be covered. Likewise, I was equally impressed with your photographer, James Parker, who made me feel at ease in a very uncomfortable situation (I dislike getting my picture taken).

I am sure the rest of your staff is just as personable and professional as the two I met, but I did want to share with you some positive thoughts about your staff as well as your paper.

Thank you for taking an interest in the Guardian Ad Litem program and do let me know if I can help you in any way in the future.

Jody Bennett  
Winston-Salem

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