

Winston-Salem Chronicle

Founded 1974

ERNEST H. PITT, Publisher

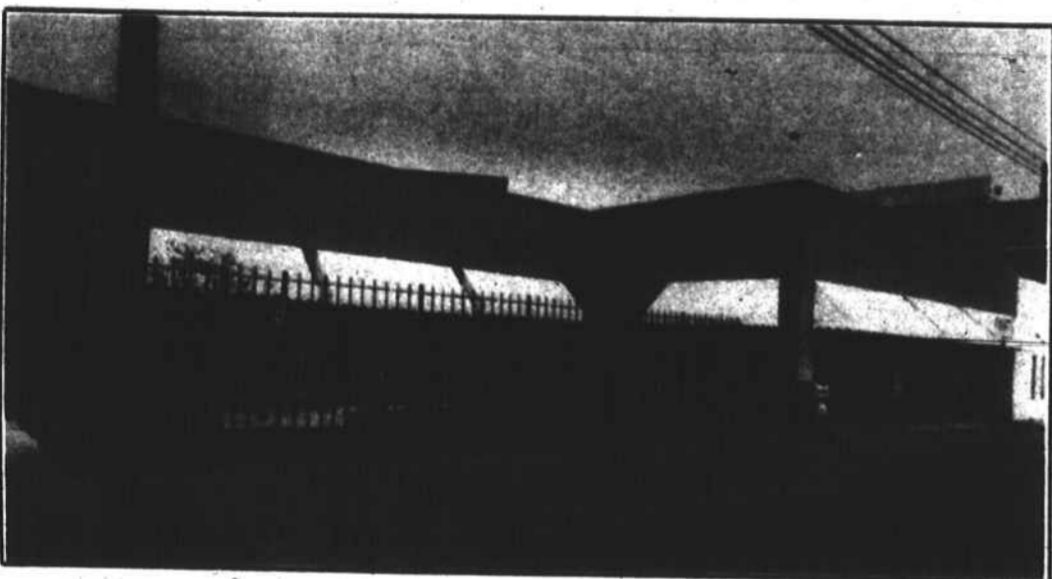
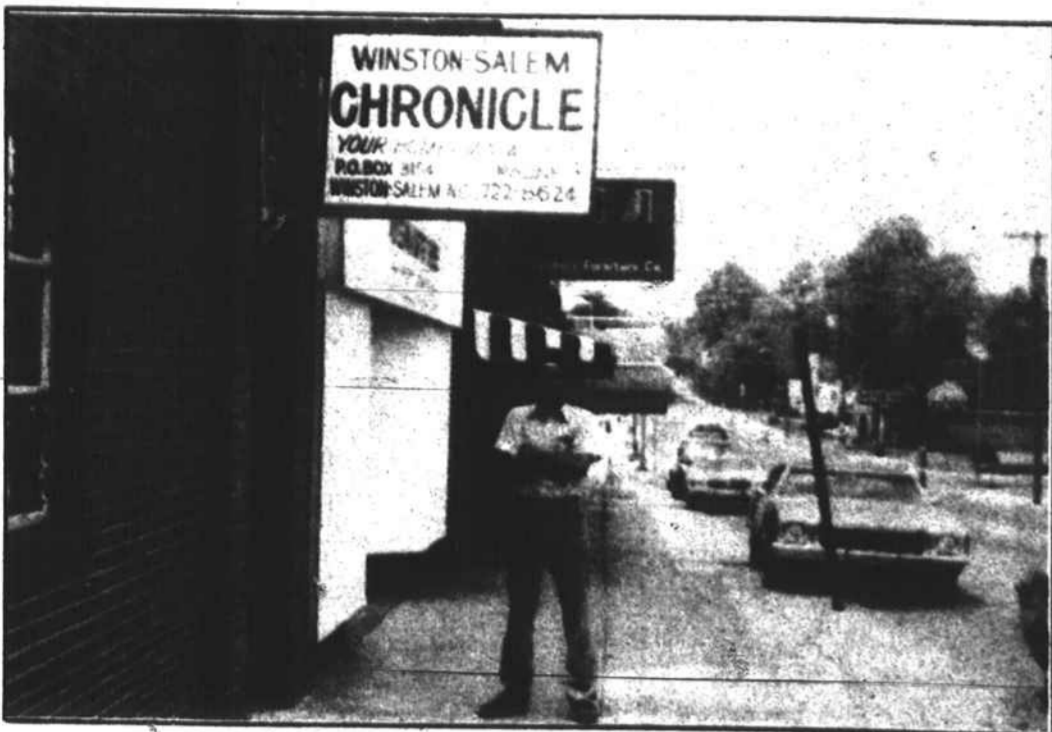
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EDITORIALS



The Winston-Salem Chronicle -- then and now (photos from the Chronicle files).

Twelve years and counting

Twelve years ago almost to the day, the *Winston-Salem Chronicle* began as a four-page tabloid bent on serving the black community.

Since then, we have changed our size from tabloid to broadsheet; we have moved four times; we have 20 times as many employees; we have eight times as many pages -- and 100 times as many headaches. And the changes have not ended.

Within 60 days, we should be ready to start printing the *Chronicle* with our own printing equipment. This is a most significant change and should give us greater flexibility and control over the quality of the paper. It may even affect the frequency of publication.

In all of the changes that we have undergone, we have tried to change for the better ... and we think we have.

We got a lot of positive feedback from the color photos that we used in the Aug. 21 issue. You made no bones about the fact that you liked it, and we were delighted at that reaction. You will see greater utilization of color in the near future.

Although we have undergone many significant changes, our commitment to serving the community has not changed one iota. Service to the community is what a community newspaper is all about.

We hope that we are serving better. The commitment has always been there and will always be there.

In our first editorial, dated Sept. 5, 1974, we stated that the *Chronicle* would be an independent newspaper, showing favor to no one.

We reaffirm that statement now. We firmly believe that all we have as a newspaper is integrity. And to that end, we are committed to fairness, objectivity and accuracy.

We are also very thankful to those people who have supported us from the beginning. And we know who most of you are. Thank you.

We hope that you are proud of what we have done. We know that without you we would not exist.

We intend to make the next 12 years as progressive as the last. We believe our community deserves a good newspaper, and we intend to give it to you.

Let us know from time to time how we are doing. Stop by our office and share your thoughts with us -- the good, the bad and the ugly. We appreciate your comments and criticisms. God bless all of you.

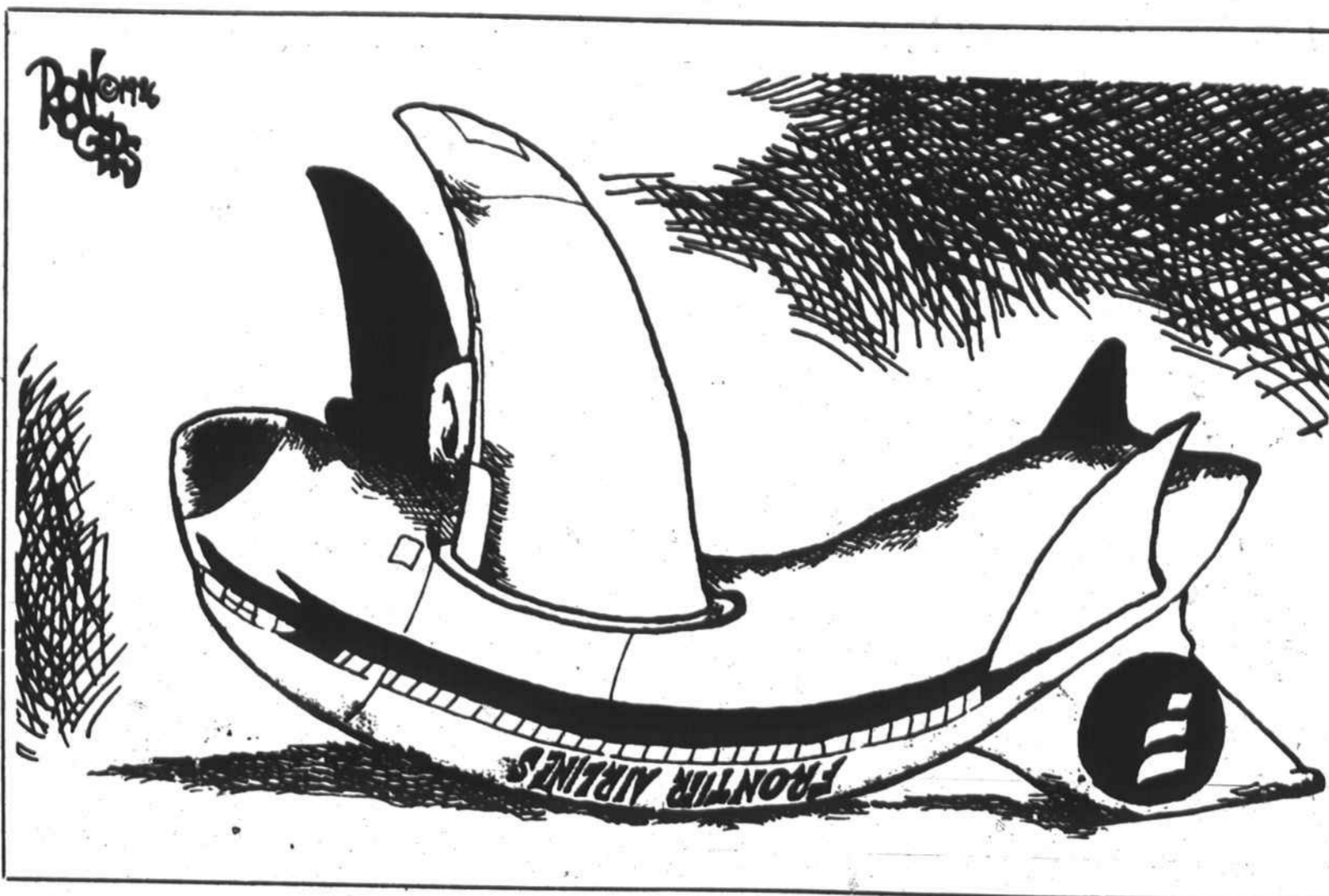
ABOUT LETTERS

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.



The French lesson: Hard but fruitful

The author is a 16-year-old Winston-Salem native who lives in Paris. This article is the second of two on her impressions of France.

School in France is a lot different from school in the United States. In fact, despite the fact that it has suffered financial cutbacks, making openings for

teachers harder to come by and class sizes larger, France's educational system is one of the best in the world.

For example, we start learning algebra in the sixth grade, gradually adding geometry in the eighth grade and trigonometry in the ninth.

By the end of the 12th grade, most students have taken calculus.

We also must learn at least two foreign languages, the most common being English, German, Spanish, Russian, Latin and Greek.

Our history class, from the sixth grade on, covers not only the French past but that of the whole world, from the American



TILLERSON

GUEST COLUMN

By KENYA TILLERSON

Revolution of 1776 to the Russian Revolution of 1917; from the Great Depression in America to World Wars I and II; from the colonization of Africa to its decolonization.

On history exams, we can be asked to argue on such subjects as the rise of Nazi Germany, the causes of the French Revolution of 1789 or the theories of Lenin

Add to those at least two hours of homework every night and an unlimited amount on weekends, and you can see that school in France is extremely hard -- and fruitful.

Given the academic demands, French youth would seem not to have much time for relaxation. Surprisingly, though, many of them still manage to go out more than American teens.

For one thing, the French don't spend half as much time in front of the television as

"Add to those (requirements) at least two hours of homework every night and an unlimited amount on weekends, and you can see that school in France is extremely hard -- and fruitful."

on France under the rule of one of her many kings.

In the 12th grade, almost all students take philosophy.

A lighter weekly schedule consists of five hours of math, three hours in each foreign language, three and one-half hours in history and geography, two hours of gym and one or two hours of optional science (physics/chemistry or natural science).

A heavier one might include nine hours of physics and six hours of math weekly.

Americans do. That may in part be because there are only six channels; a year ago there were only three.

When French teens go out, they often go to the movies or shopping. Most American movies are shown in France, such as "Star Trek" (all three), "E.T.," "Beverly Hills Cop," etc.

Another difference between France and America is that the French aren't as culturally self-centered. They have a much broader knowledge of the world. Please see page A5

On saving Cindy -- and ourselves, too

NEW YORK -- Some educated black professionals are "elitist snobs," Albert Langhorne III wrote, who will not support a drive to save Cindy's life.

Langhorne and some members of the Wilmington, Del., Howard High School Class of 1955 made a commitment at their 30th-year reunion to raise funds for a kidney transplant for their former classmate Lucille "Cindy" Swing. Her current existence of holding on to life could be turned into a productive and prolonged life for only \$15,000.

The enthusiasm they expected did not materialize, and now a frustrated Langhorne has written me as a matter of last resort. "What say you, Mr. Brown? We've had bake sales and a couple of dances (which netted about \$3,000), but it's a long haul to raise \$15,000."

Ten days later, I received another Langhorne note: "I hope sincerely that you can help by being a speaker at a function to raise funds. Cindy desperately needs a kidney transplant."

I knew then that time was running out for this woman. She has had two toes removed because of diabetes and kidney failure, and by the time you read this, she will have lost another.

Cindy, you see, is in the "end stages of renal (kidney) disease." But when I called her, she downplayed her plight and wanted to discuss her illness as a lesson to help others avoid the disease by early detection.

There is a relationship, she says, between high blood pressure and kidney disease. Like so many blacks with hypertension, her face, feet and stomach

TONY BROWN
Syndicated Columnist

were constantly bloated, and she did not know that a kidney had failed and poisons and toxins were being stored rather than eliminated. Today, she cannot urinate and depends on dialysis three days a week to remove the impurities.

organization. Ms. Scrivens, another classmate, heads the foundation that was established to collect the \$15,000 that will provide Cindy with a new kidney and the all-important anti-rejection maintenance medication cyclosporin.

"We decided that helping Lucille Swing would simply not be enough. We felt that we should learn more about the il-



"While organizing ourselves to assist Cindy, it came to our attention that the overwhelming majority of individuals receiving renal care at the center where Cindy receives her treatment are black."

"We also learned that this disease is more prevalent among blacks than any other ethnic group in the country," said Margaret Scrivens, president of the Lucille (Cindy) Swing Foundation Inc., a non-profit

ness, its prevention and cure. We were curious to know why blacks were not donating organs. Basically, out of our ignorance and willingness to learn something on the subject, we incorporated the Lucille Swing Foundation, doing business as CINDY -- a non-profit organization to assist others whose lives are threatened by kidney disorders in the future," Ms. Scrivens explained. Please see page A5

CHILDWATCH

Black self-help: Not a new idea

By MARIAN W. EDELMAN
Syndicated Columnist

WASHINGTON -- Increasingly, we hear people in the press or in politics tell us that the black community should solve its own problems. They imply that we blacks are asking more help from government than we have a right to expect. They urge us to "try self-help."

These commentators cannot have read much history. If they had, they would know that the black community always has and always will do its utmost to solve its own problems.

Harriet Tubman did not get a government grant to run her underground railway to free the slaves.

Mary McLeod Bethune started Bethune-Cookman College on a dump heap with a ton of faith -- and without a government subsidy.

Black attorney Charles Houston received no government backing to devise his legal strategy to end segregation.

In this tradition, as we face our current crisis of teen pregnancy, black Americans across the country are leading the way in calling attention to the problem and seeking solutions. Over the past three years, almost every major black organization has made teen pregnancy prevention and strengthening families a major priority.

Our churches, our political leaders and our professionals are reaching out to embrace our youth and shore up the black family. We may lack a single national voice like that of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but we have many courageous individuals speaking and doing in communities across the country.

Important as black self-help is, however, it is not enough. Neither the teen pregnancy problem, nor its causes and possible cures, belongs to the black community alone. Widespread teenage pregnancy and parenthood are symptoms of poverty and lack of opportunity, broad societal problems that know no color line.

The black community did not create these conditions alone and cannot tackle them alone, no more than can the Hispanic community or any other single group.

Our government had a hand in creating the poor economic conditions that foster teen pregnancy. It must now follow our lead in launching a national effort -- involving black, white and Hispanic Americans -- to address this problem.

We well know the limits on government help. The reality is that for most of the history of Black America, the government has been our opponent, not our ally.

The black community knows in its collective bones that without its strong leadership now, as in the past, little help can be expected from government or other institutions. Indeed, no one is more aware of the folly of relying on government alone to solve black community problems than the black community.

That is why we blacks will continue to help ourselves and each other, as we have always done.

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