

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Environment should be everybody's concern

To The Editor:

I feel that I am a responsible adult. I have taught my children not to litter, and I have made sure that my car passed all the emission inspections. I have signed petitions to reduce off-shore oil drilling and I always vote to increase the pollution regulations put in major factories. I thought I was doing my part.

I have been horrified by the recent disaster in Alaska. I haven't used an aerosol can for years. I have even organized groups of my neighborhood children to clean local parks and the streets.

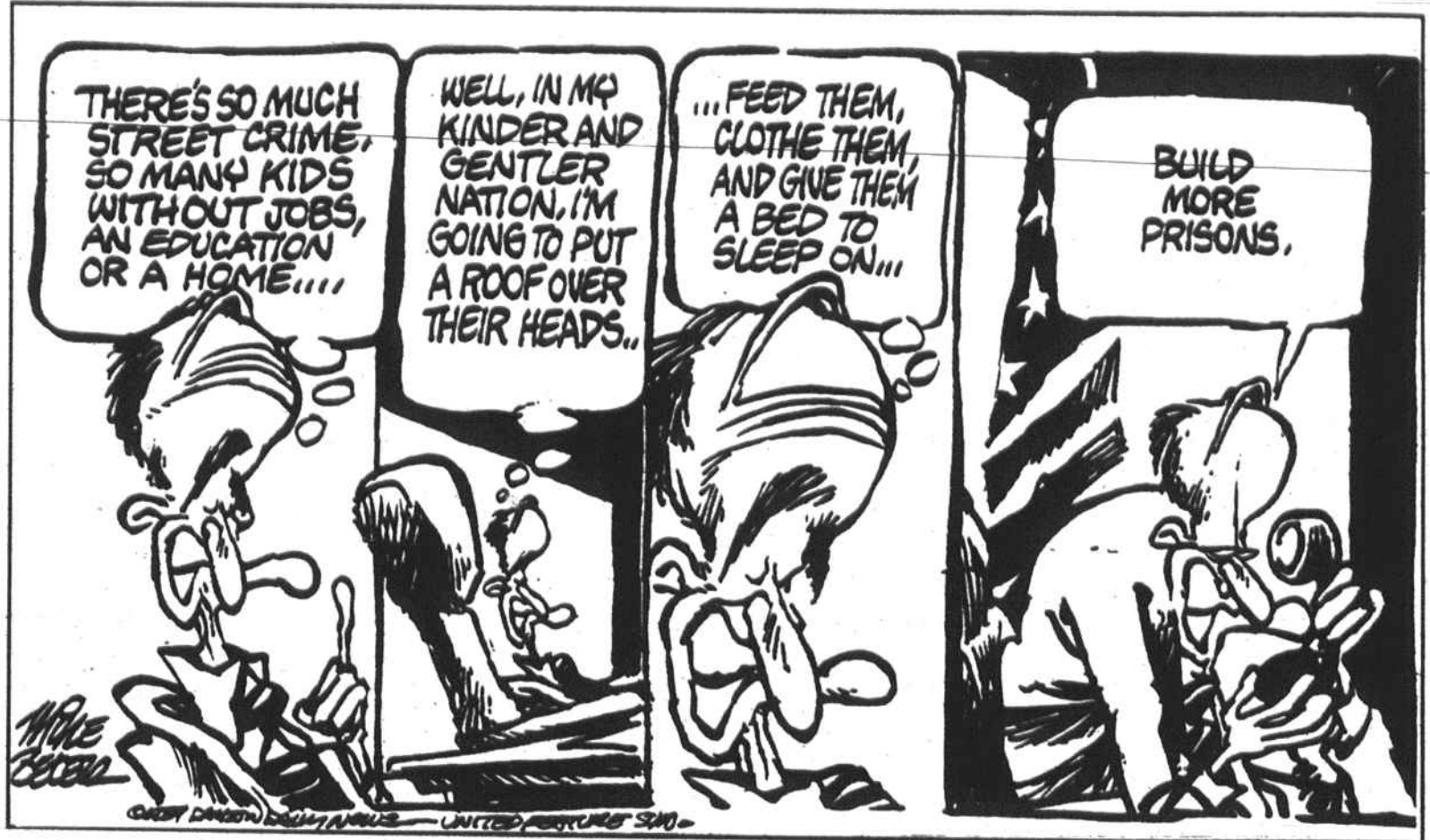
But I didn't know that every drink from a styrofoam cup contributes to the further destruction of the earth's ozone layer. I have found out that styrofoam is one of the major sources of the chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, which are depleting the ozone. No more coffee to go.

I have heard about the Greenhouse Effect due to the destruction of the Amazon rain forests, but I didn't know that had anything to do with taking the kids out for burgers. I just found out that U.S. burgers are made with South American beef (because it's cheap). I didn't know that the forests are being destroyed by cancer-causing pesticides and herbicides which are banned in the United States so the cows can be raised for fast food.

The Institute of Ecosystem Studies reported that every hamburger produced with South American beef represents the destruction of about 55 square feet of rain forest. I guess we'll find another favorite food.

"Man has reached the potential capacity to destroy the planet. He must be pushed on up to the capability and actions of saving it. It is, after all, what we're standing on," writes L. Ron Hubbard, author of "Dianetics."

It guess I have a few more



things in my lifestyle to change. I hope you do, too.

CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

Jobee Knight
Los Angeles

Making sense

To The Editor:

I appreciate the *Chronicle's* use of the term "Afro-American" in depicting people of African descent. It makes plenty of sense.

On the other hand, the term "black" only serves to perpetuate an issue of skin color and is, by definition, diametrically opposed to "white" and thus "whites" or, rather, persons of European extraction. Opposition and divisiveness are inherent in these two terms. Besides, there are very few, if any, truly black or white people.

Though subtle, the switch to "Afro-American" should help improve race relations in the long

term. Furthermore, if one notes that the terms "American" and "Afro-American" are distinguished by an "Afro," then, as strange as it seems, "Afro" may one day eclipse that elongated, redundant "Afro-American" as the preferred term. Remember, "Afro-American" has arisen only in the last few years.

If Jesse Jackson deserves credit for advocating the change from "black" to "African-American," then the *Chronicle* deserves its share of "extra credit" for having the nerve to use a less bulky version of the same.

Winston-Salem's "Afro-American" segment is served by a weekly with confidence enough to take such a stand.

Joe Little
Assistant to the President
American Literacy Council
New York City

You've come a long way

To The Editor:

My name is John E. Thomas, and I wanted to tell you that the news in the *Chronicle* really has come a long way to serve the public very well. I wish that I can say more but this is all for right now. May God bless you.

John Thomas
Winston-Salem

Urban Arts says thanks

To The Editor:

Mayfest has come and gone, and now that we have had a chance to catch our collective breath, there's a little more housekeeping

Please see page A5

Before we take aim ...

ASK any resident of Forsyth County if he or she would appreciate having a jail in their neighborhood and the probable answer would be a resounding "no".

Any potential site within the city is likely to invite bitter resentment and resistance from residents of the area.

A jail is probably the least popular addition to a neighborhood -- shopping centers run a close second.

Upon hearing the word "jail," many of us think of iron bars on windows and barbed wire fences. We think of dangerous criminals and armed guards.

The concept is not far from what the reality is in many instances; there are many jails around the country that fit the above description. But newer facilities reflect state-of-the-art designs and offer tighter security.

Although the sentiments of our readers are mixed when it comes to the county's proposed site for the new jail, we believe it is important that all affected residents and interested citizens be given a more detailed explanation of how the new facility would look and function.

There has been talk of placing the sheriff's office in the new facility. Perhaps it could also house a police precinct. Not many residents are opposed to having more police presence in their community.

While the jury is still out on the likelihood of such a facility stimulating economic development, the County Commissioners need to make some projections about the potential economic impact of such a facility -- positive or negative.

What is missing in this whole furor about the jail is information. All we have so far is possibilities and references made about other facilities around the country.

We need to know what is being planned for the Patterson Avenue site.

Obviously some people are opposed to the site plans for the new jail simply because it is a jail. It is difficult to tell if the opposition is against the building, the people in it, or both.

For those who oppose the plans because they envision the barbed wire encased structure mentioned earlier, the commissioners should come forth with more architectural details.

For those who oppose the plans because they fear the inmates, it needs to be clarified that this facility is not designed to house hardened criminals. Some of the people who spend time in this facility will eventually be found not guilty of committing any crime.

This is not to suggest that we support the site plan for the new jail. But there is certainly a need for more information before a rational assessment of the pros and cons of the facility can be made.

If there are benefits to be had, then the commissioners should be challenged to list them and sell them to the residents of the area. If there are drawbacks, the commissioners are just as obligated to present that information.

The manner in which the commissioners handle this issue will determine whether they are able to get the support they need. It remains to be seen whether they have learned anything from the controversies surrounding the Reynolds Health Center and the county election plan.

Elected officials can not make decisions in a vacuum that affect masses of people and then expect the public to be delighted with the results.

The root of most fear is lack of knowledge. We don't advocate attacking something that has not been clearly defined. On the other hand, the time is past due for the commissioners to do some defining.

CHRONICLE CAMERA

Should Afro-American slave descendants be compensated?

In 1988 Massachusetts State Sen. William Owens introduced a bill that will compensate Afro-Americans for the state's failure to outlaw slave trades which occurred more than 200 years ago.

Mr. Owens' bill asked that an African Reparations Commission

be formed to study the matter and negotiate with Massachusetts African descendants to determine the amount each will be compensated.

"We believe that we've been denied considerable wealth," Mr. Owens told *Jet Magazine* in its

March 6, 1989, edition. "I believe that this is one of the most significant pieces of legislation that has been filed in the United States legislatures..."

Owens has said his bill offers compensation similar to that given to 112,000 Japanese-American

who were interned during World War II.

After the surprise bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, those Japanese-Americans were captured and sent to "relocation centers" and Japanese-Americans also were suspected -- without evi-

dence -- of being spies.

"Some 112,000 Japanese-Americans (including native-born citizens as well as aliens) were soon stripped of liberty and often of property, and shipped to "relocation centers," recounted syndicated columnist Edwin M. Yoder in a

1986 column.

Last year Congress decided to apologize for that incident and offer surviving victims a compensatory payment of \$20,000 each.

City residents were asked if they would support a reparations bill in North Carolina.

AS I SEE IT

By CARLTON PRESSLEY



lived near the Buena Vista and Robinhood Road area had Duke Power and the Winston-Salem City's Public Works Department's full attention. I remember seeing two or three Duke Power trucks and their crews working hard in the Buena Vista and Robinhood Road area to restore electricity that was lost due to the storm. I had a chance to speak with a Duke Power employee and I asked why did they start in this particular area. I was told, "We received our assignments and this is where we were told to start." I wonder why?

But on the other side of town, the Barkwood Road residents were facing chaos. Debris was every-

where. Where was the city, where was Duke Power? I had a chance to speak with a local homeowner who lives on Barkwood Road. I asked, "When did you finally receive your electricity?" He told me he received his electricity later that next week

As I saw it, the people who

But the people of the Buena Vista and Robinhood Road area had theirs within two days. I wonder why?

Let me offer you yet another comparison. Remember when Forsyth County was once again victimized by that devastating February snowstorm of 1989? I say, let's compare communities again: The Ardmore area versus the Happy Hill Gardens area. Which community do you think received the city's snow trucks first? Well, as facts would have it, the Ardmore community streets were cleaned first. This is not my opinion, that is fact, based on information provided by our

city's Public Works Department. Again, I ask: Why does service work this way?

As I reflect back to these treacherous events, I am not ungrateful to Duke Power or the city's Public Works Department. I just want to examine the issue of why the residents of Barkwood and the residents of Happy Hill Gardens did not get Duke Power or the Public Works Department's full attention. I ask: is it a race problem, a socioeconomic problem, or maybe, just a coincidence? Well, whatever the problem or coincidence may be, I think the citizens of Forsyth County need to take a closer look at why some communities are served first, while other communities continue to be served later.

This column is dedicated to the people who just happen to live on the wrong side of town.

Carlton Pressley is a first-year law student at Campbell University in Buies Creek.

The *Chronicle* invites people throughout the community who have an opinion to express to submit columns for consideration for publication in this space.



"Things like that really need to be thought about before you give an answer."

Ted Leggett



"Sure. With all the pressure and problems we've had, with all the hardships for so many years, we deserve something."

Earl Jones



"I think they should."

Louis McIntyre



"Yeah. I think we should. I mean if it had happened to the whites they would want something."

Robert Glenn



"If something were to be done it should have been done immediately. It's not economically feasible."

Robin Richardson