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Wood supporter disavows Little's message

To The Editor:

I am writing to publicly disavow any implication that I support all the statements in the message from Larry Little that appeared on one side of a flier that showed my name as a supporter of Martha Wood, which I am indeed.

I resent any implication that I support the accusation or insinuation that Dee Smith is a racist and I am particularly incensed to have my name associated with the statements that appear in Larry Little's message, which read "Did you know that Dee Smith has the support of the Ku Klux Klan in this mayoral campaign?" and "How does the Klan spell relief? D-E-E-S-M-I-T-H."

It is true that what one hears when dialing the telephone number listed in Mr. Little's diatribe attacks Mrs. Wood for supporting the name of the new coliseum, but it in no way credits its viciousness to anyone other than its spokesman, Joe Grady. It certainly is not credible evidence that the Klan supports Dee Smith, nor does it support an allegation that Mr. Smith would welcome that endorsement. The fact is that Mr. Grady closes the message by saying that he'll be back in town in time to vote "a conservative Republican ticket." (Emphasis added.) Only a mind bent on gross distortion and reckless accusation could stretch Mr. Grady's message into the conclusion that Dee Smith prompted or sanctioned this attack. Such a conclusion is nothing more than inflammatory conjecture.

As for other parts of the message, that Dee Smith belongs to country clubs that have historically excluded blacks, that there is a dearth of black managers at the savings and loan company for which he works, these may be facts but I would only advocate leaving the reader to draw his or



A changing of the guard

IF Tuesday's runoff election is any indication, Winston-Salem will soon elect a woman to the office of mayor for the first time in its history. Congratulations, Winston-Salem! There are some among us who didn't believe you could do it (or even come this close).

Martha Wood defeated Dee Smith for the Democratic nomination by over 800 votes. It was a tough race; but, a clear majority of the voters chose Wood.

What this means is that the majority of the Democratic voters in Winston-Salem want a change in the way the city is managed. It also means that the majority of our residents are a lot more progressive and open-minded than is sometimes evident.

There was a lot of joy and dancing at the Sawtooth Center Tuesday night where Wood's supporters had gathered. Those supporters were old and young, black and white, professional and non-professional, male and female.

A heart-warming statement of thanks to Wood was offered by Tracy Jones, a handicapped young woman who is a resident of the Bethabara Hills family care home.

Anyone who would question Wood's ability to bring together a broad cross-section of the city's residents should have been at the Sawtooth Center Tuesday night.

But Wood's toughest task is yet before her. She is virtually assured of winning the general election on Nov. 7. Before then, however, there is a lot of healing to be done within the Democratic Party.

The contest for mayor became nasty in the end — through no apparent fault of either candidate. As we have said before, both Smith and Wood are decent, upstanding citizens who do not deserve the labels of "racist" and "liar."

It is unfortunate that supporters of both candidates felt the need to stoop to such tactics. Perhaps it is more unfortunate that neither candidate moved quickly enough to disavow the ugly tactics being used in their behalf.

In the final analysis, though, Dee Smith deserves to be commended. He was gracious and conciliatory in his loss. His announcement that he would support Wood on Nov. 7 is the right step towards the healing process.

Both Wood and Smith, however, would do well to distance themselves in the future from those supporters who would debase the character and integrity of another human being without any justification for doing so.

Politics should not be a game of win at any cost. Too often the cost is very personal and very painful, especially when an individual is labeled "racist" or "liar" and not given any opportunity to defend himself, or herself, against the allegations.

A lot of damage has been done to both Wood and Smith. Together they can begin to make repairs. One of the reasons why the race between them was so tough is because they both represent different but very admirable qualities.

But, Wood has proven to be the people's choice. She could use any help Smith and his supporters are willing to offer.

There is a lot of work to be done in our city if we are to progress economically and socially. Every able body and every able mind will be needed to bring this city to where it ought to be.

We should not let our petty differences spoil our prospects for becoming the most enviable city in the South. We are about to witness a changing of the guard, and we believe that everyone can benefit from that.

her own conclusions, nothing more.

I have but one vote, one opinion and my own conscience, but my conscience and my own personal principles will not allow me to be party to, or permit my name to be associated with, this type of campaign blasphemy. To the extent that Mrs. Wood permitted the dissemination of the flier, she should be called to task. I went to her campaign headquarters as soon as I learned of the flier and voiced my concern.

I hope you will print this at your earliest convenience even if it is after the election.

David Kirk Tate
Winston-Salem

CHRONICLE MAILBAG

Our Readers Speak Out

Scoutmaster. I admired and respected Mr. Newell. My personal opinion is that he was kind-hearted and true to his commitment of improving the quality of life for all citizens. He believed that our youth are the most valuable asset of this community and represent our future, our hopes and our aspirations.

Brother Newell was a good man, dedicated to encouraging our youth to lead productive and meaningful lives. He has been an excellent role model.

Shedrick Adams
Winston-Salem

system, is aware that higher education has a responsibility in helping to raise the SAT scores of students. We would go a step further and call on higher education to help raise the CAT score in the elementary schools, for they do train the teachers who teach our elementary children.

The NAACP Education Committee was well aware of the significance of the universities in our city and requested that a member of the faculty be on the Task Force of the Underachiever, formed two years ago by the Superintendent of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system.

Teachers should, indeed, be expected to teach in their regular courses material that is found on the SAT examination. Too many times, teachers skip those procedures in arithmetic and geometry

Please see page A5

In memoriam

To The Editor:

I read with sadness your Oct. 12 article regarding the passing of George F. Newell, friend of youth, educator, biblical scholar and

Higher education's role

To The Editor:

It is gratifying to know that C.D. Spangler Jr., the president of the University of North Carolina

Japanese firms must court Afro-Americans

Toshiki Kaifu, Japan's prime minister, told me that his country wants to develop better communications with the Afro-American community and improved relations with America's minorities.

That statement, made in a private meeting during my recent trip to Japan, was echoed by the government officials and corporate leaders I met there.

They expressed dismay at incidents that exposed racist attitudes among Japanese leaders, as well as the racial insensitivity revealed by widespread distribution of "Sambo" dolls and negative racial stereotypes displayed in a big Tokyo store.

The Sambo dolls are gone, the former prime minister who made offensive remarks is out of office, and Japanese leaders are free with expressions of concern about the damage done and their resolve to build better relations.

But it would be a serious mistake to take expressions of concern as sufficient. The Afro-American community has high expectations of Japanese actions, not words, and will judge that country's businesses by their deeds.

I made that clear in my discussions with Japanese leaders and stressed that our expectations of their behavior were neither more nor less than what we expect from

our social problems. When they answered, as they often did, that it was difficult for Japanese companies to comply with these expectations right off the bat

as American-owned companies. So unless they help resolve minority problems in the U.S., their companies will also face the problem of undereducated workers unable to function in a high-tech economy.

And Afro-Americans are a powerful consumer force, spending well over \$200 billion on goods and services last year, and census data suggest that will double in a decade.

Since we do business with those who do business with us, it would be economic hari-kari for Japanese companies in the U.S. not to make special efforts to build closer ties to America's minority communities.

Time will tell whether these, and other arguments, sink in and result in a visible change in relations between two groups that have much to offer each other. Afro-Americans will be watching very closely to see if the Japanese are truly interested in progress or just in better public relations.

John E. Jacob is president of the National Urban League.



TO BE EQUAL

By JOHN E. JACOB

American companies.

As damaging as racist remarks, I told them, are the facts that show many Japanese-owned companies in America locate plants away from black population centers, and appear to be laggards in training, hiring and promoting Afro-Americans.

With the expansion of Japanese investments in America and their greater visibility here, such practices have to change. Americans expect the corporate sector, whether home-owned or foreign-run, to practice equal employment opportunity, to use minority suppliers and media, and to contribute to the reso-

lution of our social problems. because they are alien to their traditions, I replied that they really don't have very much time.

One reason is that we're only two years away from the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, an event sure to exacerbate current tensions over trade. It is in the interests of Japanese companies in the U.S. to be seen -- by their actions -- as firmly integrated into America's social as well as economic structure.

I also pointed out that Japanese-owned companies may run from our urban problems, but they can't hide. They will be subject to the same demographic pressures

Chronicle Camera

What issues would you like to see the city's new mayor address?

On Tuesday, 47 percent of the city's registered voters came out to cast their votes for their preferred choices for the next mayor of Winston-Salem.

In a hotly contested race that resulted in a runoff, Martha Wood defeated G. Dee Smith to gain the

Democratic Party's nomination.

On the Republican side, Lenville M. Sale defeated William T. Skidmore in Tuesday's runoff.

Mrs. Wood and Mr. Sale will face one another in the Nov. 7 general election.

With the runoff election now behind them both candidates are gearing up for the next election which is only three weeks away.

Mrs. Wood is running on a platform that focuses on the needs and concerns of the overall popula-

tion. She has promised to make the city's political process open to all residents and to make herself available as mayor to listen to the problems facing all segments of the community.






She has served as Northwest alderman for eight years.

Mr. Sale said that if elected mayor he will concentrate attention on improving housing conditions for the poor throughout the city, improving the educational system and promoting a image for city hall.

Mr. Sale is the former presi-

dent and owner of Sale Vending Co.

This week's Chronicle Camera asked residents what issues they feel should be given attention by the candidate elected as the city's next mayor.

	"The jail-house. Conditions are really bad there."		"Revitalizing downtown."		"Shootouts in shopping centers. I think that's something important."		"Crime and drugs."		"Fixing the streets."
Wanda Newman		Shirley Dubose		Mike Brown		Robert Stephens		Bruce Miller	