

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Reader: Editorial about Wood was 'right on time'

To The Editor:

Your editorial a few weeks ago calling for Martha Wood to mend some fences was right on time.

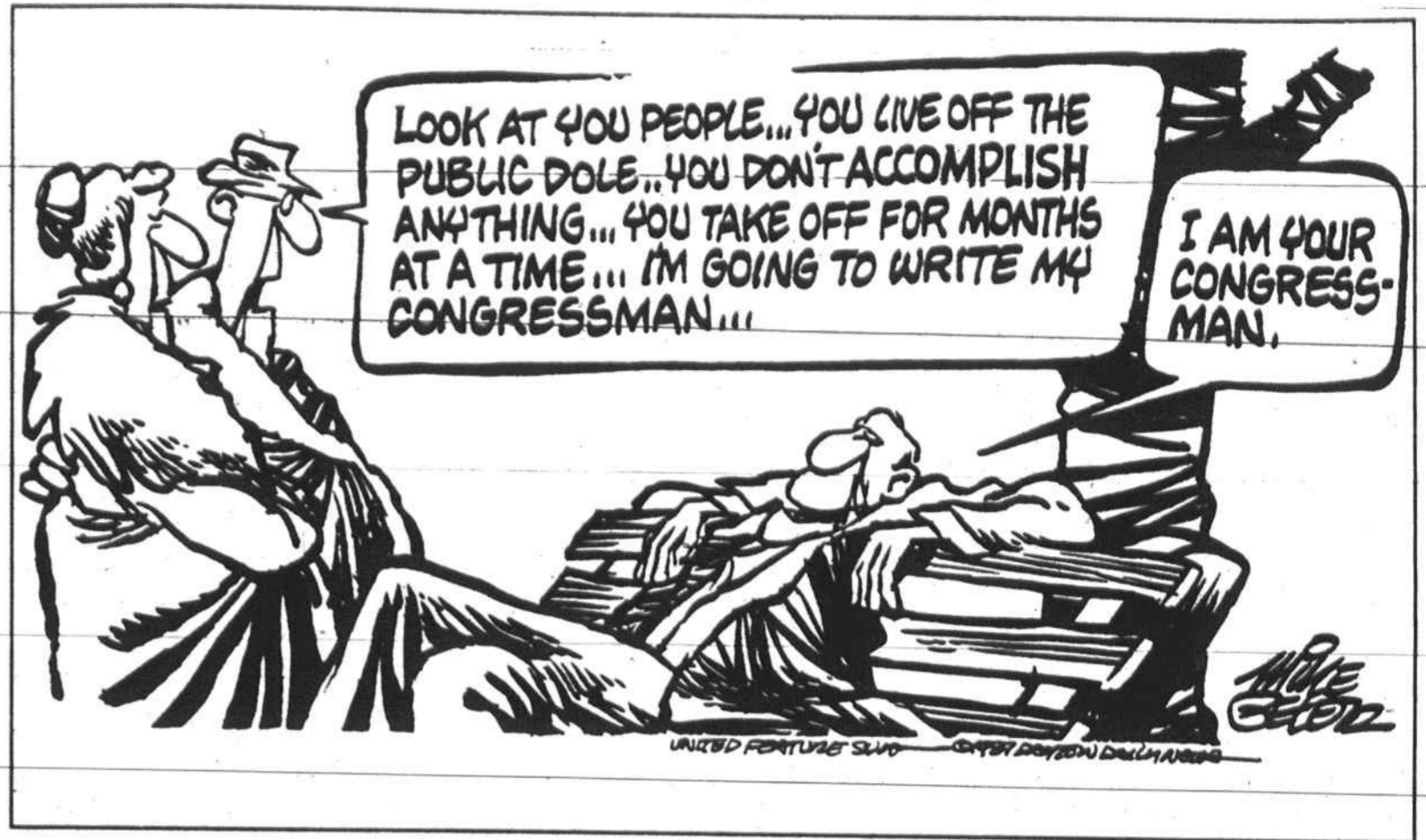
I was critical of the action taken by the *Winston-Salem Journal's* editorial page during the primary, which was extremely anti-Martha Wood.

The fliers Larry Little is credited with distributing in East Winston were more negative than anything the *Journal* did, and Martha Wood should have quickly and strongly disavowed them.

I hope the vote in the general election indicates that old-time, ignorant, hoodlum politics is on its way out in future elections.

If Larry Little has any political aspirations, I suspect he shot himself in at least one foot. To portray Dee Smith as a racist isn't "just politics," it is unacceptable and not anything Larry learned in law school.

Bert Grisard
Winston-Salem



Apology not accepted

TWO Afro-American male students were suspended last week from Glenn High School for fighting. According to school officials, they started a fight with a white male student.

The fight was prompted by a racially inflammatory cartoon that appeared in the school newspaper. The cartoon compared the attitudes of two black male students with that of two white male students. The Afro-American males were depicted as rude, uneducated and vulgar. The white males were depicted as articulate, considerate and pleasant.

While we can not condone fighting, we can certainly understand the anger that drove the two black students to the point of violence.

It is unfortunate that school officials could think of no other way to respond to the students, who were apparently acting out of frustration and humiliation as well as anger.

The white male student involved in the fight was not suspended. The white student who drew the cartoon was not suspended, neither was the white faculty adviser who saw nothing wrong with publishing it.

The adviser and the school principal apologized to everyone for the "error in judgment" and they seem to expect that the apology should settle the matter.

Tragically, school officials don't seem to really understand the magnitude of what happened here. This was no accident. This was not just an "error in judgment", not just a "mistake."

This was a blatant attempt to vilify and humiliate Afro-American students, particularly Afro-American male students. It was designed to foster the stereotype that black skin is inherently evil and wrong, and white skin is good and right.

It was designed to elicit anger, and two black males felt obliged to deliver. To add insult to injury, an Afro-American assistant principal suspended the two black students.

This entire episode speaks to the calamitous conditions that exist for our Afro-American youths in the public school system. They are subjected to racial insults, and sometimes physical brutality, at the hands of white administrators and students while Afro-American administrators look the other way.

Palmer Friende, executive assistant to Superintendent Larry Coble, and Nathaniel Barber, the assistant principal who suspended the black youths, seem to have bought into the idea that their paychecks are more important than the miseducation of our Afro-American students.

It is insulting to other blacks for Friende and Barber to suggest that the cartoon was only "unfortunate." If they can not understand the psychological damage that was inflicted through the cartoon upon the black students at Glenn, then they don't need to be in the positions they occupy.

Friende, especially, should realize that the situation calls for more than just an apology. He has been around long enough to hear the plea for racial sensitivity seminars from parents and concerned citizens. There can be no better evidence of the need for such seminars than this cartoon and the circumstances surrounding it.

It is time for Coble and his team to do more than pay lip service to the serious race relations problems in our school system. They are not likely to do this until Afro-American parents and the Afro-American community at large make it clear to school officials that we will not stand for the continued abuse of our children in the school environment.

More importantly, our Afro-American youth need to know that we care about what happens to them in the public school system. We must remember that our future depends on the quality of their education and the image they have of themselves.

Super volunteer

To The Editor:

There are volunteers, there are good volunteers and then there is Ed Shelton.

At a time when our city needed a victory badly, Ed Shelton led us to a remarkable success. More importantly, the success was in an area where we needed it most -- human services.

The 1989 United Way Campaign will always be a symbol of the resiliency of our citizenry. In a county beset by natural disasters and economic setbacks, this year's United Way drive was especially

critical. Many will take (and should take) great satisfaction in a job well done.

I have always felt that there are two kinds of people -- the lifters and the leaners. I believe this community owes a tremendous debt to the Atlas of Forsyth County -- Ed Shelton.

G. William Joyner Jr.
Chairman
Special Gifts Division

Talking about Aglow

To The Editor:

An Open Letter About Women's Aglow Fellowship:

To our dear sisters in Christ. We are writing you to bring you up to date on what is happening in the Winston-Salem A.M. Aglow Chapter. As many of you know,

CHRONICLE MAILBAG

Our Readers Speak Out

We have not had an outreach meeting for the past several months.

Several factors were considered before the Executive Board prayerfully made the decision to take a 90-day sabbatical. Let me assure you that this decision was not easily made. The board is meeting every other week for a time of prayer and just to seek God's guidance as to what we should do concerning our Aglow.

We are finding these times rewarding and we feel we are making some progress. We do miss each of you. We have been in touch with the Area Board, and they are aware of our situation and they are praying for us. At this time, we can only ask you to bear with us and to keep us lifted before the Lord in sincere prayer.

We would also ask you to seek the Lord's guidance in what you do to help improve our Aglow Fellowship.

Remember that serving God through Aglow is one of the most rewarding and fulfilling events that can happen to a woman. Because of the present conditions of our society, we are more aware daily that we need the ministry of Aglow. Aglow provides an interdenominational worship experience where women care about the needs of other women.

Can we count on your prayers and response as to the future of Women's Aglow in Winston-Salem? Drop us a note.

Executive Board
Women's Aglow Fellowship
A.M. Chapter
Winston-Salem

Discrimination in lending must be stopped

The administration's new housing proposals place great emphasis on home ownership, so it should rally behind a new thrust to end discrimination in mortgage lending.

Discriminatory lending effectively raises high barriers to home ownership for Afro-Americans, and it contributes to the deterioration of inner-city neighborhoods by restricting access to funds needed to rehabilitate and construct rental units.

Discrimination in mortgage lending is a small part of the array of open and covert policies that are responsible for today's housing crisis, but it is an important one that can be solved without huge expenditures.

In the old days, lenders were open about the practice of "red-lining" -- not making loans to applicants living in inner-city, predominantly Afro-American neighborhoods.

Today, red-lining lives -- despite lip service to fair lending principles and a confusing set of laws and regulations forbidding discrimination in mortgage lending.

Last summer the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston issued a report that found that Boston banks, savings and loans, and other lenders issued mortgages on properties in predominantly white neighborhoods at double the rate for predominantly black sections.

Such lending bias should bring strong federal enforcement action, but the laws on mortgage lending bias are weak. The Federal Community Reinvestment Act, for example, requires that banks and savings institutions meet the credit needs of their communities, but provides no

overlapping jurisdictions and weak penalties.

Congress can rectify this by consolidating this confusing set of laws and regulations into a comprehensive Fair Lending Act that would clearly establish:

- Lenders' responsibility to fair lending, including every aspect of the lending process, from marketing and outreach programs to servicing loans.
- Regulatory responsibility for oversight and enforcement lodged in a single agency with strong enforcement powers.
- Penalties for discriminatory lending practices strong enough to discourage even the most racist lenders from discrimination.

Assistance to private groups acting as fair housing watchdogs to get access to lending data and to monitor compliance.

By such a move, Congress and the administration would strengthen the legal and enforcement structure to end mortgage lending discrimination.

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



TO BE EQUAL

By JOHN E. JACOB

The study considered a variety of factors that could have contributed to such racially tilted lending patterns. But after examining them all, it concluded that a sharp difference remained, and that's the discrimination factor.

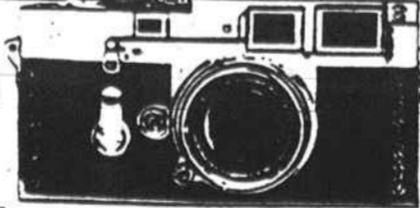
Boston has plenty of company. Last year an Atlanta newspaper documented the way lending practices discriminate against black Atlantans. And other cities have had scandals that focused attention on the problem.

explicit penalties for violations.

A number of federal financial regulatory agencies have oversight responsibilities, but they've ignored the problem. The Department of Housing and Urban Development hasn't done much, either. And the Department of Justice didn't get serious about lending discrimination until fairly recently.

So the time is long overdue for federal action to end discriminatory lending. Present laws are a patchwork quilt of piecemeal measures,

Chronicle Camera



What is your attitude towards interracial relationships and marriages?

The number of marriages between Afro-Americans and whites in the United States has increased from 65,000 in 1970, to 164,000 couples today.

But acceptance of those marriages has not necessarily increased with the frequency of

interracial marriages.

Dr. Joel Wade, an assistant professor at Bucknell University, surveyed 160 white students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on the subject of mixed marriages. He found that there often is discrimination against the couples.

But his study also found that students' attitudes on mixed couples varied depending on the social status of the male and the attractiveness of the female.

"In particular, white females are viewed as selling themselves short when they marry blacks of low status

more so than if they marry blacks of high status," said Dr. Wade. "Unattractive white females, however, may not suffer, but in fact, may be viewed as having gained by marrying blacks of high rather than low status."

In the study, students were

shown pictures of hypothetical white male/white female couples and Afro-American male/white female couples.

Students evaluated the white couple most highly but among interracial couples, those in which the Afro-American husband had a

higher social status were most acceptable.

But at Winston-Salem State University, a random sampling of students indicated that as far as they were concerned, love is love and that the race of two people is not as important as love.



"It doesn't make a difference if two people are in love. It doesn't matter what color they are."

Keisha Galloway



"In my opinion, it's all about the people being in love so it doesn't matter what color they are."

LaShawna Caraway



"I favor it because love is love. It shouldn't matter if you're black or white."

Pierre Singletary



"I favor it if you love the other person."

Kevin Roberts



"There's nothing wrong with it. As long as the people don't look down on one another."

Wallene Garrett