

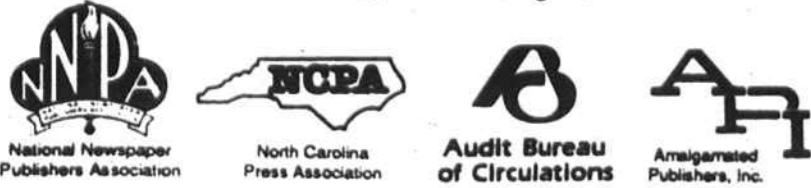
Winston-Salem Chronicle

"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

Established in 1974

Ernest H. Pitt • Ndubisi Egemonye
Editor/Publisher Co-Founder

Member in good standing with:



Support Eastway Plaza

The Winston-Salem Board of Alderman should approve William Brandon's Eastway Plaza Project without hesitation or reservation.

Brandon has spent the last four years trying to pull this project off. Additionally, he has spent his life's savings doing it.

If Brandon is successful, and he should be now that he has some firm commitments from solid tenants, he will become one of only a few minority developers in East Winston. The significance and importance of having minority developers is obvious when you look at where all of the economic development is taking place. It ain't in East Winston.

Some will argue, particularly the East Winston Community Development Corporation, that Brandon's project is not needed because of the project the CDC is involved in down the road. Bull! The CDC has had ample opportunity, time and assistance to develop its center. Additionally, the black community has few choices when it comes to retail shopping. Right now there is only one major food store in East Winston. Go west, south or north and you are likely to find competing shopping centers with full-service grocery stores and retail outlets directly across from each other. The lack of commercial development in East Winston is directly related to the lack of African-American developers. No white developers are interested in East Winston. Most still labor with fears of the '60s, where the threat of rioting virtually eliminated new development.

No matter what the argument, the aldermen should support Brandon's project as a stimulus to other development and as encouragement to other African Americans who may fear entering this risky business.

Police Review Board

When the Board of Aldermen voted this week not to act on the nominees for the Citizen Review Board, it did a good thing. The list of nominees is not a solid selection. Mayor Martha Wood could have done much better in balancing the "life-experience quotient." Although the racial and gender equation is appropriate, it is the make-up of the individuals in the two groups that require a closer look.

Is it coincidence that of the five white males, there is a bank vice president; a lawyer/former FBI agent; a retired union president and seemingly skilled labor negotiator; a retired department plant engineer who oversaw 200 workers; and a company manager?

Of the white females, there is a college assistant professor; and a co-owner of a family business. All are entrepreneurs or have high-profile positions in their companies.

Comprising the African-American nominees, however, is a 24-year-old Department of Corrections employee; a summer school coordinator at Winston-Salem State; a dock supervisor; and a former police officer who now works for the county, who replaces a counselor at the Samaritan Inn. The African American candidates are clearly less independent, financially speaking, than their would-be white counterparts. And they would probably less likely to effectively argue their points against lawyers and company vice presidents.

Whether by coincidence or intent, there clearly is an imbalance among the 11 nominees for the Citizens Review Board. Martha Wood should return to the drawing board before the board considers her list of nominees.

Credo of the Black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from antagonisms when it accords to every person—regardless of race or creed—full human and legal rights. Hating no person, the Black Press strives to help every person, in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

About letters . . .

The Chronicle welcomes letters as well as guest columns from its readers. Letters should be as concise as possible and should be typed or legibly printed. The letter must also include the name, address and telephone number of the writer to ensure the authenticity of the letter. Columns must follow the same guidelines and will be published if they are of interest to our general readership. The Chronicle will not publish any letters or columns that arrive without this information. We reserve the right to edit letters and columns for brevity and clarity. Submit letters and columns to

Chronicle Mailbag
P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

Opinion

Our Youth Are Crying Out For Help

To the editor:

I'm concerned about our youth. Last week's newspaper was filled with stories of stabbings, shootings, and all sorts of violence. "Man stabs woman", man found lying in pool of blood, "youth killed in drive-by shooting," "shoot-out at night club," etc. Our youth are angry! Their actions usually result in tragic violence. Why are our youth so angry? What can we do to help them? We need to find what's going on inside these kids heads.

Charity begins at home. Parenting is not what it used to be. The number of single-parent families has increased to an astonishingly high rate. Many of our single parents are women who must either work two jobs to make ends meet, which creates an extensive absence of authority in the home. Many are forced to seek public assistance. Our children need to know they are cared about and loved. They lack discipline and control. They are often left at "home alone" to be influenced by rap-music videos, which sometimes promote aggressiveness or violence. Drug dealers appeal to our children as a means to escape poverty. They glamorize the "benefits," yet they do not tell the kids their future can be messed up, nor are they made aware of the many lives of innocent children, who will suffer in poverty because of a drug-addicted parent. Drug dealers need to be enlightened to the fact that they, too, are responsible to society, for the part they take in all of this.

What are our local school systems doing? They handle our children for approximately eight hours per day. Do the teachers genuinely care, or are they just there to process papers? Do they not share some of the responsibility to help us produce educated, productive members of society? Unruly and disruptive behavior needs to be reported and psycho-analyzed, in a manner different from reporting low learning skills. Our youth are in pain and they are crying out for help.

What are the local churches doing? Are our children being taught about God. Do we offer up thanks to the Lord for bountiful blessings, or are the kids left to believe they were blessed by their social worker who approved their food stamps? Do we pray for God's will and ask for deliverance in Jesus' name? Do we pray for guidance? Are our church activities still related to God? Is God the center of our being? Is the church reaching out to the lost, after the Sunday message is brought forth? What about the other six days of the week? Are we blind to the famine of the people right here in our community?

Who is going to take a step toward helping our youth? They are our future and they need us. Will we react as the poet has described and allow everybody to think that somebody will do something, and when nobody does anything then nothing will ever get done. If that be the case, this story will not have a happy ending. It will be sad. Our youth will not live happily ever after. If we (me & you), don't take the time to find out why our youth are filled with and what we can do to help them, they will continue in violence, until they die, and when



WHICH AREA HAS BEEN MOST HURT BY AMERICA'S DEFENSE POLICY?



CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

they die, so does our future. Because they are our future.

Janet E. Taylor
Winston-Salem

The Voting Process

To the editor:

A recent newspaper article discussed the voting process and citizen's concerns about the long waiting lines at the voting polls.

The system that we use now - the registration voter officials write down the names of voters which causes misspelling of names and is time consuming. It is my understanding that other counties such as Wake, Durham and Mecklenburg use a different system which is more efficient than ours. I would like to suggest as a private citizen and as an elected official and agree that we should go to a more efficient system that would save time, and get the people in and out of the voting polls at a faster pace. During popular elections, I have experienced the same problems with long waiting lines. Also people hurry to the polls on their way to work, during their break and lunch hours, may sometime get frustrated and leave without casting their votes due to long waiting lines. It is my hope that an up-to-date system will be considered in the very near future.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of those persons having to wait in long lines at the polls.

Alderman, Larry W. Womble
Southeast Ward
Winston-Salem

D.A. Tom Keith

To the editor:

Sometimes solutions to problems come from likely as well as unknown people. All I want to do is to write about a realistic situation in a real city. My hometown. A citizen is dead and the city will be divided. We will be divided because of simple attitudes. As I've listened in the wake of Sheila McKella episode, certain simple attitudes will be reaped again this year. On a news telecast in August

1992, I heard the current District Attorney Tom Keith say that if Sheila wasn't on cocaine then maybe she would still be alive. And I say to Mr. Keith that if the Officer Friendly hadn't put something in Sheila's mouth and put her in an uncompromising position that she may possibly still be alive. In a very simple way Mr. Keith revealed his attitude about how he feels about certain citizens and how he feels about people in law enforcement. Such a remark caused me to take a more serious look into the man and into his political background. I'm very sure that Mr. Keith was supported by law enforcement people upon his bid to become district attorney and ran on the Republican ticket. Time has proven and shown that they pay off political debt and then some. A fair solution to the above situation would have been for the law enforcement officers to have been charged with some type of accidental manslaughter and offered some type of plea bargain. What's important is what incidents like this do to the entire city. Since the Richard Nixon years the Republicans in decision making positions have continued to cover-up and try to hide and deny when things on their end don't come out right. The old folks have always said that two wrongs never make a right. I know in my heart that when the district attorney stated that Sheila McKella shouldn't have been a cocaine addict and this is what contributed to her death that he would find some medical expert somewhere to support his personal belief. Bingo! The chickens have come out to roost. Mr. Keith found a former state medical examiner from Farmville, N.C. What's so ironic about this is that this medical expert has examined some evidence, not all of the evidence before the current state medical examiner has been given the opportunity to make an assessment of the evidence. I wonder why this was done in such a way? I've always felt that the district attorney officer is a representative of all the people in the district and not one to represent against people when law enforcement is involved with a possibility of breaking the law. I'm quite sure Mr. Keith isn't man enough to resign his position immediately so in the next local election we need a fair minded official elected to the office that will slow

down the process of Winston-Salem becoming like Los Angeles. We need to face the reality that there is a younger generation that's younger than you or I that would really get some type of satisfaction out of burning the West and North sides of Winston-Salem. They have cars and plenty of guns. A lot of people are sick and tired of being sick and tired of just simple attitudes. Young people are sincere when they say! No Justice, No Peace.

Ricky A. James
Winston-Salem

YBA Coverage

To the editor:

Art Blevins and the staff at Hanes Hostery Gym Recreation Center would like to commend one of your employees, Deby Jo Ferguson, on her outstanding coverage of Youth Basketball Leagues. Her efforts have greatly contributed to our cause.

It means so much to us to have Miss Ferguson take the time to help our program. But her biggest contribution is to the children who play in various leagues. It is a thrill for them to be able to see their picture and read their names in an actual newspaper. Their self-image has improved greatly.

In addition, we would like to thank you for giving us such a large layout in your newspaper. The publicity helps our program grow and make a name for itself. We truly appreciate the job that you and Deby Jo Ferguson do and wish you added success.

Art Blevins
Winston-Salem

Tissue Awareness Week

To the editor:

Our country, and particularly the black community, faces a tremendous shortage of donated organs and tissues. For example, as of 1/31/93 there were over 7,000 blacks on the waiting list for a kidney transplant. There are a number of reasons why blacks are in greater need of kidney transplants than whites: blacks suffer from high blood pressure and kidney failure four times more often than whites and blacks with the high blood pressure are 17 times more prone to kidney failure than whites.

National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week is April 18-24. As a member of the black community, you have a unique opportunity to help other blacks lead healthier, more productive lives. By learning the facts about organ donation, discussing your wishes with your family and signing a donor card, you can make a difference—a difference that must be made.

If you would like further information please call Carolina LifeCare, between of 9 am-5 pm at 777-3130.

Sharon L. Haney
Carolina LifeCare
Winston-Salem, NC

