

Opinion

Unjustifiable Attack on Alderman Womble

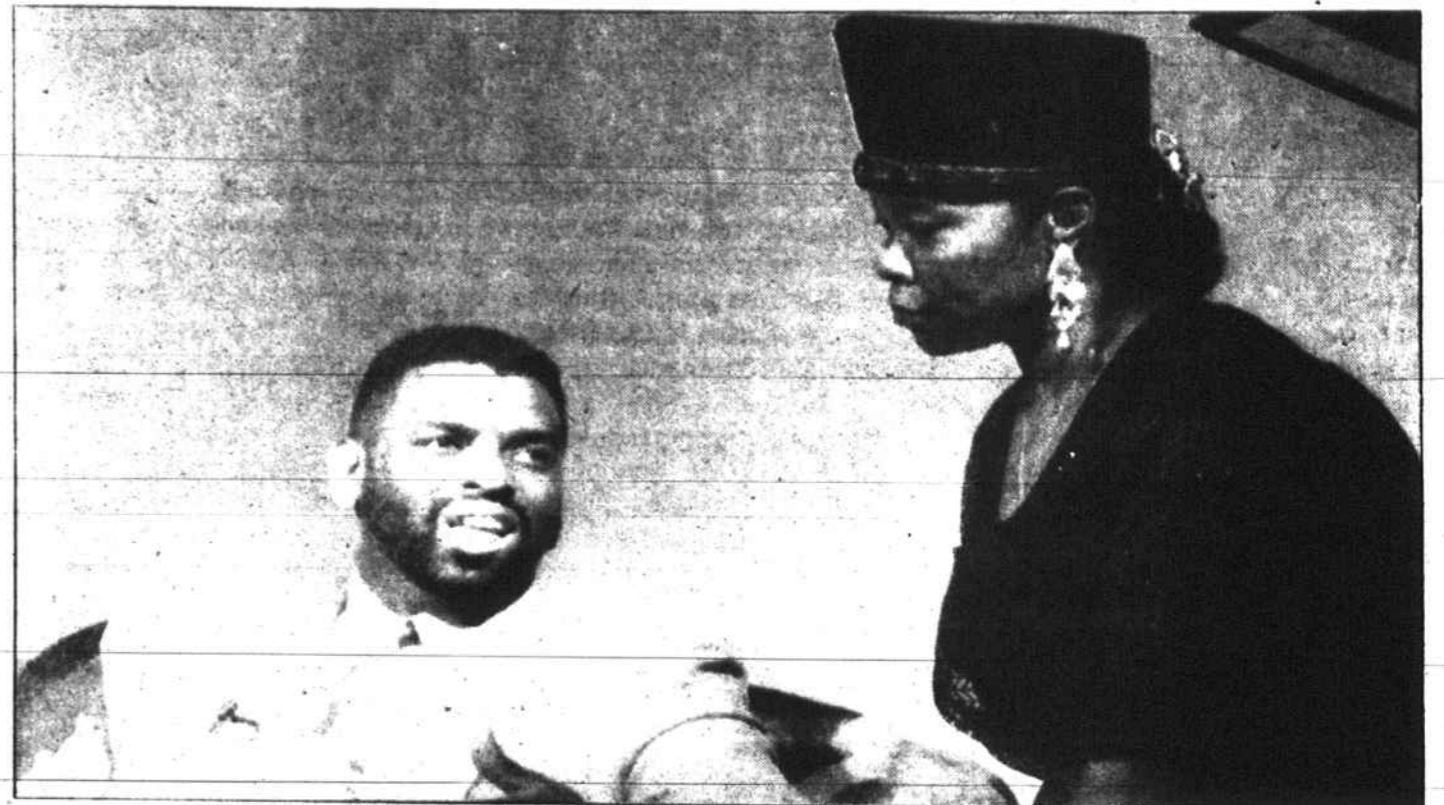
To the Editor:

The unjustifiable attack on Alderman Larry Womble for exposing this city of its very unfair practices of dealing with all people justly and humanely is another classic example of the way some of our leading officials think we should be satisfied with being rated as second-class citizens.

They fail to realize even we as a minority have the same needs, wants and got-to-haves as all creatures. God gave us this right, and the Constitution of the United States of America is supposed to uphold it. But we all know man must have a change of heart before he can ever change his action, and until then we cannot have an All-American City, All-American harmony, All-American love or anything else that's classified as All-American.

A segment of our society wants us to just exist when our spirits are screaming to live, which we cannot do until all long-overdue rights can be exercised by us all.

Angela Boston



Muhammad Nassardeen, left, talks with Melva Joyce Parhoms of the African International Village in a Los Angeles studio. Nassardeen is president of Recycling Black Dollars, a Los Angeles-area group that provides signs to stores to indicate they are black-owned and plans to distribute more than 50,000 free discount cards to encourage blacks to patronize black businesses.

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Concord and Winston-Salem Police-Community Relations

There is a heat wave going on. And in Concord, N.C., racial tensions rivaled the high temperatures following the death of Angelo Robinson in police custody. The black man died in police custody after officers used pepper spray to subdue him during his arrest. Robinson suffered from asthma and the spray apparently hampered his breathing. The resulting riots left several people injured and destroyed many businesses. The State Bureau of Investigation is currently investigating the incident.

In Winston-Salem, the barometer is also reaching the boiling point, as a number of similar incidents — ranging from the McKellar incident to the police's use of pepper spray, a product whose potentially hazardous effects continue to be investigated — have strained police-community relations.

The Concord civil unrest could be viewed as a harbinger of what the future holds for our racially divided city. A black man recently became unconscious here after being sprayed with pepper mace. He remains hospitalized. Last week, a young black man was charged with assaulting two officers in Kimberly Park. The police no longer command respect from blacks but instead inspire fear and, subsequently, hatred from members of the community.

A June 10 issue of the *Chronicle* expressed the community's distrust of the police, who they believe used excessive force in black neighborhoods. A few even stated that there is a serious possibility of a race riot if conditions do not improve.

Recently a plot was uncovered in Los Angeles that the Ku Klux Klan planned to bomb a black church and to murder Rodney King and other prominent African Americans in an attempt to provoke a major race war. As a microcosm of society, there also seem to be attempts to sever race relations in Winston-Salem.

After months of refusing to speak to the black press, Winston-Salem Police Chief George Sweat finally agreed to an interview with the *Chronicle*. This decision came only after one of Sweat's supervisors, assistant city manager Al Beaty, stated in the presence of the chief and *Chronicle* reporters that the city's "official position" is to talk to all the media, a practice that Sweat up until this point has blatantly ignored. The chief's past actions demonstrate that he does not place the concerns of African Americans in the same category of importance as the white community.

The racial division of the city, if it is ignored and not ameliorated, will only worsen, inciting more anger and frustration in what seems to be a problematic situation that many acknowledge but fail to solve. The formulation of a police review board to protect the rights of citizens is an admirable start, but the bottom line is that unless the police are more emphatic to the city's black population, the antagonism will continue to rise between the two factions. Respect earned, after all, is respect given.

The conditions are ripening for a repeat in Winston-Salem of what has ravaged the small community of Concord. The heat wave is getting hotter, and there seems, for the moment, to be no shade in sight.

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. Having 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.

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In the Dark

To the Editor:

Mr. Womble, why is it that the All-American City or the number one city cannot replace night lights at the Woughtown post office or the street lights on Pleasant Street and other streets?

There's no doubt that this would have been done in another part of this great city (yesterday) but not on this side of U.S. 52.

Sir, it's not the big things that always count. It's the little things also. We pay taxes also. Just think about it.

John H. Elder

Sharing Crumbs

To the Editor:

Now comes word from the CIA itself that it bungled big time when it allowed Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman to enter the United States in 1990.

Described generally by the media as a terrorist and suggested as the mastermind behind the World Trade Center bombing murders and wounding of thousands — as well as a plot to blow up key parts of New York on July 4 — the Sheik was recently taken into custody pending resolution of a contested deportation order.

Earlier reports, attributed to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, described Abdel Rahman as a CIA operative. Later there was a retraction.

Most recently, Osama al Baz, a senior aide to President Mubarak says his government told U.S. officials in January (the trade center bombing was on Feb. 26) that "certain terrorist groups" assisted by "Iranian elements" were "plotting and training" in Peshawar, Pakistan, a former CIA base to train Afghanistan guerrillas, to attack U.S. targets.

CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

In response to an article by Mayor Martha Wood, the purpose of Alderman Larry Womble being against this city's becoming All-American is because this city isn't half-way there.

We are not asking for special privileges — just equality, honesty and to be treated like mankind is supposed to be treated. Over the generations we have worked, fought, prayed and voted for all things to be equal with us as a minority, but some in the majority still think of us as being kept in our place. This city is like a feast being spread — with us only allowed the crumbs which we will never be sat-

isfied with.
J.A. Williams

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
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President Clinton, Someone is Lying

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A month after the Egyptian warning, 12 of the sheik's followers were tied to the trade center bombing and the plot to bomb other New York landmarks.

The CIA, with a budget of \$27.5 billion, told us that it approved Sheik Abdel Rahman's permit to enter the U.S. in 1990 because it did not know he had alleged terrorist ties, because a clerk said he was not on a list of undesirable. Earlier reports said the snafu happened because a computer didn't work. The CIA did a better job of following Malcolm X and Martin Luther King than that, and they weren't suspected of terrorism.

Dr. Nathaniel Lehrman of New York, in an open letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, asks, "Was the FBI involved in the bombing of New York City's World Trade Center last February?"

"ABC-TV's 'Day One' suggested on July 12," he continued, "that the bombing was a 'rogue' operation by Muslims who with CIA encouragement and assistance, fought the Russians in Afghanistan. Was it?"

"Or might it have been a deliberate FBI effort," he added, "using Emad Salem (FBI informer) to raise fears and strengthen its own position by discrediting the unpopular American Muslim minority."

"Was the bombing a repeat of Berlin's Reichstag fire 60 years

such as the innocence of accused Rabbi Meir Kahane's murderer El Sayyid Nosair.

But the Clinton administration's strange accounting of these events has opened the flood gates for more speculation. Moreover, this episode could turn into something



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

ago?" Lehrman asked Janet Reno.

"The Nazis who help power there then deliberately attacked a national landmark — the German Parliament building — in order to blame and destroy a minority — the Communists. Their purpose — and they succeeded — was to create fear, strengthen their police-state goals and undercut democracy," he asserted.

Lehrman goes on to make some extremely speculative statements,

that would make Watergate look pale by comparison.

A final note from the *Washington Post*: "Egyptian officials have been irritated by what they suspect was a lack of U.S. candor in explaining to them how and why Abdel Rahman was issued at least two U.S. Visas, one in 1986 in Cairo and one in 1990 in Sudan."

WHERE I'M COMING FROM

By BARBARA BRANDON

