

# Forum

## Images Should Mirror Congregations

You know, Winston-Salem, I just can't for the life of me understand how the black community lost so much of what our forefathers forged for us in this city oh so many years ago — years when blacks were openly treated very badly and when there was no question as to where their place was. But in spite of those times, blacks in this city had a pride and a dignity about them that transcended the prejudice and the pressures.

As a result, they established businesses such as restaurants, credit unions, cab companies, a bus company, shoe shops and barber shops. They did it all with very few resources.

And I suspect that a lot of what they were able to do was accomplished due to an abiding faith in God and with strong control over their community schools and their churches.

They were family-oriented and respectful of each other. They helped each other in whatever ways they could. And, oh yes, there were plenty of homes even then with only one parent due to various reasons, but they endured through good times and bad in Winston-Salem's proud black community.

But that was then, and this is now. So it begs the question: Where do we go from here? How can we turn around the lives of those black youths who are slaughtering each other, clogging the judicial system, wreaking havoc in the schools, attacking their peers on the buses as well as in and out of the classrooms. And let's not forget the many teachers across this troubled city who have been (and still are being) attacked by these lawless and uncaring young people.

So we ask why? Why have these young people all of a sudden become wild, uncaring, undisciplined and disrespectful of their peers, teachers, parents and any kind of authority? In addition, they have lost (and I suspect without their knowledge) respect for themselves.

As an example, not too long ago, most young men would not wear if there were young women present. Why? Well, I suspect that it was because of the way in which the young women conducted themselves. Contrast that with what happens now, when far too many of our young women play "Can You Top This" when it comes to using filthy language among themselves and with the young men as well.

I believe that it can be safely stated that something is definitely missing in their young lives, and it is our responsibility as caring adults to try and find what that something that is missing happens to be. I'll just venture a small wager that when we as adults find out just what that missing something is in the children, we're

gonna be mighty surprised when we realize that the same missing piece is absent in our lives as well.

Well, I would argue that most parents want their children to be the very best that they can be. They want to brag on how well their children are doing, whether scholastically, financially or otherwise. This is just a natural process because parents see their children as not just extensions

### GUEST COLUMNIST

By CARLTON A HOLLAND

of themselves, but as the new and improved versions. Good or bad, parents can chronicle the events in their lives which took them from there to here because they have the advantage of hindsight — hindsight which included memories of stable neighborhoods, a Winston-Salem State Teachers College which was proudly looked upon by the black community as "ours," even by plain, hard-working factory folks who had never attended that school and had no plans to do so. But the college was there for their children, as so many of them would boast.

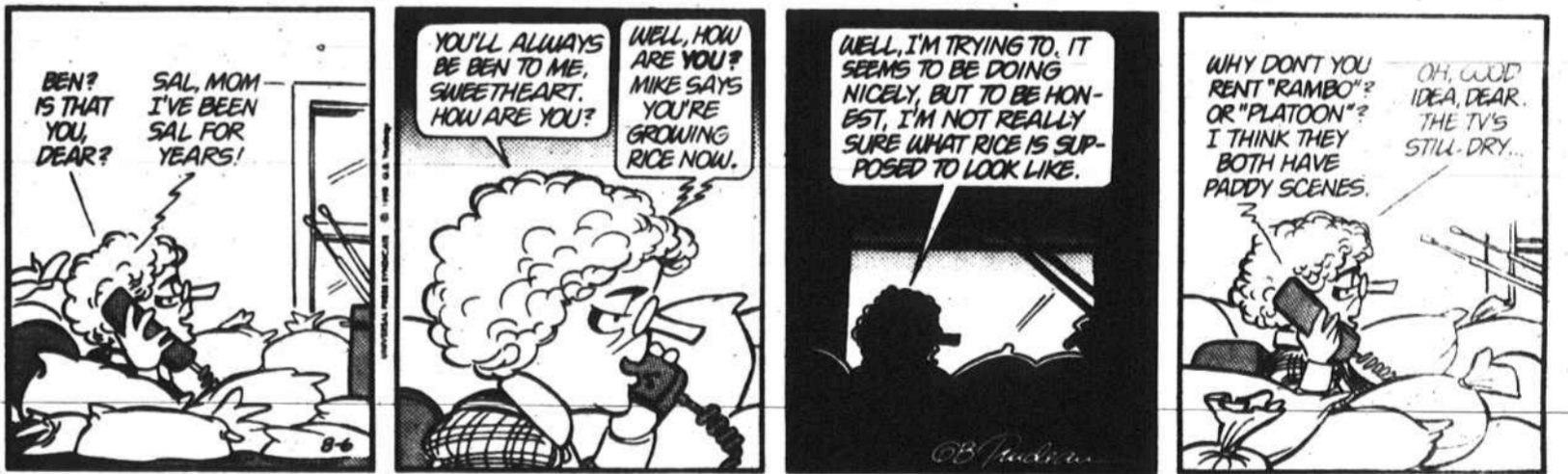
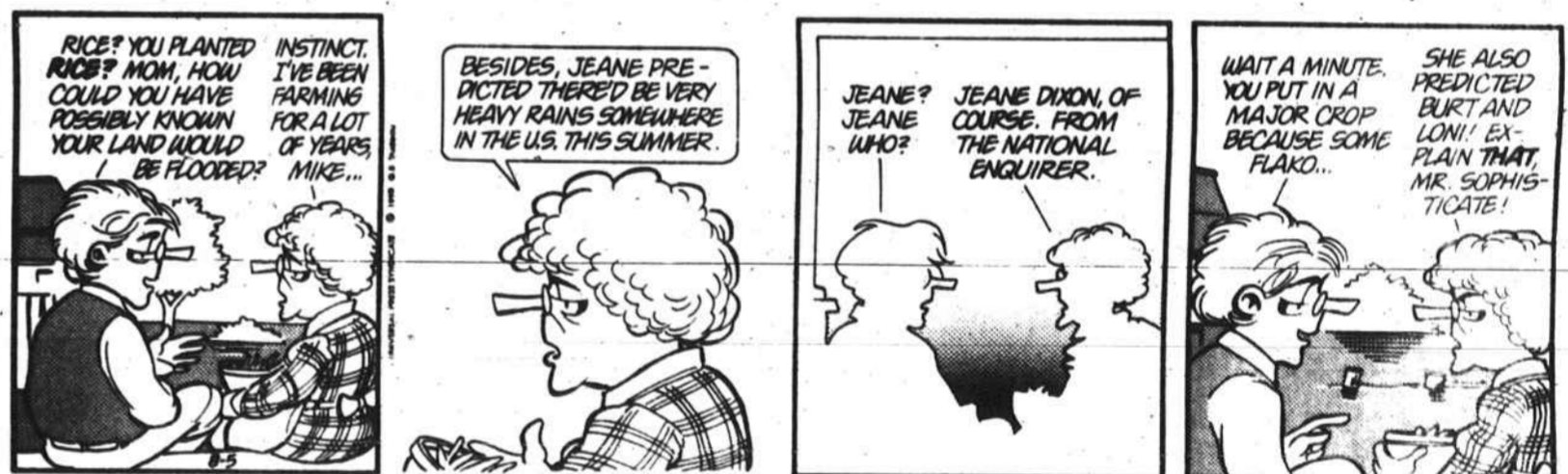
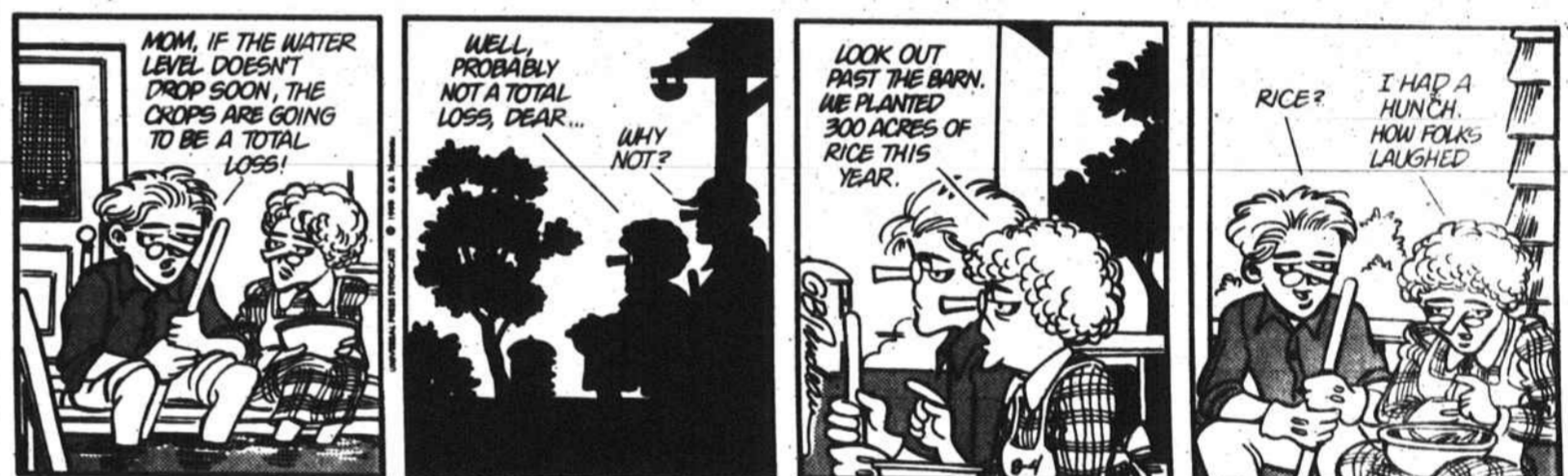
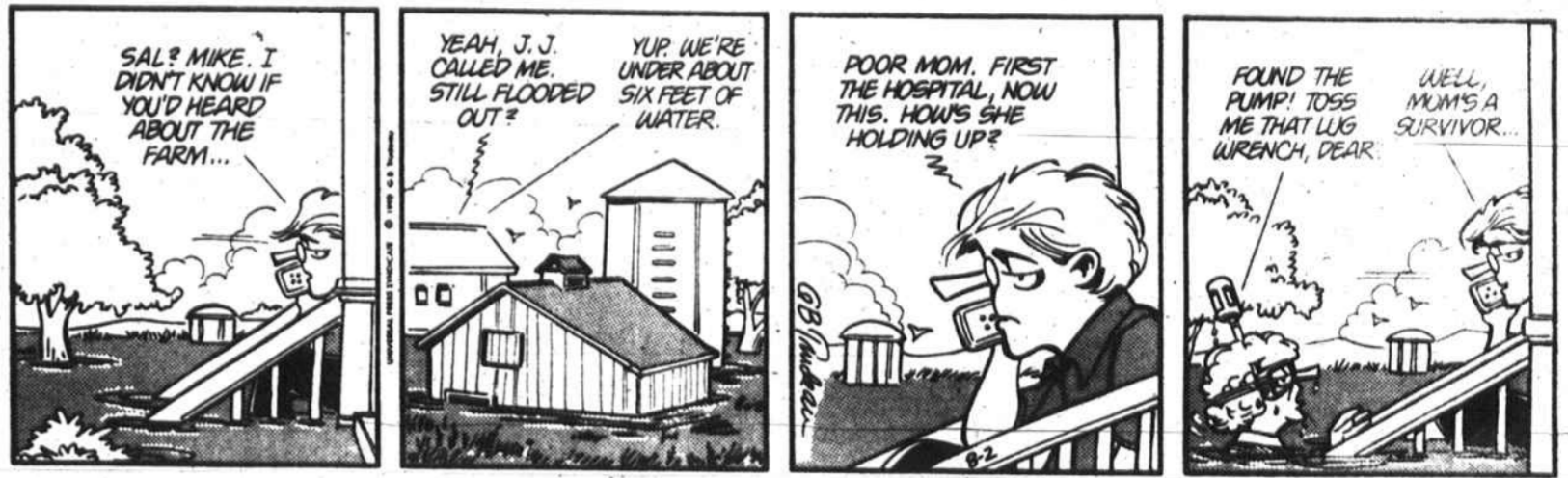
In addition, there were the neighborhood schools where all the authority figures were not only black but darn good at what they did — where education and maintaining pride and dignity in their school and themselves was paramount. And then there was the powerful institution of the black church, which is still controlled by the community. Well, sort of, because we're still building more and more churches with icons and stained-glass windows showing images of the majority (whites) — where Sunday School books, the Bibles and most of the literature which goes into most black churches is still very white.

So what's my point? If we as a people don't love and respect ourselves enough to decorate and use every opportunity to make our places of worship a mirrored image of ourselves, then why should our troubled black youth feel that we as black adults are anything more than hypocrites, when parents, teachers, preachers, etc., attempt to teach and preach to them about black pride, when we haven't exercised black pride in the one last and most powerful institution that we still control: the church.

Finally, how can the black church continue to attempt to provide leadership and role models for our black youth if they're unwilling or perhaps too ashamed to provide images and literature in the churches which look more like the congregation. After all, black is supposed to be beautiful!

# Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU



## Job Training Can Boost Economy

The U.S. economy is trying to beat powerful global competitors with one hand tied behind its back.

We're losing ground because years of underinvestment and the tragic waste of human resources are coming back to haunt us.

Alone among the world's top industrial nations, we are the one with the falling bridges and crumbling roads, the one with failing schools, the one with huge numbers of people who don't have the skills and the education to be productive.

If you look at our rivals around the world, you find that Japan and Germany are making those people investments. They stress education and skills. They have broad child development programs.

They have world-class schools. They have apprenticeship training and skills development programs. Their governments and the private sector work together to back those efforts. They act on the correct assumption that the leaders of the new world economy will be the countries that develop their people.

If we're going to compete successfully, we'll have to act on that, too. Government, industry and the not-for-profit voluntary sector need to be part of such an effort.

Industry needs to do more to train its people. It now spends many billions on training. But if you put the numbers under a microscope, you find that with the exception of the largest and best corporations, very few companies do any training at all, and most of the rest have two kinds of training — safety training mandated by law and continuing management training for executives.

That's beginning to change since the Total Quality Movement has begun to take root. But it's not changing enough, and it's not changing fast enough. That is why the Clinton administration should follow through on its campaign promises to revamp worker training programs.

I know there is strong opposition to a training tax and to federal subsidies, but they will be necessary since employers, especially small businesses, are reluctant to train workers in skills that make them attractive to competitors. So a neutral, outside entity is necessary to ensure that workers get the skills required by today's economy.

Americans should also consider adopting apprenticeship training systems such as those that are common in so many European countries. In Germany, 60 percent of all workers go

### TO BE EQUAL

John E. Jacob

through high quality apprenticeship programs, and private-sector job training is strongly supported by government. In Japan, employers work closely with local schools to develop needed skills, and small companies get subsidies for on-the-job training.

I served on the Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, which called for setting educational performance standards that would qualify young people for skilled jobs and establish a comprehensive system of technical certification for a wide range of occupations. There are signs that support for such a system is growing, as employers and policy-makers realize the failing of a system in which high school diplomas don't necessarily mean work-readiness, and non-college youth get few opportunities to acquire advanced technical skills. Nor do we help youngsters bridge the gap between school and work.

The major initial workforce development effort should target out-of-work, non-college young people, equipping them with the training and skills to contribute to the economy and to help take their place in what has to become a world-class workforce.

### VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

President Clinton recently enacted a policy that could allow homosexuals to serve in the military. The Chronicle asked city residents whether they thought gays should serve in the military. Here are their responses:



Alexandra Thompson, 23  
The Limited

"I think a person's personal life is their own business. If they want to serve in the military I don't think it should matter whether they're bisexual or homosexual."



Tom Roper, 56  
Hanes International

"As a retired military person, I would not recommend it. The military is supposed to be your strength. If you're looking at a gay from that standpoint, you couldn't look at that as a strong backbone."



David Carter, 60  
retired

"I don't really believe in the gay rights thing because in the Bible, Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of this. As far as gays in the military ... I just don't think that they have the strength."



Ken Jones, 25  
Easton Elementary

"Number one, I think it would cause disharmony among the troops in the military. Number two, I refuse to stand for something that God stands against."