

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

Transforming education takes a 21st century village united

Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) held a community roundtable on Friday, April 15. This was the first event of its kind WSSU has held.

The university said the Transforming Education Community Roundtable will be an annual forum that brings together broad and diverse community representatives and stakeholders to advance fresh thinking and bold ideas designed to enhance public education in our community.

The 2016 Roundtable featured three conversations exploring the state of public education in North Carolina, creating cultures of curiosity, and thriving schools, thriving societies.

In discussing the state of public schools in North Carolina, various concepts came up.

One panelist said: "You cannot separate education from what's going on in our society."

What's going on in our society? In North Carolina, it is repression and regression.

In Winston-Salem, 12 inner-city schools have been labeled low performing based on test scores. Some panelists suggested a change in education operations could be the problem. Under segregation, black students and black teachers worked together. Now, the majority of teachers are white, middle-class women who probably don't understand how to relate to the mostly minority students in those schools. They abdicate trying to understand and send minority students straight to the administrative offices.

According to N.C. Department of Public Instruction data, suspensions among black students in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools system nearly quadrupled the number among white students in 2014-2015, despite the fact that black students make up less than 30 percent of total enrollment.

What's happening in our society? Minorities are being sent to prison at alarming rates.

Sixty percent of U.S. prisoners are either African-American or Latino, President Obama has said. "About one in every 35 African-American men, one in every 88 Latino men is serving time right now," the president said. "Among white men, that number is one in 214."

It is widely known that third-grade reading scores help officials decide on the number of prisons needed in the United States.

What's happening in our society? North Carolina lawmakers who have not seen public education in action for years are making laws that tear into the heart of public education, where most minority children can be found, while bolstering non-public schools, where only a small percentage of minority students can be found.

One black charter school official in Winston-Salem says the N.C. law on charter schools added a section that makes charter schools that accept federal funds on par with public school systems and decrees that those schools have to be held to the same standards as public schools. Her school falls under that jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, North Carolina lawmakers are making laws that restrict the voting rights of citizens. Mostly minorities are affected.

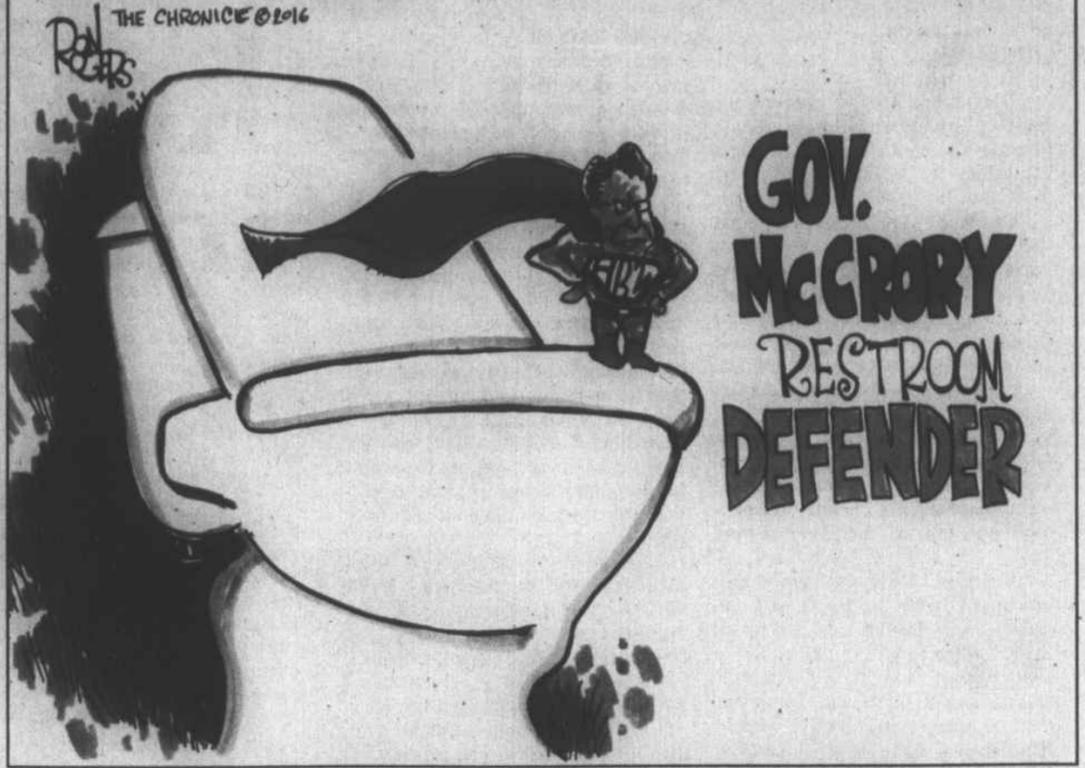
Facilitators and panelists talked about systems and how various systems in the lives of children need to work together. Those systems include family, community, faith institutions and education.

"This is a village. Our children have to travel across multiple systems," one panelist said.

Panelists and facilitators concluded that ways have to be found to unite the systems even while society is trying to tear the systems apart.

The 21st century village cannot afford not to.

Note: Managing Editor Donna Rogers was a panelist on a roundtable session.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shame on GOP leaders in House for missing U.S. budget deadline

To the Editor:

The Republican Leadership in the House have chosen the route of inaction and failed to present a 2017 budget for Congress [by the April 15 budget deadline] to debate and consider. But it is more alarming that Speaker [Paul] Ryan's 'Road to Ruin' proposed cuts that were not deep enough for a majority of his party to agree on. His proposal to end the Medicare guarantee and execute \$6.5 trillion in cuts demonstrates Congressional Republicans' disdain for the social safety net that so many Americans depend on.



Rep. Butterfield

The budget is supposed to provide direction on how we can plan to fund the federal government in the upcoming year, but the missed deadline will make it that much harder for a plan to be vetted, debated, and decided on by Congress. We will continue to fight for a budget that reflects the values of the American people and one that will emphasize our long-standing commitment to eradicating poverty in America by increasing economic opportunities through investments in education, infrastructure, affordable housing, small business, and job training. We must protect and strengthen the social safety net, which will stop millions of families from sinking deeper into poverty.

U.S. Rep. G. K. Butterfield (NC-01)
Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus
Washington, D.C.

McCrory's effort to change HB 2 is troubling

and a trick

To the Editor:

The Governor's half-hearted effort to change some pieces of Hate Bill 2 he signed [March 23] is troubling.

And a trick. He said he wants the same extremists in the legislature who rammed through a law that expressly discriminates against transgendered citizens of North Carolina, and snatches the right to sue in State Courts for all protected classes, to come back to Raleigh and make some changes in the law.

What his executive order tries to restore - it's unclear how much power the Governor's order really has - are rights and liberties that should have never been removed. His suggested changes leaves Hate Bill 2 a backward, race-based, class-based homophobic bill that hurts the working poor, racial minorities and the LGBTQ community.

The bill was bad when it was written. It was bad when the Governor signed it with no conditions. And it is still bad with the Governor's new conditions.

We stand on our moral values of justice and love. We stand on our belief that this bill, no matter how much lipstick Governor McCrory tries to slap on it, represents the race-class-homophobic politics of Jesse Helms reincarnated.



Rev. Barber

Hate Bill 2 is about politics not bathrooms. Repeal it! That's the right thing for the Governor to do.

Like his refusal to expand Medicaid. Like his budget that hurts teachers and public education. Like his Voter Suppression Bill, which will be overturned in the courts. Like his support for Amendment One. The Governor should never have signed Hate Bill 2 in the first place.

His troubling actions yesterday mean that local jurisdictions are still barred from requiring contractors to pay employees living wages, sick leave, vacation leave and minority set asides.

We in the NAACP Forward Together Movement call on people and businesses of conscience - keep the pressure on. NO DISCRIMINATION. NO RACISM. NO CLASSISM. SAY NO to HATE. IN

FULL OR IN PART. YESTERDAY. TODAY. TOMORROW!

Pray for the Governor. Protest the Governor and his colleagues who passed Hate Bill 2. Demand they do the right thing. Repent, repeal, and resist extremism. Adjusting discrimination is not enough; only abolition is sufficient!

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II
President the NC NAACP
Convener of Forward Together
Moral Monday Movement
Durham

City website adds 'cookies' to better serve visitors to site

To the Editor:

The privacy policy for the city's website - <http://www.cityofws.org/> - has been revised to allow the website to place "cookies" on visitors' computers and mobile devices for future reference.

Placing cookies will allow the city to better serve visitors who accept cookies. For example, the city will be able to send a digital ad about leaf collection to the computer or mobile device of a citizen who has visited the city's leaf routes page.

"Cookies" are randomly generated tags that remember which pages the visitor viewed. Cookies do not contain personally identifiable information and do not compromise the user's privacy or security. Cookies can be readily refused or deleted from computers and mobile devices using a number of methods. Web browser "Help" files show how to block or delete cookies.

The complete privacy policy is posted on the city's website. It can be accessed through the "Privacy Statement" link at the bottom of every page.

City of Winston-Salem
Marketing and Communications
Department



We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to letters@wschronicle.com before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website, www.wschronicle.com.

We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for clarity or brevity and determine when and whether material will be used.

We welcome your comments at our website.

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