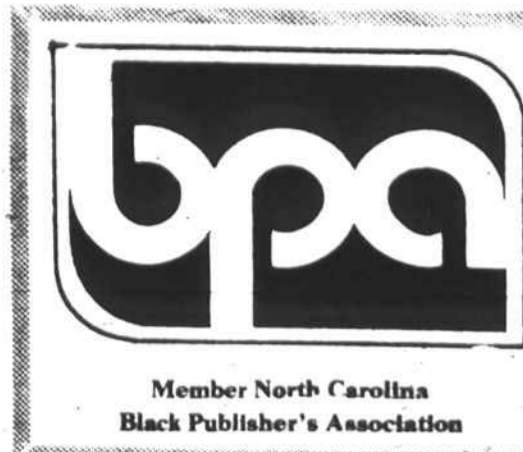


# viewpoints



**Winston-Salem Chronicle**  
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## To Be Equal

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

## Heating Crisis



## Musical Chairs

It is a truism that those who fail to learn the lessons of history are destined to see them again. Therefore, it is not surprising that there is a certain sense of déjà vu regarding the latest round of changes among top city officials.

Human services director Nellie Jones left, to be replaced by economic development director Walter Farabee, whose position is in limbo at the moment.

Think back to when deputy city manager Jack Bond left for Miami, Fla. Personnel director Al Beaty was made assistant city manager in addition to holding his old post—a situation that continues to this time.

One is quite inclined to believe that there is an unspoken quota system for top black officials in city government, and the magic number just seems to keep declining.

It almost seems as though there's a grandfather clause to the effect that the only top black city officials will be those who served before a certain date.

To meet those apparent rules, the talents of the

remaining officials are stretched to the limit, juggling the responsibilities of various jobs.

Yet, there is still another little rule in effect, now. No black administrator can work in City Hall. With the move of Farabee to the Human Services Department offices in the NCNB Plaza, no top-ranking blacks have offices in the center of government, including Beaty.

One fears that the old boy network in City Hall is engaged in some behind the scenes posturing in advance of the selection of the new city manager to insure that their views will be most readily accessible.

It is unfortunate that this kind of behavior would take the place of true affirmative action, in which promising potential administrators would be prepared for higher roles.

Right now, one of the city's brightest professionals in engaged in legal action because of the barriers to his progress.

The aldermen need to deal with these shenanigans or hire a city manager who will.

Congress' last-minute scramble to provide some measure of relief from sky-high heating costs faced by the poor is a belated move that will not avert a major crisis this winter.

Everyone knew as early as last spring that something would have to be done to provide a mechanism to get heating aid to the poor. But the issue was allowed to get caught up in energy politics.

So this winter poor people will pay—some with their lives—for Congressional inaction.

The problem is not the availability of heating oil, it is the availability of fuels at a price the poor can afford. As heating prices move up, poor people's ability to heat their homes goes down. They are effectively denied access to a basic human necessity.

Last winter caused serious hardships for the poor. Nearly two million poor households spent over a quarter of their incomes to heat their homes.

That meant cutting corners in other basic areas—food, health and clothing. There were instances of elderly people who died because they couldn't pay their bills and had their gas and electricity cut off.

In the last several winters the government made limited amounts of funds available to help the poor pay their heating bills. But the funds were too little the low allocations and poor administration on the state level left many without aid.

But this year, the crunch is really on. Heating oil costs are expected to be almost double what they were last year. The poor in northern states, where cold weather starts earliest and lasts longer, will be especially hard hit, especially if there are periods of severe cold snaps.

For many poor people, the choice will be between heating and eating.

And the elderly poor may face literal life and death situations. Some may become victims of hypothermia, a cause of death related to sudden drops in body temperature due to cold in an unheated house. The elderly are most prone to hypothermia, and it threatens to be a killer this winter.

The administration pushed for heating aid for the poor, but it tied the aid to the windfall profits tax, which was to provide the funds.

But Congress has bottled up that tax plan, and isn't likely to take action on it until we're well into the winter. Belatedly, Congress realized it had to do something and predictably, that something will be too little too late.

It's a fair enough guess to say that whatever money eventually is distributed won't be enough to cover the enormous rise in heating costs.

And tying the aid to existing support programs—welfare or even food stamps—means that the significant numbers of poor people who do not participate in those programs will get no heating aid.

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## Baby And Bath Water

From Washington comes the news that the federal Small Business Administration has completed a long-awaited review of its 8 (a) program which provides government contracts to "socially and economically disadvantaged."

Audited were 1,505 minority construction firms holding such contracts. As many as 323 of the companies are possibly headed by persons not involved in the day-to-day operations of the firms.

A further review of those cases is being undertaken by the SBA's Minority Small Business Capitol Ownership Development Office to determine if those owners are masquerading as being disadvantaged.

Such rip-offs need to be dealt with firmly. There have been numerous reports of cases in which whites might designate a janitor or laborer as president of a company in order to qualify for the 8 (a) program.

In an important step, two Baltimore men were recently convicted for channeling minority set-aside contracts to a non-minority firm. The trial judge said the defendants were "prostituting programs" designed to foster economic development in underprivileged communities.

As a result of the SBA audit, the SBA's inspector general is offering recommendations to clarify the terminology "economically and socially disadvantaged."

Such steps are needed. We recall the case of the wealthy television announcer who qualified under the current criteria for the new program to give loan guarantees to minority broadcasters.

In the attempt to deracialize the set-aside programs to meet expected constitutional challenges, the doors have been opened unnecessarily wide.

All the problems mentioned above threaten the future of set-aside programs such as 8(a), which allows

government procurement officers to place certain contracts in a pool for competition among certified firms. The enemies of the underlying goal of bringing economic parity to minority America are all too quick to seize upon mistakes and rip-offs as grounds to terminate the entire program.

That's why such steps as the recent friend of the court brief filed by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. in the Fullilove vs. Krepes challenge to government set-aside programs are urgently needed, in addition to the continuing review to weed out waste and corruption.

Otherwise, minorities risk being confronted with a situation in which the baby is thrown out with the bathwater.


## A Fallen Friend

One of the least known, yet most important figures in black communication has been soft-spoken, yet determined Sherman Briscoe, executive director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, who died last week.

For more than a decade, Briscoe, a former newspaper editor in Louisiana and government information officer, provided a highly professional leadership to the trade association for America's more than 200 black newspapers.

When he assumed the job in the late 1960s, many were questioning the relevance of the black press, branding it a relic of by-gone days.

Briscoe served as an effective counter spokesman and also, sought to enhance the future development of the papers through training at annual conventions and regional workshops.



## Saving Black Colleges

## From the Grassroots

Manning Marable

Many prominent faculty at black colleges moved to white schools because of higher salaries, benefits and academic status. With rising tuition costs, many blacks discovered that white institutions could provide more financial aid, newer facilities and greater library resources.

Ironically, as black higher education prospered, traditional black colleges were being rapidly destroyed.

As a greater proportion of lower-income black students were admitted in recent years, black colleges began to assume a steadily increasing share of total costs. At most schools, over 90 percent of all students now receive financial aid, and only about 5 percent are able to pay their total tuition.

The lack of a philanthropic tradition among black alumni at most schools meant that black administrators had to appeal to Washington for fiscal help.

Preoccupied with school desegregation and related matters, at least until recently, H.E.W. and other departments usually ignored the growing, desperate financial situation at these institutions.

There are now many indications that the civil rights movement's ideological commitment to integration at all costs, especially in higher education, has not significantly reduced the continuing burden of white racism and discrimination against black students.

About half of all blacks who graduated for colleges this

spring were at black schools. Over seventy-five percent of all black veterinarians, dentists and medical doctors graduated from black institutions.

Over 50 percent of all undergraduates from black colleges obtain a second graduate degree within five years after their B.A. degrees, a higher percentage than for blacks at white schools. On the other side of the color line, black drop-out rates at white universities exceed 60 percent.

The general prospects for black education remain cloudy. It seems likely that blacks will find it increasingly difficult to obtain admission to white graduate and medical schools, depending of course on the interpretation of the 1978 Supreme Court bakkeruling.

Affirmative action programs have been watered down at some institutions; a number of prominent and politically active black faculty at white institutions have been denied tenure over recent years.

The 1977-78 census statistics indicate a decline in black college enrollment for the first time in many years. Some larger black universities, like Tuskegee Institute, Atlanta University and Howard University, will continue to attract philanthropic and federal aid.

But there is the real danger that the majority of traditionally black, Southern colleges will close their doors permanently by the 1990s.

## How Does Public Feel About Buses

With gas prices spiraling just as fast as oil company profits, are more people turning to mass transit? Chronicle Camera went to the Hampton D. Haith Transit Center to ask Winston-Salem Transit Authority bus drivers if public attitudes are changing towards mass transit. They said:

**John Fulton** -- "There are a lot of new people. They want to ride more because of the gas, and the riding is really picking up. They park their car and ride downtown."

**Benjamin Blackwell** -- "Because of the gas situation, more people are using it to get to work. I know some of them have cars. Really, more whites are beginning to ride than blacks. Most are stopping at the shopping centers and getting the bus there."

**Walter Shipp** -- "There are more people and different kinds of people because of the gas and that sort of thing. There are quite a few brand new riders that once were opposed to riding the bus but now see that they're dependable, they've changed."

**Russell Day** -- "I don't think so. The same people are riding who traditionally did. These junky buses have a lot to do with people not riding."

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Kenner



Shipp



Day



Evans

## Guest Editorial

# A Sickening Tragedy

By T. Dianne Bellamy-Small

Mrs. Small is a columnist for the Greensboro Peacemaker and State Youth Advisor to the NAACP.

I had planned to write my column this week about the NAACP and what a great help the organization had been in bring us along in our bid for civil and human rights. I had planned to quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the civil rights movement being more than just to eradicate racial injustice, but that it had expanded the concept of brotherhood. I had planned to quote Justice Thurgood Marshall as saying we could combat prejudice if we approach it intelligently.

But after witnessing the barbaric acts of Nov. 3rd in Morningside against people who had the right to express themselves, my planned column seemed frivolous.

When I heard about the black man in Birmingham, Ala. being elected the first black mayor in that town's history, I thought of a Bible passage that says "...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

I was feeling that perhaps we, black folks, could expect to go forward even more and that there are just a few diehards that are keeping up the racial ruckus. But if a group; black, white, interracial or otherwise, cannot freely express itself with full protection of the law, have we been deluded.

The Constitution of the United States has set forth in the First Amendment that, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or

prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

That is fine and dandy, but who will protect the well-being of the protestors? It has been generally assumed that local police would act as the agency to protect the rights of citizens and act in the best interests of all concerned.

But in Greensboro this week the question is asked louder than ever, why are five people dead and others wounded. It strongly and sadly appears that whether racially motivated or not, the rights of one group of people to express themselves was not adequately protected. Whether we agree or understand the WVO objectives they deserve the same protection as the President of the United States.

Nothing can be done to change November 3, but much can be done to prevent it from happening again. As I write this I don't know what will happen during the next week in Greensboro, but I hope that instead of resorting to blind rage we should remain calm and be more determined than ever to reach goals and objectives that are productive for our race and the world.

If we lose our heads for more than a second we will only get people hurt. It is not impossible for us to receive justice, but we must work diligently for it. Though disappointed at the short comings and tragedy of last Saturday we must not give up hope.

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