

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Prostitutes And Priorities

The Winston-Salem Police Department has mounted an undercover operation in the Liberty-Patterson area.

The objective: to arrest prostitutes who solicit customers amid the old, largely abandoned apartment buildings in that deteriorating community.

Eight men and 40 women were arrested last week on prostitution-related charges, which, we suppose, bears testimony to the effectiveness of the operation.

Still, while we by no means condone prostitution, we wonder if our police haven't confused their priorities.

With crime as prevalent and often devastating in the black community as it is, why spend so much time, energy and money arresting prostitutes when so many other, more serious types of lawlessness continue to breed fear?

Public Safety Chairman Vivian Burke shares some of our skepticism, noting that, while she would like to see prostitution eliminated in that area, "we have crime in this city that needs more attention than prostitution."

Armed robbery and drugs are among those other crimes, Mrs. Burke said.

The drug problem has, in fact, reached epidemic proportions among our youth, if we are to believe reports from an undercover policeman who has mingled with students in our public schools.

And the picture painted by the "Crime Box Score" on Page 3 also reflects problems with housebreakings, larceny and burglaries as well.

We applaud the efforts of our police whenever they mount an offensive against crime in our neighborhoods, but in this era of strained municipal budgets during which so many other manifestations of crime threaten our well-being and peace of mind, we believe prostitutes and their clients can wait.

Your Letters

The more earth-shaking events of each week are recounted on Page One.

The more heartwarming, amusing, bizarre and entertaining ones are recounted in our letters section.

Take, for instance the time that

-- a writer obviously of the female gender nominated an eligible gentleman for our Bachelor of the Week feature. "Since his taped interview with WXII-TV a few weeks ago," the young lady wrote, "I and the other ladies would like to know the real man behind the facade...and the fact that he drives a De Lorean."

Sorry, ladies. Though the man may drive a De Lorean, we don't draft people for "Bachelor of the Week." They have to volunteer.

-- Speaking of bachelors of the week, the wife of one bachelor called to inform us that the man was very married with three children. That's when we found it necessary to spell out in the guidelines of the feature that you must be legally single to be featured, not "separated or getting ready to get a divorce or having an argument with your spouse."

-- a writer named Lelia Dolby wrote The Letter Read Round the World -- or at least around Winston-Salem -- last year. It seems Miss Dolby wasn't all that thrilled about an editorial we wrote welcoming black writer Maya Angelou back to the South and said so in no uncertain terms.

What ensued we could never have predicted. A veritable avalanche of letters followed, most of them defending Ms. Angelou and roundly criticizing Ms. Dolby.

There were phone calls, too, mostly of the nasty variety, chastising the Chronicle for having the gall to print Miss Dolby's letter. One lady hung up as we tried to explain that we don't censor letters simply because we don't agree with them -- just as she had censored us when she hung up before we could fully explain our stance.

The letters continued for two months until they finally trickled into a third month.

One of the final letters that we received, fittingly enough, was from Ms. Angelou, thanking us for allowing both sides to be heard.

The letters have flowed during the past year and a half at a steady pace and continue to address just about every subject imaginable.

Whether they're critical or complimentary, we love to get them and probably get just as much of a kick out of them as you do.

Letters, we believe, are the heart of any good editorial

They also, we would like to think, provide a sign that we might be nudging you -- sometimes gently, sometimes not -to think about the issues, and to act.

About Letters

The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor as well as guest columns. Letters should be typed or neatly printed and concise in length. They should also include the full name, address and phone number of the

Letters should be addressed to Chronicle Letters, Winston-Salem

Chronicle, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and good taste and asks readers to remember that letters published within our pages do not necessarily reflect our views.

GOOD NEWS, SIR- LOOKS LIKE FASTER ECONOMIC GROWTH, LOWER INFLATION





ACTUALLY SIR ... MOST OF THIS IS DUE TO THE DROP IN OIL PRICES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE RECESSION

WELL. WHO DO THEY THINK STARTED THE RECESSION? /

A Good Idea About To Go Bad

By TONY BROWN Syndicated Columnist

The question has been asked in media headlines over and over again: "Will Blacks Riot This Year?" They already have - at the ballot boxes in Chicago's mayoral contest.

The result was a staggering blow to the Democratic machine in Chicago, Democrats nationally and the frontrunning candidate for the Democratic nomination for president, Walter Mondale.

Harold Washington's upset victory in the primary elec-

Brown tion should guarantee him the job as the first black mayor of Chicago, a city founded by Jean Baptiste DuSable, another black man.

But in between those two historic points, it has been a political hell for black life in that city on the lake. Washington's announcement to break up the old Democratic machine will redress some of the institutional slavery, but his warning to candidate Mondale might give modern meaning to the magnificent show of black selfhelp of Tuesday, Feb. 22.

"Mr. Mondale has some explaining to do," Washington promised, "some serious explaining."

Unless you've been living under a rock, you know that Washington, the single black candidate in the

By MANNING MARABLE

Many Americans recognize that

Properly understood, Reaganism

represents an attempt by the corpora-

tions to accelerate capital accumula-

tion at the expense of workers and an

effort to reduce permanently the

levels of social services and public

programs at the expense of un-

precedented arms buildup. In short,

the basic tenor of our debate with the

right must be cast into three slogans:

In this regard, members of the

Congressional Black Caucus have

taken the lead in defining the pressing

concerns which affect blacks,

Latinos, poor and working-class peo-

ple. John Conyers of Detroit is

developing perhaps the most pro-

gressive full-employment bill in U.S.

history. Parren Mitchell of Baltimore

has taken the lead in denouncing

Reagan's economic austerity pro-

grams. And Washington, D.C.'s

jobs, peace and freedom.

next year's presidential race will be

more than a referendum on

Guest Columnist

Reaganism.

Democratic primary, was referring to Mondale's needless and arrogant meddling in Chicago politics by opposing him and supporting Richard M. Daley, heir-apparent to the old Daley machine. Another so-called liberal, Sen. Ted Kennedy, supported the other white candidate.

Mondale blamed his racist behavior on a political debt owed to Daley, but carefully ignored the fact that Washington and his district workers produced a 93 percent vote for the 1976 Democratic ticket of Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale.

Mondale, at last aware that he has behaved with "interracial-racism," reserved, of course, for white liberals (if a conservative white had behaved in the same manner, it would be simply labeled "white racism") is now busy asking for speaking engagements at black colleges for this spring's commencement exercises and phoning members of the Congressional Black Caucus, asking them to help him out of this jam.

But how can they? Without betraying their power base and ethically rejecting what they stand for, how can they interpret his behavior as anything other than racist? They can't.

Which is why Charles Rangel, New York's black congressman, is reported as saying: "I told him (Mondale) that he should be calling Washington." He added, "It was insanity for him to get involved in that primary."

And Mondale, Rangel admitted, had called Washington. "He said he's

It Certainly Shouldn't Be Jackson

last year in a public demonstration

against the dumping of toxic waste in

a rural, black North Carolina county.

is making sure that these questions of

jobs (a full-employment economy),

peace (reductions in both conven-

tional and nuclear weapons) and

freedom (affirmative-action legisla-

tion, a restoration of human services,

etc.) become part of the presidential

As I see matters, there are only two

ways to begin this process. One

strategy would involve running a pro-

gressive black candidate for the

Democratic Party nomination in a

sizeable blocs of black, Latino and

trade union voters, or a tradition of

political liberalism (for example, New

York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Il-

linois, Pennsylvania, California and

be to win the nomination, of course,

but to force the frontrunner, Mon-

The goal of this strategy would not

Whomever emerges as the

Washington, D.C.).

dale, to the left.

The states should have either

select group of 10 to 12 states.

debate.

The problem before us, therefore,

been calling him but he said Washington won't return his calls," Rangel said. Why should he?

The political game in America is now a new one. Any time blacks assert themselves, whites adjust. It doesn't matter whether it's at the ballot box or in Jim Crow public places, black rebellion always works. In Chicago, although six percent of

the white vote was race-free, 94 percent of it was race-directed to other whites. If 94 percent of blacks had not been smart enough to support another black, it would have been white-business-as-usual. And believe it or not, Chicago-based Jesse 200 black churches in Winston-Salem. Jackson has tried to use Washington's victory to launch a presidential campaign. Jackson, who Washington has pro-

mised will not be a part of his administration, took his presidential (a black version) aspirations on the road to Philadelphia and, while appearing to work for the black candidate for mayor, Wilson Goode, was really laying the groundwork for his own run later this year as "Mr. Black President."

"The newest thing is to simply vote black," Jackson exhorted. But Goode, sensing that his candidacy was secondary in Jackson's rhetoric, immediately called the statement "inappropriate, ill-timed and inconsistent with what we believe should happen."

Goode is in good shape. He leads in a preference poll by 22 points and the proportion of blacks in Philadelphia Please see page 5

the black freedom movement except

This cannot be done unless a pro-

gressive black candidate goes into the

votes, and when no single white can-

gress, Dellums has represented the

most principled and progressive alter-

native available in American politics.

His unique strength is his ability to

relate to a diverse constituency:

blacks, trade unionists, feminists,

rights community. Both are

Please see page 12

ballot victory at the convention.

solutely forced to do so.

Mrs. M.N. Tanner Winston-Salem

of the church.

P.S.: We need the Chronicle. (Through it) we can give vent to the many suppressed feelings we've held inside for years and years.

Chronicle Letters

Suppressed

I've read with interest the many

fine articles written about Afro-

American ministers and I've found

Ministers know that we live in a

democratic society where there are no

absolute rulers. President Reagan can

do nothing without the sanction of

the Congress. So should it be with our

clergy. No decisions should be made

without the agreement of the deacons

and trustees. They are the Congress

There is a pastor of a prominent

church who never accompanies the

bodies of deceased members to the

cemetery. How can his membership

ignore that? Is he allergic to

cemeteries or funeral processions?

Somebody, please explain!

Feelings

To The Editor:

them to be truthful.

The Real **Problem**

To The Editor:

Your series of articles about the black church plus the November 1982 issue of The Crisis devoted solely to the black church were most enjoyable and informative.

It's interesting that we have over and the highest crime rate in the city is reported to be in black com-

Thus, whenever I read or hear of members of a church habitually criticizing what occurs in their churches, I recall the following written by an anonymous author:

It Isn't The Church - It's You'

If you want to have the kind of a church Like the kind of a church you

You needn't slip your clothes in a

And start on a long, long hike.

You'll only find what you left behind,

For there's nothing really new. It's a knock at yourself when you knock your church;

It isn't the church — it's YOU.

When everything seems to be going And trouble seems everywhere

brewing; When prayer meetings, young

people's meetings and all, Reagan — whether Mondale, Glenn Seem simmering slowly or any of the other lesser lights - he pe stewing,

will not respond to the demands of Just take a look at yourself and say, "What's the use of being blue?" in token gestures, unless he is ab-Are you doing your "bit" to make things "hit?"

It isn't the church — it's YOU.

convention with 300 to 400 delegate. It's really strange sometimes, don't you know,

didate has a majority of delegate That things go as well as they do, votes. This also means, of course, When we think of the little - the that Mondale must be denied a firstvery small mite -

We add to the work of the few. Unquestionably, the best qualified We sit, and stand round, and candidate for this strategy is Ronald complain of what's done, V. Dellums. Since his election to Con-

And do very little but fuss. Are we bearing our share of the burdens to bear?

It isn't the church - it's US.

So, if you want to have the kind of a church

Latinos, environmentalists, peace ac-Like the kind of a church you like,

tivists, etc. A second choice, Georgia State Senator Julian Bond, has his Put off your guile, and put on your own unique following within the civil smile,

And hike, my brother, just hike, nationally-known, would have access To the work at hand that has to be to the media (a critically important done -

Please see page 5







