

# Panel Discusses Schools

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school, they add that rifts between the races still exist. "I think we do it (attend desegregated schools) because we have to," said Adrian Mills, a senior at West Forsyth Senior High School. "We don't want to deal with each other, unless we have to."

The students also say that once the school day is over, the black students go to their communities and the white students to theirs, with very few exceptions.

Says John Lash, a senior at Reynolds: "It's right that we go to different communities after school. But after hours, some of us get back together. I think it's attitude. Some (black and white students) will hate each other forever."

Most of the socializing between black and white students is done by black students who attend predominantly white social functions, the panelists say.

"I don't go over there (black community) normally," says Smith. "But if I'm driving down the road and I see somebody with a Reynolds sticker, I don't care what color they are, I honk at them."

Says Krista Marshall, a senior at East Forsyth Senior High School: "Whites are never in a situation where there are all blacks. If they see a bunch of blacks, they get scared."

Says Mills: "Whites are scared of us. They think that all black people are for crime."

Still, the students agree that the relationship between the races is steadily, if slowly, improving.

"If we teach our children what we know, we will get along fine," says Marshall.

"The problems are going downhill," says Lash, "but we will never see the day when they are completely gone."

One problem that is far from gone, say the black students, is the unfair treatment black candidates receive where such activities as cheerleader tryouts are concerned.

*"The problems are going downhill, but we will never see the day when they are completely gone."*

-- John Lash

"In athletics, the black boys still start," Marshall says. "But at East, I watched the cheerleading tryouts. Three black girls were picked out of 18 that tried out. Some of the (black) ones that were not picked were better than some of the white ones who were picked."

Some students also see a problem with white teachers. Tiha Evans, a senior at Reynolds, says: "In my geometry class, there were two blacks. If a black student asked a question, he (the teacher) would say you haven't been listening. But if a white student asked a question, he would explain it to them."

Marshall says some white teachers at East Forsyth would not allow their classes to attend Black History Month programs and refused to allow students in their classes who were scheduled to participate in the programs out of class.

But Lash says the teachers he has encountered basically have been fair. "In life, you will run into prejudiced people who hold grudges," he says, "but, as a whole, I don't think they (teachers) teach black or white students any differently. Some teachers are there to make a dollar. Some of the teachers that I had, I could talk to about anything. When it comes to learning, some are colorblind."

The one thing the students all seem to agree on is the importance of parental involvement in their education.

"How well you do depends on motivation," Marshall says. "Lots of kids don't get the motivation from home and they feel it (making good grades) is not important. You are catalogued in the first and second grades (as either a good student or a bad one) and that just stays

with you."

Says Reynolds junior Cedric Brown: "A black parent is more willing to accept that his or her child is learning disabled than a white parent, who would question that."

Lash agrees. "A black child's parents are more willing to accept learning disabilities," he says. "A white parent will hire special tutors. If a child grows up in poor surroundings, then he feels, 'I got to do at least as well as my parents.' For some (whose parents were underachievers), they don't have much to achieve."

"A lot of black people feel they were underachievers and it rubs off on the children," Lash says. "It's attitude that makes you succeed. It's the way you feel about yourself."

Says Marshall: "If an elementary child comes home with a report card that is not too good and the parent doesn't encourage the child to do any better, then they think that this is as good as I'm supposed to do."

If a parent maintains contact with a teacher, says Evans, the teacher will feel there's concern and encouragement from home and work a little harder with the student.

Another point the panelists all agree on is the availability of drugs in the schools. If a student wants drugs, they say, he can get them nearly as easily as checking out a library book.

"Nobody does needles," says Kennedy Wilson a recent graduate from West Forsyth. "But marijuana, that's all around. People who smoke it get it at home and then bring it to school. If you want it, you can get it from them."

Principals know who is involved in drugs, the students say, but catching them is another matter.

"If you are dealing in drugs," Lash says, "you know what you are doing."

Drugs are not only a problem in the senior high schools, says Brown, who attended Paisley High School last year; they also are available in the high (9-10) schools. Brown says some of his classmates at Paisley often talked about "getting some smack (heroin) and going down to the football field."

The widespread use of drugs in the schools doesn't seem to bother the panelists, however. Most say they simply ignore it.

Among other concerns the panel mentioned were busing, the lack of black role models, the failure of black students to seek or accept leadership roles at school, short lunch periods, the lack of uniform grading standards and the apathetic attitudes of some students.

Some of their comments:

• Bernard Moore, a senior at West Forsyth, on busing: "I think we should go to the school we live closer to. I live closer to Reynolds, but I go to West."

• John Lash of Reynolds on grading policies: "They need to tighten the standards on the grading scale. In one class, I was graded on the grades alone and in another, it was grades plus performance and attitude."

• Reynolds' Scott Smith on the physical appearance of the schools: "Kids need to help take care of the school and they (the maintenance staff) need to paint it every couple of years to make it look nice."

• Reynolds' Cedric Brown on role models: "Not only are there not enough black role models in the schools, there are not enough black role models in life."

While desegregation has not fully solved racial problems, says Lash, it has made some inroads.

"Both blacks and whites know problems have existed, but it's today's generation that is doing something about them," he says.

The session, which lasted nearly two and a half hours, featured giggles, debates, anecdotes and a barrage of questions from the Chronicle editorial staff. Said one student, when asked to evaluate the discussion at its conclusion: "I feel like I've been on 'The Donahue Show.'"

# D.C. March

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themes of the march -- when the Aug. 27 March on Washington ends.

In the 60s, Little said, blacks struggling for civil rights "got caught up in our leaders and personalities and failed to internalize the struggle."

"I wonder if we'll find ourselves again in August of 2003 with some clown leading the country and with a chorus of other leaders such as Jerry Falwell, Jesse Helms and Helms on wheels, John East," he said.

Andrew Mitchell, president of the Stokes County NAACP, also expressed the need for solidarity and for the struggle to continue until the goals of the march are achieved.

"We're like a puzzle and every person has a role to play," said Mitchell. "And if any part of that puzzle is missing, then it's incomplete."

Forsyth County Commissioner Mazie Woodruff added that, though some blacks have made strides since the march 20 years ago, all blacks must remember their beginnings. But, she noted, "Because we know where we came from doesn't mean we want to go back to what some people call 'the good ol' days.'"

She also said that blacks must not let the struggle for peace, jobs and freedom end with symbolic gestures.

"He (President Reagan) wants to make King's birthday a national holiday -- guess what? -- on Sunday," she said. "God gave us that day many, many years ago."

*"Because we know where we came from doesn't mean we want to go back to what some people call 'the good ol' days.'"*

County Commissioner Mazie Woodruff

Said the Rev. Carlton Eversley, one of the rally's organizers, at a press conference Friday morning: "I don't think Dr. King would want us to immortalize his name and birthday and then stop the effort for peace and equality."

Several endorsers of the Aug. 27 march appeared at the press conference at Mechanics and Farmers Bank to express their support. Those endorsers include the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen, the Winston-Salem Chapter of the National Organization of Women, the Forsyth County Association of Classroom Teachers and numerous other local organizations.

Mose Belton Brown, co-chairman of the coalition, termed the rally a success. "We feel that we accomplished our objective of bringing together community support of the Aug. 27 march," she said.





"All I can say is it (the rally) is beautiful," said Evangelist Lee Faye Mack. "I see that people are ready to make a change. I'm very encouraged."

A candlelight service "to rededicate ourselves to King's dream" will be held Friday at 10 p.m. at Northside Shopping Center, said Brown.

In addition to numerous speakers, Tiffany Smith, the Q.C. Ensemble of United Progressive Church of Winston-Salem, Paula Larke and Kay Vives, and Reginald McCallister, vice president of the Winston-Salem State University Student Government Association, provided musical entertainment.

Clifton Graves, affirmative action officer at Winston-Salem State University, served as master of ceremonies.

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# Crime Prevention

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taken.

• Skyline Village  
An electric range and a refrigerator were taken.

• 1800 block, Gray Avenue  
A gold watch, a gold ring and a diamond cluster were taken.

• 2000 block, East End Boulevard  
Money, a .38-caliber revolver and a camera were taken.

• 1000 block, W. 13th Street  
A stove, a washing machine, a color television, dishes, food and pots and pans were taken.

**Autobreaking**  
• 2600 block, Liberty Street  
An AM-FM radio was taken.  
• 500 block, Trade Street  
A 35mm camera was taken.

**Larceny**  
• 2300 block, Cleveland Avenue  
A 20-inch bicycle was taken.  
• 1300 block, N. Patterson Avenue  
Assorted groceries were taken.

• 2500 block, Ansonia Street  
A radio was taken.

**Consumer Fraud**  
Avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud by knowing the five warning signals:

- 1) An offer of something for nothing
- 2) A salesperson who "runs down" his own or another's product to sell you a better product.
- 3) Any contract or promise with vague or tricky wording.
- 4) Pressure to sign "right now" or miss out on the deal of a lifetime.
- 5) The offer of a "kickback" or finder's fee for referring friends.

And don't ...

- 1) Pay until you're sure.
- 2) Sign anything until you read and understand it.
- 3) Buy without comparing prices from other sources.

- Do ...
- 1) Be skeptical.
  - 2) Pay cash, if you can, for small purchases.

3) Buy from legitimate merchants.

If you think you've been victimized, don't be bashful or ashamed. Notify the police, your Better Business Bureau, your Legal Aid Society, state and federal consumer protection lines or your lawyer.

For further information, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 727-2688 or the Winston-Salem Better Business Bureau.

This column is brought to you weekly as a public service of the Chronicle, the Winston-Salem Crime Task Force Inc. and the Winston-Salem Police Department.

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