

Winston-Salem Chronicle

Founded 1974

ERNEST H. PITT, Publisher

NDUBISI EGEMONYE
Co-Founder

ALLEN JOHNSON
Executive Editor

ELAINE L. PITT
Office Manager

JOHN SLADE
Assistant Editor

The candidates

It seems somehow fitting that the wave of black hopefuls filing to pursue local offices whooshed into the Board of Elections office at the advent of Black History Month. With generous measures of hard work, active and informed voters of both races and old-fashioned luck, they may make black history of their own.

Mildly surprising was Pat Hairston's decision to resign from his post as head of the local NAACP to seek a seat on the Board of County Commissioners, where blacks have had a difficult time gaining a foothold. Though he had intimated that he might run for elective office more than once, we also had heard Hairston say some time back that he'd had enough of the frustrations of being NAACP president -- only to run once more for the post. So we weren't so sure he could wrest himself from the job he obviously loves, despite the pain and aggravation that go with the turf.

Other black candidates for county commissioner include Mose' Brown, a school teacher, and Willie E. Smith, retired co-owner of Russell's Business College.

It would be nice to give current County Commissioner Mazie Woodruff some company.

Meanwhile, Evelyn Terry has thrown her hat into the ring for the school board, as, it seems, has everybody else in Forsyth County. Terry's candidacy is a not-so-surprising development, however, since her name had been mentioned in many circles as a possible candidate and an ad hoc meeting of black citizens last year picked her as their choice to seek the seat vacated by former school board member Tom Womble -- and eventually granted by the Democratic powers that be to John Wood.

Among the other 18 candidates vying for eight seats on the board of education are accountant Gordon Slade Jr., another mild surprise, and apartment manager William Tatum.

Tatum, of course, has been in the news from time to time as the chairman of the Black Leadership Roundtable Coalition.

A bigger surprise is the Rev. C.E. Green's quest to become register of deeds in Forsyth County.

We have been impressed with Green for quite a while and, in our zeal to encourage young blacks to run, are glad to be reminded by him that older, experienced blacks need to become more involved in the political arena as well.

Filing for re-election in the state House are C.B. Hauser and Annie Brown Kennedy, and for the state Senate, Lafayette N. Jones, a tax consultant.

That brings the total of local blacks seeking office to 10.

To the novices among them, and even some of the veterans, one current black officeholder advises, take your candidacies as seriously as possible and invest the time, work and networking that must be involved to succeed at party politics, especially when the race involves a countywide electorate.

Running for office, she said, isn't something you do impulsively. Know the board you're seeking to join and the issues it must handle. There's no time to learn; some things you ought to already know, lest, even if you are elected, the incumbent sharks will eat you alive. It takes homework to succeed at politics. And sometimes even then you don't pass the course on the first try.

More on the candidates next issue.

Crosswinds

Who is Mr. Wills?

From the Carolina Times.

Quickly now, answer these three questions!

Who is Frank Wills?

What did he do?

What is he doing now?

The answers tell a sad story of what America does to its black heroes. But at the same time, in the Frank Wills story is at least one example of two men who have risen to the top of their professions, but who remember from whence they came, and who also remember Wills.

Mr. Wills was a poorly paid security guard in the summer of 1972 when five men burglarized the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee in the Watergate Apartment Building in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Wills discovered and reported the burglary, bringing about the arrests of James W. McCord, Bernard L. Barker, Frank A. Sturgis, Virgil R. Gonzalez and Eugenio R. Martinez. But he did more than stop a burglary.

Mr. Wills set into motion circumstances and investigations that ultimately revealed the most malignant cancer on the office of the President of the United States ever discovered in the nation's history.

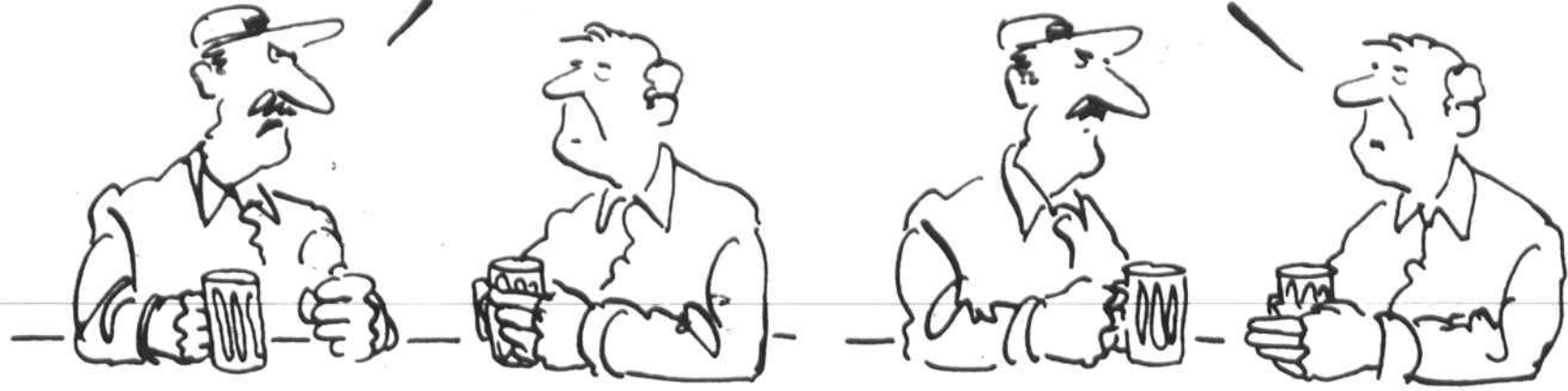
Truly a grateful nation would long remember such a hero. Not so.

Mr. Wills, who has been unemployed almost since discovering the burglary -- while almost everyone else, especially the culprits, have made hundreds of thousands of dollars -- has suffered terribly for his heroism.

Please see page A12

WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THOSE BLASTED FOREIGN IMPORTS OUT OF THE COUNTRY!

PROTECTIONISM WILL JUST TRIGGER RETALIATION BY OTHER COUNTRIES...



AND ALL YOU'LL END UP DOING IS MAKING MORE UNEMPLOYMENT

BUT IT'LL BE MADE IN AMERICA!



Reflecting on Black History Month

By CLIFTON GRAVES
Chronicle Columnist

If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition; it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world and it stands in danger of being exterminated.

-- Dr. Carter G. Woodson

Afro-American History Month. Black History Month. A time set aside to honor the contributions of black people to America and the world.

The idea that such an observance is necessary was the brainchild of noted historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

Woodson, in his wisdom, believed that African and Afro-American history had too long been distorted and ignored by Caucasian "scholars." Indeed, as the pun goes, social science books reflected only HIS-STORY: a "lily-white" view of the world that glorified "European" civilization and debased African and Asiatic peoples.

Woodson set out to alter this unsavory, immoral practice, and, in the process, made history himself.

Through his work with the Society for the Study and Preservation of Afro-American Life and History, Woodson encouraged his colleagues

to gather research to refute the lies, distortions and omissions regarding African and Afro-American history that permeated this nation's educational system.

Through his own writings -- notably "The Miseducation of the Negro" -- Woodson presented concise analyses of how the Afro-

American (and Caucasian) minds had been warped by the "miseducational" system of this country. He cited politicians,

schools, churches and so-called academicians as the primary culprits for the perpetuation of institutionalized ignorance.

Because of his untiring sacrifice and commitment to truth, Carter G. Woodson is proclaimed the "Father of Black History," and is credited with the founding of Afro-American History Month.

And while there may have been

other Afro-American historians who were perhaps more scholarly (W.E.B. Dubois) or renowned (Benjamin Quarles, Lerone Bennett), no one can deny the depth of the contribution to enlightenment made to our people, and this country, by Woodson.

I agree with those critics who argue that Afro-American History should be taught and celebrated year-round, and not confined to the shortest month of the year. Further, I agree that there must be a comprehensive integration of African and Afro-American contributions into every field of study presently taught in America's educational system, from pre-school to post-graduate.

Needless to say, the task will take time, hard work and a thorough re-education of the mis-educators.

But clearly, it must be done. In the meantime, it is our individual and collective responsibility to educate ourselves and our children about the glorious past and heroic struggles of our ancestors.

We would also do well to take advantage of the numerous black history programs being offered throughout February by the East Winston Library, Winston-Salem State University, Wake Forest University, the N.C. School of the

Please see page A5



Clifton Graves

What is the role of the black church?

By WALTER MARSHALL
Guest Columnist

Since that day in August of 1831, when an illiterate black minister, Nat Turner, led the only successful slave revolt in North America, black ministers and the black church have been the victims of all kinds of schemes by the dominant group to gain or maintain control over the independence of black institutions.

Though history reveals the courage and genius of many great black ministers, courage and vision among black ministers are the exceptions rather than the rules.

Since Turner's revolt, black ministers, for the most part, have been docile, miseducated and controlled by the same system that enslaved them.

Though the black church remains the pillar of the community, the church as an institution has never developed a religious dogma that is related to the uplift of black people. Carter G. Woodson, in "The Miseducation of the Negro," writes: "Black religion is merely a loan from the whites who have enslaved and segregated the Negro."

"The organization, though largely an independent black institution," he notes, "is dominated by the thoughts of the oppressors of the race. The educated minister is so trained as to drift away from the masses and the illiterate preachers into whose hands the people will inevitably fall are unable to develop a doctrine and procedure of their own. While serving as

the avenue of the oppressors' propaganda, the black church, although doing some good, has prevented the union of diverse elements and has kept the race too weak to overcome foes who have purposely taught blacks how to quarrel and fight about trifles until their enemies can overcome them."

Goodson continues: "This is the keynote of the control of the so-called inferior race by the self-styled superior. The one thinks and plans while the other, in excited fashion, seizes upon and destroys his brother with whom he should cooperate."

One only has to look at the state of the black ministry in Forsyth County to see the wisdom in Woodson's words. Few black ministers with a

low status in life and to prepare for their after-life meeting with their maker.

The present leadership within the ranks of the black church, though it has the potential of greatness, is too divisive, conformist and destructive toward the plight of black people. The leadership styles make present black clergymen nothing more than controlled and manipulated lackeys of the status quo. Their rhetoric and actions, which always seem to divide and degrade the black community, are reflective of a people whose minds have been enslaved and conditioned to react in a slavish manner.

To understand the depth of the problem within the black church, one would have to be aware of the institu-

"Few black ministers with a church in Forsyth County have taken a public stand against injustice since the Rev. Michael Curry and the Rev. Warner Darnell left Winston-Salem."

church in Forsyth County have taken a public stand against injustice since the Rev. Michael Curry and the Rev. Warner Darnell left Winston-Salem. Even though most black ministers are no doubt devoted to their faith, their inability to take a stand in the midst of the moral crisis facing black citizens has left a noticeable void in the black community.

The black ministers, for the most part, do not stand up for or teach their members how to deal with or solve the social ills of today. Rather, they admonish them to accept their

tion of chattel slavery in America and understand the mental and physical factors involved in maintaining domination over a people.

Although the black church is independent of white ownership, it does not escape the psychological aspects of white domination because the same methods for maintaining the domination of black people are still in force 119 years after slavery. It does not take a genius to see what is happening to us as a people -- the public schools and churches are guilty of

Please see page A5

THIS IS A TIME OF DIFFICULT CHANGES IN OUR ECONOMY...

AND THESE CHANGES CALL FOR A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND LABOR

I AM THEREFORE PREPARED TO MAKE YOU THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION --

YOUR MONEY OR YOUR JOB



Chronicle Letters Complaint about unnamed source

To The Editor:

In reference to the notable quotes of 1983, I read with some interest each quote. The headline stated, "Notable quotes from '83: Who said them and when."

As I read, I could not help but notice you did not live up to your headline, as there was a name beside each quote except the one in reference to Macedonia True Vine Pentecostal Holiness Church of God Inc. If you were not going to name the person who made the quote, you should have kept the quote out. Why did you fail to name the person?

It appears that you and the unnamed person are in some kind of scheme to discredit the house of God. God is not like "editors" of the Chronicle -- He does no on-sided business.

The Bible states you only have to have faith the size of a mustard seed. Faith in God can do anything. Jim Bakker operates on faith, and dirty, low-down papers such as yours tried to discredit him, but look where Heritage Village is going.

Robert Schuller operates on faith; he believes in God. It is ironic that you are publishing a newspaper with no faith. R.J. Reynolds built an empire on faith and he had very little capital. It is a locally based firm. Search out the story behind that.

If you are not going to print truths, print nothing, since you are determined to shield the person that made the statement. Don't print anything if your source is such a coward, and you are a bigger one than he is.

I am not a member of Macedonia; however, I admire what they have done and I admire the leader. I took it upon myself to write this and I am taking it upon myself to discredit the Chronicle whenever and however I can.

Sally K. Edmondson
Winston-Salem

Thanks for article

To The Editor:

(This letter was addressed to Staff Writer Audrey L. Williams.) Thanks for that fantastic spread on "Working Women" and the Women in Non-Traditional Jobs Training Program (Jan. 19 issue).

We have received many favorable comments, and even a request to do an interior house painting job.

Please convey our compliments to your photographer. The pictures were great!

G. Jimmie Sudler
Project Director

Women in Non-Traditional Jobs

More thanks...

To The Editor:

I have heard it said on many occasions: "If you want to know what's going on in the community, read the Chronicle." We take great pride in attesting that we are true believers.

The tremendous community response generated by the excellent coverage given our Women In Non-Traditional Jobs Program (Jan. 19 issue) has not only enhanced the visibility of the Urban League but has established the Chronicle as a true supporter of human betterment and a positive voice for the community.

We are sincerely grateful to you and your talented staff for such an in feature of our program and services. The pictures were wonderful and complemented the story perfectly. Please offer our special thanks to the photographer.

Thomas J. Elijah Jr., President
Winston-Salem Urban League