

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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## The runoff

- Coke or Pepsi?
- Kodak or Polaroid?
- Parkay or butter?
- Edmisten or Knox?

The most discernible difference between state Attorney General Rufus Edmisten and former Charlotte Mayor Eddie Knox is that they don't look the same.

Otherwise, the two men are similar enough in their stances that even their tendency to veer into one another's direction as their June 5 Democratic primary runoff approaches seems to have little effect.

Both men have garnered enough black support locally -- the enthusiasm of which, as we have said before, is a wonder to behold -- and have made overtures to one black organization after another in the quest for endorsements.

In fact, their support is so strong within such organizations as the Black Leadership Roundtable Coalition, that it has threatened to tear the two-year-old black political juggernaut asunder.

And it is so similarly present within the Baptist Ministers Conference And Associates that the local council of black clergymen has declined to make an endorsement either way, though it heard personal presentations from both recently.

One of our city's black leaders has described Knox and Edmisten as "Twiddle-dee and Twiddle-dum," which may be an insightful, if somewhat facetious, way of looking at things.

Both are ambivalent on the issue of the primary runoff and lack the forthrightness on "black" issues that Tom Gilmore, our choice in the first primary, was courageous enough to display.

Both favor the death penalty, which, in our eyes, is a feather in neither's cap.

Both favor raises for public school teachers.

Both say they support the Equal Rights Amendment.

Both say their records in affirmative action have been sterling (we think "adequate" would be a better adjective.)

Both have rickety political skeletons in their closets.

Both have been calculatedly cryptic in much of their campaign rhetoric.

But both at least appear to be improvements over Gov. Jim Hunt, a master navigator who sails in whatever direction the political winds dictate.

And both definitely are superior choices to Republican nominee Jim Martin.

However, in a race that will be too close to call, we give our nod to Eddie Knox, though neither candidate excites us overly.

Knox has proven his ability to lead as the mayor of the state's largest city.

He also knows the workings of state government as a former state senator.

We are encouraged by his co-sponsorship of the Equal Rights Amendment while a state senator, his enactment of a fair-housing ordinance in Charlotte, the increased levels of black and female appointments to government positions during his mayoral tenure (though not all the credit goes solely to him) and his diverse base of support.

Knox also has progressive ideas on criminal justice and can point to his tenure as chairman of the Commission on Correctional Programs to back them up.

Clearly, the black community and North Carolina as a whole have a tough decision to make. We solved the dilemma by looking a bit closer at the men and the issues. We encourage you to do the same.

## Crosswinds

### The American opiate

From The Carolinian.

We note that the evils of our society are usually attributed to the powerless, regardless of who is involved.

Usually when there is any type of movement or turmoil in our midst, if it involves white and black faces at odds, inevitably, the black faces are at fault.

We have yet to see or hear non-white interests charged with responsibility for their ill behavior:

Slavery was not the fault of the slave dealers and owners. It was a product of the times and a logical economic occurrence.

Slavery uprisings were the result of the misguided efforts of insurrectionists.

Jim Crow was the logical attempt by the non-black elements in the Southern setting to reassert themselves. It was also a political deal worked out with an aspiring presidential candidate.

Institutional segregation in our society was the legitimate phenomenon of an ignorant society.

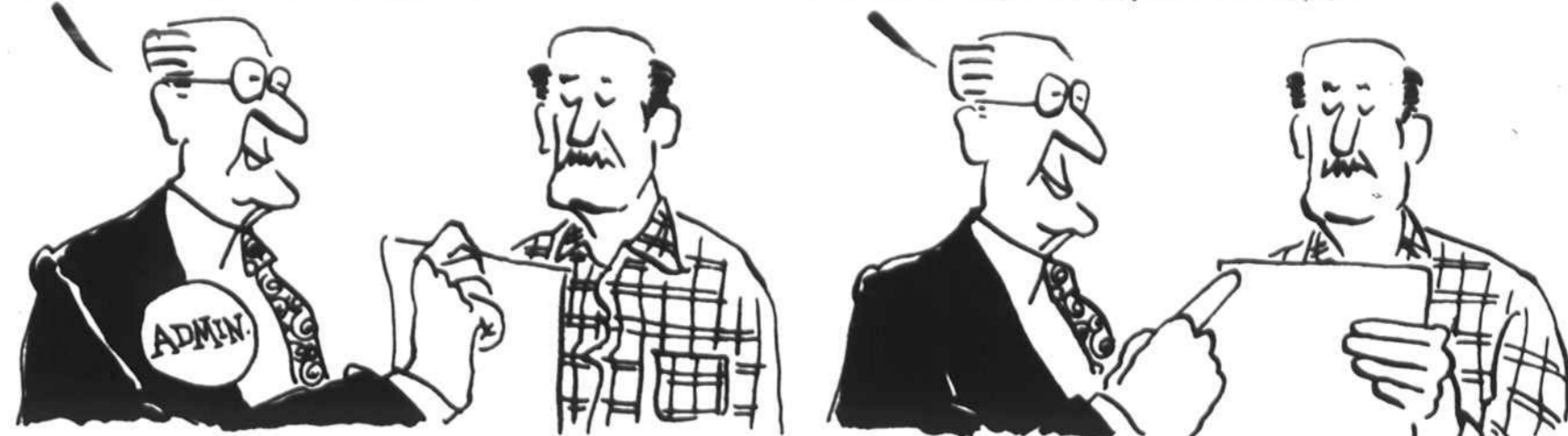
"White flight" and resegregation are the natural results of racial quotas and busing.

In other words, everything which transpires due to a racial causation is understandable and acceptable as being logical and normal.

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WE'VE GOT A PLAN TO REDUCE TEENAGE UNEMPLOYMENT --

LOWER THE MINIMUM WAGE FOR THEM DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS



WON'T THIS LOWER OTHER WAGES AND WEAKEN THE UNIONS?

IF IT DOES, WE CAN ALWAYS EXTEND IT



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## A message to the graduates of 1984

By CLIFTON GRAVES  
Chronicle Columnist

*(The following is dedicated to all those graduating from high school, college, or professional schools this commencement season.)*

*We need you, Class of 1984, to help us out of the mess in which we find ourselves ... show us how to extricate ourselves from Central America ... show us how to end support for racist apartheid South Africa ... show us how to vote for the man, and not the race of the man ...*

*-- Maya Angelou, author, entertainer and educator, speaking to graduating class of Winston-Salem State University*

*Class of 1984, I, at once, envy and fear for you negative and positive propaganda ... You must study history and work to make sure that mistakes of the past are not repeated in the future ... Seek truth, and not what others convey as truth ...*

*-- Bill Moyers, journalist and television commentator, speaking to the graduating class of Wake Forest University*

The speeches from which the above quotes were excerpted were, without a doubt, two of the best commencement addresses I have ever listened to. I emphasize "listened to" because, like most graduates, I scarcely remember neither the speakers nor topics -- at my high school, college or law school commencement exercises.



Clifton Graves

In any event, the changes presented and the challenges issued by the distinguished Sister Maya and the astute Mr. Moyers to the graduates of WSSU and Wake Forest, respectively, were changes and challenges so appropriate--imperative for young men and women leaving the ivory towers of academia in this most critical year of 1984.

Yes, as the dynamic Maya so boldly and correctly asserted, we do need you -- high school, college and professional school grads -- to help America out of this "mess in which we find ourselves." We need you to

help us to overcome the quagmire of "isms" -- racism, sexism, commercialism, imperialism, militarism -- which separately and collectively are stifling creativity, growth, progress and development in this land and on this planet.

Yes, Class of 1984, it is your task, indeed, your solemn duty, to challenge, comfort, and correct the lies, distortions and "negative propaganda" which permeate this society.

Yes, challenge those who tell you that "communism," not economic exploitation, is the root cause of unrest in Central America.

Challenge those who tell you that spending billions of what will soon be your tax dollars for MX missiles and nuclear military space stations will somehow make you more secure in East Winston.

Challenge those who assert that capital punishment (state-sponsored murder) is a deterrent to crime.

Challenge those who lie and tell you that South Africa is making "progress" in race relations, and that U.S. corporations in South Africa are benefiting the majority-black populace.

Challenge those who teach you that black children can't be taught, and Please see page A5

## An uncivil Civil Rights Commission

By DR. MANNING MARABLE  
Guest Columnist

Nearly three decades ago, the Civil Rights Commission was created to study prejudice and discrimination "on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, and physical handicap."

Its goal was to serve as the moral and political conscience of the nation, to suggest the steps essential in the construction of a non-racist and democratic society. It had no legislative power, but both Congress and the president had to come to terms with its findings. Even when headed by Republican chairmen, the commission was an effective instrument in the struggle for equality.

It has now been five months since the Reagan administration succeeded in uprooting most of its liberal opponents from the commission. In effect, through his own appointment powers and through Republican congressional appointments, a solid majority of Reaganites of both parties dominates the commission. The leading black participant in this "sell-out" of social justice is Clarence M. Pendleton, the commission's chairman.

It would be unfair to describe Pendleton as a modern version of Booker T. Washington, the architect of the infamous 1895 "Atlanta Compromise," which embraced separate-but-equal laws. This would be an insult to Washington, who despite his accommodationist rhetoric built two great institutions, Tuskegee Institute and the National Negro Business League. A new epithet must be created to represent Pendleton's sleazy brand of neo-Uncle Tomism.

Since January, there have been a series of devastating decisions by the "Uncivil Rights Commission." On January 16, the commission voted 6-2 to denounce the use of numerical quotas for promoting blacks from

racism and reaction have been opened wide. The commission has strongly hinted that it would repudiate its historic commitment to busing as one of several means to desegregate public schools. It has authorized a study of the "adverse impact" of affirmative action programs on whites of southern and eastern European descent. On March 27, the commission recommended that the Congress allow the government to penalize an entire

sergeant to lieutenant by the Detroit Police Department. Reversing the rulings of the old panel, which had endorsed the use of racial quotas as a "last resort" in attacking racism, the new commission urged the Supreme Court to strike down all racial quotas.

The six Reaganite members declared: "Such racial preferences merely constitute another form of unjustified discrimination, (and) create a new class of victims." In short, white officers, many of whom had been advanced in rank over more-qualified blacks, now comprised a poor, defenseless "class of victims."

Since this ruling, the floodgates of institution when only part of that institution is guilty of discrimination. In theory, the position seemingly asserted a tougher position on civil rights.

But as dissident Commissioner Mary Frances Berry put it, there were so many restrictions written into the resolution that it was like throwing "red meat to the wolves" who want to terminate all civil rights enforcement. Finally, to muzzle the progressive work of the 50 state advisory committees on civil rights, the commission voted to control the publication and distribution of the state committees' reports.

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WALTER MONDALE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TROUBLE HE'S IN --

FIRST, WE ATTACKED HIM FROM THE LEFT -- THEN, WE ATTACKED HIM FROM THE RIGHT

WE USED TO BE AHEAD OF HIM, AND NOW WE'RE WAY BEHIND HIM

WE'VE GOT HIM PRACTICALLY SURROUNDED



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## Chronicle Letters

### Tom Gilmore endorses Knox

To The Editor

As a former candidate for governor in the May 8 Democratic Primary, I want to share with everyone why I am convinced that Eddie Knox is a better candidate for governor than Rufus Edmisten.

As I promised to do on election night, I met with both remaining candidates and discussed with them the major policy issues confronting this state. In addition, I observed them closely during the four televised debates. I am now firmly convinced that Eddie Knox stands head and shoulders over the attorney general.

Eddie Knox is running a concrete, issue-oriented campaign, which is a credit to our electoral process. Among the many issues which I find we agree upon are opening the state's major commissions and Council of State meetings to the public, creating a workable system to increase funding for education, and protecting our environment through establishment of tough toxic wastes management programs and the vitally important right-to-know laws, which will disclose to all North Carolina citizens when they are coming in contact with hazardous materials in their workites and neighborhoods.

Even when we disagreed on an issue during the first primary, I always found Eddie Knox willing to clearly explain his stands. This is in sharp contrast with his opponent's campaign, which seems to be based on the use of his public office and staff as a political platform.

Eddie Knox is clearly the man with the proven leadership to be entrusted with the important office of governor. I sincerely urge all North Carolina citizens to join with me on June 5 and vote for Eddie Knox.

Tom Gilmore  
Julian, N.C.

### More Knox

To The Editor:

I have read a great deal in the past few days about Eddie Knox going on the offensive against Rufus Edmisten. I have also heard candidate Edmisten accuse his opponent of taking the low road while claiming that he is taking the high road. I cannot accept that.

Mr. Edmisten would have the voters believe that he is not to be held accountable for his past, and that any mention of his criminal record or his failures in office is slinging mud. We have a right to know these things.

Mr. Edmisten will not debate the issues on television where we could all decide for ourselves which candidate to follow. He will not answer reporters' questions but is being shielded by his public relations people. He is limiting his public appearances to "friendly audiences" and yet he is accusing his opponent of avoiding the issues in the campaign. Incredible.

I cannot believe that the voters of North Carolina will stand for these evasive tactics from Rufus Edmisten. I am one voter who is thankful for Eddie Knox's efforts to put the facts on the table for all of us to see.

Allen C. Brotherton  
Stanley, N.C.