

Winston-Salem Chronicle

Founded 1974

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OUR OPINION



Williams-Henry Burke Hairston Womble

The aldermanic races

THERE HAVE BEEN few dull moments in the Northeast Ward aldermanic race, where two strong-willed, hard-working candidates have pounded the pavement, and sometimes one another, since early summer.

Vivian H. Burke, the seasoned incumbent, and Victor H. Johnson, the high-spirited challenger, give voters an appealing, if difficult, choice: two individuals who both clearly have the credentials to make a difference in City Hall.

Johnson is a worthy opponent who isn't afraid to lock horns with an entrenched incumbent. He says he can provide "innovative, creative leadership," and he probably can. He has focussed his campaign on employment, especially among youth, the alarming crime rate in the black community, and what he feels should be a much greater commitment by the city to provide better housing. Johnson also proposes an "economic summit conference" involving city and county leaders to more effectively chart the futures of both Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

Johnson has worked tirelessly with black youth in the city, quietly making inroads in such endeavors as voter-registration drives.

Mrs. Burke likes to point to her track record as an alderman, and if we were her, we would, too. She is chairman of the board's Public Safety Committee, and she has a reputation for looking out for her constituents.

The aldermen have made marked progress in the areas of housing, jobs, public safety and human relations, says Mrs. Burke, though much work remains to be done.

For her part, she introduced the city's Minority/Women Business Enterprise plan as a resolution on the board, introduced the city's affirmative action plan and has spearheaded a number of physical improvements in her ward, both in housing and in recreational facilities.

Mrs. Burke also has prodded the city manager to investigate the police department's handling of the Darryl Hunt case, and prodded him again when she felt he might be dragging his feet.

More importantly, Mrs. Burke seems to firmly understand the concept of "we" on the Board of Aldermen when discussing the city's progress and problems.

She knows the inner workings of the board and the give and take required to get something done.

Bearing Mrs. Burke's experience in mind, we support her for alderman in a race in which it is unfortunate that there must be a loser. Johnson would be a clear choice in other races during other years.

Mrs. Burke, however, has earned the right to finish many of the projects she and the current aldermen have begun.

Elsewhere, the tussle for the North Ward seat that had been incumbent Larry Little's for the asking is like a driver's license exam line at lunchtime.

Since Little chose law school over another aldermanic term, would-be successors have surfaced from all over the place. Some are fairly frivolous in their bids -- or ought to be -- while others are serious candidates with well-thought-out programs for action.

In the Democratic primary, we support Patrick Hairston because of his long-standing commitment to positive change in the community and his knowledge of how the aldermen work.

Hairston has been an unofficial alderman for years already as NAACP president; he merely has not had the official title or a vote.

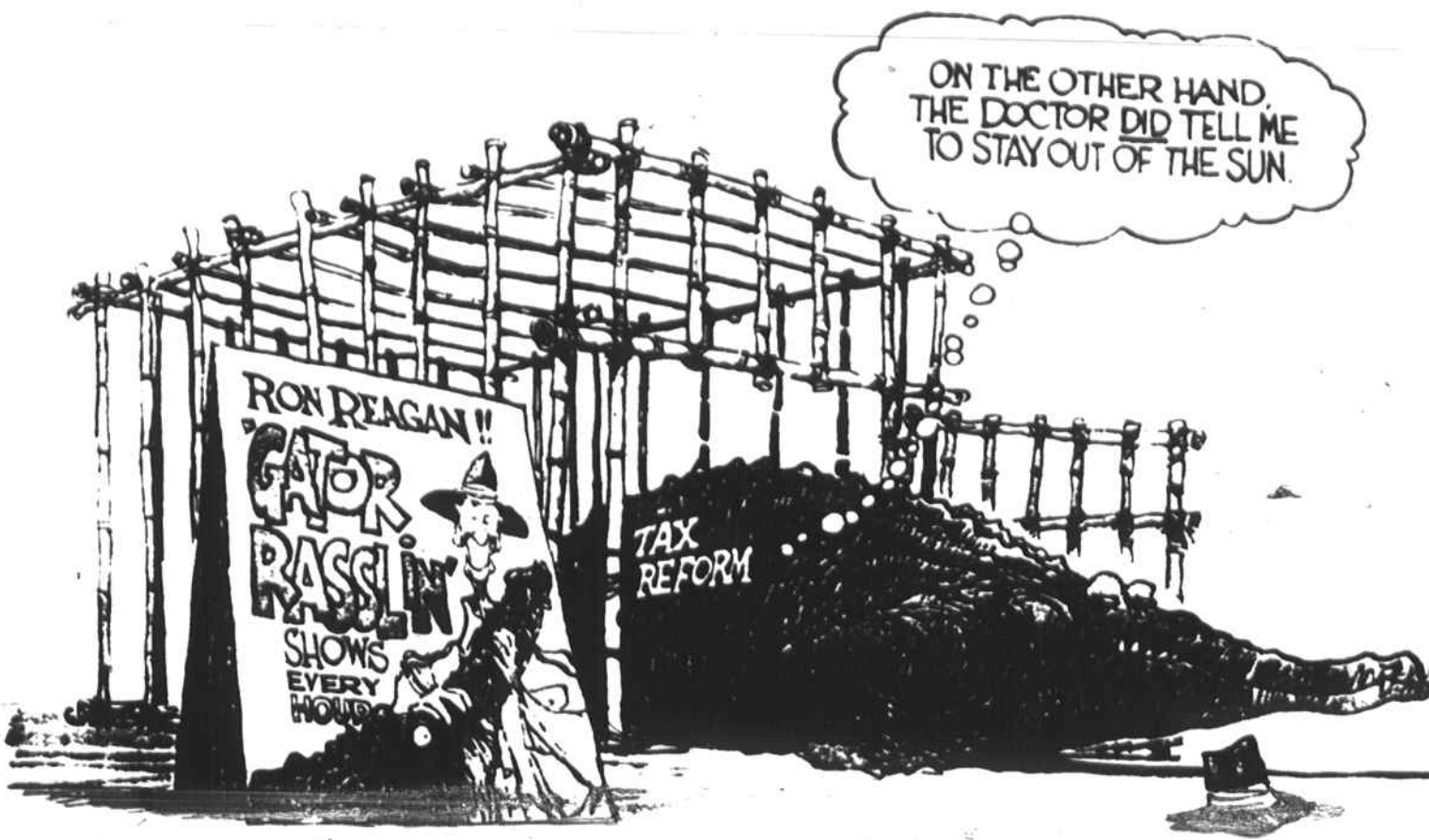
Among the other Democrats in the North Ward, Ghuneem Furqan impresses us with his refreshing ideas and sometimes shocking candor. The cornerstone of his ideas is self-help for blacks, and we like that. We are encouraged that he has sought political office, and we hope he will run again in the future.

Eugene Bailey has encouraging idealism but also seems politically naive. Bailey, who characterizes himself as a "sleeping giant" in the North Ward, needs more seasoning before he wakes.

In the Republican primary, we endorse Diana Williams-Henry. A self-proclaimed "liberal Republican," Williams-Henry says she "can't be controlled by any one group" and is intelligent, articulate and well-versed on the issues.

Among the planks in her platform are "opportunity
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MAXIMIZING THE POTENTIAL



Farrakhan's appeal to Black America

NEW YORK -- Minister Louis Farrakhan told 10,000 people at a Washington, D.C., rally recently that two Jewish leaders had appeared on my TV program and said something had to be done about him.

"What is it that you intend to do?" Farrakhan is reported to have asked.

His challenge to Jewish leaders and their problems with him need to be put in context, or you might say, out of the context of the black community's agenda.

Farrakhan's views and Farrakhan's relationship with Jews -- or any other prominent black person's views -- cannot be allowed to dominate the black community's agenda.

The search for a cure to the economic and social ills of African-Americans must instead be of primary importance. But the strategy of the major Jewish organizations seems to be to get black people to make Farrakhan a priority.

How would blacks handle Farrakhan -- even if they repudiated him? Stop him from speaking, keep him out of the *Washington Post* (a white-owned paper that gives enormous coverage to his activities) or off of the TV networks that find him a convenient ratings object?

If White America's establishment can't stop Farrakhan and continues to report his every word, what do the Jewish leaders

ment.
TONY BROWN
Syndicated Columnist

think blacks can do?

I explained to the two Jewish leaders on my program that Farrakhan's primary attraction to

ment.

Farrakhan is not leading any broad-based anti-Jewish movement among blacks. The African-American community is not anti-Semitic and does not embrace philosophies of hatred. Blacks are, by nature and culture,



Farrakhan at Winston-Salem State (photo by Art Blue).

those he draws to his speeches is based neither on his version of Islam nor his views of Jews, Israel or the Middle East, but on his emphasis on self-help and economic development.

A week later, a lengthy article in the *Washington Post* reported on interviews with a variety of non-Muslim supporters at Farrakhan's rally and found that their interests were primarily in the area of economic develop-

ment.

Blacks are even tolerant of white racism. Few other groups in America would have remained loyal to a country that treated them as America has treated African-Americans. This is a lesson that many Jewish leaders obviously have not learned.

And they make a mistake in goading their black friends. Twelve major national Jewish
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Vivian Burke: No pussyfooting around

To The Editor:

As a community leader, a retired teacher of 42 years and a citizen of Winston-Salem, I have had the privilege of witnessing and reading of the acts of many city aldermen, both white and black.

Alderman Vivian Burke of the Northeast Ward has accomplished more to help all of Winston-Salem than any other alderman has done in 10 to 12 years.

Do you know why? Because she does not "pussyfoot" around. She is not afraid to speak out for what is right. If we had just 50 more people in certain positions in this city willing to speak up and not afraid to do it, we would have a fine city and be proud to say we believe in the best for everyone.

I am not in Mrs. Burke's ward, but I am asking every person in the Northeast Ward to let us have her back again, and again, as alderman.

Alderman Burke's concern for better housing runs deep.

She has organized the Northeast Neighborhood Council, making the area eligible for Community Development funds.

She also has worked closely with the Housing Authority staff to modernize the Piedmont Park Housing complex.

Alderman Burke had worked diligently to open up opportunities for minorities and women and to get an affirmative action program that will set a good example for the private sector.

She introduced the resolution

CHRONICLE MAILBAG

Our Readers Speak Out

for the Minority Business Enterprise/Women's Business Enterprise program, adopted by the Board of Aldermen in July 1983.

Alderman Burke has furthered her education in areas to better protect the interests of our youth. Starting as a teacher, she saw that our youth needed guidance for

recreation facility on Carver School Road.

• The development and renaming of Northampton Park in honor of the Rev. William R. Crawford.

• The renaming of East Winston Park as Rupert W. Bell Park. This park also received a brand



the world that they would encounter after high school. Alderman Burke now serves as a middle school guidance counselor. Even after school hours, for no pay, Burke has worked for the best for our youth.

Among Mrs. Burke's other accomplishments:

• The installation of new physical fitness and playground equipment at Bowen Boulevard Park.

• Tennis courts and lights in the Carver School area.
• The acquisition of \$640,000 to purchase the land and to erect a

new recreation center and parking lot.

Please vote Sept. 24 for Mrs. Burke.

Orressa H. Hauser
Winston-Salem

Thanks From The Y

To The Editor:

This is just a note to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for your comments made in
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CHILDWATCH

Teen pregnancy costs all of us

By MARIAN W. EDELMAN
Syndicated Columnist

WASHINGTON -- Teen pregnancy costs all of us -- sometimes in ways we don't realize.

First, there are the known social costs. Children who have children often end up dropping out of school, only to face joblessness and a higher risk of living in poverty. In the black community in particular, we know that high rates of teen parenthood are damaging the social fabric.

But, whether we realize it or not, teen pregnancy costs all of us in another way: in our pocketbooks. The families and friends of teen parents know this because they often must pay many of the medical and other costs of too-early parenthood. The rest of us pay in a less direct way -- through tax dollars that support the government-provided services that young people often need if they have children before they are ready.

There are no formal estimates of the national cost of teen pregnancy, but it clearly amounts to billions of dollars each year.

Take the state of Illinois, for example. A new, first-of-its-kind study prepared at Northwestern University has found that "teenage pregnancy and its associated problems cost the citizens of Illinois an estimated \$853 million annually." Each Illinois household is paying an average of \$202 a year through higher taxes, individual cost outlays and higher costs passed along by business.

This money pays for such essential teen-pregnancy items as deliveries, newborn care and medical attention for infants, and income supports, Medicaid and day-care services for teen mothers. The report does not even attempt to tally the longer-term social costs, such as unemployment and poverty.

Two sectors in Illinois are bearing a disproportionately heavy cost burden, according to the report. The first is the state's poor families. Although the government bears some of the costs of teen pregnancy among impoverished Americans, poor families must somehow scrape up the money to pay for what government does not provide -- for example, virtually all of the \$151 million spent supporting children who are not covered by income-support programs.

Second, Illinois businesses pay \$154 million a year, primarily through the portion of their state and federal taxes which goes toward the programs that provide teen pregnancy-related services.

The estimate would be even higher, the study points out, if other costs, such as absenteeism and employee training, were added.

Despite the huge price they're paying because of teen pregnancy, the report notes, Illinois citizens are not spending very much to prevent it: The state allocates only \$22 million a year to family-life education and family-planning programs.

It is time the state of Illinois -- and the rest of this nation -- stopped being penny-wise and pound-foolish about teen pregnancy. Our challenge is to persuade our fellow citizens that, if we all invest time, energy and dollars in trying to solve the teen-pregnancy problem today, we all can save many more dollars in the future. Our pocketbooks would be better off -- and so would our society.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for youth.