

THE FORUM

More opinions,
columns and features.

N.Y. dailies: A rock and hard place

The writer is a syndicated columnist.

NEW YORK -- In a situation that is not unique, New Yorkers find themselves between a rock and a hard place as they buy their newspapers each day.

They can either buy the *New York Post*, which recently bought tons of newsprint from South Africa, or they can buy the *New*

THE GUEST COLUMN

By CHARLES E. COBB

Times, has little local news and was itself successfully sued by black employees at the paper in a discrimination suit.

First to the *New York Post*. This paper is owned by the right-wing Australian publisher Rupert Murdoch. Murdoch recently

The arrogance of the purchase didn't surprise blacks and other minorities in New York. The racist reporting, and editorial positions of the *Post* are well known to most concerned New Yorkers.

And don't even mention the *Post's* hiring policy -- it's atrocious. No black person is employed at the management level. And for years, since Murdoch bought the paper, the *Post* didn't even have a black reporter on its staff.

Now, in a major departure, it has one, lone black reporter in its city room. That's one out of a full-time professional staff of approximately 125. Mind you, this is a major daily newspaper in a city that is 50 percent black and Hispanic.

Then there's the *Daily News*. A federal discrimination suit filed against the paper by black employees in 1980 will finally come to trial next July.

"When black folks in Baltimore got tired of the racist editorial and employment practices at the *Baltimore Sun*, they knew what to do -- they boycotted the paper. Within three days the paper sat down with black leaders and agreed to substantive concessions. Folks in Detroit and in Newark have followed the same course of action. They simply relied on the electronic media and their local black newspapers during the boycott."

York Daily News, which has come under new charges of discriminatory employment practices.

bought 30,000 metric tons of newsprint from a South African company just one day, incidentally, after he officially became an American citizen.

The third daily, *The New York*



Over the past year, the *News* has hired approximately 40 new professional staffers; only one of these 40 was black. To add insult to injury, a number of award-winning black veteran reporters has applied to the *News* and been rejected.

The *News* says its decisions about assignments or promotions are protected by the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of the press.

Black *Daily News* reporter David Hardy, a leader of the black plaintiffs and chairman of

the Newspaper Guild's City-Wide Human Rights Committee, offers this retort: "What the *Daily News* is really saying is that they have a right to discriminate ... and this is coming from a paper which is largely supported by blacks in the city, through sales and advertising dollars."

Certainly the *Daily News*, like the *Post* has taken its "right" to discriminate to heart. There is no black at a management level at the *News*. In fact, out of a total professional staff of 350, only 15 are black.

According to an article on the subject in the trade journal, *Editor and Publisher*, the *Daily News* admitted that "there have been certain instances in which white persons were selected for such (management) positions when there were non-whites who may have had more seniority or longer experience or more educational background."

So much for Clarence Pendleton and Edwin Meese's suggestions that we shelve all minority hiring goals and simply

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Winston-Salem Chronicle

An independent, locally owned newspaper

NEWSROOM: Robin Barksdale, community news editor; Karen Hannah, typist; Yvonne Bichsel Truhon, copy editor; L.A.A. Williams.

SPORTS: David Bulla, sports editor.

PHOTOGRAPHY: James Parker, photo editor; Art Blue, Joe Daniels.

ADVERTISING: Julie Perry, advertising manager; Art Blue.

OFFICE STAFF: Barbara Mills, Fernice Wardlaw, Verisia West.

PRODUCTION: Vinson Dewberry, production manager; Tim Butner, Micheal Lyles, Yvonne Bichsel Truhon.

CIRCULATION: Veronica Guions, Harry McCants, Frank McCants, Blandelia McMoore, Angela Ross.

Visions of Sugar Ditch replace visions of sugar plums

By The Associated Press

TUNICA, Miss. -- Eleven-year-old Lena Simmons lives in the bleakest slum in the poorest state in the nation, but still she dreams of Christmas magic and Cabbage Patch Kids.

"I want a black doll, a girl," she said last week, standing on the broken steps of the three-room shack where she lives with her mother and seven brothers and sisters.

Pulling a worn advertisement from her pocket, she pointed to a

doll with its arms spread for a hug.

"That one," she whispered. Lena lives in Sugar Ditch, a neighborhood of black people that is named for a stinking drainage ditch.

Gifts of food, clothes and toys trickling into Tunica County from around the country made Christmas at Sugar Ditch a bit brighter this year, but Lena's mother said days before that it would fall short of abundant.

"We'll probably take a chicken and make dressing," said Jearlean Simmons, a 35-year-old

welfare mother who had her first child at 15.

For gifts, she said, the family must depend on the charity of others.

Sugar Ditch is populated largely by former laborers who lived on area farms. "If they get too old or too sick, the man would tell you to get off his place," Mrs. Simmons said.

Although government assistance is the primary source of income for the 9,400 residents of the county, which is 73 percent black, there is no subsidized housing.

"There's just sort of an economic vacuum," said James Cobb, a history professor at the University of Mississippi.

In 1981, the most recent year from which statistics are available, Mississippi ranked lowest in the nation in per capita income, and Tunica County has the state's lowest median family income at \$7,685 a year. For black families it's \$6,014.

In July, the Rev. Jesse Jackson took reporters to Sugar Ditch.

After Jackson's visit, state and local officials said 17 house

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EAST WINSTON

1. Model Pharmacy
2. Pic'N'Pay (Claremont)
3. Laundry Center (Claremont)
4. Brown's Beauty
5. Etna Gas
6. Great American Foods
7. Smith Cleaners
8. Reynolds Health Center
9. Sunrise Towers

NORTHEAST

10. Merita Breadbox
11. Record Boutique
12. Minit Market (13th & Liberty)
13. Salem Seafood
14. Fairview Cleaners
15. Silver Front Cleaners

OGBURN STATION

34. Laundry Center (Old Rural Hall Rd.)
35. Paragon Food Center

NORTHWEST

36. Etna Gas
37. N.W. Blvd. Pantry
38. Hazel's Beauty
39. Real Food Bakery
40. Ray's Fish
41. Joe's Shop Rite (Patterson)
42. Great American Foods
43. A Cleaner World
44. Brown's Produce
45. Ervin's Beauty
46. Bojangles

SOUTHSIDE

66. Paw's Grocery
67. Amoco (Fourth & Broad)
68. Hop-In (First St.)
69. Food Fair (First St.)
70. Baptist Hospital
71. Amoco (Cloverdale)
72. Kroger
73. Hop-In (Stratford Rd.)
74. Papers & Paperbacks (Hanes Mall)
75. Crown Drugs (Hanes Mall)
76. Forsyth Hospital
77. Rainbow News
78. Crown Drugs (Peters Creek)

The Winston-Salem Chronicle is

Closer Than You Think

available at these locations:

16. Gulf Gas
17. Mama Chris
18. Jamal's Grocery
19. Chandler's
20. Westbrook's
21. Minit Market (27th & Liberty)
22. Chick's Drive Inn
23. Mack's Grocery
24. 3 Girls (Northampton)
25. Shop Rite (Northampton)
26. A Cleaner World (Carver Rd.)
27. Carver Food
28. Joe's Shop Rite (Bowen)
29. Garrett's (311)
30. Wilco Gas (311)
31. Garden Harvest
32. Bernard's
33. Jones' Grocery

47. Northside Fish Market
48. Eckerd Drugs
49. 1 Stop Food (Akron Dr.)
50. Food Fair (Patterson Ave. Exit)
51. Motel 6
52. Winn-Dixie
53. Ticked Pink Cleaners (Cherry St.)
54. Food Lion (University Plaza)
55. Fast Fare (Cherry St.)
56. Maytag Laundry (Cherry St.)
57. Forest Hills Curb Market
58. RJR World Headquarters
59. Jimmy the Greek
60. Fast Fare (30th St.)
61. Super X Drugs
62. K&W (Coliseum)
63. Golden Comb
64. Best Bookstore (Reynolda Shop. Ctr.)
65. Mr. T

DOWNTOWN

79. Marketplace
80. Gulf Gas (S. Broad St.)
81. Garden Harvest
82. Post Office (Waughtown Station)
83. Hop-In (Stadium Dr.)
84. Revco Drugs
85. Belview House
86. Gold Fish Bowl
87. Joe's Shop Rite (S. Main)
88. Chronicle Office
89. Lincoln Barber
90. Post Office
91. Benton Convention Center
92. Cecelia's (Hyatt House)
93. Rite-Aid
94. Revco
95. NCNB Building
96. Wachovia (Main St.)
97. RJR Plaza
98. Brown's Restaurant
99. Forsyth Seafood
100. Sanitary Barber Shop

MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The *Winston-Salem Chronicle* invites you to help in the selection of our fourth "Man and Woman of the Year" by filling out the nomination form below and returning it to us by mail at P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102 or in person to the *Chronicle* offices at 617 N. Liberty St.

Recipients will be chosen by the *Chronicle* staff and advisory board and will be judged on the basis of their contributions to the Winston-Salem black community during 1985.

Your nominees (one for "Man of the Year," the other for "Woman of the Year") should be Winston-Salem residents and will be recognized in the Jan. 30 special edition of the *Chronicle* as well as receive commemorative plaques. Please print legibly and be as specific as possible in describing your nominees' accomplishments.

Nominations must be received by the *Chronicle* no later than 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 6.

Woman of the Year
Nominee's Name _____
Nominee's Address _____

Occupation _____

Nominee's activities, memberships, affiliations _____

Please explain briefly why you think this person deserves to be "Woman of the Year" _____

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

Your Phone No.: Home _____ Work _____

Your Signature _____

Man of the Year
Nominee's Name _____
Nominee's Address _____

Occupation _____

Nominee's activities, memberships, affiliations _____

Please explain briefly why you think this person deserves to be "Man of the Year" _____

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

Your Phone No.: Home _____ Work _____

Your Signature _____

Mail Your Form To:

Winston-Salem Chronicle
617 N. Liberty St.
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102
(919) 722-8624