

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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## EDITORIALS

### A positive step

**LANDLORDS LIKE** to blame tenants for substandard housing, but many of their excuses are as flimsy as the structures they rent.

While it is true that some tenants may abuse rental property, owners still should ensure that no one pays to live in housing that is in such disgraceful disrepair that it threatens the occupants' health.

Broken windows should be replaced, holes in floorboards mended, exposed wiring insulated -- with reasonable haste.

A measure passed last week by the city's Human Relations Commission addresses that very problem. If it is approved by the Board of Aldermen, as it is expected to be, the change in the city's housing code would levy a fine of \$100 against landlords whose houses or apartments are determined to be unfit and an additional \$10 for each day the housing remains unfit.

The original proposal, presented weeks ago amid cries of foul from landlords, was that tenants be allowed to withhold rents from landlords who fail to make needed repairs. But that proposal presented legal problems, so the latest measure represents a fair but tough compromise.

Under the new proposal, a housing inspector would inform the landlord if one of his or her properties is found to be unfit for human habitation, detailing what is wrong and when a hearing will be held to resolve the matter.

If, at the time of the hearing, the repairs have not been made, the landlord would be given no more than 30 days to make them.

If, at that point, the repairs still haven't been made, the landlord would be fined.

Built into the amendment are provisions that protect both the rights of the landlord and the tenant.

If, for instance, the hearing officer were to discover that a tenant is damaging the property, the landlord would not be fined.

Also, a disturbing loophole in the original proposal has been eliminated: A tenant can't purposefully damage a house or apartment so he or she can withhold rent.

A *Chronicle* series two years ago on substandard housing revealed a problem even worse than we had imagined. The state of housing for many is embarrassing to the city and insulting to tenants' human dignity.

We are encouraged that the city seems poised to do something positive to change that awful reality.

### The color of success

AMONG THE VISITORS last weekend to the Delta Sigma Theta convention was a man whose name probably won't ring a bell.

But the subject of his book will.

Lonnie Thomas Parker, an AME minister, has co-authored with his wife, Rosalia Goode Parker, "The Official Buppie Handbook."

For the uninitiated, a Buppie is a "Black Urban Professional" -- a soulful incarnation of the Yuppie, if you will.

You may have seen a Buppie drive by in his BMW en route to his contemporary home in the suburbs, making sure he's on schedule with his Rolex watch.

But a Buppie is more than a Yuppie in blackface, the book cautions.

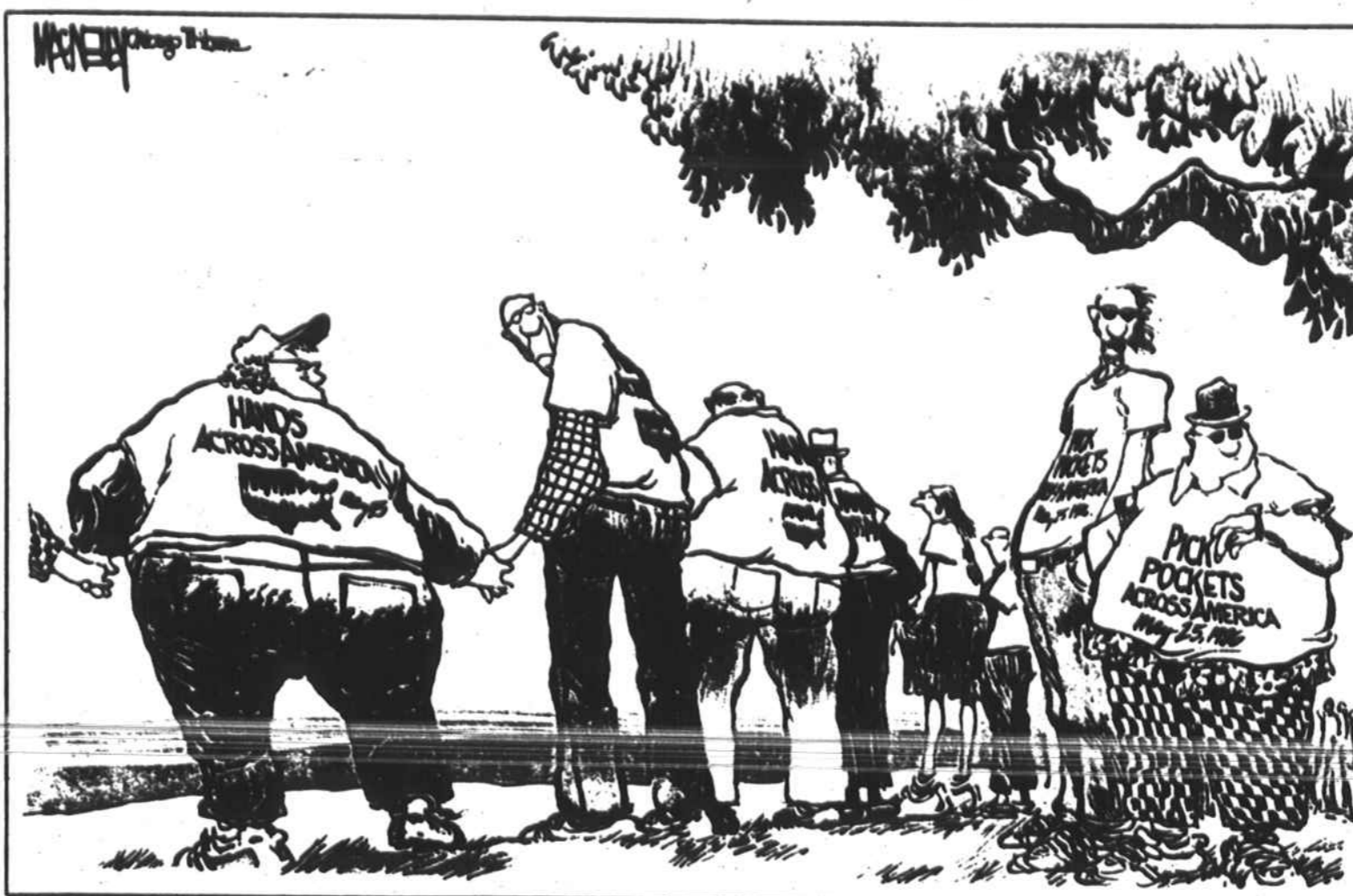
"Buppies do not need white role models," the Parkers say. "Buppies strive out of historical circumstance, not out of a need to imitate whites. They are striving for a better life not as a means to an end, but as a matter of black pride."

What exactly that means we don't know, but we do find the Parkers' handbook an amusing and entertaining chance, as the release says, for Buppies or aspiring Buppies "to take a few moments out from hectic schedules to smile at themselves."

You are a Buppie, the book says, if ...

- "you know a Saab costs as much as a BMW ... but you're stuck on the 'ultimate driving machine.'
- "your kids are enrolled in private schools whose names start with THE ... and/or end in 'DAY SCHOOL' or 'INSTITUTE' or 'ACADEMY.'
- "your daughter's name is Megan, Ashley Blair, Alexis, Jennifer, Mikki, Tiffany ...
- "your snakeskin shoes are real.
- "you actually use the word 'eclectic' in conversation.
- "(if you are single) your 'man' or 'woman' is now called your 'partner.'
- "you give to the United Negro College Fund every year."

You are something called "The Baaad Buppie" if "you  
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### Playing 1-party ball in a 2-party game

**The author is a black Republican who lives in Winston-Salem.**

I would like to make four observations about the May primary election results. First, the black community demonstrated that it has limits beyond which it cannot be pushed. Second, the Democratic Party leadership still does not respect either the black community or its candidates. Third, many black candidates are still ignoring sound campaign management practices and blaming poor turnouts on the electorate. Finally, the black community continues to play one-party ball in a two-party game.

Say what you may about the black electorate; District Attorney's Donald Tisdale's defeat is impressive. Our community may hold its head high anywhere across the state because black voters sent a message on Election Day. The message was, if you depend on our support, you must support us. If, as an elected official, you turn your back on us, we'll turn our backs on you. Many folks have said "We'll remember in November" and then catch amnesia. The best cure for insensitive politicians is retirement, which is precisely what happened to Tisdale.

And now for the bad news ...

One would think that, as loyal as the black electorate has been in supporting the Democratic Party and its candidates, the Democratic party leadership would support black candidates. Well, it did not work out that way.

In an upset, Mazie Woodruff

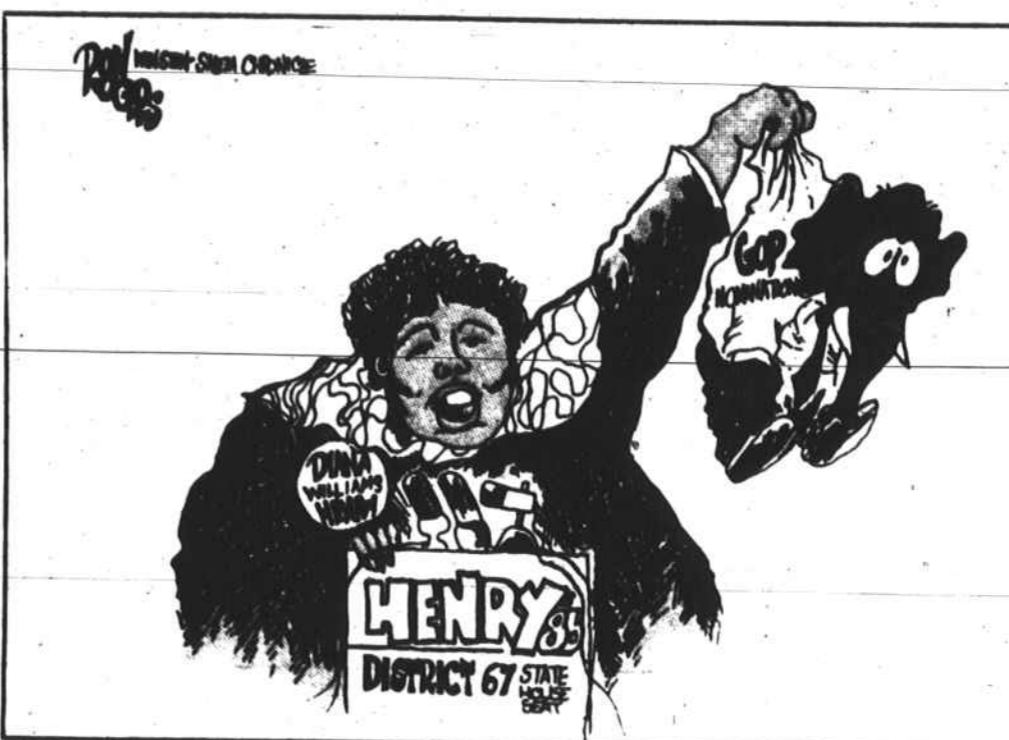
### THE QUEST COLUMN

By VERNON ROBINSON

lost her seat on the Board of County Commissioners. Mrs. Woodruff was not faultless in this defeat (we'll save that for later) but her defeat was ably assisted by the John Holleman crowd, which rode Mazie's bandwagon across East Winston but did not return the favor by helping Mazie win support outside of

necessary to communicate effectively with the black electorate, much less the white electorate. In the absence of an energizing campaign that articulates why voters should come out to vote, the voters -- white, black or yellow -- will either stay at home or vote for someone else.

I believe that Mazie should have been sent back for another term, but can anybody honestly tell me that the black candidates who lost ran solid, well-run cam-



the black community. Holleman 1, Woodruff 0 ... game, set and match.

The Democratic leadership did not sink the Woodruff campaign by itself. It was greatly assisted by the disorganized campaigns of several black candidates. How many telephone calls did you receive from these candidates? How many knocks at the door? How many pieces of mail?

We have to be realistic. These candidates did not do what is

paid? Too many people suffered so that black candidates could get on a primary ballot. We owe it to them to run serious campaigns. I am not supporting any more candidates who are strolling for instead of running for office. The electorate at large will not, either.

The number of people who can play leadership roles in effective campaigns is inexcusably low in our community. Neither party  
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### Angola's opportunistic Uncle Toms

"American support for UNITA means a tightened embrace between Washington and white supremacy."

- Human rights activist and Georgia State Sen. Julian Bond

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. -- Jonas Savimbi and his UNITA rebels must not receive a dime of U.S. tax dollars. Further, progressive-minded people of all hues must look diligently to combat the fierce propaganda campaign being waged by the Reagan administration and the Conservative Political Action Committee to legitimize Savimbi and justify support for UNITA.

For nearly 20 years now, progressive elements in the African-American and Caucasian communities have denounced Jonas Savimbi and UNITA as "Angola's opportunistic Uncle Toms" -- reactionary black nationalists who have exploited American anti-communist sentiment into political mileage and financial backing.

UNITA -- an acronym for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola -- originally was one of the two major liberation/resistance movements evolving from the nearly century-long colonization of Angola by the Portuguese.

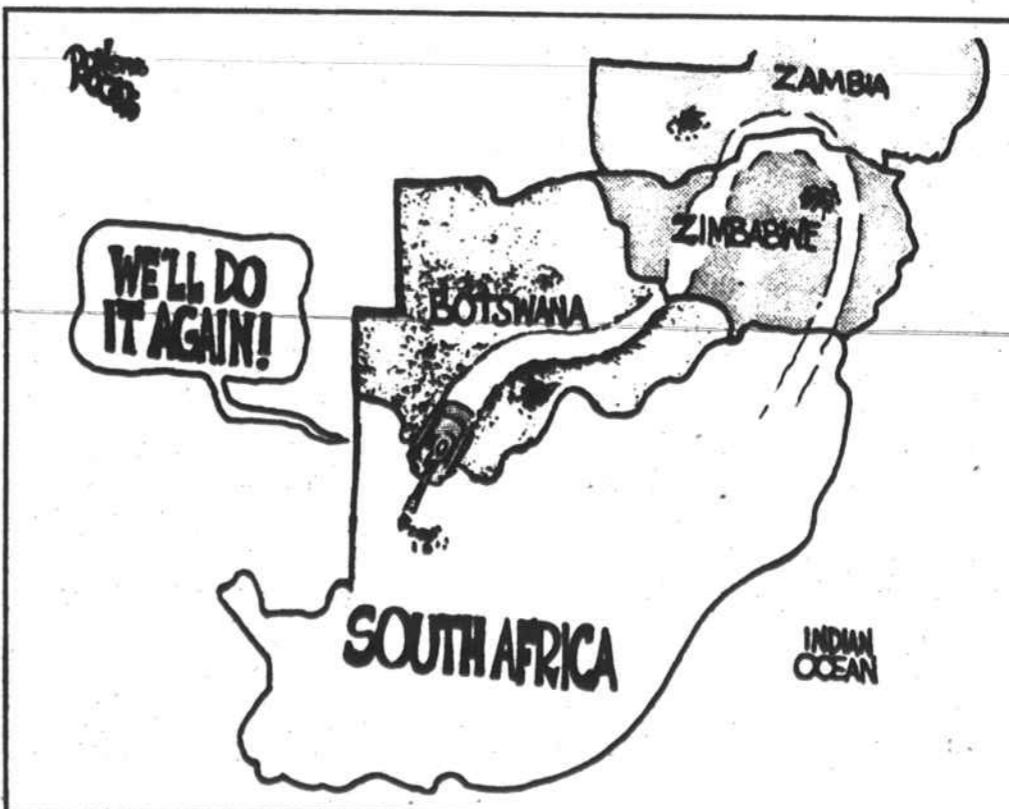
Despite Portuguese intran-

### CLIFTON E. GRAVES JR.

Chronicle Columnist

signance (bolstered by South African, U.S. and Gulf Oil Co. support), the liberation forces finally prevailed in 1975 after

and the urban-based (and currently ruling) MPLA -- the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola -- had



decades of bloody revolution. (I must hasten to add here that the African-American community's successful "Boycott Gulf Oil" campaign contributed tremendously toward informing all Americans of the plight of our Angolan brothers.)

While the rural-based UNITA

worked together in a loosely formed coalition against the common European oppressor, barely had the Portuguese surrendered before UNITA began waging war against the MPLA.

Now, keep in mind that, throughout the long bitter war  
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## CHILDWATCH

### Parents have homework, too

By MARIAN W. EDELMAN  
Syndicated Columnist

WASHINGTON -- All parents want to see their children do the best they can in school. We know that a solid grade record will boost our children's chances of getting into a good college or landing a challenging job.

While much of the task of teaching our children is up to the schools, we parents have an important role to play in after-school hours, encouraging our children to do their homework.

There is nothing new about homework. We can all remember lugging home our arithmetic books. But today's increased pressure on our children to compete in the classroom makes us look at this old tradition in a new way.

Educational experts now tell us that parents of public school children, especially parents of black or Hispanic children, want schools to give more homework assignments to their children. These parents see homework as a no-cost way to better their children's achievement in school.

But our children cannot do it alone. As parents, we can and should help our children get the most learning they can out of doing their homework. Recent research at the University of Illinois suggests that as much as half the improvement in student grades and test scores stems from parent participation in school-related activities, including homework.

Helping your child with homework should not mean playing policeman or tutor, according to *Network: The Paper for Parents*, a monthly educational report published by the National Committee for Citizens in Education. It does mean encouraging your child to tackle homework in a responsible, independent fashion, and watching for any recurring problems. Here are some of this publication's tips for parents:

- Keep an eye on how much time your children spend on their homework. Elementary school children should spend a minimum of one hour a day, and high school students two or more hours a day.
- If your child is spending too many hours on particular assignments, get in touch with the teacher. It is important to prevent your child from developing a negative attitude toward subjects that can be difficult to tackle alone, like math. Help your child feel in control of his or her studies by listening, helping to go over instructions and encouraging short breaks.
- Structure homework into your home life. If both parents are out when homework should begin, set an alarm to remind your child. Try to minimize distractions. Then, most important of all, reward your children after their day in school and after their homework by making sure they get free time to watch television, read, listen to music or play.

Marian Wright Edelman is a National Newspaper Publishers Association columnist who is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for youth.

## ABOUT LETTERS

The *Chronicle* welcomes letters from its readers, as well as columns. Letters should be as concise as possible and typed or printed legibly. They also should include the name, address and telephone number of the writer.

Columns should follow the same guidelines and will be published if we feel they are of interest to our general readership.

Submit your letters and columns to *Chronicle Mailbag*, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27102.