

West: An appalling lack of sensitivity

The writer is alderman of the East Ward.

CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak

To The Editor:

I am appalled at the apparent lack of sensitivity and action on the part of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Board and administration in allowing the alleged overt racism and discrimination to exist at West Forsyth High School. These charges have been and are continuing to be articulated by many minority students attending the school. (Students of West Forsyth High School met with the political candidates at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11, at Reynolds Cafeteria.)

As important as education is in our society, we as taxpayers can ill afford to tolerate any environment that is disrupting and counterproductive to the teaching-learning process. The price is too high -- and the conse-

quences are too grave.

The administration and School Board must hurry before irreparable harm is done to our children and the community.

One candidate for the school board pinpointed the problem in an open meeting. Surely the existing school board members are equally aware.

We as citizens are awaiting the resolution of this serious problem.

Some of us stand ready to assist.

Virginia K. Newell
Winston-Salem

On using others' whims

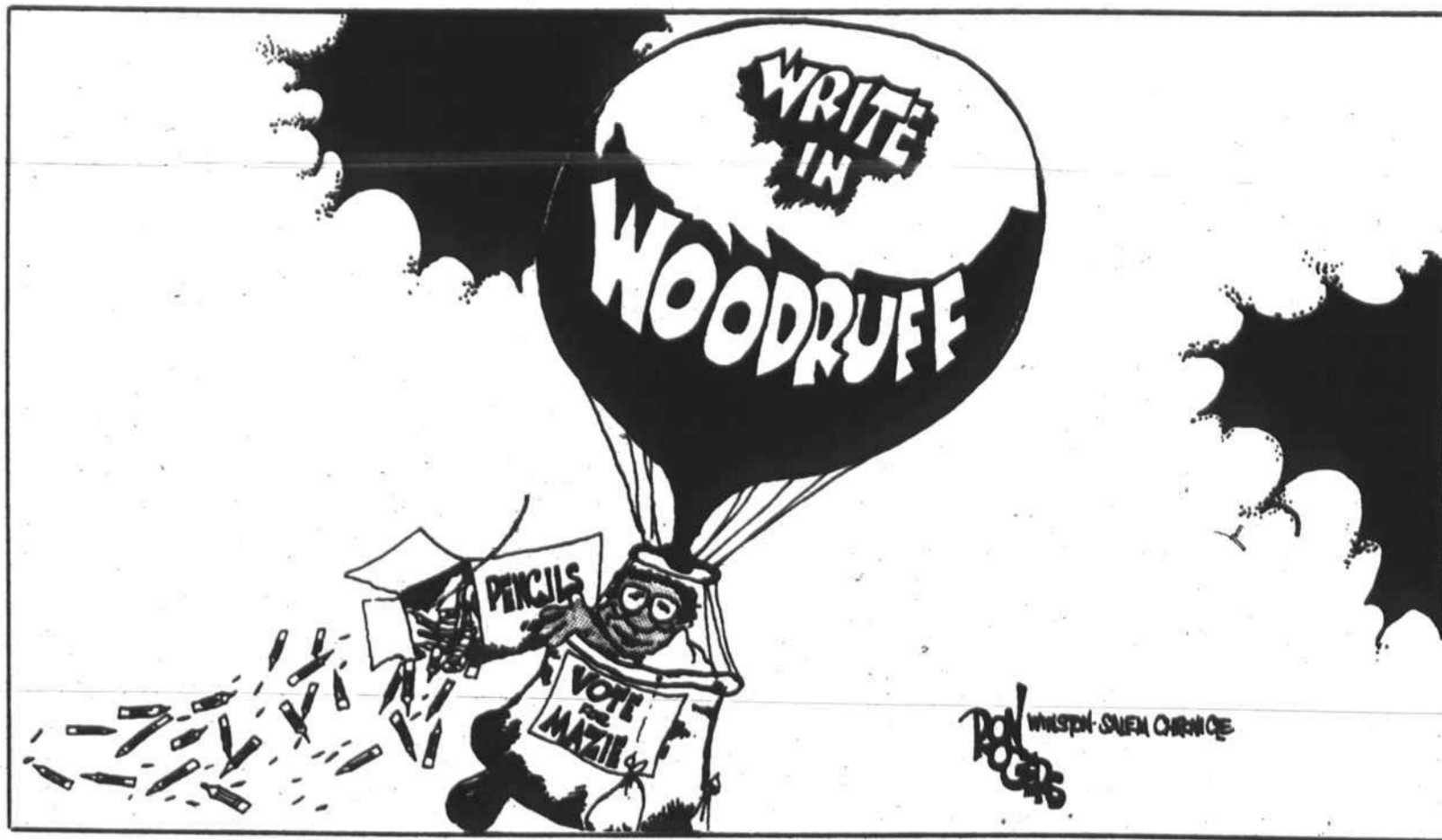
To The Editor:

I would submit to Mrs. Marjorie Gregory that the rights ob-

tained by blacks through laws against discrimination are being revoked by "empowered" whites, quietly, through deception and insensitivity.

I postulate that they are disillusioned with the lack of racial progress in human relations, made through forced integration. Not having experienced the same hardship as blacks, they do not seem to think it fair that racial conflict has entered their lives. They can't compare their own lives to the decades of callous, segregated oppression, hatred and lynching which made black-on-black violence one of the only ways to pass the time.

Perhaps blacks can humor the whim of those acclimated to an easier life and use it to regroup and build the black community. It makes me think of the Marvin Gaye lyric from "What's Going On" to his fellow brothers and sisters as a plea for intraracial tolerance: "Take it light, and take it silent. Don't punish me



with brutality. Come on, talk to me, so you can see what's going on." How tragic that the war between Marvin and his father did "escalate" in the end. And we know the tragic result.

Carl Martin
Winston-Salem

In appreciation

The writer is vice president for patient care services at

Bowman Gray/Baptist Hospital Medical Center.

To The Editor:

On behalf of everyone at the Bowman Gray/Baptist Hospital Medical Center, I would like to express our appreciation to the people of our region for their outpouring of sympathy and sorrow following the crash of the AirCare helicopter.

We have known for many months that AirCare provides a needed service to the sick and in-

jured in a five-state region; however, we had not realized the full extent to which people had so rapidly accepted AirCare and its crew as an important part of their everyday lives.

The number of people who have called and written our medical center to tell us of their feelings about the loss of three young, dedicated professionals has been very gratifying.

Karen Simpson, Barbara Burdett and Barry Day were part of a large family at this medical center. Please see page A19

Winston-Salem Chronicle

An independent, locally owned newspaper

NEWSROOM: Robin Barksdale, community news editor; John Hinton; Yvonne H. Bichsel Truhon, copy editor; Cheryl Williams.
SPORTS: David Bulla, sports editor.
PHOTOGRAPHY: James Parker, photo editor; Art Blue, Joe Daniels.
ADVERTISING: Julie Perry, advertising manager; Art Blue, Wenna Yvette James.
OFFICE STAFF: Brenda Nesbitt, Stephanie Walls, Verisia West.
PRODUCTION: Vinson Dewberry, production manager; Tim Butner, Keith Holland, David Irwin, Yvonne H. Bichsel Truhon.
CIRCULATION: Jacqueline Hale, Harry McCants, Blandella McMoore, Angela Ross, James Dixon.

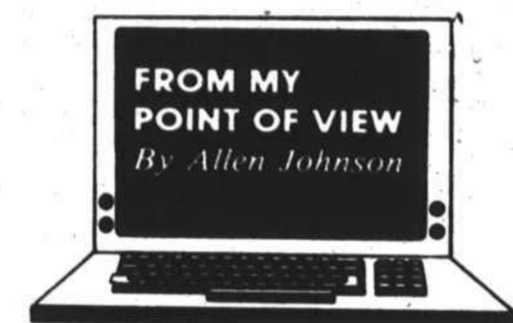
Campaign '86: Trends and tricks of political trade

The writer is the executive editor of the Chronicle.

Are Americans really as dumb as politicians think? Are all politicians really former used-car salesmen in search of cushy government jobs? Is the only word politicians fear more than "liberal" these days "issue"?

If campaign advertising is any indication, yes.

The latest fad among candidates in their print and broadcast incarnations is to be 100 percent for anything that nobody's against.



That's why smiling people in suits are likely to assure you in the days to come that they're for jobs and education and a strong national defense. As if someone isn't.

It's also hip among the hopefuls to be against things that

nobody's for -- like drugs.

Imagine Pete Jones, incumbent congressman, going on the air to declare, as Lee Greenwood sings "I'm Proud to Be an American" in the background: "Sure, I'm pro-narcotics, but only if it's harvested in the U.S. of A. Cocaine for everybody."

Other '80s campaign trends and tricks of the trade:

"Liberal" has become a bad word, exceeded in its profanity only by four-letter expletives uttered in musty locker rooms. He's no liberal, insists Terry

Sanford; he's "a North Carolina regular," whatever that is. The only thing worse than a liberal in 1986 is a communist -- or "a Mondale liberal," whatever that is.

The catchwords in the '80s are "conservative" and "moderate" -- which, again, nobody seems to be able to define.

Blacks should be herded (to the polls) but not seen, especially

Please see page A16

Robinson

From Page A4

campaign post as press secretary. Despite overwhelming support for Democratic candidates, blacks do not get senior positions. Failure to play a significant role on the staff usually means no significant role on the elected officials' post-campaign staff.

As a community, we cannot wait for the GOP to make overtures. We cannot continue our slide into political insignificance. If Fanny Lou Hamer had waited for the white Democrats to invite her participation in their party, she would still be waiting 20 years later. We must get involved in both parties -- or have influence in neither.

Black fraternal, social, professional and business groups must reach out to the GOP for speakers to inform their members of where the party stands on a face-to-face, man-to-man, woman-to-woman basis. Media-created images are faulty, and the stakes are too high to exclusively depend on that source of information.

Ten or more seats on the GOP County Executive Committee could be filled tomorrow with blacks if anyone was interested in attending its meetings. Without participation at this level, opportunities for political dialogue are unnecessarily thrown away. Opportunities for influence at party conventions and the State Executive Committee are thrown away annually. If our community continues this performance, we will remain outsiders looking in.

Finally, solid black candidates must step forward and run under the GOP banner. These individuals must run near-flawless campaigns, not run against black Democrats in heavily black districts, enjoy the support of the GOP and maintain strong ties with the black community. A tall order, but not impossible. The alternative of continued political

decline is unacceptable.

Our failure to run serious can-

didates in both parties drastically reduces the chances to elect black officials. Many black incumbents have no general election opposition and grow flabby with no incentive to campaign tirelessly. The lack of candidates also lulls the black electorate to sleep. Finally, the lack of elected black officials in the Republican Party leaves an inordinate amount of power in the hands of the "economic development" bloc of black Republicans who are far too willing to ignore other policy concerns as long as black businessmen are "taken care of."

Both the GOP and the black community have a vested interest in greater black political participation. For the GOP, such participation would increase the likelihood of winning at all levels. For blacks, such participation is the difference between sitting at the table with aces over kings -- and not sitting at the table at all.

Correction

The following copy was inadvertently left off several political ads which ran in the Oct. 23 issue of the Chronicle:

- Paid for by the Committee to Elect John Holleman.
- Paid for by the Committee to Elect Logan Burke.
- Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Annie Brown Kennedy.
- Paid for by the Sanford for U.S. Senate Committee.
- Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Louis B. Meyer.
- Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Beaufort O. Bailey.

The Chronicle regrets the errors.

It Costs So Little And It Means So Much.

Southern Bell Long Distance is a great way to stay in touch with friends and family at reasonable rates.

A 10-MINUTE CALL FROM WINSTON-SALEM TO:	
Greensboro	\$1.49
Burlington	\$2.23
Reidsville	\$1.99

Call on weekends or after 11 p.m. and save even more. Rates listed above are in effect 5-11 p.m., Sunday-Friday.

Southern Bell Long Distance

ALREADY IN TOUCH WITH THE FUTURE®

Dial Station (1+) charges apply. These charges do not apply to person-to-person, coin, hotel guest, calling card, collect calls, calls charged to another number, or to time and charge calls. Rates subject to change. Daytime rates are higher. Rates do not reflect applicable federal, state and local taxes. Applies to intra-LATA long distance calls only.