

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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On the bond non-debate

"WE wish to plead our own cause ... too long have others spoken for us. ..." Those are the words of John B. Russwurm writing in the first issue of *Freedom's Journal* more than 150 years ago. Yet, even today, those words are meaningful.

A case in point. We have attempted to give the community an in-depth look at everything surrounding the upcoming bond referendum on Nov. 3. We routinely covered the press conferences and read the press releases. We were, just as we are sure you are, convinced that the bonds can help our community grow. Trying to be good journalists, we asked every question that we felt was pertinent in order for its citizens of this community to make an intelligent choice. When we asked the question, "Who is footing the bill to see that the bonds are passed?" we met such arrogance, disrespect and disdain that we felt more and more that the question deserved an answer. To this day we have not been able to get that answer.

What has happened since then is that some people whom we assume to be part of the power structure have made threats to the effect that the *Chronicle* has gotten too big for its britches. And that there should be some effort to limit the advertising support we get from local merchants.

We cannot fully say here what our reaction to this situation was, but we will say here and now that we will plead our cause whenever and wherever we feel it is in the best interest of our community to do so. No threat of violence, physical or monetary, will make us cease our efforts to hold accountable those that serve at the pleasure of the public. We know it is difficult for some people to accept, but we are a free press in these United States, protected by the very first amendment. We do not take this charge lightly. Having said that, we now will comment on the bond non-debate.

Vote Nov. 3

The Forsyth County Commissioners and the city aldermen are asking residents to underwrite nearly \$100 million for things they say will ultimately improve the quality of life in our community. We agree. The bond package ultimately will result in better roads, better health care, superior school facilities, decent housing and recreation. We believe the effort by city/county fathers is noble and generally in the best interests of the community.

However, we feel compelled to remind citizens to use their own minds to determine whether it is something they want to pay for or not.

Your vote is perhaps the most precious thing you have in this political system. To be intimidated out of it or confused to the point of wishing you did not have it is a sin. It is your vote. Use it as you see fit.

Vote for those projects that you feel will benefit your community.

County projects

Both city and county residents may vote for these:

- \$30 million for schools.
- \$7 million for a new county health department and ambulance garage at Reynolds Health Center.
- \$5 million for a new facility at Forsyth Tech.
- \$1.7 million for a new library facility in Walkertown and a computerized circulation system for Forsyth County library.

City projects

Only city residents may vote on these:

- \$36 million for streets and sidewalks.
- \$9 million for housing, mostly in East Winston and other development projects.
- \$3 million to buy land around Salem Lake.



Jackson: New and bold leadership

NEW YORK -- The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson's decision to once again seek the Democratic nomination for president of the United States has implications far beyond next year's Democratic convention. While listening to Jackson make his announcement speech at the Raleigh Civic Center recently, I realized that the future of this nation is contingent upon how well our national political process is able to respond to both the challenge and the opportunity.

Jackson is now considered by the established media and professional pollsters to be not only a serious candidate but the leading candidate and, as a result, presidential politics will never be the same. But what is more important than the fact that Jackson is running is the way he is running and the issues he is raising.

Why would an African-American in 1987 risk his life to seek the highest political office in the nation when it is so obvious that the course is fraught with landmines and sharks out for the kill? And why are the hopes and dreams of the millions of African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans, Native Americans and white Americans who make up the National Rainbow Coalition lifted to new heights by this candidacy?

In Jackson's own words, he

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By BENJAMIN CHAVIS JR.

wants "to serve America." Of course, his serving the nation also means changing the nation. With new and bold leadership in the White House, Jackson affirms that it is possible to make the nation and the world more just and more humane.

It was interesting to listen to white farmers from the Midwest who had come to Raleigh to declare their support for Jackson. They said that Jackson is the only candidate who offers them hope and a way out of their economic crisis.

Jackson is also the only candidate to challenge the economic injustice created by U.S. multinational corporations -- corporations which have eliminated the jobs of U.S. workers in order to exploit the workers of Third World countries. Self-determination, human rights and economic justice are the basic principles of Jackson's foreign policy.

The day after Jackson's speech I traveled by plane from Raleigh to Chicago. While waiting to get my boarding pass, I looked around and noticed a long multiracial line of people of different ages waiting to board the plane. I soon discovered they were among the more than 6,000 persons who had attended the National Rainbow Coalition Convention. There was a sense of joy

and excitement as those in line began to embrace and congratulate each other on their mutual sense of accomplishment. Many of them now realized that the diversity of the Rainbow was more than just theory; it was a living reality. The hope is that this kind of political organizing and mobilizing, across racial and economic lines, will become the basis of a progressive transformation of this society.

For me, there are moral and theological implications of the Jackson candidacy that go beyond politics. In the black church tradition we affirm that "the Lord sure moves in mysterious ways." At a time when there has been a dramatic increase in racially motivated violence and other acts of overt racism across the nation, an African-American emerges as a major leadership figure for the whole nation. At a time when President Reagan and conservative political forces seem determined to continue leading the nation toward greater racial and economic divisiveness, Jackson emerges as a viable alternative who provides a moral vision and a commitment to all people.

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is the executive director of the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ.

War against drugs on Bancroft Avenue

NEW YORK -- In a recent letter to George Hart, the police chief of Oakland, Calif., a desperate citizen, and I mean desperate, pleaded for help.

The letter, the writer said, "is a loud cry for help from a neighborhood" that is being (has been) destroyed by "savage drug dealers."

On Bancroft Avenue, an accompanying petition told Chief Hart, the "vulgar and loud" drug dealers move about as armed, marauding bands. The citizens realize they are no match for these thugs. "This letter is a cry for help!"

Bancroft Avenue at night is a living hell. Drug dealers control the streets, darting out to cars and willing customers and hawking death to the innocent passers-by. Whistles, vulgar and loud language and music are their trademark.

"Every night, they put on a show to tell us, the law-abiding citizens, that it is they, the dope dealers, who

TONY BROWN Syndicated Columnist

are in charge," the plea says.

A car firebombed, a man found dead in a car, families who cannot sleep, young children who cannot play -- day after day, night after night. The stress is compounded by the reality that the residents cannot afford to move. Like most of us, they are trapped where they live -- in this case on Bancroft Avenue in Oakland.

"Therefore, we do what all distressed human do: We cry for help! We, the law-abiding citizens of this neighborhood, are asking you, Mr. George Hart, Police Chief of Oakland, to give us, the law-abiding citizens of this neighborhood, real and immediate help!"

It is obvious that the police no longer control the urban areas -- the thugs do. It is also obvious that if decent people do not band together

as a front line for the police, the police will not regain control.

I suggest that the people on Bancroft Avenue who contacted me also contact the black newspaper in which this column appears and Within You (Just Say No), a local drug-prevention group in their city, at 3101-A Sacramento St., Berkeley, Calif. 94702, or call (415) 848-0845. Collectively, they can organize a "Walk Against Drugs" on Bancroft Avenue.

They should also write for technical assistance from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 5600 Fishers Lane (Room 10A-54), Rockville, Md. 20857, and make sure they send a dynamite pamphlet: "A Guide to Mobilizing Ethnic Communities for Drug Abuse Prevention."

Within You grew out of the same neighborhood turmoil that we now see on Bancroft Avenue. Joan Please see page A5

CHILDWATCH

By MARIAN W. EDELMAN

Inside the teen-age mind

WASHINGTON -- What are teens thinking and feeling about themselves each other and the future?

Even those of us who are parents of teens and see them every day do not know the answers. Yet, we must understand what makes teens tick in order to communicate with them about such urgent threats as drug abuse, teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases like AIDS.

Teens today are anxious to make money, are family-oriented and are swayed by peer pressure according to results of one poll by teens by Teen-age Research Unlimited, published in the August issue of *American Demographics*. The poll's findings offer a rare glimpse into our teen-agers' heads.

A majority of teen-age boys surveyed agree with the statement that "success means making a lot of money." Teen-age girls are likely to equate success with money; nearly two-thirds strongly agree that "money can't buy happiness," according to the poll.

It may come as a surprise to those of us with teen-age children but more than three out of four teen-agers surveyed say that they like to do things with their families. Two-thirds of teens, however, agree that "too often my parents don't seem to understand me."

Teens, especially as they grow older, see a happy marriage as one of the most important things in life, the poll says.

One thing that is front and center in our teen-agers' minds at all times is what their peers think of them. Because teens are painfully self-conscious about their appearance, most of the peer pressure they feel comes around how they look and dress.

Only a small fraction of the teens polled strongly agree with the statement, "I try to be different from my friends in the clothes I buy." Most disagree with the statement, "I'm usually the first person in my crowd to try something new."

Finally, and alarmingly, the poll seems to indicate the widespread publicity about the dangers of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases has not sunk in with nearly enough teens. Fewer than half of teens polled (48 percent) strongly believe that sexual activity carries the risk of these diseases. Teen-age boys are less concerned about these risks than girls.

The survey also gives us adults some valuable clues about where our children are tuning in. Most teens polled agree that television is the major source of entertainment, and an even larger share say they often listen to the radio. The overwhelming majority, male and female, would rather read a magazine than a book, according to the poll.

We have to use these media to talk to our teens. Our messages. Unless they avoid the pitfalls of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, they will not achieve the success, the peer acceptance or the family life they're dreaming about.

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

CHRONICLE CAMERA

Twin City residents reveal their favorite news anchorperson

America has come to rely on televised newscasts as one of their primary and most immediate sources of information.

In an industry where ratings and viewer response are the bottom line, news anchors often fall victim to the fickleness of viewers.

So what do viewers want in a news anchorperson?

Many viewers say they want to be able to trust news personalities to bring them clear, accurate and timely news.

Some say they want to get their news from someone who is pleasant

to look at. Others say they simply want to hear the news in simple terms they can understand.

It would seem difficult to find a person who can meet all of these requirements, but residents polled in this week's Chronicle Camera seemed to feel that there were some

newsanchors who came close to meeting all of their needs.

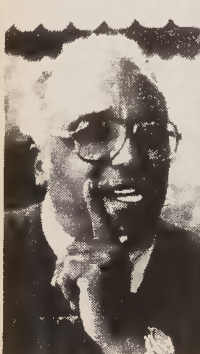
Winston-Salem is served by three network television stations and those stations employ a host of news anchorpersons and reporters to bring news into Triad homes.

But this week's Chronicle Camera polls Twin City residents about their personal favorites in the news anchor chair.

This week's question asks, "Who is your favorite news anchorperson and why?"

The results of the random sampling of residents were nearly unanimously produced one name as the favorite news person in the area.

Following is a sampling of answers to this week's Chronicle Camera question.



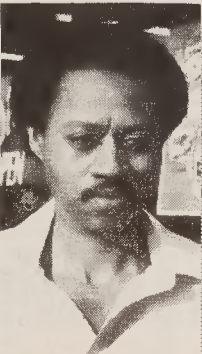
"Denise Franklin (Channel 12). She sounds good, she looks good and she's a very fine young lady. She's also very eloquent."

Shedrick Adams



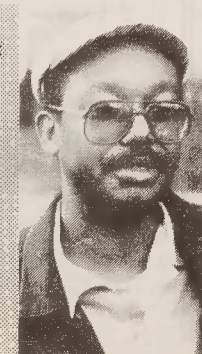
"I like Joyce Taylor (Channel 2). She talks good and you can understand everything she talks about. She knows what she's talking about."

Isalah David



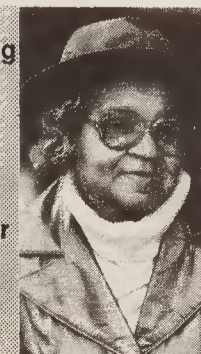
"Denise Franklin. She's accurate and her pronunciation is good."

Otis Braswell



"I watch Channel 12, so I hang with Denise Franklin and that other guy (Ric Amme). It seems like they're together with their news."

Ellis Armstrong Jr.



"I watch Denise Franklin. She's good. I just like the way she talks. She seems nice."

Mary Evan Smith