

**Winston-Salem Chronicle**  
 Founded 1974  
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**Let us resolve ...**

Tonight many of you will don your finest fashions and make your way to a friend's home for a party or to one of the many New Year's Eve celebrations taking place around the city. Many of you will choose to stay home and quietly bring in the New Year. We wish you safe and joyful celebrations no matter how you choose to end 1987 and begin 1988.

But, let's pause for just a moment to thank God for seeing us through another year and to pray for the souls of friends and relatives who did not make it. And, realizing that many of us will not be here this time next year, let's resolve to enjoy each other more, to love each other more and to make each other's lives a little easier and a little happier.

Let's resolve to rid ourselves of petty jealousies. They destroy our individual souls and make our collective existence discordant.

Let's resolve not to hate and seek vengeance. A wise person once said, "Vengeance is like acid, it does more damage to the vessel in which it is stored than to the object on which it is poured."

Let's be mindful of the needs of the aged and physically disabled. For if we live long enough, we will all be both of these things.

Let us each work to improve our own character, and in so doing realize that we are all imperfect beings. Let's get to know each other and accept that we each have a right to exist.

Let's work to keep the light of the future glowing in the eyes of our young. Let's resolve to keep them safe, to keep them healthy and to bequeath to them a world at peace.

Let's resolve not to fear failure; it takes courage to fail. And let's resolve to forgive ourselves our mistakes; it is by them that we learn.

Let's resolve to care about world issues, remembering that we are the world. We must believe that we can fight famine and disease, then attack with fervor.

And let us realize that we live in a world of cause and effect. To receive love, we must give love and to receive happiness, we must give happiness. We must have faith in God and remember that there is a solution to every problem and a purpose to every life.



**Voting for change in Keysville, Ga.**

**NEW YORK** -- The Afro-American citizens of Keysville, Ga., 26 miles west of Augusta, liken their situation to the old plantation system. Most whites in their town have running water -- Afro-Americans don't. Most whites have a sewage system -- Afro-Americans don't. And most Afro-Americans are dependent on the whites who control the town for their livelihood.

Now the Afro-American community of Keysville has organized to change all that. On Jan. 4 of next year, the town will hold an election. It will be the first local election in Keysville in 55 years. It will also be the first local election in which Afro-Americans of this town have ever voted. The power relationships of the town could thus be changed forever.

It all started back in 1985, when the home of the Streetman family caught on fire. As members of the Afro-American community frantically tried to put out the fire, they also called three county fire departments. The fire department for their county was 20 miles away. The other two, though closer, refused to answer the call, saying Keysville was not in their jurisdiction. The Streetman home burned to the ground while the Afro-American community watched helplessly.

That's when the Afro-American residents formed the Concerned Citizens of Keysville, spearheaded

by Emma Gresham, a retired teacher. At community meetings, members of the group talked about their situation -- the outhouses and the lack of indoor plumbing; about having to haul water from their churches, from those few Afro-American residences with wells or from the creek because the Afro-American community had no water supply. They talked about going 18 miles to the nearest clinic because there was no doctor in Keysville, and about sending their children almost 20 miles each way, every day, because the Afro-American school was closed down after school desegregation.



**CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL**

By BENJAMIN CHAVIS JR.

They also talked about the white-owned nursing home which ran its sewage -- including the waste from its patients -- into an open ditch and through the Afro-American community. They also

talked about the changes the Afro-American community could effect if that nursing home weren't the only game in town, and thus, able to get away with paying barely minimum wages. Some even recalled how old Mr. Marshall, the white patriarch of the town, used to say he was the mayor of the town, even though no election had been held since 1933.

Administration of the town had been turned over to the county during the Depression. Now Afro-Americans, who are 80 percent of Keysville's population, want it back. With the help of Herman Lodge, the county commissioner, and Rep. Tyrone Brooks, their state representative -- both Afro-Americans -- they began to reactivate the town government.

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**Take Buy Freedom to the movies**

**NEW YORK** -- "Tony Brown Making \$2 Million Gamble on Anti-Drug Movie," the *Durham Morning Herald* headline announced.

Then, I announced that I was going to make the movie available to individuals and groups -- profit and non-profit -- and anti-drug organizations as a fund raiser before it opens in theaters nationwide.

That means that I have decided against the safe profit stream of getting my investment back by selling the movie to a Hollywood distributor. Another gamble.

But instead of breaking even in the theatrical market (putting the movie in the theaters first), I can break even in the ancillary markets (videocassettes, television rights, foreign rights, and so forth) where the number of gross dollars exceeds the theatrical dollars. So, what I have essentially devised is a way to divert much of the money from

"The White Girl" into community hands.

This allows me to not only break into the movie business, but to implement my Buy Freedom philosophy of turning our money

we eat and drink another \$2.1 billion? And on Monday night, the slowest night of the week for movie houses, my people are the only ones who faithfully show up.

Obviously, we are experts at



**TONY BROWN**

Syndicated Columnist

over with one another more than once. Even when looked at purely from an economic position, it makes good sense.

My community buys more than half of the tickets to movies each year. This year, we spent \$2.1 billion of the \$4.2 billion spent on movie tickets.

When my people get inside the theaters, we are much heavier consumers of the popcorn, colas, hot dogs, etc. Would you believe that

consuming movies. With just a little effort, we can also learn to profit from our consumption. As a producer, I can't make it in the movie business without my people. But I can't make it with them in the shape they're in, either. So here's my deal.

I've got a \$2 million movie called "The White Girl," a love story about the dangers of drug addiction and racial anxiety. The

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**The Chronicle's New Year Toast:**

Here's a toast to all who are here,  
 No matter where you're from;  
 May the best day that you have seen  
 Be worse than your worst to come.

**CHRONICLE CAMERA**

**What did 1987 bring? What are your hopes for 1988?**

At year's end many of us reflect on the accomplishments achieved during the previous year.

The Thanksgiving holiday encourages us to count our blessings. At Christmas we look to fulfilling the joy of our

children and we occupy our thoughts with renewed spiritual fervor in light of God's gifts.

At Kwanza we learn about what it means to be products of dual cultures, both African and American.

And at New Year's we make

plans for the future. We commit ourselves to New Year's resolutions and sometimes condemn ourselves for not having met our past objectives.

This week Chronicle Camera asked respondents to examine the previous year and outline their

hopes for the future.

Downtown commuters were asked what was the worst thing that happened to them in 1987 and what could be the very best thing to happen during the new year.

Four of the five respondents were concerned about their person-

al incomes and finding employment. One young man said that he was unhappy about not having a permanent job and that his temporary employment made anticipating a healthy economic future somewhat difficult.

Yet each respondent said that

1987 had not brought them any overwhelmingly negative circumstances. In sum, participants were looking forward to whatever the new year might bring.

The staff of the *Chronicle* wishes our readers a prosperous and successful New Year.



"I have a better insight into the method that it takes to get jobs in this city but I want a better job that offers long-term stability."  
 Donald Hunter



"The best thing that can happen is that I can find a job."  
 Sharon Mitchell



"I had a beautiful year this year. Next year I'm looking forward to getting more grace."  
 Minister Mary Horne



"I hope it'll be a better year. I want a job."  
 Lugenia Byrd



"The worst thing is that I'm broke. For '88 I'm looking forward to a better year so I can try to help other people and the community."  
 Joe Caldwell