

## Forum

### Role models to follow -- and to avoid

To The Editor:

I, too, think Denise Franklin, WXII-TV's black news anchor, does a good job.

In his Dec. 31 commentary, Vernon L. Robinson says that black "Denise is the role model that a blond (implied white?) cannot be," and writes of "Afro-American ... viewers (who might) stop watching," and that Mr. Robinson is "... also watching WXII at 11 p.m. As long as I see a role model (black instead of white?) there, I won't flip the channel and watch CNN instead."

Is that attitude and act "racism" when practiced by a black American? Is that attitude and act of flipping 'em off when a wrong-race TV personality is on "racism" when practiced by a white American?

I had two old kinfolk in Wilmington, both dead now, not married to each other (one hated the other, while the hated one was always pleasant in return), who, whenever a black came on TV, would either emotionally and dramatically switch channels or turn the TV off. Seemingly, blacks on TV were a role model they didn't like. Were these two old white channel flippers practicing racism? Is it logically then not racism when a young black channel flipper flips out, or off, because he sees a wrong-race model on TV?

Aren't both races capable of practicing racism in attitude and act, and isn't that a role model for all Americans, black, white and "other," to avoid?

James A. Miller Jr.  
Winston-Salem

#### Try retaliation

To The Editor:

This is in reference to the article written about the Eugene Camp-

#### CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

bell family being held hostage by a neighbor in their own home. The Campbell family needs a man in the house. Men that were brought up in Howard Beach have always been taught that they have an obligation to protect family and home.

It is very good to aspire to live in an integrated neighborhood if that's what you want; however, it becomes an appalling situation when you allow an aspiration to take away your manhood. What kind of man do you expect your son to become?

You have tried to get the Sheriff's Department to do something to help you in this situation. Try retaliation and you will find that Mr. Alston will activate the whole department to defend Mr. McHone.

Jason Hawkins  
Winston-Salem

#### There is a problem

To The Editor:

On Friday, Jan. 8, I watched in disgust "The Donahue Show." The topic was the Howard Beach case. I couldn't believe there were people in the audience who did not admit to the fact that there is a race problem in America.

Though the records show that police brutality toward Afro-American citizens is enormously outrageous and has gotten out of control, there are some who have allowed themselves to be blinded to that fact. What are we to do? Sit and ignore it?

To those who are blind to the fact, that's not how God intended for his world to be.

The criminal system of America seems also to be unaware of the problem. It's no secret that what was done in Howard Beach and in

many other cities throughout the States exists throughout America. This is wrong.

In Superior Court less than a year ago, an Afro-American man was convicted, given life -- convicted of a crime where there was no evidence of him being at the scene. In Howard Beach, the criminals were there at the scene, with the police, and were not even convicted of murder.

Hey, people, it's time for some true unity. It's time to really get serious about us, and where we want to go, what we want to be. It's time for us to unite and make the justice system put an end to this. Whether some of us realize it or not, one of the loudest voices we have is the vote. Let's come to grips with one another, stop killing and start loving each other.

There is something all of us can do. First and foremost, we can take five minutes to vote. We need to educate people fully on the candidates we think will do something to profit us. Let's not let what's happening in New York happen in the Triad. I and many others here despise feeling powerless because of the lack of unity on behalf of our people.

Let's stop turning to drugs, alcohol and crime, and turn to God. He's the only source of divine hope.

Let's start now by doing all we can to relive daily "The Dream" of the late, great Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I think no one can say it like our brother, Steveland Morris, known to many as Stevie Wonder:

"It should be a great event and the whole day should be spent in full remembrance of those who lived and died for the oneness of all people."

Let's revive and keep the dream alive!

Veronica L. Bitting  
Winston-Salem

### Chavis

From Page A4

a 15-year-old Afro-American youth, was repeatedly beaten by another white Prince George's County officer near a convenience store. The white officer accused the young man of littering.

Eleven witnesses testified to the brutality. One shopper mentioned that the officer "kept saying 'pick up the wrapper' but each time he would keep shoving him back ... (The officer) hit him at least 25 to 30 times." The driver of a car testified that the young man stumbled across the road in front

of her and that the officer hit him "at least 10 times" with the nightstick and then began kicking him between his legs. A Prince George's County police trial board later agreed that the officer had used "excessive force."

Yes, Howard Beach is not a symbol. For there are Howard Beaches all over this nation. And given the present national climate, which condones racist violence through silence, these incidents will continue to grow unless we demand that justice be

done -- each and every time they occur.

Meanwhile, three different investigations are now under way in the killing of Officer Gordon. His death sadly reminds us once again that, in the Afro-American community, no one is exempt from the brutality and the fatality of racism.

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

• See related story page A13.

### Brown

From Page A4

embezzlement. The news spread like wildfire when the white daily published the charges against you.

Billy D. Friende Jr. became your attorney and you paid him \$800. Many family members shunned you, but not your civil-engineer brother from Raleigh and the one who works for Douglas Battery.

Approaching the bench on Dec. 18, 1987, was one of the most terrifying moments of your life. Felony charges carry years in jail. But just minutes before the trial, the judge reduced the charges to two counts of misdemeanor larceny.

"Thanks to the hard work of Atty. Billy Friende Jr., they (the charges) were reduced," you wrote me.

As of today, you still owe this legal savior \$200. You are also the unemployed Afro-American mother of two young children 7 and 9 years old. You are also serving your 24

months suspended sentence and 48 hours of community service. But the \$200 in court fines and the \$40 court costs are still staring you in the face.

It all may seem cruel, unjust, unfair -- but that's life, Veronica Leola Bitting of 1244 Free St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27107. You're giving and receiving.

Giving and Receiving are the major cornerstones in God's Grand Design. Sowing and Reaping.

That's why I'm sending your lawyer the \$200 you owe him -- and \$250 to you to pay the court costs.

I hope that the readers of this column will send their support to help you complete your plans to return to Winston-Salem State University for your final year and to feed your family.

You ended your letter in the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*, after all you had been through, by thanking

all of the people who had supported you.

You said: "God will truly bless you." When you blessed them, you blessed yourself.

Let me leave with you the words of Florence Scovel Shinn ("The Game of Life and How to Play It"): "Most people consider life a battle, but it is not a battle, it is a game."

"It is a game, however, which cannot be played successfully without the knowledge of spiritual law, and the Old and New Testaments give the rules of the game with wonderful clearness. Jesus Christ taught that it was a great game of Giving and Receiving."

Tony Brown is a syndicated columnist and television host, whose program, "Tony Brown's Journal," appears at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, on channels 4 and 26.

### Jacob

From Page A4

what it claims to do best -- create jobs.

In 1986, American industry spent more of its capital on mergers than it did on the research and development and the capital invest-

ments that create jobs and win markets. So in 1988 we've got to focus the attention of government and of the private sector on making America competitive in the long run -- on creating a new social

bond that unites us all -- on building the partnerships that end poverty, create jobs and usher in a new era of prosperity and brotherhood. John E. Jacob is president of the National Urban League.

STARTING  
NEXT WEEK  
JANUARY 21



Winston-Salem Chronicle  
Keep up with your favorite  
Daytime Soaps. Look for this new  
addition to our PEOPLE section.

## Golden State Agent Of The Month



### Congratulations MINNIE BROWN Golden State's Agent For December

Minnie Brown loves people and enjoys reviewing them and their needs. She's a goal-setter and accomplishes what she sets out to do.

What's the secret to Minnie's success? "If you do what you say, you'll be successful," Minnie says. "Every morning I get up and say, 'let me help somebody today!'"

Minnie lives in Winston-Salem, has 3 children with the youngest one graduating from law school this year.

She's done quite a job since she started with Golden State in April 1984. Minnie is certainly an asset to the Golden State Mutual Life Team.

The selection of this agent is based on outstanding performance in service and sales to Golden State Mutual Life policy owners in the Kernersville, Welcome and Winston-Salem areas.

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