

Winston-Salem Chronicle

Founded 1974

ERNEST H. PITT
Publisher

MICHAEL A. PITT
Assistant to the Publisher

NDUBISI EGEMONYE
Co-Founder

ANGELA WRIGHT
Managing Editor

ELAINE L. PITT
Office Manager

JULIE PERRY
Advertising Manager

YVONNE H.B. TRUHN
Production Manager

The Chronicle endorses:

(Note: The Chronicle chooses at this time to only endorse, with one exception, those local candidates who face Tuesday's primary. We will explore the platforms of other candidates and make more endorsements between now and November)

County Commissioner (three seats)

Gerald Long: It is our perception that Long is a fair and honest man. He has proven that he is willing to commit himself publicly and in writing to issues of concern to the Afro-American community. When questioned about the need to increase the number of minorities employed by the County, Long offered concrete suggestions for doing so and stated specifically what he would do if elected. Long has said that he would undertake a study of the situation and that, based on the results of that study, the Commissioners would develop an "aggressive plan" to assure fair minority representation and they would include the subject on the agenda each month. We are also impressed with Long's commitment to minority businesses, his position on the Reynolds Health Center and his proposals for improving the conditions at the county jail.

Ann Simmons: We believe that Simmons is dedicated and willing to work hard, if elected, to ensure that Afro-American concerns are addressed and their needs met. She has targeted issues that are of paramount concern to the community such as drug abuse and crime prevention. She is outspoken on the issues of minority hiring and the need for the county to do business with minority-owned companies. She has identified issues within the areas of health and education that would command her attention as County Commissioner. She is community-oriented and, we believe, capable of articulating an Afro-American agenda for the Commission and following it through to implementation.

James N. Ziglar: Ziglar has indicated his commitment to increasing the number of minorities employed by the county in management level positions. He has proposed that Afro-Americans be actively and aggressively recruited and that the residency requirements be waived, if necessary, when vacancies occur. He proposes hiring more Afro-Americans at entry-level management potential jobs. He specifies that it must be made clear to county managers that "this is a high priority." We are also impressed with his commitment to low-income housing and his support for public education.

District Court Judge (new seat)

George A. Bedsworth: We recognize that candidates for judicial office are prohibited by law from making pledges or promises of conduct in office. Nonetheless, we are encouraged by Bedsworth's sincerity and candor. He has shown that he is sensitive to the importance of District Court as it affects domestic and juvenile matters and that he recognizes that a judge is first and foremost a public servant, albeit one who is endowed with a tremendous amount of authority.

State House (39th District)

R.J. Childress: Childress seems to have a commitment to minority business and minority legislative issues. He has demonstrated a concern for the level of unemployment among Afro-American youths and for the school drop-out rate. We will explore with him specific plans he may have for addressing these issues.

State Senate (20th District)

Vernon L. Robinson: Although Robinson is not involved in the primary, we wish to take this opportunity to endorse his candidacy. He has a well-run campaign and is proving to be an astute politician. He is clearly aware of the issues and the political system, and has well-defined ideas about how to effect change. We believe he would make an excellent state senator.



Deaf students win with civil rights tactics

NEW YORK -- "This is our Selma," said the hearing-impaired students of Gallaudet University in Washington. In early March the 2,100-member student body took over this foremost college for the deaf in the world. They were protesting the appointment of a president who -- unlike the entire student body -- was not hearing-impaired.

The strategies, the rhetoric and the rationale of that protest were constant reminders of the long-lasting effect of the civil rights movement on the progressive movements of today.

The university, during its entire 124-year history, had never had a deaf president. The time had certainly come for a change, and expectations were high. For, of the three finalists for the position, two were hearing-impaired, including I. King Jordan, the school's popular dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. The students were therefore outraged when neither hearing-impaired candidate was chosen.

Making matters worse was Jane Basset Spilman, chairman of the university's board of directors, who had never bothered to learn sign language and who was quoted as saying that "deaf people are not ready to function in a hearing world."

How familiar this sounds to those who are all too well acquainted with the lame excuses given for the lack of Afro-Americans in the workplace. Or to the

argument of the early 1960s that Afro-Americans should be denied the vote because "they're not ready for it."

This similarity to the civil rights struggle was not lost on the students at

or her place." How much his words remind us of the student protests of Nashville, Atlanta, Birmingham or Albany, Ga., where wave upon wave of Afro-American students were



CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

By BENJAMIN CHAVIS JR.

Gallaudet. During the campus protests the students often raised their fists defiantly while signing the words "deaf power." They also spoke of their need to "control (their) destiny." In order to do this, they wanted the administration radically altered to represent them.

The importance of a hearing-impaired administration was not lost on the students. As R.G. Gentry, a senior at Gallaudet, wrote in a major op-ed piece in the *Washington Post*, "A hearing person cannot possibly understand what it is like to be deaf, any more than a white person can understand what it is like to be black, or a man understand what it is like to be a woman. Lacking that understanding, they cannot possibly make logical decisions in our best interests."

Gentry also noted: "The students are the shock troops of this deaf protest... If any student is arrested, another will step forward and take his

arrested fighting the oppressive Jim Crow system.

Of course, the endemic nature of racism in this society forces us to see these two struggles differently. Even though the restrictions made against the hearing-impaired, opportunities -- both in education and employment -- are significantly fewer for deaf Afro-Americans. Such is the nature of American racism. However, that understanding does not prevent us from hailing the significant victories of the Gallaudet protest.

The victory at Gallaudet reminds us of the many victories of the civil rights movement, and of the importance they played in energizing us for future struggles. As Gentry reminded us: "We hope all people, in these cynical and despairing times, will realize that with courage and solidarity our governments can be made to respond to the challenges facing us."

Jackson has nothing to be ashamed of

NEW YORK -- The *New York Post* called its editorial "Jesse Jackson's Achievement."

"His remarkable showing" in the recent New York primary was "inconceivable only a few weeks ago. He actually carried the city of New York and ran second in the state at large." The editorial showered Jackson with much-deserved accolades for his "historic accomplishment."

Then it said: "It is a comment on Jackson's wide appeal, on the degree to which blacks have advanced in American society and on the extent to which racial prejudice has abated." Jackson's appeal and success, it argued, is due to his "wide appeal" and the acceptance of an Afro-American candidate.

While too many are rejoicing about Jackson carrying 17 percent of the white vote in New York, too few notice that the majority of the 83 percent refused to even consider him because he is Afro-American -- his leftist politics notwithstanding.

Ironically, racism is so pervasive

that he benefited from the very racism that New York's Mayor Ed Koch so liberally spouted on behalf of Gore. And whites were evenly split 45 to 45 percent on the mayor's repugnant behavior. That means that

cent, the rest to the two non-Afro-Americans. Is this the election that demonstrates that racial prejudice has abated?

Jackson must understand that what he has done is all any human



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

almost half of them thought that his outrageous behavior was fine.

Eighty-five percent of whites voted for the two white candidates. Ninety-five percent of Afro-Americans voted for Jackson. Only 7 percent of Jews voted for Jackson; that means 93 percent voted for the two whites.

While Catholics gave Jackson 17 percent of their votes, the other 83 percent to you know who. White Protestants gave Jackson only 24 per-

cent. To be rejected by a pathological mentality is no reflection on him, but another nail in the coffin of those who cling to their own destruction.

Jackson is a spectacular success because of Afro-American people. His acceptance by a small segment of the white population is an aberration. For those who can't read, count: 97 percent of Afro-Americans voted for Jackson in New York; 83 percent of whites voted against him.

CHRONICLE CAMERA

Is the 3 cent increase in the cost of stamps too much?

A few weeks ago, the price of the stamp increased from 22 cents to 25 cents. A price increase to which very few people have given much, if any, thought.

Contrary to popular belief, 25 cents can still buy quite a few

things in 1988. Recent research by the Greensboro Post Office revealed that 25 cents can buy at least 12 items other than a postage stamp. Among the things it can buy are one roll of toilet paper, a four ounce jar of apple sauce, a bread roll from the bak-

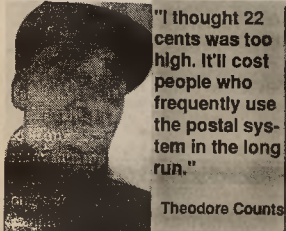
ery, and a doughnut.

The research looked at the year 1975 and tallied the number of commonly-used items a person could then buy for under a dollar as compared to what the same amount of money buys in 1988.

Since 1975, the cost of a first class postage stamp has increased 92 percent. Its cost then was 13 cents. The highest increase in cost since then, however, was for a pack of chewing gum, which has gone up 400 percent, from 5 cents to 25 cents.

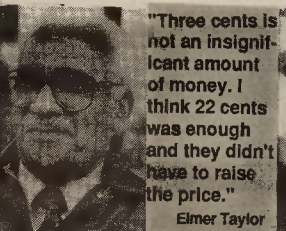
There have always been a myriad of complaints from most U.S. citizens about postal services. Now, not only is the cost of postage increasing, but also the availability of services is decreasing, with shorter window and lobby hours. In light of this,

we thought it would be interesting to find out what our readers thought about the increase. We also thought it would be interesting to see what our older residents with the lowest stamp price they remember.



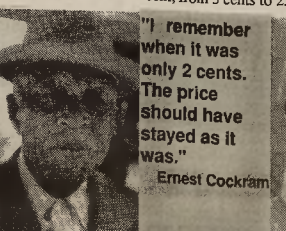
"I thought 22 cents was too high. It'll cost people who frequently use the postal system in the long run."

Theodore Counts



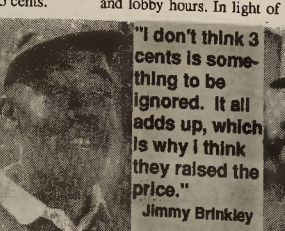
"Three cents is not an insignificant amount of money. I think 22 cents was enough and they didn't have to raise the price."

Elmer Taylor



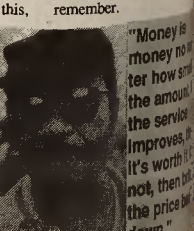
"I remember when it was only 2 cents. The price should have stayed as it was."

Ernest Cockram



"I don't think 3 cents is something to be ignored. It all adds up, which is why I think they raised the price."

Jimmy Brinkley



"Money is money no matter how small the amount. The service improves, it's worth it. Not, then, that the price has gone down."

Marjorie