

**Winston-Salem Chronicle**  
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## Coble's a good ol' boy

It should now be clear to a lot of people why Larry Coble was selected the new superintendent of Forsyth County schools. Actually it should have been clear to anyone who was there when all four finalists were presented to the public.

Coble was certainly not the best qualified, neither was he the most visionary. But he did come across as the most malleable.

He grinned a lot and offered a lot of circuitous answers to some very important questions.

From the beginning it was clear that Coble would fit very well into the good ol' boy structure. He would not rock the boat, he would perpetuate the status quo.

He was the one candidate the school board could control and count on to implement their racist policies in the hiring and promotion of school administration personnel.

And he's off and running. He started a couple of weeks ago when he named four white females as principals, one replacing a retiring black male.

When questioned about the move, Coble said that he should not be judged on those appointments as there were more appointments to come.

This week Coble assigned four more principals. One is a black male, the other three are white. So far, the Afro-American community has gained nothing under Coble.

In fact, we're losing a lot. We're losing the most qualified and talented Afro-American administrator in the school system.

Although Coble calls the transfer of Dr. Barbara Phillips a "lateral move," it is in effect a demotion. She is being required to report to someone whose experience in the school system is vastly inferior to hers.

Whereas Phillips is currently overseeing community schools, information services, school-community relations and volunteers, under Coble's plan she will be responsible for guidance, health services, drop out prevention - areas that don't make the best use of her skills and experience.

But making use of the skills of Afro-Americans is apparently not an interest of Coble's. Under his reorganization plan, the key decision makers are white males.

Coble's statement that he will not be "held hostage" to black concerns is interesting in that during the selection process and in a subsequent interview with the *Chronicle*, he emphasized his concern about the state of race relations in the school system.

But Coble is proving to be quite the hypocrite. On Wednesday morning he invited a member of the white media to what was supposed to be a closed meeting with central office staff. When questioned about his neglect of the black press, Coble called the incident "an oversight."

It was reported that Coble plans to bring an Afro-American in from outside the system to fill one of his deputy superintendent slots. Such a move should be an insult to every Afro-American in this county.

Rather than make use of the homegrown experienced Afro-Americans that are already in the system, he would be bringing in a token in an effort to prove his "sincerity."

Coble is anything but "sincere." He has proven with every move he's made that he intends to keep black educators in inconsequential positions and that the administration of our county schools will continue to be handled solely by white males.

Coble need not be "held hostage" by black concerns, but the school board's bond referendum can be held hostage until the new county election plan gives black voters the clout to remove some of the racists from the system.

# Civil, constitutional rights pendulum swings back

To The Editor:

Stand on any corner. Knock on any door, and ask a black American to comment on the Reagan years. If a person happens to live below the poverty level or is a member of the working poor, you will hear that they were the worst of times. If he or she happens to be a member of the black middle class, you will hear that they were not exactly the best of times. But both groups will readily admit that we survived.

It has been less than a year since Ronald Reagan departed the White House, and already his legacy is being felt through the federal judiciary that he put in place, which shall remain in place long after he is dead. In recent weeks, the Reagan Supreme Court has performed master surgery on court-ordered civil rights decrees and court-ordered mandates that have been in place and working successfully for nearly two decades.

These civil rights rulings were designed to provide America's black minority access and opportunities once denied them, as well as to remedy past wrongs perpetrated against this group for generations.

Ronald Reagan came into office saying that he was unaware that America had a race problem, and he left office declaring that America was now color blind and the playing field was level. Anyone who believes this is either naive or foolish. What we are witnessing now by the Supreme Court represents not chance but design on the part of the conservative right to turn back the clock - something that Ronald Reagan could not accomplish during his eight-year tenure in the White House. Now he has left it to his hand-picked jurists to implement his legacy.

I find it ironic that a huge majority of Americans are infuriated over the Supreme Court decision concern-



ing the desecration of the flag, the symbol of our democracy for all the people, yet there's very little hue and cry when the elementary rights of some of the people are being whittled away by that very same Supreme Court.

Black Americans have fought and died for the flag (even before they were considered citizens) and have remained loyal to that flag in spite of the fact that their civil rights are still being curtailed in some instances. This makes the flag issue a bit hypocritical.

Peter Moore Watt  
 VA Medical Center  
 Asheville

## Congratulations

To The Editor:

The Winston-Salem State Univer-

## CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

sity family congratulates you and your staff for the recognitions you received recently at the National Newspaper Publishers Association's convention in New Orleans.

Having walked the hallways of your building, I know at first hand that the awards received this month merely demonstrate that your paper's high level of excellence has continued your award-winning ways.

Winston-Salem State University appreciates the coverage we get in your paper, and we feel proud that we can pull clippings from a publication that has been judged by its peers year after year as one of the best in the nation. I can personally attest to the hard work of the people in the newsroom who have spent time learning

our campus in order to cover it better. But I also know that it is the commitment to excellence of every person there, from the front office to the press room, that makes your paper excellent.

We also congratulate *Chronicle* publisher Ernie Pitt on being elected the NNPA's second vice president. He has become an important figure in the newspaper business, which certainly speaks well for our city.

Again, congratulations, and the university looks forward to continuing its good relationship with "The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly."

John Slade  
 Acting Director  
 of Public Relations

# Seeds of democracy will grow despite tragedy

## A STUDENT'S VIEWPOINT By QING S. WANG

he is still a stranger to me. We do not have any father-daughter feeling with each other. It is not because I do not love him, but because he has not been living with us almost since I was born.

No one could count how many families throughout China have suffered the same tragedy. Despite my own family's suffering, I still had placed high hopes in my country's new reform and open-door policy. Every Chinese person was expecting and working for a strong and prosperous China. However, my hopes were destroyed by the ruthless government's massacre of its own innocent people. This is the biggest shame for China and greatest disaster for her people.

I was in San Francisco when the massacre occurred in Beijing. Nobody could control their anger and disappointment at the Chinese government's inhuman action. I participated in the demonstration concert and protest rally in San Francisco on June 4 and 5. I wrote the two words "sadness" and "hatred" on a white band and put it around my head. I thought these two words were the only ones to represent my feelings at that moment. No one

could blame me for the sharp turning from showing no interest in the Communist Party in the past to hating it right now.

Most of the dead and wounded are students, including those from my former university. They are young and brave, and like my brothers and sisters. They are the future of China. Although their death is a big loss for the Chinese people, they will always be remembered, and their heroic deeds will be written down in the first chapter of Chinese history.

I believe the current government is not going to last long, because it does not represent its people. Instead, it murders its people who demand for their basic human rights. Everyone knows that the students' initial demands were simply for dialogues with the government, free press and getting rid of official corruption. They are reasonable by all means.

The killings in China are still going on. Some student leaders and other dissidents have been sentenced to death. Massive arrests have started. It's conceivable that maltreatment, persecution and torture will follow. Obviously, this

power is trying to root out and smash any vestiges of "capitalist liberalism and democracy" in order to solidify its dictatorship, a regime without humanity and legitimacy of existence.

From phone calls to some friends in China, I feel that most of the citizens are afraid of talking or even thinking of this painful event. Having grown up in that territory, I can imagine how fearful they would be after the witnessing of the dreadful scene of hundreds and thousands of students being machine-gunned down and beaten to death by their own "People's Army."

But I believe that the seeds of democracy have been sown in China, where the blood of the student martyrs permeates her ground. A larger-scale movement will eventually break out. I hope that all the people in China and the world are united against this evil government. I also hope that those compatriots who are temporarily cheated out by the massive Chinese government's propaganda will soon sharpen their vigilance and join the forces of people fighting for a free China. I would make my contribution, however small, to this just cause.

Qing S. Wang is a Chinese graduate student living in Winston-Salem.

## CHRONICLE CAMERA

# Should Darryl Hunt be retried for the Sykes murder?

In June 1985 Darryl Eugene Hunt was convicted of murdering Deborah B. Sykes, a copy editor with the now defunct Winston-Salem Sentinel.

Shortly after his conviction, attorney Larry Little organized the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee

and many Afro-Americans rallied in Mr. Hunt's defense.

Churches sponsored bake and plate sales to raise money to pay for Mr. Hunt's legal fees.

What many called incredible witnesses were major factors in the state's case leading to Mr. Hunt's

conviction.

Others have claimed that he was railroaded and when the state Supreme Court overturned his conviction in May, his supporters again rallied demanding that the murder charge be dropped.

The state Supreme Court said

prosecutors in Mr. Hunt's case improperly used hearsay evidence, particularly that of his then 14-year-old girlfriend.

Presently, District Attorney Warren Sparrow is trying to decide whether he will dismiss charges against Mr. Hunt or retry the case.

Because two prosecutors in the district attorney's office worked with Hunt's defense team, Mr. Sparrow asked the attorney general's office to take the case.

The state attorney general's office recently notified Mr. Sparrow that it could not take Mr.

Hunt's case.

The defense committee has begun a new fund-raising effort. Mr. Sparrow is still in the valley of decision. Mr. Hunt is serving a 40-year sentence for a 1983 stabbing and local residents think the murder charges against him should be dropped.



Herman Strickland

"I think he should have another trial because it wasn't fair the first time. I think he was railroaded."



Mark McMillian

"I don't know too much about it. If evidence shows that he needs to be retried, he should be. If not, leave well enough alone."



Scenardo Douthitt

"They ought to let the man go. I don't believe he's guilty."



Gwendolyn Smith

"He should be retried because I don't seem to think he's guilty."



Nora Love

"I think he should be tried again. From what I've read, I don't think he's guilty."