

**Winston-Salem Chronicle**  
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# Reader disagrees with Alderman's approach

**To the Editor:**  
 I am sure anyone who watched the Board of Aldermen meeting on Feb. 4 was left with the impression that the people making the accusations against city officials in the recreation and parks department were black and the officials were white. Aldermen Womble and Malloy are all too often ready to have us believe that every situation is us against them.

I for one do not believe that to be the case. Stealing, misuse and/or misappropriation of public funds should be punished, but I seriously doubt the aldermen's meeting was the proper venue to air those concerns! I am sure the city has in place a written procedure to deal with matters of that nature. In the interest of fair play, Womble and Malloy owed it to the accused to let these procedures run their course. If after, and only then, the conclusion of that procedure, they felt justice was not being served, they could have turned to another answer available to them. The entire Board of Aldermen was elected, or should have been elected, on the belief they had the entire city's interest at heart. I am sad to say that with very few exceptions that is not the case.

Maybe some new, credible candidates will emerge before the next elections, in the good of our city, I hope so. Alderman Womble suggested we wait and reserve judgment on him about his role in the political corruption among black elected officials in Winston-Salem and Greensboro.

Alderman Malloy has strongly denounced any complicity or involvement in a conspiracy to assassinate the late Huey P. Newton, one of the founders of the Black Panther Party. Former Mayor Marion Barry played the "us against them" mentality to the hilt by convincing a jury that it was not his fault the world watched as he in the company of and supposedly at the urging of my cousin, smoked crack



## CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

cocaine.

I would hope we as black people could rise above the slave, slave-master mentality that so threatens our future. Our aldermen, in their positions as policy-makers, should set a positive example rather than resort to the tactics employed by Womble and Malloy. The days of "if they white, they right," and "if they black, send them back," are gone and should be realized by everyone, especially our elected officials.

We should all aspire to work within the system and if the system proves to be ineffective, then work to change it.

**Thank you,**  
**Steven A. Floyd**  
 President  
 Winston Sports Travel Club

### Maintain our unity

**To the Editor:**  
 At a time when the men and women in our armed forces are facing their greatest test, we at home are facing a test as well. Our test is to maintain our unity and resolve,

as our troops are doing in the Persian Gulf.

We don't want Saddam Hussein to take this country's tolerance for anti-war demonstrators as a signal he should wait out our resolve in a long and bloody war.

I'm outraged at the brutal treatment of our POWs. And I'm saddened to see the media give so much attention to the small number of anti-war protesters who have sprung into action. It seems that every time a few protesters pick up their signs, the cameras swarm around them, and they end up on the news.

Our soldiers have said that they have a job to do and are going to get it done. I feel I have a job to do, too. And that's to stand up in strong support of our troops.

I want them to know that I and the American people are very proud of them. We are all inspired by their bravery.

I hope that you'll print my letter, and others like it, in the days ahead. Thousands of local American newspapers are reaching our men and women in uniforms every day. Your newspaper may be one of

them. I want the troops to know that we hold them in our thoughts and prayers every day.

P.S. In my opinion, the protestors are extending the war. Everyone wants peace, but not at the cost of the precious lives of our soldiers. We need to concentrate on supporting our troops.

Sincerely,  
**Margaret C. Blair**  
 Winston-Salem

### For our children

**To the Editor:**

We have let a small group of our children put fear in us. We are proud, fearless people. No race on earth has endured the trials of slavery, murder, lynching, segregation, most of which is still going on, and we are still standing tall. Now we face oppression from our own children, crime and violence all over our city. Groups of young black boys and men selling death and destruction. Black girls and women selling their bodies for this menace crack. Fear is everywhere.

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## The Double Standard

African-American city employees claim they have been treated unfairly by their supervisors. The employees are suspended without pay, and their boss is reassigned but maintains his same salary.

It's a scenario that has become familiar to many African-Americans who very often find themselves at the mercy of unfair bosses who seem to have little regard for fair play and use a different measuring stick in their treatment of others who commit similar infractions. It took a near shouting match in city hall to get the city manager's office to begin a serious probe into allegations that African-American city employees raised months ago. Why?

When one is regarded as powerless, he or she receives little regard or respect from those who have the power.

That is one of the big concerns raised by Aldermen Vivian Burke, Larry Womble and Nelson Malloy. All are concerned about the apparent lack of response from the city manager's office to the allegations raised by African-American blue collar wage earners about their supervisors and what was being done to them.

The individuals who raised the "red flag" in their department did so out of frustration from the very real perception to them that a different standard was being applied to them for actions they say they were led to believe were standard operating procedure.

Question. If your supervisor tells you to do something and gives you either the implied or spoken nod to do it, and you want to keep your job, what do you do?

City workers now on suspension say they did what they were told to do. But apparently when they did what they claim others were doing, it was a different story.

If you are African-American or a person of color, and you think about it long enough, you are likely to recall countless examples of similar occurrences on your job. Being passed over for promotions, not getting the same leeway if you are a few minutes late getting to work, having to stay longer to finish work for others while they never seem to have to stay, are all examples of that double standard.

No one condones or should condone the misuse of city property, time, or tax dollars. When that happens, it costs all of us. But all who are involved in that practice should be held accountable, from the highest-paid employees to the lowest. Wrongdoing is wrongdoing. How that is dealt with should have nothing to do with who is doing it.

Before this matter is resolved, there are likely to be a great deal of painful decisions to be made at city hall. It will be interesting to see if the "fair and equitable" treatment for all city employees is applied.

The mayor and the entire Board of Aldermen should pay close attention to what happens in this situation because the wrong actions will send a message to other city employees and their supervisors about how issues of this type are likely to be handled in the future.

The people who have gone forward with the information about what has been happening have risked a great deal and may well never recover from the outcome of the proceedings they are involved in.

What they have shown the rest of us is that the double standard is still very much alive despite all the laws and regulations that exist to eliminate it. That is why the vigil against such practices can never stop.

# At last, a Black History Month Special that's definitely a special!

What would you do if you could get Lee Brown, New York's police commissioner; Ben Hooks, NAACP executive director; Joseph Lowery, SCLC president; Shirley Chisholm, college professor and the first Black woman to win a seat in Congress; and four other brilliant, committed Black leaders to sit down at the same time in a television studio?

You might do what Turner Broadcasting System (TBS) did: Ask Susan Taylor, editor in chief of *Essence* magazine, and Tony Brown to moderate and participate in TBS's Annual Black History Month Special (air date: Feb. 23 at 10:20 p.m., EST).

Before the taping, I was anxious that the discussion would degenerate into what the public has come to expect from Black leaders — complaints and no plans. The TBS staff, however, had thought out very carefully what they wanted to accomplish: new directions with solutions to old problems.

New faces on the panel helped steer a new course: Sandra McDonald, an Atlanta community activist and a sound, energetic thinker; Barack

## Early black journalists are my inspiration

During the summer of 1989, I spent 10 weeks as a staff writer-columnist at the *Winston-Salem Chronicle* (N.C.) as a T. Thomas Fortune Fellow.

The fellowship, an annual nationally-competitive award for

education and the black press.

The *Chronicle* had won the 1988 John B. Russwurm Trophy, symbolic of the nation's best black newspaper, and got stuck with me the following summer as one of its many rewards for overall excellence.



### AGAINST THE GRAIN

By ROOSEVELT WILSON

newspaper journalism educators at historically-black colleges and universities, is awarded to one professor each year.

The educator is placed at the paper judged best in the nation the previous year in an attempt to provide the educator to sharpen his or her practical skills, contribute directly to the black press and help strengthen the link between higher

The richness of that experience heightened my appreciation for the black press and its continuing struggles and successes despite its many obstacles.

But this is not about that experience. It is about the two names associated with it — John B. Russwurm and T. Thomas Fortune.

The first black to earn a college degree in the United States (Bow-

doin College), Russwurm, along with Samuel E. Cornish, in March 1827 founded this nation's first black newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*.

Though he would go to Liberia two years later to become its superintendent of education, on March 16, 1829, Russwurm collaborated with Cornish for the *Journal's* first editorial, which articulated a philosophy of the black press that endures today.

"We wish to plead our own case. Too long have others spoken for us. Too long has the public been deceived by misrepresentations, in things which concern us dearly . . . The civil rights of a people being of the greatest value, it shall ever be our duty to vindicate our brethren, when oppressed; to lay the case before the public . . ."

"From the press and the pulpit we have suffered much by being misrepresented . . . Our vices and our degradation are ever arrayed against us, but our virtues are passed

by unnoticed . . ."

Fortune, who some say never wrote unless he made somebody wince, came along during the 1880s and until he died in 1928, was a passionate advocate of freedom and a vocal opponent of oppression.

His razor-sharp editorials reached all the way to the White House, once causing President Theodore Roosevelt to write, "Tom Fortune . . . keep that pen of yours off me."

Russwurm and Fortune have long been an inspiration to me because they saw the need to speak out and did so, even when most of the time it meant going against the grain.

But unlike Russwurm and Fortune, I claim no authority to speak for others. However, if what I write makes uncomfortable those insensitive to the existence and predicament of the oppressed, I offer no apologies.

Obama, president of the Harvard Law Review and possessor of good common sense, in addition to a brilliant mind; an astute Alonzo Crim, professor



### TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

and former Atlanta school board superintendent; and Lorraine Hale of Hale House, a Harlem shelter for AIDS babies, and a staunch believer in self-love and self-help.

I noticed as soon as the taping began in the Atlanta studio that self-

help was uppermost on the minds of all of the panelists. As I listened to Ben Hooks' strong urging that Black people take responsibility for their own lives, I realized how far we have come in the last 20 years.

"When do we accept the concept that we have to take responsibility for our lives? When some Black kid gets killed, we don't say White folks made him do it.

We can't say White folks are making us commit genocide," Hooks asserts on TBS. Hooks is living proof that the NAACP has changed with the new demands of leadership.

The organization that Martin Luther King founded, the SCLC, has renounced and buried integration for the values of equality and freedom. "I think America has abandoned the strong woman of spirituality and is shacking up with the harlot of materialism." You will see Rev. Lowery on

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## Judge puts nigger in her place

There was a time in history when African-Americans could not

more cotton to be picked, so he will do anything to stop reproduction of

little strong, but is it? I don't think that Ms. Darlene Johnson, a 27-year-old mother of four would say so. Ms. Johnson was recently convicted of child-beating by Judge Howard Broadman, a White male. Judge Broadman sentenced Ms. Johnson to one year in jail, three years probation and to have the abortifacient Norplant inserted into her arm.

### GUEST COLUMN

By REVEREND RONALD O. ROSS JR.

have enough children for White Massa. He wanted us to reproduce as fast as we could. But today things have changed. There is no

what they feel are child-beating, house-robbing, dope-dealing, murdering "Niggers."

Some say that this theology is a

—With this sentence Judge Broadman has contributed to the

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