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Modify Next Century Elementary School Proposal

The Next Century Elementary School scheduled to open this fall downtown is a novel idea, that is worthy of exploration. However, as with all things that are new, the idea has generated some misgivings among some parents that feel their children might be locked out of a situation that could be beneficial for them.

One of the major concerns expressed by those parents is that the school would cater primarily to the children of RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company white-collar workers, since 60 percent of the children who would attend the school would be those of Reynolds employees.

To avoid this dilemma, but maintain the concept of a workplace school members might consider the following options in deciding the particulars about the new school.

If one of the major obstacles that some people have about the school is the attendance question, then perhaps that concern could be nullified by changing the percentages for the children attending the school.

Rather than having such a large percentage being children of Reynolds employees, reduce the number or eliminate it altogether. Instead of 60 percent of the students being those of Reynolds employees who work downtown, why not make it 40 percent or 30 percent. What may be even better might be to let the 60 percent of the new school's attendance be made up of children whose parents work downtown period, as opposed to any one company in particular. And the other 40 percent would come from the county at-large.

The 60/40 racial configuration would remain the same for the children who are selected from among the applicants whose parents work downtown and those who are selected at-large from applicants throughout the rest of the school system.

In this way, several downtown companies could share in the nurturing of the new school and provide an even larger pool of human and financial resources for the children who attend the school.

The city/county school board's concerns about the naming of the school, the lack of an outdoor playground, funding arrangements for the school once the RJR Nabisco grant runs out, and the school curriculum are all very serious matters that should maintain a high priority for board members.

People must remember that the new school is a three-year experiment using both private and public funds to finance the new initiative. And based upon comparisons of similar sized schools in this system the new workplace downtown elementary school will cost approximately the same amount of money to operate per pupil, roughly \$3,500.

If the new school produces the desired result for about the same as is currently being spent, then how students are selected should not be a hold up to what progress in education it may produce, if any.

The board can show some initiative here by developing a plan that would eliminate that issue so the school could begin without any stigma attached to it. That is the last thing the new school and the students attending it need.

Is it lack of discipline only?

Children are being kicked out of school these days at a very early age. And what is alarming is that it is happening far more frequently than any of us would care to know.

What is also disturbing is that there seems to be far less tolerance on the part of teachers toward misbehaving children, little desire to be assertive in the area of discipline, and a willingness to send a child to the office, rather than dealing with root causes of the problem.

This is not an attempt to lump all teachers into the same category on this issue. Rather, it is a signal to those individuals who are on the front lines in the battle to educate children, that this is an area where they could have a great deal more influence.

Aside from being at home with the parent, a child is exposed to its teacher or teachers more than anyone else during its school years. While proper conduct is something that should be stressed in the home, but often is not, here is an opportunity for that "one teacher" to make a difference in a child's life by providing some life-training skills to a child that may not be getting it at home, or reinforcing what that child has learned at home.

It seems that skill, and it is a skill as much as any academic discipline they might have mastered, is not being given the attention it deserves.

There are a number of reasons for the prevailing conditions, but the bottom line is that our children ultimately end up the losers when the teachers can't or won't take the time to go the extra mile for a child.

Reader can't stop crying from laughing

To the Editor:

Dear Tang,
 I just finished reading "Negro Dinners, Part II." When I stopped crying from laughing so hard, I decided to drop you this note.

I'm now searching for "Part I." Keep up the great writing!

Sincerely yours,
 James A. Steele
 [P.S., Your name came up at Piedmont Open this week. Welcome!]



Mother's Day poems

To the Editor:

A Wonderful Mother
 Mother, this is a special day for you
 With cards and flowers and
 skies so blue.

You taught me to love and
 to be kind
 I'm trying to do that and it's
 working out fine.

You raised me the best way that
 you could
 Even though sometimes I wasn't
 too good.

You made me laugh and sometimes
 I would cry
 With the smile on your face I didn't
 ask why.

I'm glad you lived and are able
 to see

CHRONICLE MAILBAG

Our Readers Speak Out

What a wonderful mother you made
 out of me.

Mother, you'll always be my best
 friend

I'll love you forever,
 even to the end.

I thank my God for having a mother
 like you

All these words I've said, they are
 so very true.

Mother I Miss You
 Mother, you're not here today

For cards and gifts so true.
 So on your precious grave I place
 your flower.

To let you know I still love you.
 One day He came and took you
 away,
 But yet He had His reasons.
 I know He's coming back real soon,
 It might be any season.

Every day I miss you so much
 Words cannot say how I feel.
 Sometimes, I feel your presence

in the night,
 When everything is still.
 Always in my heart you will be,
 No matter what I do.
 At night I pray and ask the Lord
 If He will help me through.
 I'm preparing myself to be
 with you,
 In His Kingdom on high.
 We'll sing songs with all the angels,
 Way up in the sky.

Selma W. Crosby

Stand up, be counted, support WSSU & its chancellor

The language is clear. Divided we fall, united we stand. Anyone of us who thinks that he/she stands to gain by the fall of Winston-Salem State University and Chancellor Cleon Thompson is nothing, but a dreamer. This is the time to support the Chancellor, and we must do it in a united fashion.

Let's put to rest the well known notion that we constantly pull each other down for ill-intended purposes, and that we rejoice at the failure of one of us, rather than rejoice in the success made by one of us. What is wrong with us sometimes? No, we can do better; we must do better.

Can we afford to give ammunition to our enemies who would use same against us? Can we really rejoice at the downfall of Chancellor Thompson when so much is at stake at WSSU? As intelligent citizens, the answer should clearly be no.

Stand up, therefore, and be counted as a supporter of Chancellor Thompson and his leadership at Winston-Salem State University. The least we can do is give credit where it's due -- to recognize the able leadership of Chancellor Cleon Thompson. We owe it, if not to ourselves, to fairness and a just system.

As a society, we have set codes and rules that govern human conduct. Some of these codes and rules are written, while others are a matter of acceptable practice based on societal norms or values. While it's easy to define, and sometimes redefine unwritten codes and rules, those committed on paper are less likely to be manipulated by mankind.

Thus, the justice system has, in an attempt to prevent individual

manipulation, inscribed the exercise of justice is one of the corner stones in constitutional democracy.

Unfortunately, though, even the written codes and rules of human conduct aren't free from human manipulation. It becomes, therefore, troublesome to those individuals who have come to believe, and rightly so, that one is innocent until proved guilty.

Winston-Salem State University's Chancellor Cleon Thompson

part in enhancing efficiency, he instituted the concept of "Performance and Accountability" which has become a commonly used phrase among supervisors and employees. This concept has resulted in increased concerted efforts in achieving the desired goals of the university.

The Chancellor was also aware of the opportunities that abound in mass communications, particularly on the part of minorities who, are

ons. This success wouldn't have been attainable without the full and unflinching support of Chancellor Thompson.

Beginning Fall, 1991, a Department of Physical Therapy will be in place to provide added professional training for students. Besides obtaining program approval from the UNC General Administration, Dr. Thompson's leadership enabled the university to receive external funding amounting to nearly one million dollars toward the development of the program.

The students, faculty and staff would be technically out of business in the absence of sound academic programs. These programs must satisfy certain criteria set by SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). Yes, Winston-Salem State University has been accredited by SACS for the next 10 years. Other accreditation procedures have included NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) and SDPI (State Department of Public Instruction).

It was just a few months ago that the university received another battery of negative press coverage about the nursing program. It, too, had been judged and condemned before its trial. Under the leadership of Dr. Thompson, the nursing program hasn't been closed. Instead, it has received Board approval. In February 1991, the program scored 100 percent on the NCLEX board exam.

Financially, the university is heading toward as solid a foundation than has ever been the case. The Chancellor launched a capital campaign fund that has thus

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GUEST COLUMN

By MAURICE ODINE

has, all of a sudden, been in the news incessantly during the past several days. Also unfortunate is the fact that some of us are what may be described as detractors, be they current or former employees, bystanders, and many others who have vicious motives. These are persons who have developed a negative attitude toward all successes made by one they regard as foe, and persons who would do all in their power to sabotage worthy gains. Believe it or not, many folks fall under this category.

Say what you like, the tenure of Chancellor Cleon Thompson at Winston-Salem State shouldn't be obscured by the recent negative press coverage. His leadership has brought lots of tangible results to the university.

Nearly two years ago, the Chancellor became concerned about the efficiency of administrative processes at WSSU. Noting that reporting roles play an important

vastly underrepresented in media organizations. He was not reluctant, at all, to create a Department of Mass Communications to provide specialized education in Advertising/Public Relations, News-Editorial, and Radio/Television. As of fall 1988, when the department was established, there were 20 majors. Now, the program has 210 majors.

We live in a world that is dictated by the pocketbook, and in which business has, and continues to play, a leading role. To add to the quality of instruction in the Division of Business and Economics, a Department of Business Administration, and a Department of Accounting and Information Systems, have been added to serve students. An Endowed Chair in Accounting has also been established.

How easily we forget. But let's remember that the WSSU Football Rams are the CIAA 1990 champi-

Alpha Kappa Alpha steers black America on course

In the black community, the most constructive and the most productive organizations are the women's groups.

For example, the kind of community service and self-help programs that most of us are waking up to have been operated for

Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) recently conducted a national campaign designed to get black Americans into the habit of "buying Black," thereby developing a thriving black entrepreneurial class, explained AKA International President Mary Shy Scott of Atlanta.

That's why, for example, college scholarships (which infuse the young with the necessary human capital, i.e., education and on-the-job experience) are crucial to community development.

Helping blacks in business is fine, as long as blacks in business help the needy and vulnerable in our community. Essentially, we are using a capitalist system and a free market to elevate the standing of all segments of the black community and it necessitates a careful balancing of responsibilities and rewards.

"Buy Black" campaigns have historically failed because black entrepreneurs failed to understand that reciprocity, i.e., fair prices, courtesy, discounts, philanthropy and new jobs, is essential to a viable community-development program.

"With total income of \$250 billion today, we have the resources to make black capitalism a reality when we make a conscious effort to buy black," Mrs. Scott said.

Black-owned firms have grown by more than 77% since 1972, but

they still generate less than 1% of the total business receipts and employment in the nation, AKA Economic Coordinator Jacquelyn C. Shropshire explains.

That point is directly related to the fact that blacks spend only 6.6% of their income with a black business or professional. In other words, with our current retrograde consumption pattern (95% to non-blacks), there could be no result other than 1% of total business receipts for blacks.

The Black Dollar Day campaign is part of AKA's Economic Empowerment program and it is being supported by other black Greek-letter organizations, churches and civic groups.

By adding economic empowerment to the many advances we have made in civil rights and politics, blacks would have, for the first time, individual rights -- or freedom.

Little by little, our community is moving in the right direction. And thanks to the black women of AKA, the movement is on course.



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

decades by the black Greek-letter sororities: homes for unwed mothers; scholarships and counseling for poor youths; assistance to the aged; etc.

My mind moved in the direction of the longstanding, but little noted, leadership that black women have and do provide. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's recent campaign to focus black people on the use of our most wasted resource is a prime example.

Although AKA is targeting black-owned firms as immediate beneficiaries of the Black Dollar Day campaign, it is the total black community that it hopes to improve.

The AKAs hope the new "habit" of making our dollars make some sense can help close the 56% disparity in incomes between blacks and whites.

And, of course, the largest part of that gap is among the black poor and young.