

**Winston-Salem Chronicle**  
 Founded 1974  
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 Publisher  
**NDUBISI EGEMONYE**  
 Co-Founder  
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 Director of Community Relations  
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 Managing Editor

# Reader wants former Urban League CEO reinstated

**To the Editor:**  
 As indicated by the attached signatures, we, the citizens of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County community do request that serious consideration be given to the immediate reinstatement of Mrs. Delores Smith as CEO of the Winston-Salem Urban League. We have waited patiently since her dismissal November 21, 1990, but have neither heard nor seen any charges that warranted the action taken against her.

Living in a city that advocates democratic process and justice for all citizens, we beseech this Board (Urban League Board of Directors) to take action that will manifest some of the principles on which this agency was founded - provision for employment opportunities, enhancement of self-esteem, and provision of self-help.

Mrs. Smith was doing a creditable job before her dismissal and deserves a chance to continue making Winston-Salem a better place to live for all citizens.

Please help Winston-Salem by taking proper action toward Delores Smith.

**Minister Lee Faye Mack**  
 Chairperson of the  
 Petition Committee



## CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

### Urban League's selection?

There is a great deal of irony in the Urban League Board's selection of its new chairman. And considering the controversy the League and its board have gone through, one can not help but wonder if there might not be a connection between what is past and what is present on that board.

The board no doubt felt that Nat Irvin II is an effective and capable leader who would be able to lead it during a difficult transition period. However, board members may not have considered certain other facts when they cast their votes or how those facts may have some future impact on Urban League matters.

Marshall Bass, chair of the Winston-Salem State Foundation, served on the Urban League Board off and on for more than 20 years until being forced to rotate off along with other board members in the wake of the Delores Smith dismissal.

As chair of the Foundation, he has been responsible for bringing thousands of dollars into the university over the years and therefore carries considerable influence.

With the election of Irvin, a vice chancellor at the university, as chairman of the board, one must wonder if at some point there might be a conflict of interest.

This is not to suggest that such an occurrence is likely or even being contemplated. But the situation is worth consideration in viewing how the board will function. And one of the first tests of how this board and its leadership will function is how it handles its selection of a new CEO.

### Jr. League thank you

**To the Editor:**  
 The Junior League of Winston-Salem Inc. thanks the public for its support of the April 19 and 20 Rummage Sale, our annual fundraiser.

This year's Rummage Sale was our most successful ever. On behalf of the Junior League, I want to thank the customers who attended and the members of the community who donated merchandise, thus contributing to the profit of over \$75,000. These funds will be returned to the community as we strive to meet critical community needs through our projects and our trained volunteers.

For over 68 years the Junior League has been an effective volunteer organization due, in large part, to the continued effort and support of our community. We are most grateful.

Sincerely,  
**Allison T. McCall, President**  
 Junior League of  
 Winston-Salem

We acquire data as our organs form  
 Programmed to cause fear  
 and mass alarm  
 What we are is not our making  
 We chose not what our brains  
 are taking

We are embryos sensitive  
 to sounds and pains  
 Being compelled this way  
 to utilize our brains  
 Nurtured by T.V.s,  
 receiving much waste  
 Inhaling smoke and maybe  
 acquiring its taste  
 Subliminal messages do  
 immorally affect  
 causing love of goodness  
 for the hearts to reject

Mary L. Aldridge

going astray,  
 From good and bad homes,  
 all want their own way.  
 Generations are getting wiser  
 and weak.

In the word of God,  
 He also did speak.  
 Children, try doing right  
 and stop the wrong.  
 One day if you live,  
 you will also be grown.  
 Sow a good seed while you are  
 still young,  
 It's lots to do and you will  
 have great fun.  
 You've stepped on our feet and  
 now on our hearts.

Do things right and you will  
 never depart.

If you will honor and  
 obey us as you should,  
 God will give you a long life,  
 like He said He would.  
 We are some of the reasons  
 you want to do right,  
 Buying and giving to you,  
 everything in your sight.  
 We will be a good listener  
 to things you have to say,  
 With time and lots of patience  
 all along the way.  
 This poem is for you children,  
 read and keep your mind,  
 When things start going right  
 for you, you'll say  
 He's here on time.

Selma W. Crosby

### A poem for the child

**To the Editor:**

*Children We Love You*

Life is a struggle,  
 we cannot explain.  
 Most time we lose,  
 but some time we gain.  
 You and I were raised  
 many years ago.

Children weren't like this  
 we all do know.  
 Children can be a problem,  
 don't you agree?  
 Old ones, young ones want  
 everything free.  
 Today it seems, they are all

### Reader's poem

**To the Editor:**

*The Making of a Personality*

Lying incarcerated in our  
 mothers' sacks  
 Swimming and stroking on  
 our sides and our backs

### Cornerstone thanks

**To the Editor:**

Dr. and Mrs. J. Ray Butler and the United Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church Family take this opportunity to say: "Thanks, Winston-Salem and Vicinity."

Your many acts of kindness and words of encouragement along with your liberal financial support have warmed our hearts.

Orchids to Mrs. Edith Ray, a former parishioner of Dr. Butler who now resides in Albany, N.Y. Mrs. Ray has graciously sent us a donation of \$2,000 as an expression of her love and empathy.

We pray God's blessings upon all who have supported us in our endeavor to carry out God's command: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

Allie R. Wright, Publicist  
 Dr. J. Ray Butler, Pastor

### Graduation '91, the place to be

Project Graduation just may be the next best thing to wholesomeness as mother's home cooking. The success of the program last year has already helped thousands of young people, high school seniors, through one of the most dangerous periods in their lives, graduation night.

Parents let's face it, that is one of the most exciting events your child will experience. Many will think they have reached that point in their lives, as we all did, that they are grown and ready to take on some of those adult pleasures they have been kept from.

Unfortunately for some, that belief can and has led to abuse of both alcohol and drugs. It is during this period that our children face the greatest danger of being involved in drug or alcohol related accidents.

That is the reason County Commission chair, John Holleman, through STEP One came up with the Substance Abuse-Free Environment Initiative (S.A.F.E.). The goal is to get the entire community involved in providing a safe, alcohol and drug free graduation celebration.

The statistics concerning teenage drivers and alcohol related deaths nationally are sobering and so are the numbers close to home. According to the Governor's Highway Safety Program nearly 8,000 teenagers a year die in alcohol and drug related accidents with close to 200,000 critical injuries.

In 1989 in Forsyth County, the year for which the latest figures were available, there were more than 2,000 crashes involving young people from age 16 through 20 at least 70 were alcohol or drug related. Eighty people suffered death or serious injuries as a result.

Tragically, there are far too many examples of this situation occurring especially on graduation and prom nights according to the North Carolina Highway Patrol. Sergeant D.L. Pridgen of the local office in Winston-Salem said the number of people usually killed or injured as a result of alcohol and drug related accidents appears to go up on those nights. He said the frequency of those accidents seems to be directly related to both the number of schools holding these events and the size of the schools.

All graduating seniors in public and private schools in Forsyth and Stokes counties and their guests are the focus of the May 31 event at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds. Last year nearly three thousand kids attended the giant party. Project organizers expect at least that many, perhaps even more to show up.

Organizers are proud of the fact that there was not one report of any alcohol or drug related accident or incident involving any of the kids who attended the event last year.

There will be plenty of police security and everyone will be checked for alcohol and drugs before they are allowed to enter the fairgrounds to participate in the night-long schedule or recreational activities that have been planned.

Through this program, our children learn that there is an alternative to getting loaded on their "big night" in order to have fun. What parents must do is encourage their sons and daughters to attend the event and that it is really preferable to a wilder night of fun from which they could end up in hospitals with their lives changed forever or from which they may never return at all.

Right now, tickets are on sale in each of the public and private high schools in both counties, for seniors only. Students should not wait until the last minute to decide if they plan to attend. It is your night and a lot of people have gone to a great deal of trouble to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable experience.

The Fairgrounds will be closed to everybody but seniors and their guests who have tickets. Activities will include musical entertainment, movies, arcade games, fireworks displays, dances, all the food in the world, and a number of other goodies.

A host of people are counting on the seniors to come out and it would be ashamed to disappoint them. What would be even worse though is for any one of you to fall victim to peer pressure and attend a party that offers something other than good clean fun and end up paying a horrible price as a result.

## In the face of adversity, we must keep the faith

At the height of the malicious congressional campaign to dethrone him and ride him out of Congress, a smiling Adam Clayton Powell would always exhort his supporters to "keep the faith baby." A familiar gospel rendition often reverberates through black church sanctuaries on Sunday: "We have come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord." And Imani, Faith is the seventh principle of the Black Value System. Despite all the adversity we face, Africans in America must believe in the righteousness of our struggle and that in the end "truth crushed to earth will rise again."

Africans in America have suffered through the travail of slavery with all of its shocks and horrors. We were torn from our ancestral homeland, forced to march long distances to the sea and then undertake the ordeal of the "dread middle passage." The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade produced the greatest holocaust in human history as 100 million Africans lost their lives by some estimates.

Once the Western Hemisphere

Africans were subjected to the "slave breaking" process; a conscious effort to de-Africanize the African and create a semi-human suitable to serve the white master. We were taught that our African ancestry tainted us and that our

And "Free Blacks" were at the forefront of the abolitionist movement which fought to overturn the slave system.

Once "emancipated" Africans in America were still not genuinely free. We were used and abused by

color was a badge of degradation. We were reduced to chattels, property with no recognized right to marry or maintain families.

But despite all the trials and tribulations of slavery, Africans in America survived. Not only did we survive, we refused to submit to our oppressors. The slave masters were forced to contend with work stoppages, slow downs, sabotage, the constant threat of revolt and the ever present reality of the run away slaves "stealing away" to freedom.

power hungry politicians and then abandoned. In the South we endured a reign of terror and the imposition of a rigid system of apartheid U.S. style. Hundreds of Africans were lynched as a means of enforcing the "Jim Crow" system and keeping blacks in their place. White supremacy has always shuttered at the prospect of the potential of black power.

Despite the odds, African-Americans rose up to defy the southern system of segregation and

terror. We kept the faith and kept on coming. The Civil Rights Revolution of the 60s and 70s was one of the great social movements in world history; a movement that exposed America's hypocrisy before the world and shattered the shackles of legally sanctioned segregation in this nation; a movement which demonstrated that there is nothing more powerful than a people with make up minds and the confidence/faith and determination to be free.

Adversity has not destroyed Africans in America. Adversity has bred the character and faith to shape Africans in America as a powerful, humanistic force for change. African Americans have not been crushed by the oppressive systems of this society. We have sustained a steady and unrelenting struggle to overcome and transform a racist, exploitative and oppressive nation. And that struggle must continue until we are victorious.

In the face of the current crises which threaten to derail the freedom

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### VANTAGE POINT

By RON DANIELS



## Racism, the centerpiece of American life and politics

The purpose of this column is to get you to read specific issues of two magazines: the May 6 issue of *Newsweek* and the May edition of *The Atlantic*. Ironically, both carry a four-let-

subject is RACE." *The Atlantic* cover says. *Newsweek's* cover, over the faces of a young black man and a young white man, says, "The New Politics of RACE."

In effect, *The Atlantic* says,

and resentment between blacks and whites, moral leadership on race has given way to the scheming of political operatives armed with clever slogans and divisive labels," *Newsweek* said.

"Already, the tactics of racial manipulation have polluted the debate in Washington over the civil rights bill, and affirmative action — or quotas — could become the key issue in the 1992 presidential campaign," it continued.

I have repeated the same message in speeches across the country and in this space. The politicians would rather discuss civil rights, affirmative action and quotas than the economic disaster they've created.

Instead of Americans competing for 10 jobs an efficient government could create, blacks and

whites are reduced to fighting over the only job the U.S. politicians didn't send to Japan and Germany in exchange for loans to pay the interest on the national debt — a \$300 billion deficit. During the last quarter of 1990, Washington borrowed \$328 billion — "more than all the new debt amassed by home buyers, credit card holders, small businesses, real estate developers and non-financial corporations."

Actually, there's a third magazine, *U.S. News & World Report*, May 6 issue, that you will need to read to keep *Newsweek's* and *Atlantic's* emphasis on race in perspective. "Why too much debt threatens your pocketbook and the nation's economy," *The U.S. News* cover states. Translated: How your

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### TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

ter word on the cover: "RACE." Ironically, I think, both examine how and why racism has become the centerpiece of American life and politics.

"When the official subject is presidential politics, taxes, welfare, crime, rights, or values...the real

"Race is the subtext of American politics. Race helps define liberal and conservative ideologies — and gives momentum and vitality to the drive to establish a national majority" that is heavily influenced by its own income and class interests.

"At a time of growing distrust