

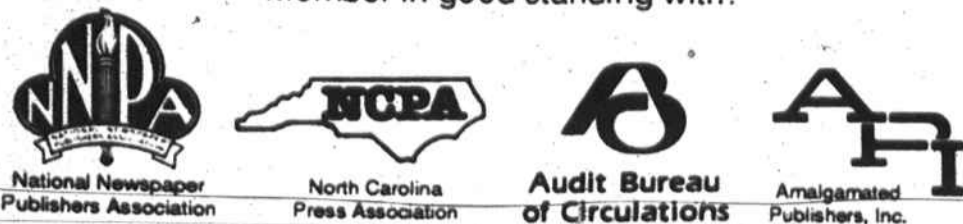
Winston-Salem Chronicle

"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

Established in 1974

Ernest H. Pitt • Ndubisi Egemonye
Editor/Publisher Co-Founder

Member in good standing with:



Black issues

School Board gets an 'F'

We are tired of hearing the school system explain their ignorance of black issues by saying: We don't look at race, we just look at people. They didn't consider race in selecting members for the committee to study alternative forms of discipline, yet 70 percent of the paddlings are administered to the buttoxes of black boys. Of 16 people on the committee, only two are black.

Our opinion
The school board must address the needs of black kids.

They don't look at race as a factor in the dropout rate, yet dropouts are clustered in East Winston. They have very little to say about the low scores of black students on achievement tests, and make much of an increase of two or three percentage points.

Spanking, switching and paddling have been historically accepted forms of disciplining children in the home, and about 1,000 paddlings take place in our schools each year. But corporal punishment has seen its day. It is not an effective way to discipline students.

Some argue that teachers must maintain an atmosphere of law and order, fear and intimidation. We believe that teachers, rather than policing students, must nurture them in a climate of respect and understanding. Paddling and spanking do not teach good behavior. Paddling and spanking convey only negatives: pain, fear, intimidation. Paddling and spanking convey terrible messages to the child: 1) You deserve to be hit, 2) I am at my wit's end and can't think of any other way to reach you, so I'll hit you.

"I was spanked, and I turned out O.K.," say nearly all proponents of corporal punishment. But one has to wonder if they have ever looked at the alternatives. We do have effective methods of motivating children to behave better, and they do not involve hitting — and our school administrators are aware of them.

Dr. Jwanza Kunjufu, a Chicago educational consultant, has written and spoken extensively on the subject of education and educating black males. Earlier this year volume two of his book, *Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Males*, was published. As he puts it: "Teachers must bond with their children. You cannot teach a child you do not love. You cannot teach a child you do not respect. You cannot teach a child you do not understand."

This past May, Dr. Kunjufu spoke to Winston-Salem educators on developing positive self-images and discipline for black children. Dr. Ann Short, elementary school division director, mused this week about the possibility of bringing Dr. Kunjufu back for consultations. We applaud her suggestion. There are also a number of local and regional experts who should be consulted by the committee on alternative forms of discipline. We must reach out in a creative manner to tackle this issue.

In Winston-Salem, the already heated issue of corporal punishment is further clouded by outright racism: The undeniable fact is that 70 percent of the paddlings go to black males. The school board is once again called upon to make a thoughtful, progressive decision. We hope they will.

'For the Record'

Over the next few weeks, Tang Nivri will unveil a new series of articles entitled "For the Record."

This series will help us to focus on those among us who have helped to make us great. They aren't the rich or even famous. Instead, these are the people who have quietly helped us be who we are. But, by telling their story, hopefully, all of us will better understand who we are. Maybe one day, this series will turn out to be a collector's item for some enterprising history student.

About letters . . .

The *Winston-Salem Chronicle* welcomes letters from its readers, as well as columns. Letters should be as concise as possible and should be typed for printed legibility. They also should include the name, address, and telephone number of the writer. Columns should follow the same guidelines and will be published if we feel they are of interest to our general readership.

We reserve the right to edit letters and columns for brevity and grammar. Submit your letters and columns to:

Chronicle Mailbag
P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102

Reader responds to article on paddling

To the Editor:

I have recently moved to this area from a small community in the Midwest. I am a relatively young African-American lady that finds your newspaper enlightening and very much to-the-point. On this occasion, I am writing to you in regards to your recent article concerning the paddling of students in our public school system. After reading my own viewpoint, you probably will not invite me to be a future guest editor, but here goes anyway!

Regretfully and unfortunately, so many of our young African-American students come from single-parent homes. The mother is the dominant figure of the child's home. The child has no father nor do they even have a father figure. It is a shame, but it is true.

Without a father, discipline is normally minimal...if at all. We send our children off to school each day with them not being conscious of the role of discipline in their lives.

They do not respect the classroom teacher which has become their authority figure. For the classroom environment to be a learning environment there has to be discipline! I am not an advocate of corporal punishment, but there simply has to be some form of discipline because children will not learn in an environment where chaos prevails!!

On the typical and traditional home of the white child, there is both a mother and a father. When the white child misbehaves they receive discipline commensurate with their "crime."

The white child goes to school fully aware of what constitutes 'wrong' and 'right.' They know that any misbehavior has certain implications for their lives.

From an early age, they have been taught in their two-parent homes that you go to school to learn. The white children understand the correlation between learning and getting ahead in this fast-paced world! Disruption of the classroom setting is not on their agenda.

I can certainly validate this position which I am making to you. Just look at the test scores and overall grades of white children versus African-American children. We are behind!

Without discipline in the homes and in the schools, we will fall further behind! We must not chastise the teachers who paddle our children. Instead, we should chastise the parent(s) who do not paddle the children. Our teachers are paid to be teachers not parents!!

It should also be pointed out that we (African-Americans) pursued legislation many years ago that would allow our children to attend schools whereby they would sit next to white children in the classroom.

Now, we must play by the same rules. If something is missing in our African-American homes (disci-



CHRONICLE MAILBAG

Our Readers Speak Out

pline) we cannot blame the teacher.

As an African-American lady, I believe there should be discipline in the schools. With more constructive discipline, perhaps our scores in the classroom will go up and our crime rate will go down!!!

Thank you for allowing me to write to your fine newspaper.

Nirvana Jones

Thanks for the help

To the Editor:

We mused recently as the last of eleven 40 cubic yard trailers loaded with telephone books and corrugated cardboard left for Celotex in Goldsboro.

More than 165 tons of books approximately one-third of the 300,000 books delivered had been recovered. The 1991 telephone book recycling effort for Winston-Salem and Forsyth County had finally ended, except for the paperwork.

Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful and Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) are grateful to others who shared in this project: Document Centers of America; Food Fair of North Carolina; Keiger Printing; The Kroger Company; North Carolina Baptist Hospital; Planters LifeSavers; Rura Hall city government; Sears, Roebuck and Co.; Starlight Drive; Wake Forest University; all volunteer — the heroes of this campaign; and all citizens and business cooperating in this effort. In addition, we thank Bell-South Advertising and Publishing, Forsyth County, and the employees of the city of Winston-Salem for technical assistance. This effort heralded in a new era in recycling for us.

Remanufacturing telephone books and cardboard into organic roof tiles allows us to come almost full circle in recycling, with the added dividend of keeping jobs for

North Carolinians. When it is charged that Americans use more resources than much of the rest of the world, those of us concerned about our environment and our future struggle to move us all toward sustainability, preserving our resources. We applaud everyone's efforts to reduce, reuse, recycle, and restore. So far this year, we have collected 102 thousand pounds of recyclables at the spring Recycling Day; 13,500 pounds of litter and 14,000 pounds of recyclables in the Glad Bag-a-thon; and, recently, 7.5 tons of debris removed from local waterways during the Big Sweep.

BFI joins Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful, Inc., in thanking all volunteers who have made these efforts possible.

Cecilia McDaniel Brown,
Coordinator
Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful, Inc.

The debate is on!

To the Editor:

Once again, Congress is debating the National Endowment for the Arts. The debate has been inflamed by a recent amendment introduced by Senator Jesse Helms and passed by the Senate. The amendment provided the NEA is proscribed from funding works which are deemed to be "patently offensive." On the surface this initiative might appear to be in the public interest. However upon closer scrutiny, this legislation is not only vague but superfluous, difficult to enforce, and sends a chilling message about artistic freedom.

Last year, a federal court acknowledged that such determinations of offensiveness and obscenity were the province of the courts. How then, could such a mandate be enforced by the NEA? Moreover, current NEA policy already pro-

hibits funding of obscene works, thus rendering the amendment unnecessary. The amendment seems nothing more than an attack on the agency. Such an assault is unwarranted.

For less than \$1 per taxpayer annually, the Endowment has supported the cultural life of this nation. In North Carolina support from the Endowment has had a tremendous effect on the quality of life in our state. The American Dance Festival, the United Tribes of North Carolina and the North Carolina Maritime Museum, all aided by the NEA, have made lasting contributions to the diverse, rich culture of our state.

During its 26 year history, only a handful of grants have been considered controversial out of over 90,000 funded projects. In fact, misrepresentation of the agency is the greatest weapon that its opponents have. The NEA should be given a fair chance to do what it does best: award grants to those creative artists deemed to be excellent by their peers.

The National Endowment for the Arts was created to recognize artistic excellence, not enforce a nationwide decency policy. After 26 years the agency has adhered to its mission, demonstrating our nation's commitment to art of the highest quality.

The NEA should be a source of national pride rather than a source of controversy. The current debate also reflects that our cherished democratic freedom is at risk. Public funding of the arts should not be automatic, but if government becomes the arbiter of acceptable art as a pre-condition for funding, it will certainly signal an ominous future for the freedom of expression.

Sincerely,
Cathy Stuart,
Executive Director

Leave 'them' alone and help yourself

"There's no way this system's equal," Samuel Williams told *USA Today*, as he sat with his wife and three children in his comfortable DeKalb, Ga. home.

Williams, a local black businessman, and his handsome family look typically middle-class American. But to Williams, his success isn't complete.

Something or someone has to do something to get more white people in his and his family's life.

After 22 years and millions of dollars spent to bus blacks to schools in De Kalb so they could be near whites, and vice versa, there still aren't enough of the precious whites around to satisfy the black Williams' of the world. So these blacks have gone to court to get more "integration."

There is and never will be law to stop whites from running from blacks and certainly not to like them.

Moreover, they're excelling in De Kalb schools with other blacks. Over 50% of the black students attend schools that are 90% black; 25% of white students attend a school that is 90% white.

"We've done what we needed to and all we can do to desegregate. We have the M-to-M (Majority

to Minority busing) program. We have a desegregated faculty. Our schools are financed on an equal basis," says De Kalb board Chairman David Williamson.

He might have added that blacks in De Kalb schools are 125

Williams in Milwaukee, allows poor black children to out perform middle-class white children and all blacks in traditional public schools.

But the Milwaukee NAACP doesn't want them "educated," it wants them "integrated." The posi-



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

points above the national average on the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

But black achievement doesn't impress Williams. "There's no way this system's equal," Williams told *USA Today*. He wants "justice" from the courts.

But how much more "injustice" from the courts do blacks want? What more can the courts do?

The problem is that most white people don't want to be with black people — not that the courts don't order it. That's why sensible black people are returning to the education of black children themselves.

The movement for choice in public schools, led by Polly

tion doesn't improve anything — blacks or the country. It's a retrograde philosophy with counter-productive effects and few friends.

"Is court-ordered school busing effective in eliminating segregation?" *USA Today* asked two blacks and three whites.

"No. It has served to confuse a generation of black Americans... They have no bonding with their community," Ernest Boger, a black from Daytona Beach, replied.

"No. I don't think it's effective. If you have children bused from one school to another, they will still socialize within their own group without mixing with others. Busing doesn't bring about the

effect of total integration," was the response of Linnie Muse, the other black and a nurse from Houston.

The Supreme Court is now hearing the De Kalb case. And Williams, the De Kalb integrationist, is tickled pink that Clarence Thomas is not there to vote.

He should be glad that Tony Brown is not on the Supreme Court because, instead of helping him find more white people, I'd tell him to read "Minority Party" (Regurgate Gateway), a new book by Peter Brown.

The author pulls no punches in reporting the disgust the white population feels for black population.

It's not the courts, the Republican party or school administrators. White America is sick and tired of black people begging them for handouts, preferences, guaranteed success and social acceptance.

If you're black and don't like what I say, I hope you get mad (not angry) enough, to remember what your momma (not mother) told you: "If someone doesn't want to be with you or help you, you should have enough pride in yourself to leave them alone and help yourself."