

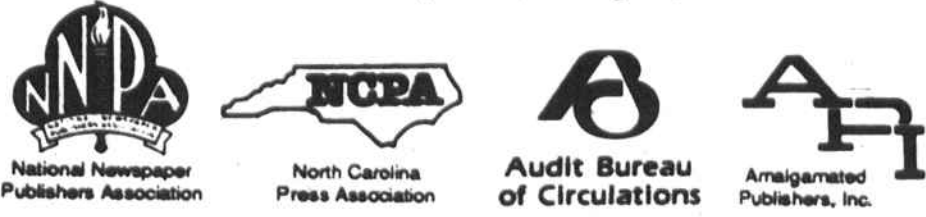
Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

Established in 1974

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

Member in good standing with:



Reader thanks Chronicle for foresight

To the Editor:

"My God is Real," "How Great Thou Art," "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" are songs that have dominated my thoughts since reading your May 21 editorial entitled, "Standards: Black vs. White" and then the June 11 eloquent remarks of Tang Nivri's "On The Avant Garde" article entitled "Whose Mind Needs Changing Anyway?"

You see, the views expressed in each article are long-time overdue. I know God acts in mysterious ways and now he has acted to open the eyes of black Americans. I praise God that at last some publicity is being given to the truth — which has been crushed to the ground by our leaders for too long. These articles should be posted in every place frequented primarily by black Americans and on every lightpost in inner cities. They offer not only food for thought but food for action.

The Chronicle is to be congratulated for having the foresight to publicize the other side of the story — the side that will open doorways, inform the uninformed, remind the apathetic and wake up the satisfied, instead of waiting for permission and acceptance. There probably are as many non-racist white people as there are black people. A vast number of our young can be somebody, go someplace and do something, if only we find more leaders that can speak positively about opportunities that are available to all Americans.

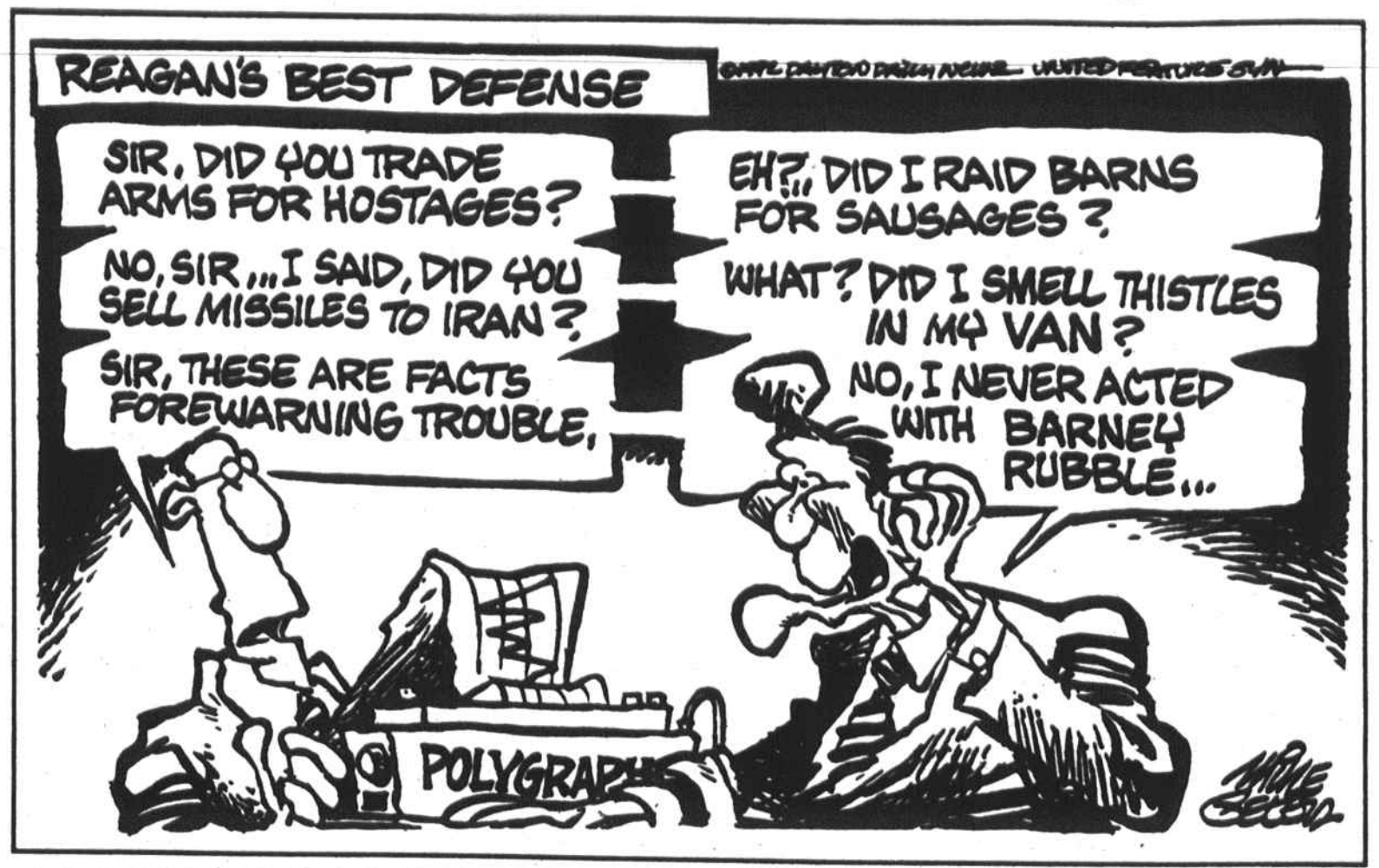
Our form of government dictates that freedom means an opportunity to make sacrifices to secure whatever one desires. We know it works because it has worked for millions of black people in the past.

D. Drake

Fourth of You-Lie

To the Editor:

With so much attention being focused on the problems of the



CHRONICLE MAILBAG

Our Readers Speak Out

black community, I would like to offer an opinion on one area specifically: ECONOMICS. More precisely, the economic exploitation of black people by the majority population fostered by the adaptation by black people, the customs and social mores of our enemy.

We (black people) are about to spend countless millions of dollars on new clothes, food, travel, alcohol, and only God knows what else, under the guise or assumption that we are supposed to be celebrating Independence Day. May I suggest that this is pure and total foolishness. When you are independent from someone, that means that you are able to separate from them. I dare say that we Africans in Amerikkka [sic] are not in a position to separate from the sons and daughters of our oppressors. Please

excuse me if I should make such an assumption that we would want to separate from them. The problems in the black community will persist until we become independent in our thinking and in our conscious actions on a day to day basis.

As long as we continue to adopt and facilitate the oppressive mind games that have us so out of touch with who we are, and what our mission should be, we are doomed to suffer the consequences of mental if not physical slavery. Think about it. Happy Fourth of You-Lie!

Husayn Abdur-Rafi

Clinton apology

To the Editor:

I deeply regret that I was

unable to attend your National Newspaper Publishers Association annual conference on June 11 in Baltimore, Md.

Although I was unable to participate in the luncheon program, I did offer several alternative times for personal appearances as well as an interactive satellite feed that would have afforded NNPA members the opportunity to ask questions at the luncheon.

That was rejected, and although NNPA officials worked diligently with my staff in an attempt to settle on a mutually acceptable time, it was not possible.

Again, please accept my sincere apology for missing your conference in Baltimore.

Sincerely,
Governor Bill Clinton

Editorial

Working for change

This week, when asked what amount of responsibility they accept for race relations in the city, several elected and appointed officials squirmed in their seats. When is the Chronicle ever going to ease up, they wonder; but we never get tired of asking about race relations. If you don't see the people's plight, you're likely to wonder why they keep complaining.

Some white individuals are working for change, side by side with blacks or

in more individual ways; but it is the structures themselves that must be broken down. When they are, we will all experience an enrichment in our lives: the lives of blacks and whites and other cultures.

There's a difference between treating African-Americans with decency and the reality of true equality. Many whites will treat blacks with respect, but they still think the home of a black family is worth less than the home of a white. Many whites pledge their support to equal rights but have never read a book by an African-American, have never had an African-American in their home.

Blacks in positions of authority also shoulder a confusing responsibility: many of them have assumed, along with their positions, the job of "calming their people." A silent, unspoken pact is made: the (white) authorities expect them to conform to white codes of conduct, and speaking out about racial unjust is not a behavior that is met with glee. But the most important thing you may ever do is to seek and tell the truth about the quality and texture of relationships between the races: what is there and what is clearly missing. Never forget: unless we make changes, nothing will change.

How do you deal with people who feel they've given you enough?

CIAA: Bring it home

Three months ago, an enthusiastic Winston-Salem delegation returned from Richmond ready to build local support to entice the CIAA tournament to make Winston-Salem home for the next three years.

Since then, the Chamber of Commerce, the mayor and the city manager's office have worked hard to try to secure the necessary commitments and financial package to bring the tournament to town. CIAA events attract an upscale crowd. This year, 20,000 fans packed into Richmond's 11,000-seat coliseum. During the long weekend of CIAA events, thousands of fans are out on the town, 24-hours a day, buying, eating, and shopping.

Winston-Salem seems a natural home for the event: North Carolina has eight of the 14 CIAA colleges, while Virginia has four. Seating is more comfortable and parking is more ample and accessible at the Joel Coliseum than the Richmond coliseum. We applaud the efforts of those who have diligently pursued the event and local businesses and corporations who have pledged their support. If we succeed, it will be attributable to a cooperative effort from the whole community: something we could use a lot more of.

The CIAA will be a critical event for our city: its economic might is great.

Exploring the psychological concepts of racism

Gordon Allport, one of the leading social psychologists of this century, explains that "any negative attitude tends somehow, somewhere, to express itself in action." He ventured to distinguish certain degrees of negative action from the

disliked group. Rarely does one inflict harm. 3) **Discrimination:** Here the individual who harbors the prejudiced attitudes undertakes to exclude all members of the disliked group from the social arena. 4) **Physical Attack:** Under conditions

petuates violence by listening and keeping silent. Allport suggests that in cases where violence breaks out, we can be fairly certain that the following steps have prepared the way.

1) There has been growing discrimination. 2) There has been some outside strain upon members of the group that commit the violence. 3) There has been a long period of prejudgment. 4) There has been a long period of verbal complaints against the victim. 5) The individuals are in an explosive state. 6) The individuals are discontented. 7) They see that their irritation and wrath are socially sanctioned.

Racism is a learned behavior that will in all probability continue as long as it is positively reinforced by white society. All behavior is learned, and for any behavior that is not negatively reinforced, there is a strong likelihood that the behavior will be repeated. This is not necessarily applicable exclusively to the group that basically exhibits racist behavior, but to the subgroups as well.

When racist white groups are increasing in popularity, and well-meaning whites do not speak out openly against this, there is a message of covert approval. When the media puts blacks in the image of the criminal or someone who is subhuman, it makes it easier for whites who feel that they have been denied economic advantage because of blacks, to annihilate the enemy. This image-making keeps everyone in check. It keeps the white community suspicious and always on guard, while it keeps the black community in the image of the criminal, or the reason for the problems.

Until the white community realizes that the problem facing this country is so complex and so involved and has been here so long — unsolved — and that the problem is not caused by black people, but instead, the effect of the racist attitudes of white people, and the silence of well-meaning white people who wear blinders, this country will continue to sit on a powder keg with the fuse getting shorter and shorter.

GUEST COLUMN

By BILLY BOOKER

least energetic to the most. Using a five-point scale, Allport calls attention to the range of activities that may issue prejudiced attitudes and beliefs.

1) **Antilocution:** Most people who have prejudices talk about them with likeminded friends and occasionally with strangers but rarely go beyond this mild degree. 2) **Avoidance:** When the prejudice is more intense, the individual usually tries to avoid members of the

of heightened emotion, prejudice may lead to violence. 5) **Extermination:** Death of the disliked individual marks the ultimate degree of violence that is directly related to prejudice.

This degree of negative action is the one that we are most concerned with, although all are of concern. Violence against a disliked member because of race is an outgrowth of antilocution. By tolerating antilocution, this country per-

There are other ways to balance the budget

Supporters of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution say it will finally stop the hemorrhaging of America's finances, but it is more likely to destroy our economy and our fragile social system.

True, the deficit is a problem. We're headed for a \$400 billion shortfall in the federal budget, and interest payments on the national debt will be the single biggest item in the budget. It's crazy to shove scarce revenues out in the form of interest payments to Treasury bondholders instead of using those revenues to do the many things government has left undone all these years. But there are plenty of ways to balance the budget — and a constitutional amendment is by far the worst.

There are four big reasons why it is the wrong way to go. First, and most obvious, it would replace substance with process. Federal spending and taxation levels have to be based on national needs and economic conditions, not by a rigid process divorced from the substantive needs of the nation. A constitutional

ban on deficits, for example, would effectively wipe out chances for a Marshall Plan for America that would invest in our human and physical resources to make us competitive again. Other important initiatives would be stymied because a constitutional mandate to balance the budget would lock the nation into a fiscal straitjacket. A second reason is that the current federal budget is an accounting artifact.

It makes no distinction between current operating expenses, such as Congressional salaries, and long-term capital expenses, such as building a new airport that will last for a hundred years. The argument that if states can balance their budgets the federal government can, falls apart on that point. State and local budgets generally separate those two expense categories, financing current expenses through taxes and capital expenses through borrowing. Businesses operate that way, too, with regular expenses coming out of earnings and construction of new factories financed by borrowing. Family budgets are the same — with cars

and homes financed by borrowing.

So long as the federal government runs a unified budget that lumps all spending in one pot, it is likely to run a deficit, and it doesn't make any sense to freeze an outdated accounting practice into the constitution. A third reason why the constitutional amendment approach is wrong is that it is bad eco-

study estimated it would result in a big drop in economic output, 3.4 million fewer jobs, huge cuts in social security and huge tax hikes. Finally, a rigid process effectively prevents the government from responding to emergencies — whether a foreign policy crisis such as the Persian Gulf War or a domestic crisis such as the Los Ange-

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 or printed legibly.

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



TO BE EQUAL

By JOHN E. JACOB

nomics. Economists expect governments to run budget surpluses in good times, with deficits to help stimulate the economy in bad times. Forcing a budget balance in both good times and bad ones is to force the country into a fiscal straitjacket that could put it deep into a permanent Depression. That's what we'd be in for too, if a constitutional amendment mandated an end to the deficit within a short time frame. One

les riot that required emergency aid and new urban programs. We're running big deficits because a decade ago we cut taxes for the affluent and escalated military spending. The deficit can be controlled now by reversing the process — raising taxes for the affluent and cutting military and other non-essential spending, and we don't need a constitutional amendment to do that.