

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:



Editorials

18th anniversary

The *Winston-Salem Chronicle* was founded in 1974 to fill a void in the African-American community: to make sure that the black voice was heard, to record history from an African-American perspective.

We felt then, and believe now that it is important to publicize all aspects of African-American life, not just the negative aspects, which the majority media are often so willing to put forth to the public.

Since that time, the *Chronicle* has covered black artists, poets, and entertainers; politicians and businesses; black churches, family reunions, weddings, and social events.

It's not surprising that many of the people who are making waves today were names in the *Chronicle's* pages in the mid-70s: Annie Brown Kennedy co-chaired a people's rights group; Mazie Woodruff ran for county commissioner; Maya Angelou visited Wake Forest University and read excerpts from her new book, "Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas;" Larry Little retired the Black Panther ambulance and ran for alderman, and Dr. Benjamin Hooks was named director of the NAACP.

As Winston-Salem has grown, so have we. We have tried to fairly and accurately reflect the changes that have taken place. We have not always taken the popular position on issues of controversy. At times, we have been faulted by the black community for reporting its bad deeds along with the good. We have been faulted by the white community for being one-sided and demanding too much change too quickly. But we have always allowed dissenting opinions from both black and white citizens.

Heart-felt thanks goes to our loyal readers: you bring us your news, tell us of your joy and share your pain. Without you, we simply would not exist.

Although 1992 finds us, like many small businesses, faced with the challenge of a recession, we are meeting that challenge by working even harder to gain your interest and loyalty.

The fact that the *Chronicle* exists goes against all odds: our readers may rest assured that we will move into the future with the same courage and deliberation that has seen us through the past 18 years.

Desperate acts

Several weeks ago, a pre-schooler watched as his 19 year-old father beat the child's mother with a pistol. He later returned with another man, and she was shot in the

face. As this young mother fell to the floor, all she could think was: I want a better life for my child.

Everyone wants a better life for their children: but for a black mother, even if she is the best

mother in the world, there are conditions out of her control that will adversely affect her child's entire life. A black child will always be in a minority, and the white upper class majority have a habit of making decisions that serve them: if they help the black community or the lower classes at all, it is often a benefit-by-default.

Equality will be a long time coming, and many of us are not so patient as we once were.

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 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

Both whites and blacks respected McMillan

To the Editor:

I was in attendance at the funeral for the Rev. J.T. McMillan last Friday and observed that among the many stirring tributes there was none from the white citizens of Winston-Salem.

Therefore, I would like to add my belated voice to the chorus of praise, trusting that many whites share my appreciation for his contribution.

I was with Dr. McMillan on many of his ventures for justice and equity. Nothing was said in the many tributes about the night in 1968 when he and his church welcomed the members of the Poor Peoples' March who came to through town on their way from Atlanta to Washington in the wake of Martin Luther King's death. My wife and I were present that night when his church, alone in the city, fed and assisted in the housing of the marchers.

Again, nothing was mentioned of the response Dr. McMillan made to the burning of the city during the racial crisis of 1967 (one can still see the scars driving along the downtown section of Liberty Street). Dr. McMillan, joined by attorney Curtis Todd and Dr. F.W. Jackson, agreed to express the grievances of the African-American community in a hastily organized forum which I was privileged to moderate.

They told it like it was. So much so that on the front page of the *Winston-Salem Journal* the mayor, "Red" Benton, demanded an apology for their effrontery!

As a member of the NAACP at the time I had a chance to observe his progressive leadership. I was a part of the small nucleus which conceived the strategy of the Catherine Scott Legal suit, and saw it take off from that small beginning under the leadership of McMillan and Jack Adkins until it changed the whole structure of education in our city.

From the time McMillan arrived in Winston-Salem in 1962 till now, 30 years later, I have been an appointed member of the North Carolina Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and have dearly appreciated the vision and the energy supplied by someone like McMillan on the local level.

Now that the new "advocates" of civil rights (of the Reagan-Bush variety) have raised their voices of reaction, both among the white and black segments, one can be all the more thankful for a courageous pioneer such as McMillan.

Finally, for the whites who bemoan the state of race relations in our city it would have been a boost to experience the togetherness at the funeral to say, "Thank you, Rev. McMillan, for what you have done for all of us."

G. McLeod Bryan
Professor Emeritus,
Wake Forest University

Hurricane Andrew

To the Editor:

Hurricane Andrew: was a very devastating Class Four hurricane that hit southern Florida and New Orleans.

Thousands of families were left homeless, some have no electricity, water or jobs. My heart goes out to these people.

Thanks to the efforts of many



CHRONICLE MAILBAG

Our Readers Speak Out

churches, celebrities, and organizations, relief is on the way. Several locations in the Triad have relief efforts on to help.

Having lived in the Triad during our tornado in 1989 we can see just how destructive Mother Nature can be.

My concern is that President Bush waited for several days before sending the military and other much needed assistance. This shows a total lack of concern for humanity. We must all do our part to help in this effort. And let's hope that the inner city families, can get much needed food and shelter, as well as the middle class families in the suburbs.

April Jeter,
Greensboro

Spivey says thanks

To the Editor:

I want to thank the people of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County for their support and encouragement both before and after my primary for Forsyth County District Court Judge.

It was an honor for me to run as a candidate for public office, and I feel fortunate to have had this opportunity. I learned a lot about our community and the people who make this a great place to live.

This is an exciting and crucial political season from the national races to the local races. I encourage you to become involved in the political process. Your involvement is crucial to the success of our form of government.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to be a candidate for public office. I look forward to continuing to work with you to advance our community.

Ron Spivey
Assistant D.A.

Op-Homes have B'day

To the Editor:

This year Youth Opportunity Homes Inc. celebrates its 21st birthday. Since 1971 we have served thousands of at-risk youth in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County community, providing them with a safe, therapeutic home-away-from-home and offering their families counseling and other support.

To help celebrate this occasion,

Youth Opportunity Homes recently held its first annual reunion of residents of our Emergency Shelter and our Boys' Home/Girls' Home. Nearly 100 people — residents and their families, YOH staff, board members, and other involved members of the community — joined together for an evening of food and fun in Hanes Park.

County Commissioner Earline Parmon provided an inspiring message to all those assembled, and a number of local businesses helped make this event possible through generous donations of food, beverages, and prizes for the participants. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the support and concern these businesses have shown for the youth and families of this community.

Hats off to: Rich Halverson's McDonald's, Bojangles, Planters Lifesavers, E.G. Forrest, Joyce Brothers, Merita Bakery, Camel Pawn Shop, Camel City Cleaners, Norman Stockton, Wake Forest University, Action Video, and Hinkle's Bookstore.

James W. Douglas,
President,
Board of Directors
Robert Beasley,
Executive Director,
Youth Opportunity
Homes Inc.

Stalking or protecting?

[Editor's Note: This is a revised version of Rev. Gordon's letter that appeared last week. This is what should have been printed.]

To the Editor:

Are they stalking us or protecting us, Which!? That's what I want to know.

I am very, very upset, outraged and at the same time fearful with these recent attacks by Winston-Salem Policemen on females. This most recent alleged rape of a 21 year-old white female is frightening indeed.

Couple it with the McKellar case and the message is loud and clear that women and Blacks in this city are the least important people. On its face, police behavior appears sinful, racist and a terrible injustice. Where is the protection? A Police Review Board is urgently needed to monitor behavior.

Look at their history. The mur-

der of the WSSU student in 1991, the Stoney cover-up, the McKellar girl, bound and gagged where she couldn't even cry out against the pain in her body. What is even more sad and pitiful is that the *Winston-Salem Journal* and WXII are so quick to publicize the Mushroom Four but show bias when the system appears corrupt otherwise.

"If my people which are called by name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and WILL HEAL THEIR LAND", Chronicles II 7:14. Unless this happens and soon, our future prospects as a nation or city are not pleasant to contemplate.

Rev. Mrs. Carolyn Gordon

Call to action

To the Editor:

Someone has asked, "Are we going to run the government or let the government run us?" That is the question.

No business man would hire a man to run his business for two years without his supervision and then after the two year period, check into his business to see how it has been run. Yet, isn't that what we are doing with our members of Congress?

We elect them to office and send them to Washington to run our government for us and pay very little attention to what they do. Two years later we are trying to find out how they handled our business. We listen to them talk and decide to vote for them or against them by what they say.

Some members of Congress have a reputation of talking one way and voting another. Then too, some of them will occasionally vote the way their party wants them to vote instead of the will of the people.

When that happens, it is because we are not watching them. It doesn't take much time to keep tabs on them but it is so important.

Wouldn't you agree that it is high time for a "Call to Action?" It is time to write your Congressman.

[David Adamson is founder and chairman of the National Write Your Congressman organization in Dallas, Tx.]

Republicans test dangerous strategy

Essentially, the Democratic Party exploits Blacks and the Republican Party ignores them.

I know you've heard that before, but both political conventions this year gave that statement new meaning.

At their meeting, Bill Clinton's new batch of Southern-led moderate Democrats appropriated the Republican's old Southern strategy of wooing the White vote at the expense of Blacks. Clinton jumped 30 points ahead of George Bush by denouncing the values of Sister Souljah and muzzling Jesse Jackson.

But the Republicans weren't napping. Realizing that Clinton's new strategy disassociated him from the charge of representing the interests of Blacks, the Republicans tacked another "special interest"

group on his back: homosexuals, and lesbians.

Immediately, Clinton began to distance himself from gay themes,

Blacks already were eliminated by first being isolated by the Republicans and now the Democrats. So Buchanan didn't have to spend any



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

as he has from civil rights and affirmative-action. The Republican strategy was already working.

Patrick Buchanan introduced the GOP convention's new attack-dog conservatism: vile, separatist, hypocritical.

He called for "family values" that would result in an ethnic cleansing of the party of Lincoln.

time on them.

During his primary run, he said that Africans cannot successfully assimilate into this country. Other than radical feminists, it's the gays that are tearing down the country, he made clear.

It's a dangerous strategy. Unfortunately, like the historic bounce Clinton got from politically

emasculating Jesse Jackson and the televised convention, the Republicans went from 30 points down in the polls to a dead heat with their brand of family values.

Jack Kemp and Barbara Bush tried to offset Buchanan's fascism, with some success. Kemp was conservatism with a human face; Mrs. Bush was grace under fire, asking for common sense on abortion and tolerance in accepting people who are different, meaning gays.

Buchanan, the lace-curtain David Duke, lost the primary, but won the convention with his ethnic cleansing "cultural and religious war" on non-Whites, gays and feminists.

The Republican Party may ultimately win with this strategy. But this exclusionary policy is sewing the seeds of losses to come.