

Winston-Salem Chronicle

"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

Established in 1974

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Editor/Publisher Co-Founder

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Editorial

A Welcome Change

The torch has been passed. A new generation of leaders has finally sprung to the forefront, having been chosen by their baby-boomer counterparts.

The exuberance over Bill Clinton's election is reminiscent of the excitement over John F. Kennedy's election. We have hope once again. We realize that in the days ahead we still face the same problems — economic uncertainty, a \$4 trillion deficit — yet we trust Clinton to tackle these issues on our behalf. And we trust him for completely different reasons than the ones for which we elected JFK.

Clinton is a regular guy who made the most of himself (much as Ross Perot).

Clinton's leadership will provide fresh, workable ideas.

Clinton's childhood wouldn't make a bedtime story, yet it is much more typical of many Americans than the childhood of Hollywood actor Ronald Reagan or Texas oil mogul George Bush.

His father was an alcoholic who died before he was born. His mother remarried a man who was also an alcoholic and who abused her. She leaned heavily on him for emotional support after her second divorce. He helped raise his younger brother. Yet he studied hard to earn academic scholarships, graduated from Yale school of law, and returned to Arkansas to practice. While he was governor, the State Bureau of Investigation informed him that they had evidence that his brother was involved in drug use. Clinton told them to prosecute him just as they would any other citizen.

Clinton understands the concerns of the average American: he has been there himself.

Throughout this campaign, George Bush repeatedly asked voters, who do you trust to make the change for you?

We have answered. We have chosen Clinton. Black voters in particular rallied to the polls like never before in support of Clinton. A September '92 survey of newspaper readers in the state (commissioned by the North Carolina Press Association) revealed that 66 percent of blacks surveyed answered they would vote for Clinton.

Clinton's leadership will bring many welcome changes. He can be counted on to aggressively address the needs of at-risk families and children. He supported the Family Leave Act of 1990 and again in 1991. He will most likely call for measures to limit health spending nationally, and wants to require employers to provide health insurance for workers. These are measure that send small businesses screaming down the street in protest: until they are made to realize the far greater price we all pay in remedial health care, which is always too little, too late.

If Clinton has his way, those who are able to pay extra will be required to, such as requiring the rich to pay more for Medicare premiums. He wants to see fair taxation on Social Security and Medicare of upper-income families. We hope to see an quick death to the trickle-down economics theory: instead of tax breaks on luxury boats, Clinton proposes deductions for families with incomes under \$60,000.

Clinton will not be able to change the country overnight, or make much difference in one four-year term. But he plans to dig in vigorously and stimulate more investment and more give-and-take in the economy.

We welcome his leadership.

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

Reader Wants To "Make Things Clear"

To the Editor:

In September, we were asked by an interracial, ecumenical group of clergy to meet with U.S. Attorneys Doug Cannon and Bob Edmond about a concern which had been expressed in the community regarding the cases of Lee Faye Mack, Patrick Hairston, and Rodney Sumler, namely, that they were sent to prison even though their cases were being appealed.

As a result of our meeting with the attorneys, it is our opinion that the confusion arose because the public was not made aware of a difference between state and federal law. While it is not unusual for a person convicted under state law to be allowed to go free while his/her case is on appeal, it is highly unusual for a person to go free if convicted under federal law. Cannon and Edmond said they could recall only one person who did not go to prison while his/her case was being appealed since the current law went into effect in 1984.

Federal law states that a person who has been convicted of a crime, sentenced to a prison term, and has appealed will be detained unless the judicial officer finds that the appeal "raises a substantial question of law or fact likely to result in reversal, an order for a new trial, a sentence that does not include a term of imprisonment, or a reduced sentence . . ." It was the opinion of the court that the appeals of Mack, Hairston, and Sumler were not likely to lead to any of those conclusions.

We believe that the responsibility for making the public aware of such legal distinctions rests with the press and the media. We encourage local newspapers, radio and television stations to be diligent in providing all information that is required for sufficient understanding of sensitive, divisive issues.

Edgar Christman
David Partington
Richard Groves

Reinvest in America

To the Editor:

Our priorities are all wrong! It's time to change those priorities and put people first for a change!

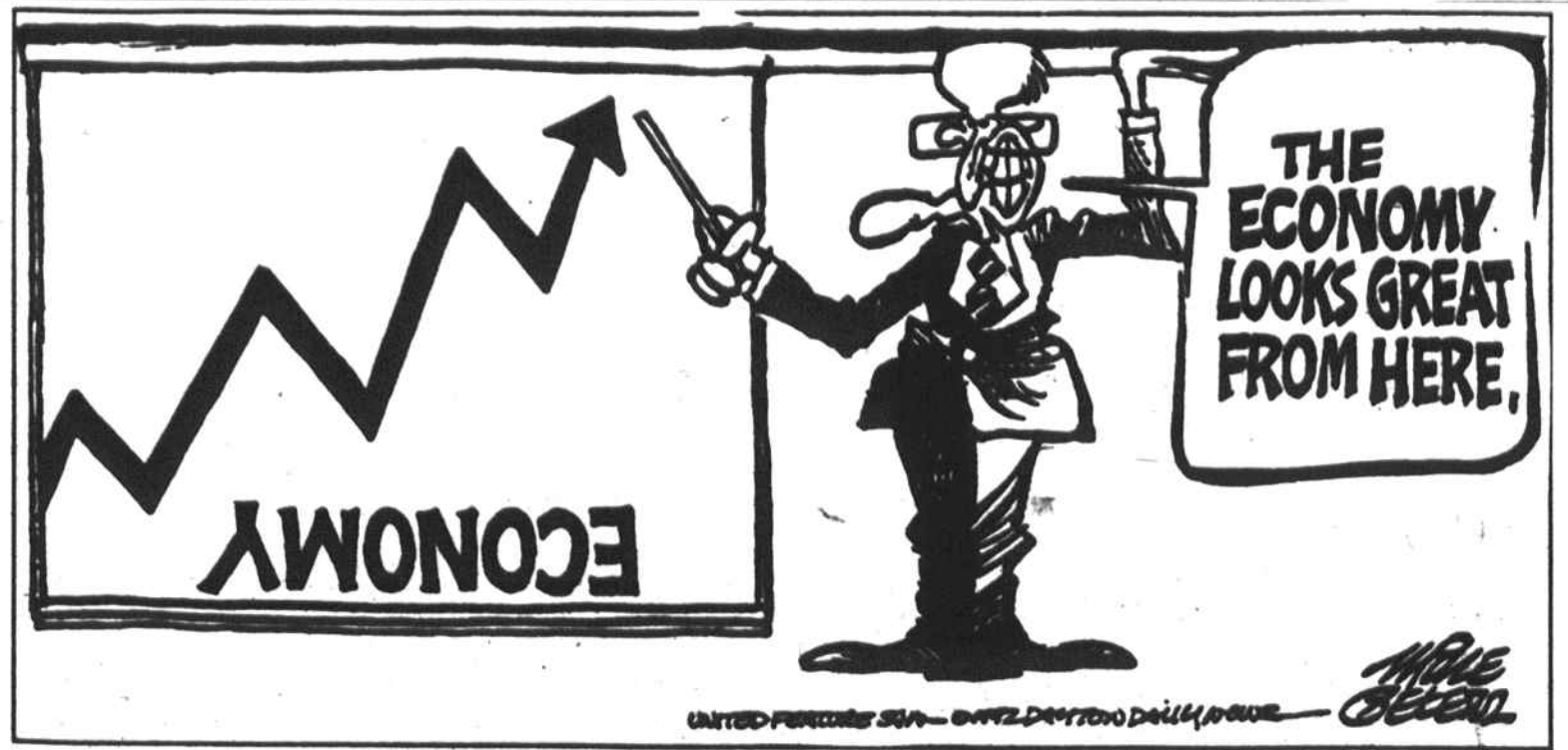
No one — especially someone from North Carolina — would ever advocate weakening our national defense or placing our country or the countries of our allies at risk. But it's time to find a balance in how we set our priorities and expend our resources.

We're hurting here at home. And we can't help the rest of the world if we fail to keep our own nation strong and successful.

It's time to reinvest in America. Our economy is faltering. Our streets aren't safe. Basic services are being cut. Health care is a constant worry. We have the strongest military in the world, but our economy seems to be falling behind.

In 1991, there were 198,000 unemployed North Carolinians. Almost 906,000 of our fellow citizens were living in poverty. And over 1,451,000 had no health insurance.

In 1989, every taxpaying citizen of North Carolina spent an average of \$1,392 on the military. Each taxpayer in North Carolina spent more on the military than on educating our children — and policing our streets — and maintaining our highways — and keeping our citizens healthy — combined!



CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

This year, North Carolinians will pay roughly \$480 per person in taxes to defend Europe from a nonexistent threat, over five times more than will be spent to keep our own streets safe.

It's time to rearrange our priorities!

As a share of the total federal budget, education dropped from 2.5 percent to 1.8 percent between 1980 and 1992.

If the level of federal funding had remained constant, the U.S. Department of Education would have \$10.3 billion more to spend to help schools than it currently has. Less than one percent would have meant more than \$10 billion additional education dollars.

What would that have meant for North Carolina?

In 1992, North Carolina received \$425 million from the federal government to support 11 highly effective school programs, including Chapter 1, Individuals with Disability Education, Vocational Education, and post-secondary student aid.

If the level of federal help had remained constant, if we had invested that extra one percent here at home, North Carolina could have received an additional \$230.7 million — about a 50 percent increase in needed education services.

The world is changing. Our needs are changing. And it's time to have our priorities change to meet those new needs.

Yes, America has a place of leadership in the world that must be maintained. But the best way to maintain that position is to make sure every American has a secure, high-wage job, that every American family is protected against the threat of run-away health care costs, that families are safe in their homes, that our children have the opportunity to learn, to build, and to live the American Dream.

For the school employees of North Carolina, the first step in setting those new priorities is to elect Bill Clinton and Al Gore and to put people first — for a change.

Julia Kron, president
North Carolina Association
of Educators

Top Degree Producers

To the Editor:

Have you ever wondered which

colleges are graduating most of our African-American students? Would this information be helpful to parents and potential college students that plan to enter college next fall? Recently a good friend and her 18-year-old daughter pondered this question with me, and because badly needed financial aid was made available, the young lady first visited and later enrolled in St. Augustine's College, a very fine historic black college in Raleigh. Today she seems very happy with her choice.

Top degree producers in 1988 and 1989 were first Howard University; second, Southern University A & M College; third, Hampton University; fourth, North Carolina A & T State University; and fifth, Jackson State University at Jackson, Miss.

Black Enterprise Magazine obtained this information from the May 7, 1992 edition of Black Issues in Higher Education. This publication had a special chart titled "Top 100 Degree Producers," which also revealed that only three predominately white schools placed among the top 20. The University of Maryland - College Park, which ranked 12th, was first among predominately white schools in graduating African-Americans.

Maryland granted 286 bachelor degrees to black students for the 1988-89 school year. By contrast, Howard granted 744 degrees during this same time. (Responding to the survey results, the writer said "the report shows that white colleges are not doing nearly what they should in terms of graduating African-Americans," says Frank L. Matthews, publisher of Black Issues in Higher Education.)

Turning momentarily from the report, most would agree that some other factors may be involved. I remember one supervisor said when she sought to get her master's degree while studying in France, she was told to keep her eye on the light at the end of the tunnel. When beginning a course of study or even starting high school, for example, the end seems so far away. But if one keeps his eye on the light, graduation day finally arrives and what a great day! Hopefully, with this goal behind oneself, one can begin on the road to obtaining a college degree and even higher accomplishments in one's chosen field.

Also relevant, I feel are some

comments a Wake Forest professor made at his family reunion a few years ago. Speaking to all of us, but more directly addressing his comments to the young people in attendance, he argued them to take charge of their education. He told them even though they were young, they needed to take responsibility for seeing that they learn and graduate; to learn all that the teacher knows that is teaching them, even when the teacher seemed not to care whether they learned or not. They needed to take responsibility, for it was their life and their future on the line. He further remarked that his craft, which is athletics, often led him into the local schools to talk to various classes. Sometimes, and quite sadly, he saw students "hanging out," and "snuggling up" at the classroom door, rather than being inside with their class being attentive and doing their work. He reminded us that these students were wasting their valuable time, and if teachers let them, they would be the ones to pay the cost for misusing this grand opportunity to get prepared for the future.

The success of schools is very encouraging, and it was heart-warming to see that Howard and North Carolina A & T State University led in the number of black male students that graduated. Many who know said the decline of college graduates was also the result of the Vietnam War which dried up monies for college grants and scholarships.

This letter only offers a few ideas. Why students do or do not graduate is not known by this writer. But this I do know, those who graduate and complete other comparable rigorous programs and projects do so because they make up their minds and decide that they will let nothing stop them — nothing. "Neither fire, hell, or high water!" And often this can be said of a lot of things: of living, of life, rearing a family, keeping a job, and even honoring your God . . . "I'll let nothing separate me from the love of God" is a refrain over the centuries that has kept many, many African-Americans steadfast and moving forward to reach their goals and destinations. We simply cannot let barriers stop us; we must overcome all barriers.

Lozie Ann Gray

Historical Roots of Genocide Spring Forth Deja Vu

The Neo-Nazi, anti-foreigner riots in Germany that are being reported to us by the news with great frequency are a terrible and disturbing thing, even though the participants seem to be nearly all extremists. German novelists like Heinrich Boll, or the Australia poet Ingeborg Bachmann have pointed out to us that after the war and up until the present day there is a great deal of

even though many of them are probably "students."

Old issues, that is present events with roots in the past, have certainly been sprung into the hands of the wolfpack while gaining a modern, more multi-ethnic momentum. While listening to Mahler's "Titan" First Symphony and his momentous Fifth, some of these issues came to mind for me because I feel that the achievement of Mahler has always been diminished by some critics, then and now, because of his Jewishness. Mahler was given, almost literally, a devil of a time

ple they call the Germans." Mahler's behavior shows that he could certainly put pondering the man aside, to show the exposed jewellike like beauties in Wagner's music to an appreciating public.

I think that Mahler's real "fault" and what I call an "old issue" was Mahler's astute and fanciful ability to seem the ultimate Viennese in his music while often blending it purposefully and perfectly with the sinuous, circular rhythms of Jewish folk song and the Jewish fiddle of the Bohemian countryside or streets of the old Ghetto. His symphonies with their tint and inclusion were perfectly convincing...to convincing. This music, in part, threatened the already threatened identity of the central German population of Vienna which was becoming immersed in the diverse ethnic acquisition of the Hapsburg Empire. This music threatened to represent Vienna, the proud repository of a German population and Germanic aristocracy, as more of the "Eastern" city, merging towards Slavic-Semitic Orientalism as a culture. In present day Germany there is the seducing hand saying, "Accede to us this difference (between us and 'them'); affirm our Germanity."

The implication is always that it's preferable and safer to go along with then for this brief period, to not become an "outsider," then the brief period becomes a permanent extension.

GUEST COLUMN

BY Carl R Martin

corruption in Germany, whereas members of the old regime have been able to use their vague connection with the past as intimidation or network to amass money and respectability.

This has taken place apparently not as a function of ideology but as a function of capitalism; the practical urges of greed, and the decadent nature of money. Some persons with a cynical urge would probably be found to say, "Winter comes after The Fall, but Spring soon follows." No doubt they would be branded as the "remnants" of leftist ideologues, but we might find that these living remnants do have a notion or two

by what is often called the "anti-Semitic Viennese press" while individuals also made it hard for him. Perhaps some of the blame can be attributed to the propensity for command of Herr Mahler, but that is not an adequate excuse for all the derision that lay like hot coals around his head. Mahler, to his credit, perhaps, was actually of such musically accommodating good intention that he became, as a conductor, a fateful interpreter of the music of Richard Wagner, the wild anti-Semite and convinced vegetarian whose one time statement was, "I feel myself to be the only true German amidst this dull-witted race of peo-