

Winston-Salem Chronicle
 "The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"
 Established in 1974

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Member in good standing with:

Editorial

Doing the Right Thing

During September 1994, some 20,000 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) fans will visit Winston-Salem for a week of football and social activities. About 19,000 of those fans will probably be black.

The 14 organizations that comprise the CIAA are historically black colleges and universities. Their teams and coaches are predominantly black.

Established in 1912, the CIAA is one of the nation's oldest black conferences.

The games and activities are open to anyone, but many of the fans who attend are alumni of historically black colleges and universities. In many ways, it is a reunion for them. Most are now in middle- and upper-income brackets. Some came from disadvantaged home environments, but now they're living comfortably. Some come together to rejoice in the fact that they all finished college. All of them come together to celebrate their personal victories as well as to see great football.

The chamber's tourism and convention offices and others who worked hard to court and secure this tournament are to be commended. But the real work is yet to be done. Now that the CIAA has moved to Winston-Salem for three years, we must make certain that blacks are involved in all stages of CIAA planning.

Every CIAA agenda set, every CIAA meeting that takes place — however preliminary — must include the opinions of members of the black community. To do otherwise is to display a woeful ignorance of the history and function of the CIAA. To do otherwise is to steal from the black community its rightful authority: one that comes with the birthright.

Imagine an all-black group of people making decisions on an all-white event: it's unheard of!

Those who lead the CIAA planning, from the mayor to the Chamber of Commerce and anyone else, bear a solemn responsibility to ensure that black businesses are asked to submit bids for services and products needed. Every effort must be made to involve the black community in every way possible.

Blacks must be involved in all stages of CIAA

Helping Ourselves

Winston-Salem is blessed with a number of community action groups. They include people who want to take back their neighborhoods and make them safe once again. They want to sleep soundly at night. They long to get crack cocaine and other drugs out of their children's veins.

Groups such as Black Men and Women Against Crime need and deserve the full-fledged support of municipal authorities. Leaders of these groups usually live in these neighborhoods and witness firsthand the terrorizing that goes on due to crime and drug abuse. Because they are familiar with the people and problems of a particular area, they have the best chance of leading any effort to restore a healthy environment. In Winston-Salem, many drug dealers do not live in the very neighborhoods they help to destroy: they just drive through to sell their wares. Sometimes a drug dealer will offer a young child a job house-painting or doing odd jobs — and then pay the child with drugs.

Black Men and Women Against Crime has asked the city to find a house in or near the city's largest black neighborhoods to renovate the houses. Then they can be used for 24-hour community centers. Its members plan to perform the renovations themselves and staff the centers with volunteers.

According to figures compiled by the Center for Disease Control, a black male infant has one chance in 27 of dying in a homicide; a white male has one chance in 205 of dying in a homicide. Class and race often determine who will die. Most homicide victims are poor.

The city should make a point to seek out and support community groups: Empower them with the resources to turn those statistics around.

The City Should Extend Complete Support To Black Community Groups

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

Prison Time: Is Crack Cocaine Really Worth It?

To The Editor:

I'm a 22-year-old black male presently incarcerated facing 15 years to life — federal time!

My message to you is, "Stop worrying about what the white man's doing, and start worrying about what the white powder's doing!" It's destroying many people's lives. Most of all, it's diminishing our race.

Each and every day, we're killing one another, or we're getting arrested for selling drugs. Now ask yourself, "Is it really worth it?" If it is, then there's an empty cell right next to mine — that's if you live long enough to get here.

The jails and prisons are occupied by at least 65 percent blacks. How many of your homeboys are in my situation right now? All because of that substance crack cocaine.

I've seen lots of successful people I know go through hell because of crack cocaine. It doesn't only affect their lives, it's affecting the lives of their family and friends as well.

I want to make it evident to you that we are not the only ones corrupting people's lives. But we are the ones who are paying for the offense. There comes a time in a person's life when a change has to be made.

If not now, when? If not you, then who? Think about it!

Marc Lorenzo Sloan, of Winston-Salem, and Thomas Howard Boyd, of St. Louis, are Alamance County Jail inmates. Sloan is to be sentenced Nov. 23, while Boyd's case is pending.



CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

Thanks for the Support

To The Editor

I want to express my thanks to each citizen of Forsyth County, Senate District 20 who voted for me for North Carolina Senate on Nov. 3. As citizens of this great American Democracy in which we live, and

North Carolina, one of the Original 13 States, and Forsyth County, the most sacred privilege we have is to vote for those persons who govern as our representatives. Thousands of you exercised that privilege on my behalf, and I am grateful. We lost this time, but those who were elected knew they were at risk.

I hope each one of you will

observe our government in Raleigh and work to assure that those who are our Senators fulfill their commitments. A campaign promise is a promise. We should expect to see improvements in education, the availability of health care to all citizens, welfare reform, improvement in the availability of high-paying jobs and a reduction in crime.



We Have Not Done Enough To Resolve Agony In Somalia

The rising agony, suffering and needless death in Somalia simply cannot be tolerated. Over a million persons are certain to die if something more is not done immediately. The United Nations has not done enough! The Organization of African Unity has not done enough! The United States has not done enough! And yes, the African-American community here in the United States has not done enough! And yes, the African American community here in the United States has not done enough!

The fact that public attention, during the last several months has focused primarily on the U.S. presidential election is no excuse for inadequate action on the crisis in the nation of Somalia. To be sure, the situation has deteriorated during the last weeks due to the increase in the senseless fratricidal warfare between armed Somali parties fighting to control the country.

To see women and children dying as they crawl helplessly on the ground begging for a few crumbs of food is an awful sight to behold. Yet, the world community seems incapable or unwilling to intervene in Somalia on the side of the oppressed people of Somalia who are being forced into irreversible starvation. Genocide cannot be tolerated anywhere in the world. When ethnic factions of a nation are supplied with weapons of

mass death and destruction by the so-called civilized western nations, the resulting horrors of fratricide and induced-famine are ultimately to be the shared blame of the suppliers of the arms as well as the perpetrators of the internecine bloodshed. Therefore the excuses that nothing more can be done to help Somalia until the civil war stops is totally unacceptable.

The civil rights and human rights community inside the United States must make this issue a priority even during all the euphoria over 1992 elections. As we have reminded our constituencies in the past, the fact is that Somalia up until 1991 was a staunch ally of U.S. foreign interest in northern Africa throughout the Reagan-Bush era. Most of the weapons now in Somalia were made in the United States. But this is not the first time that this nation has hid its hand of complicity in the suffering of others, particularly in Africa.

Of the first order, however, we would be remiss if we did not say directly and clearly to General Mohammed Garrah Aidid and Mr. Mohammed Siad Herse Morgan, "Stop the fratricide in Somalia! Your inability to resolve your conflicts peacefully as Somalians only aids and abets the evolving genocide of your own people whom you claim to represent...stop the bloodshed now!"

In the small town of Bardera in southern Somalia, it is reported that more than 3,000 have died from starvation in less than two weeks. All of those lives could have been saved because tons of food had been stored less than 30 minutes flying time away from Bardera. Sources have said the armed conflict in the area around Bardera prevented the relief efforts from reaching those starving.

The history of the African-American community has always

not rally across the nation to demand action on Somalia then this tragedy will get worse.

Next, the United Nations should have a contingent large enough to Somalia to deal with the magnitude of the logistical and security problems. The 500 or more U.N. troops from Pakistan cannot begin to meet the challenge. Why is the UN. so slow to see this response to Somalia is insufficient? The U.N. contingent should be tenfold its present size.

Only when Africa unites, as



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By BENJAMIN CHAVIS JR.

been relatively strong on the issues of charity and relief. Yet, given the current socioeconomic crisis confronting many in the community, there has been an unusually slow response to the tragedy of Somalia. Of course, there are significant exceptions, but in general there is a growing feeling of helplessness among many African-Americans who think that nothing more can be done. We disagree with such a fatalistic approach to Somalia. If the African-American community does

Nkrumah has sid, in both spirit and body will these situations of suffering really end. The Organization of African Unity has to offer a vision and strategic plan to unify the continent economically, politically, culturally and most importantly, spiritually.

Africa needs a spiritual unity strong enough to defy the historic "divide and conquer" schemes of the forces of oppression. If the agony of Somalia does not bring together the continent, what will?