

# Opinion

## Why is the Black Community Avoided

**Winston-Salem Chronicle**

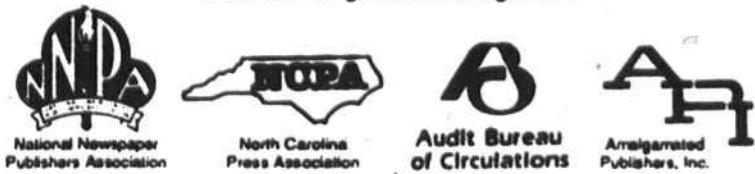
"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

Established in 1974

**Ernest H. Pitt • Ndubisi Egemonye**

Editor/Publisher Co-Founder

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### Clinton's Delicate Task

President Clinton will soon have an opportunity to become the first Democratic president to make an appointment to the Supreme Court since Lyndon B. Johnson named Thurgood Marshall to the court in 1967. This path was cleared when Justice Byron White announced Friday that he will retire this summer after 31 years on the high court.

White was named to the bench by President John F. Kennedy in 1962. Although a democrat, White has voted along conservative lines on several issues. A liberal appointment by President Clinton could break the grip by conservatives and move the court toward more guarantees of individual rights and create access to abortion and constitutional protection for homosexuals. Although it was obvious, past Republican presidents have steered clear of stating that they would only appoint as justice a jurist who believed abortion to be unconstitutional. President Clinton, in what is clearly setting a precedent, has stated that he would appoint a jurist who is pro-choice.

His appointee could also make a difference in the toughest criminal cases, becoming the swing vote on defendant's rights.

For Clinton, the stakes are high. He has a delicate task at hand. He must remember promises of diversity. He must also remember that he would not be in a position to make an appointment had it not been for the support of African Americans last November.

### Foundation Issues A Challenge

The Winston-Salem Foundation has issued a challenge to residents and agencies here who have been for years sitting and complaining about poor race relations. The challenge issued this week by the foundation was to come up with ideas to improve race relations and the foundation will assist through funding. A novel challenge? Indeed. But on the other hand, the foundation has been working to improve race relations in this community for the past 75 years. And as it celebrates its 75th birthday, the foundation is again leading by example.



Henry M. Carter Jr.

The foundation, the oldest in North Carolina and with assets totaling \$68.5 million, has earmarked \$1 million over the next five years for programs in three areas they deemed needed: addressing race relations, minority economic development and at-risk children.

Herbert Brenner, vice chairman of the foundation said he hopes this unprecedented approach will "stimulate" thinking and action. The foundation will now begin putting out the word to the various charities and other non-profit organizations that funds are available. The people at the foundation hope that some good programs will be placed on the table and the money will be well spent. If responses are lacking, then the foundation will take a more proactive role by contacting agencies. Sure, money cannot by good race relations, but that is not the case here. Money, however, is needed to implement programs that must be out there in the back of people's minds. Well, now is the time to bring them to the forefront of your mind.

### Credo of the Black Press

*The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from antagonisms when it accords to every person — regardless of race or creed — full human and legal rights. Hating no person, the Black Press strives to help every person, in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.*

### About letters . . .

The Chronicle welcomes letters as well as guest columns from its readers. Letters should be as concise as possible and should be typed or legibly printed. The letter must also include the name, address and telephone number of the writer to ensure the authenticity of the letter. Columns must follow the same guidelines and will be published if they are of interest to our general readership. The Chronicle will not publish any letters or columns that arrive without this information. We reserve the right to edit letters and columns for brevity and clarity. Submit letters and columns to

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

### To The Editor:

In reading the February summary of minutes and report of the Community Appearance Commission, I noted several things of which I am very concerned about and that disturb me. First of all, the location of the next award committee ceremony — ever since award programs have been held — not once has there been a time when it was held in a predominantly black, African-American community or facility. There are facilities in the black, African-American community that can accommodate this kind of ceremony. As an alderman and a private citizen, I have attended every one of these functions and have observed that they were held on the opposite side of town in white facilities. I am sure that we can find a place and or location that would best accommodate these award functions.

Some months ago before a decision was made to have the upcoming award ceremony at the Arts Council, I had suggested the Anderson Center at Winston-Salem State University as a good facility and location which provides amenities for parking and security. I do know that your award function has been held at Salem College, and it makes me wonder why couldn't it be held at Winston-Salem State. Well, if not at Winston-Salem State, then there is an auditorium facility at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. It has a stage and large meeting room, and parking is ample. This facility is very beautiful and is easily accessible with all the amenities that would best suit the need for this kind of event. If we just look around and make an earnest effort to include the African-American communities, facilities and locations, you would be able to find them. One gets the impression that the black community and the black citizens are being ignored in this aspect. I have talked with other people after reading the report and they feel the same as I.

I am even more so disappointed after informing each and every member of the Appearance Commission about my concerns. The decision for this year still ignored the concerns and feelings of the black community. I am voicing this concern again and I will continue to voice it until some action is taken. I would like to strongly urge that you reconsider your decision to hold the awards ceremony at the Arts Council, since it will not take place until October. It is not too late. It seems as though the black community is being slapped in the face.

Common Vision mentioned that Winston-Salem is two cities and that race is a primary reason why we have two cities. As a matter of fact, Common Vision has taken that as one of their top priorities. Some of

the things that are being done are furthering that idea of Winston-Salem being two cities, because you very seldom have any of your meetings and none of the award functions in the black community.

Secondly, regarding your February report and minutes about catering — there are several black caterers who are very qualified to offer catering service to this function. I notice that Salem Kitchen was selected again as the caterer for this upcoming event. I would like to know the compelling reasons why Salem Kitchen was selected rather than selecting an African-American caterer. There are many, many good qualified black professional caterers in this city and county. A listing of them is available and describes what their requirements and responsibilities are. Why weren't they considered? I am hoping that it is not too late to reconsider this decision in making an African-American selection. Again, this is another example of ignoring the black community when opportunities present them-

the late Bill East and his family, a marvelous collection of photographs from his personal files has been added to the Frank Jones Room at the library. The photographs are a compilation of scenes of our city from days gone by; vignettes of streets, tobacco markets, church events, and views of Old Salem are but a small part of the collection. A note of gratitude is also due to Paul Marshall, a friend of the East family and a student of local history, who has carefully reviewed the photographs and organized them in several books. Marshall's work is still in progress and more additions from Bill East's treasure-trove are anticipated.

The East photographs are available by contacting Molly Rawls, photographic collection librarian at the Frank Jones Room. Rawls is currently compiling many of the Jones photographs in a video format that can help in locating views of specific areas of the city. While the video formatting process is not yet complete and available to the pub-

lic, the system will ultimately make access to the collections faster and easier for the browsers and researchers alike.

Bill East's photographs are a special gift that provide a valuable record of the heritage of our community. I encourage your readers to visit the North Carolina Room at the library and to enjoy this extraordinary collection.

My reason for writing is twofold; to voice my concern for the way "Big House" was supposedly forced to resign and to make suggestion.

As a forty-seven year fixture at WSSU, is this the message the administration and the WSSU fam-

## CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

It is my hope that in the very near future, the Appearance Commission will reconsider more people in the black community, locations, facilities and projects to receive the honor, awards, certificates and recognition from this organization.

Larry W. Womble,  
Alderman  
Southeast Ward  
Winston-Salem

### Thanks For The Generosity

#### To The Editor:

I am writing to make Chronicle readers aware of a recent addition of of the main branch of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Public Library. Thanks to the generosity of

David E. Gall, A.I.A.  
Winston-Salem

### 'Bighouse'

#### To The Editor

Twenty-nine years ago, I entered Winston-Salem State University and met the legendary C. E. "Big House" Gaines. He was my football coach, my professor, my counselor and my friend. Because of our relationship, I also sent two of my three children to WSSU, as I knew "Big House" would be their guiding angel.

Since my graduation, I have sent a number of students and student athletes to WSSU, all in care of "Big House." My son is there now and when I need a report, we simply call the "Big House."

"Big House" visited our home, spoke at my church and for the AAU here in Roanoke. He never took one dime when he came to

Finally, let's retract and send "Big House" packing in Ram style, at the 1994 CIAA Tournament before his peers, co-workers, friends and the hometown of Winston-Salem, before 15,000 fans and Ram supporters, visiting the all-American city of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

I am not so naive as to believe there is not more to this situation than what is aired in the paper. I further know no decisions, except the Ten Commandments, that are etched in concrete.

This is not a face-saving recommendation. Let the administration go forward, hire a new coach, but keep "Big House" as the interim coach through the 1994 CIAA Tournament. Let the new coach get his indoctrination from "Big House," then take over next season, 1994-95.

Since recruitment may be one of the concerns, let's dig deep in our pockets, then raise some money to assist in having a great team and 1994 CIAA Tournament.

James P. Beatty  
Roanoke, Va.

## Investing in the Black Community

In the debate over how to strengthen the weak black economy, I sometimes hear people say African Americans should go it alone, and not look to government for the programs our communities need or to majority-owned financial institutions for the resources our businesses need.

Listening to that rhetoric, you get the impression that it is a militant expression of belief in the power black people can muster to improve their lot.

But the more I think about it, the more I'm convinced it reflects fear of white rejection and a self-defeating refusal to claim our due as citizens of the society we helped build.

And it plays into the hands of those who want us to think that national and urban problems are "black problems" to be solved by blacks alone, even though white society created and perpetuates those problems.

Sure, African Americans do have tremendous power to change our condition. But enough to let white society off the hook.

Some items on the agenda, only we can do ourselves — using our

political power to improve schools and public services, pooling our resources to help finance community development and housing, and, above all, helping all of our children and families develop the values and attitudes needed to prosper in a changing world.

But those efforts don't take place in a vacuum. We are a part of the larger society and have as much of a claim on its resources as other citizens, who don't hesitate to expect benefits.

Developing wealth-and-job creating black businesses is an important goal that can serve as an example of both what we must do for ourselves and what we should rightfully expect society to do.

An African American community committed to self-development can overcome the internalized stereotypes that prevent so many talented people from taking the reasoned risks that lead to entrepreneurial success.

And developing a strong community spirit can foster young business through customer support and financial investments.

But along with that, those busi-

nesses can and should expect what white-owned businesses expect — fair opportunities for government and corporate contracts and subcon-

tractors, loans from banks and financial institutions, and a level competitive field.



**TONY BROWN**

Syndicated Columnist

African Americans have long been at a business disadvantage because they have been denied those opportunities. Discrimination in lending and in other factors affecting business success have been amply documented.

But instead of demanding our fair share of government and private sector resources, some say the capital needs a black businesses should be met by a black investment fund financed by affluent African Americans.

Such a fund is a good idea, but it is no substitute for equal treatment

raised within the community? We need to light a fire under public and private sector institutions to make those resources as available to blacks as to whites. African Americans have as much right to them as anyone in the land.

We can say we can do it all by ourselves, but it is more realistic to do it all by ourselves with whatever resources are available from any source.

And it makes sense for society, too. For by developing the vast potential of African Americans and their businesses, America's economy becomes stronger and more competitive.