

Opinion

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Keeping LIFT Afloat

Unquestionably, LIFT Academy provides a special and unique service in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County community. The school's director, County Commissioner Earline Parmon, for 11 years now has put forth a gallant effort to help redirect those students who for one reason or another have failed in conventional classroom settings.

When no one wanted to or saw the need to help these students that society has chosen to call "at-risk," Ms. Parmon had a vision. And it mustn't die.

As school opens next week, LIFT is at but a third of its projected budget, some \$200,000 short. If more money does not come in soon, the Academy will have to turn away some students. And that would be a major loss — not only for the students but for the entire community.

If students are forced to be turned away because of lack of funding, the number of students reached will dwindle. According to Thomas Allen, the Academy's education coordinator, the school is only able to reach about 2 percent of the total number of students who are removed from mainstream schools. A good portion of the other 98 percent falls by the wayside.

LIFT is mostly funded by donations from United Way (which has cut back the size of its gift) and Community Based Association. (Just this week, an additional \$15,000

Because LIFT Academy serves as the safety net for the city/county school system ... the city/county school system should help to fund the academy.

became available from CBA, and five agencies, including LIFT, were chomping at the bit to receive it.)

LIFT is in dire financial need. This year, the Academy was forced to layoff two full-time staffers, beginning the year with only Gary Madison, deputy administrator, along with Mr. Allen and Ms. Parmon. But all must wear multiple hats. Mr. Madison has to double as office manager; Mr. Allen as guidance counselor; and both will have to be responsible for teaching all of the middle- and high-school subjects. Ms. Parmon, too, will have to assist in the office area.

Because LIFT Academy serves as the safety net for the city/county school system, and because often times than not when a letter to a parent of an expelled student comes with a recommendation that the student seek LIFT, the city/county school system should help to fund the academy.

Last year LIFT had 65 full-time students and 60 part-time. Independence High and Petree Middle schools are in place to assist these "at-risk" students. But, according to LIFT officials, the Academy received 35 students from Independence and another 30 from Petree. If not for LIFT, these 65 students would not have had the opportunity to work their way back into the mainstream. The bottom line is that LIFT is providing a community service and needs funding from whomever can help, including the city/county school system.

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.

How To Reach Us

722-8624

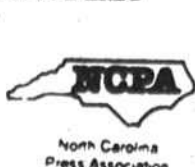
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Being Gay Should Not Deny Right to Serve

To the Editor:

Regarding the comments in your July 29 "Voices of the Community," I offer my statement. Msrs. Roper and Carter made statements that hearken back to the days of slavery. The white men (slave owners) argued that African Americans did not have the intelligence to survive freely. They were wrong! Must I cite examples? Malcolm X, Dr. King, Maya Angelou.

I argue that being gay in no way determines strength or weakness. Look at heterosexual males. Do they all appear to possess great strength? I don't think so. Such responses further the stereotyping that keeps us oppressed.

Being homosexual should not deny a person the ability to defend the Constitution by which we are all protected. Inappropriate behavior, both "homo" and "hetero", should be the key to service.

Mr. Jones, on the other hand, must be a very spiritual person. I ask that he remember to hate the sin and love the sinner.

Jeffrey Allen Alsbrooks
United States Air Force

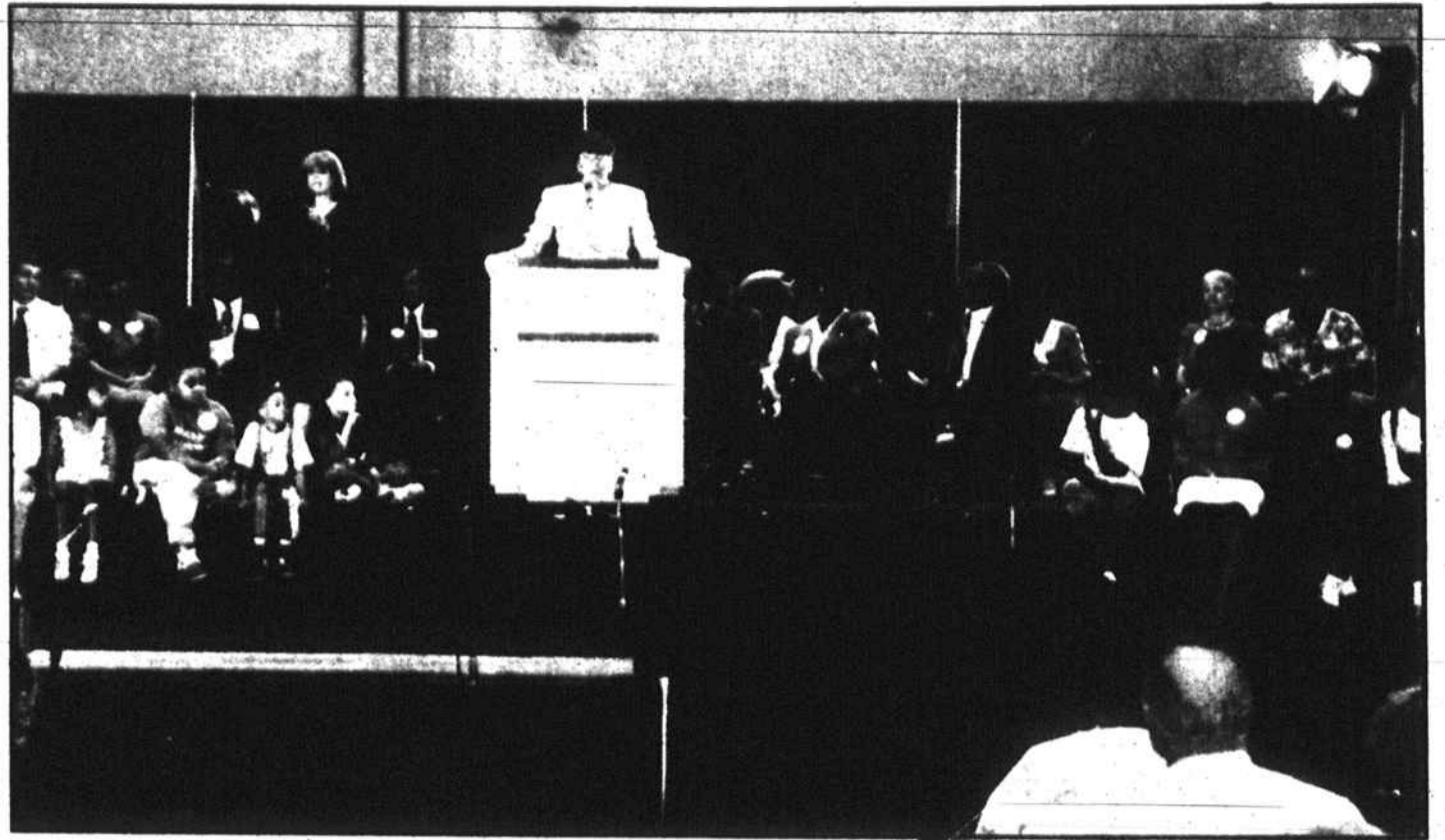
Thorough Coverage

To the Editor:

On behalf of the 1993 National Black Theatre Festival and Larry Leon Hamlin, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Winston-Salem Chronicle for its help in making the festival a success. Your coverage proved to be a pivotal contribution.

The Chronicle exemplifies how business can work effectively to support the arts in our community.

Lee Cox,
National Black Theatre Festival



U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno said the key to reducing crime is to invest in children while they are young and not after they've turned to a life of crime. Reno spoke to about 400 people last Friday at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds. She was invited by Black Men and Women Against Crime.

Thank you



Rev. and Mrs. J.C. Hash

To the Editor:

The 89th Annual General Assembly of the Church of God Apostolic Inc., which was held Aug. 2-6 at the Benton Convention Center, was a tremendous success!

Thanks to all pastors, businesses and individuals who con-

tributed in making the convention be a time of spiritual renewal and refreshing for the more than 5,000 attendees from all over the world.

God bless you abundantly!

Rev. and Mrs. J.C. Hash,
St. Peter's World Outreach Center

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

Guru of Wall Street Sees Bad Times

Opinion polls taken after the Democratic Party's bill passed showed that most Americans don't believe the plan will help the economy, and a majority have no confidence in President Clinton's ability to solve our economic problems.

However, one apologist for Clinton said most Americans don't trust Clinton because people in the media, like me, have poisoned them against him. In other words, most people who don't like Clinton's new taxes are too stupid to figure out the loss of income for themselves.

The Clinton lovers, however, will have to come up with another excuse to answer Dr. Lacy Hunt, who makes a living being fair and objective about the future direction

of the American economy.

Dr. Hunt, Ph. D. from Temple and MBA from Wharton, is the new guru of Wall Street. "Of all the economists making predictions about the sorry state of the American economy, Lacy Hunt has been the only one lately to hit the mark consistently," wrote Paul Tharp in the New York Post.

—He predicted the Crash of 1987. While other leading economists were predicting a 4 percent, he predicted a paltry 1.5 percent.

Two weeks ago, commerce announced a paltry 1.6 percent growth rate.

Needless to say, this kind of accuracy in the money world attracts big money looking for advice on the future of the econ-

omy. What is Dr. Lacy predicting?

He predicts second-half '93 growth for the economy well under one percent because Clinton's tax plan passed.

What worries him the most is

Eisenhower. Tax reductions stimulate the economy," he said. Tax cuts worked for JFK in the 1960s and Reagan in the 1990s," he added.

There's no "reason or explanation why the biggest tax hike in his-



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

the damage he sees from Clinton's tax hike proposals. "When taxes rise, the whole curve shifts and the GDP falls; when taxes fall, the GDP rises," Lacy believes.

"It's been that way since before

tory will change the facts of economics," Dr. Lacy concludes.

Without the media, most taxpayers know that. That's why most Americans don't believe in the Democrats' tax plan.

WHERE I'M COMING FROM



BY BARBARA BRANDON

ONE STOP AT A TIME