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"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

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Casting 'An Anti-Black Vote'

Protest Follows Repeal Of Police Review Board

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Calling Alderman Robert Nordlander "that racist guy from a racist university," the Rev. John Mendez and nearly 50 others walked out of Monday night's Board of Aldermen's meeting protesting the board's 5-3 vote to abolish the Citizens Police Review Board.

When Mayor Martha Wood could not

regain control of the audience she asked a police officer to escort Mendez from council chambers. Mendez left on his own.

"He is responsible for dividing the city," said Mendez, interrupting Nordlander, before leaving. "That racist guy from Bob Jones University, which is a racist university, is not going to run this city with his racist politics. That's never going to happen."

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Community Boycott

In direct response to the five white aldermen voting to do away with the police-review board, we are calling on all African-American members of all of the city's boards and commissions to boycott those meetings to give whites an opportunity to decide for themselves once and for all what they intend to do about improving race relations in Winston-Salem. We believe that no black person in this city has the power to do anything about improving race relations, therefore we should give whites an opportunity, behind closed doors, with no blacks present to discuss race relations openly and hopefully, honestly. The proof of what is decided will manifest itself in what they ultimately do. We are pleading with African-Americans to stop being hoodwinked into thinking that you hold the key to improving race relations. You don't!

Blacks, Whites Upset Over Board's Action

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Many whites joined with blacks to voice their opposition to the Board of Aldermen's vote this week to abolish the Citizens Police Review Board.

The Rev. Richard Groves, pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church, asked the aldermen not to abolish

the police-review board because it would undermine their efforts to bring the races together.

"If it's not a slap in the face, at least it's a step in the wrong direction," Groves said. "We have been working hard to bring churches together and addressing the problems. This board came into exist-

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NAACP Celebrates 61 Years of Passing Torch to Others

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Passing the torch on to future generations is what the Winston-Salem Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People celebrated last Friday at its annual Freedom Fund Gala.

The illustrious banquet honored many outstanding community leaders such as Bessie Allen and Rep. Steve Neal.

Ni-Shati, of Wake Forest University, Goler Memorial Prison Ministry Choir and soloist Carla Truesdale wooed the audience with stellar performances.

The Freedom Fund Gala marked 61 years of the NAACP's work in Winston-Salem and throughout the county.

Bill Tatum, president of the NAACP, re-emphasized the NAACP's importance to advancing the African-American community.

"The NAACP is alive and well," he said. "We are still active in the community and must continue to provide a future for our children."

The banquet also showcased Sen. Jeanne H. Lucas, the first African-American female to represent North Carolina in the General Assembly, as another example of leadership and advancement in the African-American community.

Lucas, a native of Durham, told personal stories of how she overcame obstacles with the help of friends, an extended family and the church.

"We have to pass the torch on to others," she said. "When we pass the torch we prepare for a better world. It will not be paradise, but we will have jobs, homes and concern for each other."

Flanked by Con. Mel Watt, Lucas urged the audience to rally behind Watt and the 12th Congressional District because it's made up of urban cities that need

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Bessie Allen receives the Charles McLenn Award from Lena Turner. Looking on is NAACP President Bill Tatum.

Local Leaders Support Chavis

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

African-American leaders in Winston-Salem say they continue to support the Rev. Benjamin Chavis, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, because he can put the civil rights organization back into the forefront.

Local leaders celebrated the NAACP's 61st Freedom Fund Gala Friday night and talked about the group's new leadership after the banquet.

"The tradition of the NAACP not working with outsiders needs to change," said former alderman Larry Womble, a political science professor at Winston-Salem State University. "Some may have their own agenda to benefit them personally, but as a whole black organizations need to come together and join forces."

The direction Chavis is steering the NAACP has been questioned because of his recent pact to work with Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and after a secret meeting this month in Detroit with leftist professor and communist Angela Davis, Kwame Toure (formerly Stokely Carmichael), controversial rapper Sister Souljah and Kwanzaa creator Maulana Karenga.

Walter Marshall, a member of the city-county school board, said he supports Chavis because of his efforts in reaching out to all segments of the black

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Now that Ralph Ellison is Gone, Time to Take Stock of His Talent

▲ Celebrated author of "Invisible Man" dies of pancreatic cancer in New York City on Saturday

NEW YORK (AP) — Now that Ralph Ellison is gone, his second novel still only a manuscript, he is in danger of being remembered by one or two unfortunate labels: He was a "black" writer, a chronicler of the "black experience." He was a one-shot novelist, another Margaret Mitchell or Harper Lee.

Nonsense.

Ellison's book may have been written and narrated by a black man, but it was influenced by everyone from Twain to Dostoevsky and it was addressed to all races. As far as completing just "one" novel, you could write a hundred books in the time it takes to exhaust the possibilities of "Invisible Man."



Ralph Ellison

"What he really wanted was to get a sense of the pulse of things in America," recalled John Calla-

han, an old friend of Ellison's and the dean of arts and humanities at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore.

"Whatever else he is, Ellison would say, the true American is black. At the same time, he felt all Americans were white. Ellison just felt things were mixed."

Ellison died Saturday at age 80, a number of factors holding up that second work of fiction. A manuscript was destroyed in a fire. Friends spoke of his impossibly high standards. The author himself said the assassinations of the 1960s, which seemed to mirror the worst nightmares of his novel, "really chilled me — slowed down the writ-

ing." "Invisible Man," published in 1952, follows a nameless narrator's journey from campus life in the South to political activism in the North. Nothing works out: at college he's alienated both from students and faculty; at a factory job, he's alienated both from management and labor; in New York, he winds up underground, hunted by both whites and blacks.

There is a double meaning to Ellison's withholding of the narrator's name. He is saying the narrator is nobody, a member of no class or organization, unidentified and unidentifiable. He is also saying the narrator could be anybody, not

"the" invisible man, but "an" invisible man.

"So my task was one of revealing the human universals hidden within the plight of one who was black and American," Ellison later observed, "and not only as a means of conveying my personal vision of possibility, but as a way of dealing with the sheer rhetorical challenge involved in communicating across our barriers of race and religion, class, color and region."

Ellison was best known for the one novel, but read the two non-fiction books he would later publish.

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This Week In Black History
April 23, 1956
U.S. Supreme Court refused to review lower court decision which banned segregation in interstate bus travel.

WHERE TO FIND IT