

# OPINION/LETTERS

## Winston-Salem Chronicle

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### Rally for D.C. March

Last week, about 200 people marched from Winston-Salem State University to the Winston Mutual Building on Fifth Street to demonstrate their support for the upcoming Million Man March in Washington, D.C. on October 16. Most of the protesters were black male and female students from WSSU.

We wonder why there were not more African American men at the rally! Their support is vital if the Local Organizing Committee is going to reach its goal of transporting 5,000 black men to Washington from Winston-Salem next month.

Some have suggested that many people are not participating because the Nation of Islam and its leader, Minister Louis Farrakhan, are a driving force behind the march.

This march is not about Farrakhan or even Rev. Ben Chavis, the former NAACP executive director who called for the march last year.

The march is about African American men standing up for themselves, and making a statement of support to African American values.

The rally will also give black men an opportunity to present their grievances to the federal government and demonstrate to America that blacks are not satisfied with their status in this nation.

March organizers want to register 10 million African Americans to vote as independents after the rally has ended. This is a wise move because neither major political party has fully addressed the problems of black America. This strategy will put the Democrats and the Republicans on notice that our votes will not be taken for granted nor will we be ignored at the polls.

We must emphasize that the march is not excluding black women, but the rally is supporting our sisters. Throughout our history, black women generally have shouldered many burdens of our race.

A million black men in Washington next month will show the world that we are determined to foster positive changes in American society.

### Chambers' Speech

Julius Chambers, a former civil rights lawyer and chancellor of North Carolina Central University, reminded us last week of the racial segregation that was prevalent in America only 30 years ago.

"I remember the racial and gender apartheid in North Carolina and America. I remember how limited America was when they kept blacks down," Chambers said in a speech at Wake Forest University's 161st convocation.

Chambers' remarks were a necessary reminder of the nation's dark past and how African Americans have progressed in society since the days of Jim Crow.

He correctly urged us to maintain our vigilance to protect the gains that we have made.

His message is important to blacks and whites alike.

Chambers' speech should serve as a guidepost for people of all races to make equality, justice, and human rights a permanent part of American society.

### President Colin Powell?

It seems likely that Colin Powell, the first African American to serve as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will run for the president in 1996. At least, Burrell Haselrig, Jr., chairman of the Exploratory Draft Colin Powell for President Committee, believes that the general will run.

Powell will test political waters as he travels on a 22-city tour to promote his autobiography, *My American Journey*.

We strongly urge Powell to run for the White House. His candidacy will bridge the divisive party and racial politics that have long divided this country.

"You know, I hope Powell gets elected president," said George Hammell, a white, retired Army command sergeant major from Columbus, Ga. "He's the only one I know who could bring this country together. Hell, even the rednecks would vote for him." The November 1996 elections are a long way off. Many things can happen. If Powell does decide to run, he will undergo severe press scrutiny and likely character assassinations from his political opponents.

But this scenario should not deter Powell from running. His leadership qualities overwhelm the Republican and Democratic challengers including GOP front runner Bob Dole and President Clinton.

Many compare Powell to the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who led the American military to victory over the Axis powers in World War II. Powell helped orchestrate the American victory in the Persian Gulf War five years ago.

Just as Eisenhower's military successes carried him into the White House in 1953, the same can be true for Powell in 1997. We hope so.

## VOICES IN THE COMMUNITY

Are historically black colleges still important today? The *Chronicle* asked this question to several residents recently.



George Townsen

Yes, we need tradition. We need something for our own. It's good for the kids to see that we have something.



Keyanna Cannon

They are important because it keeps black people together and it gives us a chance to find out about black people and how they act.



Talitha Mazyck

They are important because black people can stick together and help each other and learn from each other.



Chris Jones

Yes, because it teaches more about black history than white colleges.



Joe Westberry

Yes, because it starts a foundation.

## October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

To the Editor:

October is "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month." The Forsyth County Cancer Screening Project (FoCaS) would like to solicit your support in spreading the word to the African-American women of our community. As a major source of news for our community your newspaper is a vital vehicle for educating our women.

According to the National Cancer Institute, only half of all women ages 50 and older have had a mammogram in the past 2 years. Even fewer minority women have done so. Medical

found the *Winston-Salem Chronicle* to be an excellent method of educating African-American women 40 and older with its advertisements. Because of the loyal of African-American readers of the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*, it is an excellent place to share this lifesaving information. Please seize this opportunity to educate your readers!

Alma H. Wilson

### Not "Politically Correct"

To the Editor:

The nation's largest prote-

inept this all sounds. What has happened to the Southern Baptist, who for years preached from the pulpits that integration was wrong and that interracial marriages were not to be tolerated. What happened to the pastors text warning us not to be blown to and fro by the winds of change. As a Southern Baptist for most of my 55 years, I find, we are living in times of change. Take a good, close look at our inner cities, our schools and our courts. We send our kids to school in areas we would not even be caught in. What a shame, the Southern Baptist overlooked the American Indians trial of tears. There's hardly an ounce of soil that did not belong to the American Indian. I know for a fact Southern Baptist churches are setting on Indian

land. I hear no apologies. I hear no apologies for Japanese Americans internment in World War II, nor do I here apologies to the Irish Americans. As you can see this guilt trip could go on and on. This time in Southern Baptist history is interesting to say the least. I wonder now, how long it will be before the Southern Baptist are apologizing to the women for not allowing them to pastor a church

How long will it be before the Southern Baptist apologizes to gays. Southern Baptist have embraced the teachings of the scripture, they say, they strictly follow the scripture, would that be scriptures for, 1776-1860-1960-1995, and winds of change go on and on.

Wayne Schaefer

## CHRONICLE MAILBAG

### Our Readers Speak Out

professionals agree that early detection could reduce the breast cancer death rate by more than 30% among women over 40 years of age. It is for these reasons that we make more information about breast cancer screening available.

The FoCaS Project has

saint denomination apologized for being born of slavery and failing to fight racism ever since. "Now comes the hard part," say members of the Southern Baptist Convention: Transforming an apology for the sins of the part into a promise to build a more racially harmonious future. How

### 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.

## Yet Another Chance To Embrace The Dream

"What if we returned to a segregated America?" Julius Chambers began his address at Wake Forest with this query. He recalled for his audience the memory of an "all White Wake Forest" to which he did not apply. To what end? — the doors were closed to the African American. Yet encouraged by Wake Forest's historical role in race relations, the speech continued in a positive direction reiterating the dream of an American freed from racial and gender discrimination.

In his soft-spoken yet eloquent voice, Chambers moved quickly over many aspects of his topic: "The Future Of Race Relations In America." We did not hear an emotional address, but one in which suggestions and hope for the future was offered.

By the way of analysis and clarification, Chambers suggested that Americans — especially those faculty members, students, and other individuals who were present at the convocation — should acknowledge the diversity within our nation and the discrimination that is present "across the spectrum" even today.

Chambers told us that individuals within minority groups need not feel "inferior" if they receive assistance in obtaining a position for which they are obviously qualified because it is history that has made such corrections necessary. We cannot escape history. Realization of "how we got here" should lead us realistic solutions to our problems. To say we are "all equal now" is to fail to see life as it is. Further warning instructed us to beware political actions that would deny "decent" housing, education and health care for the poor.

By presenting the audience with various engaging questions concerning minority representation, Chambers reminded us that their answers "indicate a broader trend." The general public needs to see the logical end of our present actions. "Who in American cares?" we are asked.

In a statement that expressed great hope for our country, Chambers declared that, contrary to some others, he believes "that most Americans want ALL people to have a chance ... to do what's right ... to reject intentional and unintentional practices that harm others."

Vision encourages; analysis enlightens. On this day we received both. Chambers presented concrete examples to remind us that we have not yet arrived; he gave clear evidence to portray what America can return to if we do not heed the warning signals. Yet he spoke of what America can become if enough people desire to make it so. The "color line" of the twentieth century need not be carried forth into the twenty-first.

One thing that I am learning through my studies is that African Americans are impressed with the actions of White people (in race relations), not with our theories. It is one thing for us to speak of equality and quite another to demonstrate one's belief in it. Chambers addressed his remarks to a racially mixed audience, yet it is evident that Wake Forest has large White majority. His remarks should be heeded by all of us although I believe their implications are

somewhat different for White people than for Black people. It is no secret that I believe that White people need to become more aware of the effect of our actions upon Blacks.

Chambers spoke to us of learning by associating with each other in an integrated society and of gaining from the contributions of each other. My own life has been enriched significantly due to personal relationships with African Americans. I would be

### GUEST COLUMN

By HELEN LOOSE



lessened as an individual by the return of a segregated nation, and I feel that society as a whole would be greatly diminished. An "all White Wake Forest" — one from which I would swiftly exit — is an institution that I do not believe I will ever see.

Yet there is truth in Julius Chambers statement: we "never seem to be really serious" about finding permanent solutions to the racial problems that we encounter time and time again. Would that our strife could end on a note as positive as Chambers speech! Too often all White Americans hear is the dream; we ignore the warnings that speak realistically of the consequences of our failure to pursue it.... And we have yet another chance to embrace the dream.

(Helen Loose is a student at Wake Forest.)