

OPINION/LETTERS

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Support the Bond Issue

Voters will decide the fate of the \$94 million school bond referendum on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Supporters and opponents of the bond issue are making their final pitches in an attempt to galvanize their constituents. So far, the debate has been civil, but now is the time for voters to decide their position on this matter.

Accordingly, The Chronicle supports passage of the bond referendum. We expect the matter to pass muster with the voters although it is the only item on the ballot, and turnout is expected to be low regardless of the weather.

We support the bond referendum because it is crucial that the repairs, renovations, and construction of new buildings within the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools take place in a timely fashion.

The referendum calls for the construction of new elementary school just off Indiana Avenue and the conversion of three middle schools - Ashley, Cook, and Kennedy - to elementary schools, all located in or near the African American community.

Blacks have awaited the return of neighborhood elementary schools since they lost them to integration 23 years ago.

The African American community must hold school officials and the school board accountable for making these repairs and renovations as scheduled. The delayed renovations at Atkins Middle School after the passage of the 1989 bond referendum must not be allowed to occur again.

We as taxpayers must insist that school bureaucracy fulfill its promises to the African American community. Voters cannot merely cast their ballots and trust that school officials will do the right thing.

Dr. Donald L. Martin Jr., the school superintendent, has asked the African American community to trust that he and his colleagues will make good on their promises related to the bond referendum. We should give Martin the benefit of the doubt.

The referendum, however, is more than brick and mortar.

We expect that schools in the African American community to receive equitable supplies, teachers, and equipment such as computers. Passage of the bond referendum among black voters will send a message that African Americans expect schools in their neighborhoods to be fully integrated in the system's planning and funding.

For too long, African American students have not performed as well as their white counterparts in the classroom. It is a problem that confronts every teacher, student, and administrator, regardless of their race.

Thus, it is not enough to have schools in black neighborhoods. It is vital that the teachers and administrators learn new ways to instruct African American students, especially black males who are struggling the most. School officials must make a commitment to reverse this trend, and we must make sure that they address this dilemma.

The bond referendum will be good for the schools. African American leaders, parents, and residents must see that it is good for all the children in the city and county.

We will accept nothing less.

Black Colleges/Universities

Heyward Bannister, the keynote speaker at last week's Founders Day at WSSU, praised historically black colleges and universities as "institutions suited toward nurturing our children."

Winston-Salem State University, Bennett College, and North Carolina A&T State University are among the 117 predominantly black institutions that have maintained their commitment to educating African American youths for more than a century.

We celebrate this heritage and hope that these schools will continue their mission.

Until white colleges and universities opened their doors to black students a generation ago, African American schools educated the men and women who became the lawyers, doctors, teachers, and business people in our community.

Today, these institutions face limited state and national budgets that threaten their survival. But, they still are training our youths for the 21st century marketplace.

Black colleges and universities comprise only three percent of the institutions of higher learning in the United States, but they produce 40 percent of the college graduates among African Americans. One of these graduates is the new chancellor at WSSU. Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider graduated from Grambling State University in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in political science. During his career, he became one of the top administrators at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. The future Schexnidors are now in the classrooms of HBCUs throughout America. We must protect those schools from hostile politicians and unfair budgets. The graduates that they produce will lead the race into the next century.

VOICES IN THE COMMUNITY

Do you think the \$94 million school bond referendum will pass on Tuesday, Nov. 7. The Chronicle asked this question to several residents this week.



Linda Loyd

I hope it will pass because it will help our children get some more schools. They need more schools, and I am going to vote for it.



Pamela Williams

Yes. It should pass because new schools are needed. The more money they put into the schools, the better. It will be for our children.



B.J. Williams

Yes, there are so many things going on in the black neighborhoods near the schools. If the bond passes, then we will have a better future.



Natalie S. Hinton

I support it, but I don't know if it will pass. A lot of people are not aware of what it will do for the children. It will provide them with needed space.



Moses Lucas

It's hard to say if it's going to pass, but I will support it. Education is the first priority for our young people.

Reader Says: Lets Be Realistic; Powell Can't Win

To the Editor:

Before you get caught up in this media "thang" about Colin Powell winning the presidency of the United States, it is important for black people to understand that some federal

gratitude to James "Bunk" Garner for the enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work he put into the First Annual James "Bunk" Garner Golf Classic to benefit Hospice of Winston-Salem. We would also like to thank Reynolds Park Golf Course for

who contributed to making this an enjoyable afternoon. The auction proceeds will permit word processing support supplies for student use to be purchased.

Carter Cue, Chairperson
 Glynis W. Bell, President

we find a way to address this at a time when our population base is getting older.

My mother needed me to care for her. I needed the support of the Alzheimer's Association, Piedmont Triad Chapter, to help me do so. The need for the services that the Chapter provides so well and so freely to our community continues to grow rapidly. If you have ever lost someone you love to Alzheimer's Disease, or if you know someone who has, please open your heart and give generously (Alzheimer's Association, Piedmont Triad Chapter, 836 Oak Street, Suite 451, Winston-Salem, NC 27101) or call the Alzheimer's Association at 722-0811 or 1-800-228-9794 to see what you can do to help.

Lisa H. Holleman

CHRONICLE MAILBAG

Our Readers Speak Out

laws are designed to prevent an independent candidate from winning the presidency of these United States. Read the following paragraphs carefully.

Laws pertaining to the Electoral College - the institution that really elects the president - mandate that a candidate must get 270 votes in the Electoral College to be elected president of the United States. In order for that to occur, Powell will have to get at least 70 percent of the popular vote in numerous states. And even if he can capture this amount of the popular vote, one must realize that there is no law that states that an elector of the Electoral College must vote for the candidate with the highest amount of popular votes.

The laws pertaining to political contributions are designed to produce the same effect. Once nominated, the candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties can receive up to \$60 million dollars of the taxpayers money. But Powell, running as an independent, gets no public funding! The reason: Federal laws state that an independent candidate can receive public funding only if he won at least 5 percent of the popular vote in the last election. If Ross Perot decides to run as an independent, he can receive some of this free money because he captured about 19 percent of the popular vote when he ran, which cost him \$63 million dollars.

In addition to the above, the factor of being a black man can be added to the equation. But this is not entirely about being black or white. This is about a political system that is designed to put THEIR people in the oval office.

Kwame Nyerere

Hospice Give Thanks

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of Hospice of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County, Inc., we would like to express our appreciation and

hosting this tournament and so many of the businesses in the community for their support.

Garner has dedicated his life to working for the enrichment and acceptance of the black community, especially the youngsters, and to fulfilling a dream of making golf an "open" sport for everyone. Hospice touched Bunk's life when we cared for his mother in 1990, but we want him to know that he has touched the lives of everyone at Hospice.

It is a pleasure to be associated with such a fine person and we are already looking forward to working with Garner next year as his golf classic becomes an annual event.

JoAnn E. Davis
 Chief Executive Officer

Celebrity Auction Success

To the Editor:

WSSU Friends of the Library would like to warmly thank everyone who contributed to and attended our celebrity auction October 7, 1995 in the Diggs Gallery. The auction was financially successful and enjoyed by everyone who participated. A very special thanks is expressed to local businesses who contributed merchandise and gift certificates.

The parents and directors of the Kristina Brown Step Team are acknowledged for allowing their children to share their special talents. We would like to encourage the children to continue with their training. Lorenzo Meachum and the WSSU Drama Guild are commended for presenting their premiere performance of State U. to an enthusiastic audience. Children from East Elementary School in Monroe N.C. - who were visiting the campus - were delighted with the performance of William Gattis, Branch Librarian of Durham's Stanford L. Warren Library, who gave a fun, inspirational library rap. He encouraged children to explore the world of reading and books.

Again, thanks to everyone

Needing Funds

To the Editor:

Several years ago, I called the Piedmont Triad Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association because I needed help caring for my mother. The information and support I received was invaluable. Anyone who has ever experienced the loss of a parent to Alzheimer's Disease or a related disorder will never doubt the importance of the services provided by this organization.

By the year 2000, one out of three families will need the same kind of help and support that I did. Alzheimer's Disease is the fourth leading cause of death in adults, and currently affects 22,000 people in the Triad alone.

The Chapter's Memory Walk, which is its largest fund-raising event of the year, held on October 14, 1995 in conjunction with a NASCAR auction and a fall festival. Although everything was well planned, the weather did not cooperate and the Chapter fell \$20,000 short of its goal.

The Chapter does not charge for its services to families, depending solely on fund-raising events and donations to operate.

It is vitally important that

Reader Praises Coverage

To the Editor:

I would like to take this time to congratulate the wonderful staff writer Maurice Crocker and the other commentators of the Winston-Salem Chronicle for their outstanding coverage of the most historical event of the century. It did my heart good to know that even if they did not support the event, they reviewed the March with honest eyes.

Other newspapers and television news downplayed the turnout to less than a million, but it goes to show that with God in the mist, truth can prevail from the least expected.

I also would like to say a big thank you for publishing the speech made by Willie Lynch.

You took the time to check and see if what Minister Farrakhan stated about this man was true.

Once again let me say Thank You.

Linda Montgomery

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:
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