

FORUM

What you say might end up in the paper



Nigel Alston
Motivational Moments

"People try to rain on your parade, because they have no parade of their own."

— Jeffrey Gitomer

"You better be careful what you say, it might end up in the paper," my wife cautions people. As usual, she is right. Interesting ideas, suggestions and column material come from regular day-to-day conversations and unexpected incidents — like the young woman seeking to sell her used textbook.

She looked like a regular customer as she jumped out of the waiting car and entered the bookstore. There was nothing unusual about her; however, her request was somewhat curious. "Do you buy used textbooks," she asked the owner.

"No we don't," he responded, as the young woman's body language registered disappointment. She wanted to convert her books into cash, and this stop didn't produce any money.

"Where did you buy the book?" the owner wanted to know, in an attempt to assist her. "From school," she answered, as he suggested the obvious: that she take the book back to where she purchased it.

"I did," she told him as she walked out of the store and jumped back into the waiting car.

"That's some material for you," he told me with a straight face. That's not the first time he has suggested an idea for a column. Once, I am told, a man came into his store and asked for directions. Here is the key part of the incident: He was lost. After receiving directions, the visitor asked the owner an unbelievable question: "Are you sure?" What was he thinking?

At a cookout recently an elementary teacher suggested I write about young people wearing their pants down around their "butts" displaying their underwear for the entire world to see. What's that about? In some cases the pants appear to be suspended in midair, to be pulled up repeatedly by the occupant, so as to keep the pants from completely falling down. She doesn't understand it, and I

must admit, I don't either.

An embarrassing moment in a convenience store taught an important lesson to the daughter of a friend of hers. She wore her loosely fitted pants one time too many. They fell down in the store.

I listened as she described an incident with a student who came into her classroom with his pants hanging off his behind, without a belt to hold them up. She was creative, providing a temporary one, a rope. He didn't like it one bit, but it served its intended purpose. She attributes this behavior, in part, to watching too many videos on BET.

The recognition that what is being said in a conversation might end up in a column usually prompts a warning to an unsuspecting person that he might see his words in print.

It was about that time when this group of teachers and friends — one, the parent of a college freshman — sharing stories about their classroom and other life experiences, looked at me and instructed me not to write about this conversation. I smiled and continued to listen as they laughed and continued

to talk.

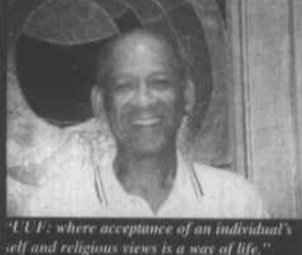
The parent of the college freshman had recently taken her daughter to school and really missed her. She worried that her daughter, attending an ACC school, could become lost in the shuffle of so many students on such a large campus. She was relieved after visiting the college campus with her daughter and meeting representatives of the school, only to return home and tightly hug a picture of her daughter. She had it bad. Real bad! Her baby was gone.

Four days later she was back on the campus, having changed her mind about the cell phone she didn't think her daughter needed. It suddenly became important for her to reach out and touch her daughter at any time.

"You won't use my name, will you?" she asked, laughing, knowing I had enough material for a column. I wish I could share more. It was an interesting conversation, but I promised I wouldn't tell it all.

Nigel Alston is a radio talk show host, columnist and motivational speaker. Visit his Web site at www.motivationalmoments.com.

News Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

Sunday Forum 9 am
Service 10:30 am
Rev. Charles Davis : Minister

4055 ROBINHOOD ROAD
WINSTON-SALEM, NC
(336) 659-0331

"U.U.F. where acceptance of an individual's self and religious views is a way of life."
Gene Williams

Help your community

Volunteer

at Family Services, Inc.
Opportunities include: crisis line work, reassure the elderly, and court advocacy.

Training starts Sept. 12th

Interested? Call 723-4338 or visit www.familyserv.org

Georgia's Cynthia McKinney: Gone!



Ron Walters
Guest Columnist

Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney from the 4th District of Georgia was defeated by another black woman, Denise Majette, a judge from her district, in a hard-fought campaign. That is the fact, but the meaning of this fact is important.

There were many reasons why she lost, but the most prominent one that has been highlighted by the media was the influx of Jewish financial support for her opponent. So, let's get that one out of the way. True, Denise Majette raised about \$1.1 million for her campaign, most of which came from sources outside of the state. That gave her the ability to campaign on an even footing with Cynthia McKinney. In contrast, McKinney raised more than \$600,000, but one might argue that just as in the case of Alabama's Earl Hilliard, who also lost his race in a similar fashion, it resulted from a combination of factors.

McKinney really lost because there were too many black people in her district who sat at home, either hiding under the kitchen table, afraid of her bold views or indifferent to the race because there were two black women running. They may have thought, "What the problem?" The problem is that there are differences between the two candidates: McKinney is bold, maybe even too bold for someone in the South in a black-minority district. Majette appears to be much milder in her personal style and more moderate in her views. Either that is what the voters truly wanted, or McKinney, in her 10 years in office, did not build a strong base of campaign workers who were loyal to her politics.

She also lost because of a strong cross-over vote by Republicans. Apparently, someone or some group mounted a taped mes-



U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney at a press conference two years ago.

sage campaign to warn voters that cross-over voting was illegal, when it was not. This was said to anger many Republicans who picked up Democratic ballots and voted against McKinney. But she had said enough to fire up this sector in any case when she raised questions about what George Bush knew beforehand about the Al Quaida attack. The combination of a weak Democratic base and a strong cross-over vote by Republicans was enough to sink her re-election bid.

Then, something strange happened. While most of the black Atlanta civil rights and political establishment supported McKinney, Andrew Young — former congressman, U.N. ambassador and mayor — suddenly withdrew his endorsement. This led McKinney to charge Young with leaving her out in the cold. Young explained that his endorsement of McKinney in the previous election was not meant for this one. But what signal was he sending? Did he really want her to lose? You can bank on McKinney to revisit this issue in the future and maybe even in public.

What happened to McKinney has proven the point that often you can bring in any number of high-profile people and it will have little effect on the outcome of an election if people are truly turned off. The McKinney campaign drew in a significant number of members of the Black Congressional Caucus who were sensitive to the recent loss of their brother, Earl Hilliard in Alabama, and bus loads of other workers came in from outside of the state and from the Georgia Coalition of Voters, headed by Rev. Joseph Lowery.

Election night reports from observers on the scene also indicated that nearly 600 workers from the Nation of Islam had been mobilized and Minister Farrakhan made a speech in the city of Atlanta two days before the election. Why was the influence of the black political structure of Atlanta so lacking in this case? This loss will call for some soul-searching in the future and perhaps might lead to better methods of keeping the fast-growing black affluent areas surrounding the city "in the loop."

Whether the loss of McKin-

ney will result in a net loss to the black community remains to be seen. Majette has strong reasons to be beholden to the moderate forces that supported her campaign. Nevertheless, the way in which both Majette and Artur Davis, Hilliard's opponent in Alabama, won their elections should raise serious questions for the black community. True, the cash from the Jewish community is a sore point that is likely to inflame relations between blacks and Jews. True, we are probably past the point that holding elected office is consistent with liberal radical politics. And true, if you're going to have a radical style of politics, you had better work harder to build a large and loyal core of knowledgeable voters who will turn out in the rain, wind or snow to support your positions.

Ron Walters is Distinguished Leadership Scholar, director of the African American Leadership Institute and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland College Park. His latest book is "African American Leadership."



LOUISE E. HARRIS
Attorney at Law

- Bankruptcy
- Consumer Problems
- Traffic Tickets & DWI
- Divorce
- Social Security

12 Years Of Experience

102 West Third Street, Ste. 485
Winston-Salem, NC Call 24 Hours
(336) 761-0222



TWANDA M. STALEY
Attorney & Counselor at Law

Practice Areas:

- Child Custody
- Traffic Tickets
- Child Support
- Personal Injury
- Divorce
- Misdemeanor Criminal

**515 West 2nd Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Phone: (336) 723-6626 • Fax: (336) 723-7372**

FAIRWAY HOME CARE
"Quality Service Is The FairWay"

Helping The Elderly Keep It Together After Retirement



WE STRIVE TO MAKE IT BETTER ONE CLIENT AT A TIME.



OFFICE: (336) 724-3390
545 NORTH TRADE STREET, SUITE 1-L
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27101

THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

617 N. Liberty Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

The Chronicle was established by Ernest Pitt and Ndubis Egemonye in 1974, and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co., Inc.

The Chronicle is a proud member of National Newspapers Publishers Association • North Carolina Press Association • North Carolina Black Publishers Association • Inland Press Association

National Advertising Representative:
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc., 45 West 45th Street, New York, NY 10036 212/869-5220

CONTACT US:

phone number **336 / 722-8624**
fax **336 / 723-9173**
Web site address **www.wschronicle.com**
email address **news@wschronicle.com**

Sports Editor 723-8428 SAM DAVIS
Copy Editor 723-8448 PAUL COLLINS
Circulation 722-8624
Sales Staff 722-8628
NIE Coordinator 722-8628 SYBIL LYNCH

Business Office
ERICKA ASBURY
PAULETTE LEWIS
ANDREA MOSES

THE CHRONICLE

HOME DELIVERY SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

YES. Please send me The Chronicle

2 years: \$40.95
 1 year: \$30.72
 6 months: \$20.48

Out of County/State	
2 years	\$45.95
1 year	\$35.72
6 mos	\$25.48
3 mos	\$15.24

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

VISA Mastercard American Express Check enclosed Please bill me

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

SEND TO: The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636, Winston-Salem, NC 27102