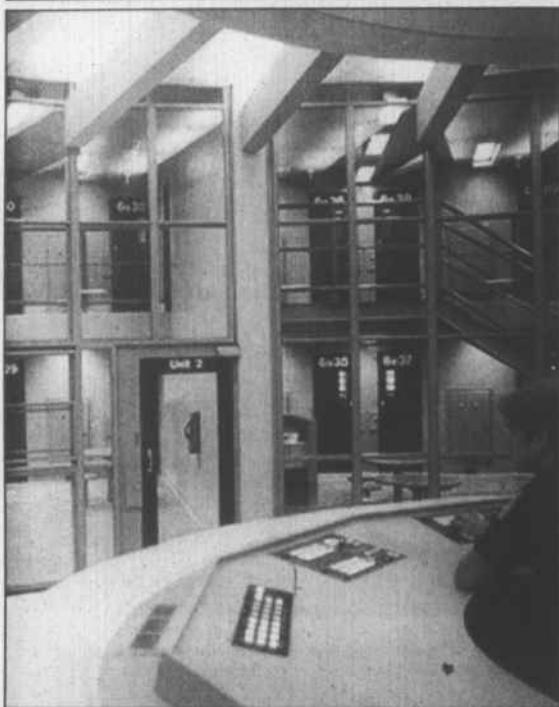
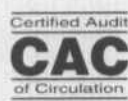


# OPINION

## THE CHRONICLE

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## When crime equals dollars

For most people it is good news that crime in Forsyth County has taken a dramatic nose dive. Having fewer murders, rapes and assaults means that hard-working, law-abiding folks can sleep a little easier and walk our streets with more confidence.

But crime and punishment have become big business for some people. So as morbid as it may sound, bad people doing a lot of, bad things is good news for the pocketbooks of some people. Take, for example, the circumstances behind the opening of a new federal prison in a small South Carolina town (see story on page A2).

The bad deeds of some 1,200 inmates, the number that will be housed at the \$110 million facility, will mean an economic surge for many. Hotels, shops and eateries are springing up, hoping to take advantage of those who will work at the prison. The prison plans to hire more than 350 people, most of whom will make at least about \$25,000 in a town where the average personal income is not even \$13,000. Millions have already gone to developers who have constructed the mammoth building. And millions more will go to various companies for a variety of services the prison will need.

Business is business and

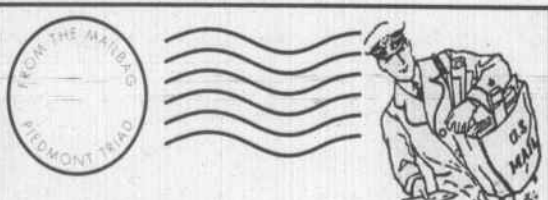
somebody has to do it, but it's sad that our economy has sunken to such a low that people are turning flips over the positive benefits of a prison.

Granted, most prisoners deserve to be behind bars for the unmentionable crimes they commit, but does that mean they deserve to be pimped by a system that is erecting prisons like they are Holiday Inns?

So crime is not always bad, at least for some people. It has become a cottage industry and fodder for politicians who use high-crime numbers to slide into office. Preventive programs for crime have been slow to take effect, and there are still not enough of them. When will the powers that be realize that the millions that are used to lock people up, build prisons and defend and prosecute perpetrators could be better spent for training and educational programs that will keep many people from committing crimes in the first place?

When will those who have become multimillionaires as a result of the business of locking up young black men stop the madness and cease arguing for more jails?

Prisons are bad, depressing places filled with mostly bad people. It just doesn't seem right that their existence should make so many people so happy and so hopeful.



Submit letters and columns to:  
**Chronicle Mailbag,**  
 P.O. Box 1636,  
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Please print clearly. Typed letters and columns are preferred. If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself. We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for clarity or brevity. You also can e-mail us your letters or columns at:  
[news@wschronicle.com](mailto:news@wschronicle.com)

## Letters to the Editor

### Supporting Anderson

**To the Editor:**  
 I write to thank The Chronicle most sincerely for the paper's editorial support of Gayle Anderson and the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce (most recently, July 10, "A Second Look at Anderson, Vendors").

As last year's chair of the board of directors of the chamber and a continuing active member of that board and its Executive Committee, I am confident that I am in a position to assure your readers that one situation implied by your mentioned editorial does not exist. Specifically, "...the chamber board..." does not "...have a problem with Anderson..." In fact, the board of the chamber is highly supportive of Anderson as a great leader of a great team. She is focused, works hard and operates with complete integrity.

Again, thank you for your support.

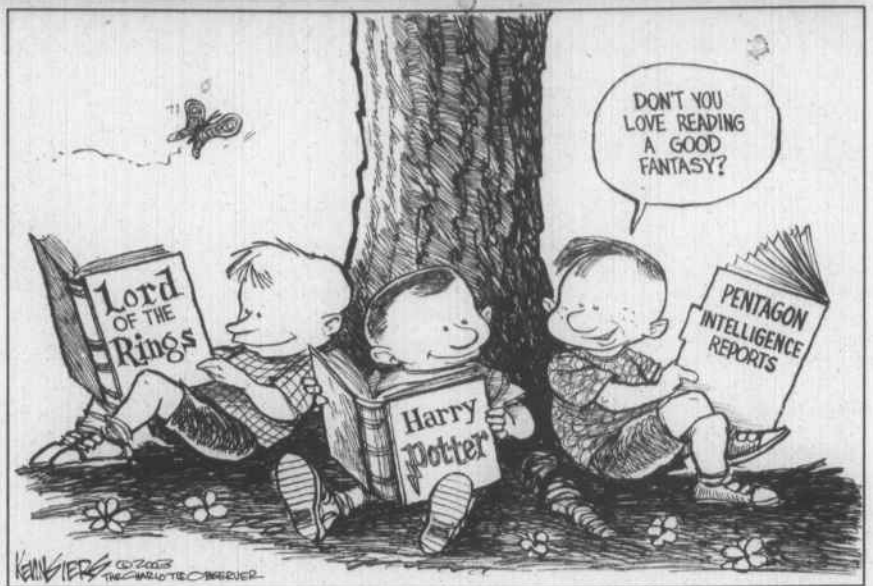
Sincerely yours,  
 Murray C. Greason Jr.

### Remembering little brother

**Editor's note:** Kenneth Thornton wrote this letter to remember the one-year anniversary of the death of his brother, Rev. Dr. S. Tyrone Thornton, who was pastor of Phillips Chapel Baptist Church.

**To the Editor:**

There's a difference of six years in the ages of my younger brother, Rev. Dr. S. Tyrone Thornton, and myself. I always thought in the back of my mind that one day I would have his back to do some of the things that big brothers do. I thought that maybe one day I would have to break up a fight or even stop an argument. Not the case. I never had to get him out of any kind of trouble. He



was always in the middle of a crowd of people, but they were around him just to hear what the little big man had to say.

Our roles soon changed from big brother/little brother to best friends.

He had a positive impact on every person he met. He impressed many and was loved by all.

From his hometown of Cascade, Va., to some of the places of his employment, including Martinsville, Va., Danville, Va. and Yanceyville, N.C., he was known as a motivator and a hard worker. His church families of Shiloh, River Zion and Phillips Chapel knew him as an anointed man who was not afraid to preach and teach the Gospel.

His dreams and visions were huge. He often talked to me about

being on television and starting a radio ministry. He said that way he could spread God's word to everybody.

An automobile accident changed his plans. His death touched thousands, young and old. The newspaper, television and radio all reported his story. Maybe his dream did come true. Some of the great men in history have holidays in honor of them because they changed the lives of people. To me, my brother was just as inspirational and changed many lives; therefore, I wanted to do a day of reminiscence for him.

An almost fatal illness left me bedfast for a few months, but it gave me the opportunity to write the songs and work out the details for a program. Now my dream is near reality. On July 26 at Phillips Chapel, 132 N. Glenn Ave., at 6 p.m., we will have a night of remembering Rev. Thornton. With the help of some of the greatest singers and musicians around, we have formed the Rev. Dr. S. Tyrone Thornton Memorial Mass Choir. We will do a live recording on this night. All are

invited to attend. The recorded project also will feature highlights from Dr. Thornton's preaching and teaching. A percentage of the proceeds will support a scholarship fund.

Donations can be made to either help support the program or to the scholarship fund, make checks payable to Kenneth Thornton, 505 Tender Lane, Cascade, VA 24069.

Kenneth Thornton

### Reunion thank-you

Special thanks to everyone in Winston-Salem and to those who traveled from various states to support and partake in the celebration of the Wilson family reunion. The reunion was held at the Hawthorne Inn from July 4 until July 6. We will have our next reunion in 2005 in Washington D.C.

Lois Quinn, president

## No heat from blacks for Dusty



**Earl Ofari Hutchinson**  
 Guest Columnist

Chicago Cubs manager Dusty Baker took much heat from sportswriters, talk-show hosts, and some ballplayers for his inane, half-cocked quip that black and Latino players play better in the heat than whites. But why didn't black leaders such as the Reverends Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, and NAACP President Kweisi Mfume instantly condemn his remarks?

If anything, blacks treated Baker's remarks with a wink and nod, and bemusement. "Hey, that was Dusty just being Dusty." Presumably that means since Baker has gotten a rep for being outspoken, then why get upset, let alone blast him, for a brain-dead racial jibe?

Yet, when Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott, CBS sports commentator Jimmy the Greek, and Dodger executive Al Campanis made bigoted, racially-loaded jibes about blacks - in the case of "the Greek" and Campanis their remarks about blacks supposed athletic superiority (or failings) were eerily similar to Baker's - blacks demanded their heads.

Jackson and Sharpton regularly spruce up their credentials as black America's racial gatekeepers by demanding the scalp of any public figure (white of course) who makes a racially insensitive gaffe.

If Baker were white, he would've quickly been in their cross hairs. They would have stormed the Cubs' offices and demanded that he apologize, if not fired, maybe both. Dusty, of course, is unrepentant and insists that he will not apologize. He bristles at being dumped into the same bigot bag with "The Greek" or Campanis. After all, they were white, he's black, and that gives him carte blanche to say whatever he wants about blacks, no matter how ludicrous it may be.

But the silence of black leaders and Dusty's skewed sense of racial etiquette again point to the



Dusty Baker gets a champagne bath last year after his former team, the San Francisco Giants, clinched a World Series wild-card berth.

ridiculous racial double standard that many blacks impose on whites, but not themselves. A glaring example of this is the perennial debate over the "N" word. When white comedians, politicians, talk-show hosts, and even educators have slipped and used the "N" word, they are instantly branded bigots; do profuse mea culpas and solemnly swear never to do it again.

But black rappers, comedians and writers have made a virtual fetish out of using the word, and there is no angry outcry from other blacks. Some black writers even go through tortuous gyrations to justify using the word. They claim that the more a black person uses the word, the less offensive it becomes. They claim that they are cleansing the word of its negative connotations so that racists can no longer use it to hurt blacks.

Comedian-turned-activist Dick Gregory had the same idea some years ago when he titled his autobiography "Nigger." Black writer Robert DeCoy also tried to apply the same racial shock therapy to whites when he titled his novel "The Nigger Bible."

The racial double standard,

however, is fraught with much danger. The standard assumption is that pseudo-science quips by whites about the alleged physical prowess of blacks, especially athletes, reinforce the ancient, but thoroughly discredited, racial stereotypes and must be swiftly reviled. But in some ways the same quip made by a Baker, or other high-profile blacks, if anything does more to validate racial stereotypes than if said by whites. This gives much of the public pause to think that there may be some truth to it.

When blacks don't protest bigoted remarks by someone like Baker, that public pause can easily turn into public belief that there may be something to it.

That lack of protest also fuels the suspicion that blacks, and especially black leaders, are more than willing to play the race card and call a white a bigot when it serves their interest but will circle the wagons and defend any black who comes under fire for bigotry, or for any other malfeasance.

Some wayward black public officials and celebrities that are guilty of malfeasance use the racial double standard to their

advantage. They scream racism when they are caught doing wrong. They can get away with it because many whites regard blacks as so far outside the political and social pale that they see blacks solely through the prism of a racial monolith. They think that all blacks think, act and sway to the same racial beat. They freely use the words and deeds of the chosen black leader as the standard for African-American behavior.

When the beleaguered chosen one makes a real or contrived misstep, he or she becomes the whipping boy among many whites, and blacks are blamed for being rash, foolhardy, irresponsible and prone to shuffle the race card on every social ill that befalls them.

Baker's little exercise in racial genetics was again proof that a silly, racist remark can come out of a black mouth as easily as it can from the mouth of a white. But when it does there is little likelihood that it will draw any heat from blacks. Dusty certainly didn't.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst.