

Time for a new black organization



Harry Alford
Guest Columnist

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, is in the midst of another annual convention. It is fitting that the venue is Detroit, a city void of viable Black economic empowerment, education and real political vision. All in a place that is 83 percent Black. As the saying goes "If something is wrong, someone Black did it or let it happen". Detroit is broken. Black school board, Black politicians at all levels and nothing that amounts to a hill of beans is happening for the advancement of Black folks. It is also not surprising that the nation's largest NAACP chapter is located in Detroit. It's crazy.

I was asked, strangely by a White person, to come and partake in a press conference that will publicly criticize the leadership of the NAACP and demand significant changes.

That would be shameful to the legacy of this institution. My father was a lifetime member of this organization and my uncle, Fred Brown, ran the Ventura County, Calif., chapter for decades. We shouldn't do this. I have an unconditional love for this great institution. However, that does not exempt it from scrutiny or constructive criticism. Everyone seems to be anxious about doing something different in the civil rights arena - not only nationally but globally.

Now is the time for something different. Extreme rightists want to return to Jim Crow and we fight it like wimps. We can't teach our children reading and math skills past the eighth grade level. Our



A woman casts a vote at a recent NAACP National Convention.

unemployment remains in the double digits despite the best overall levels in some time for the nation as a whole. People in our communities are being gentrified and local Black governments seem to be encouraging it rather than preventing it. Guns and crack are more available than books or good encouraging movies. In fact, crime, especially drugs, is the biggest competitor to new entrepreneurship as a generator of economic interaction. Right now, there is no civil rights organization, directed by the Black community that is actually doing progressive and productive work. Beholding to their few sponsors, they cannot dwell into the arena of pure advocacy for Black communities.

What this world needs is a new self-funded institution dedicated to the civil rights and economic vitality of Black communities everywhere. We need a major convention. An organ-

izing convention that will be democratic and well structured to prevent cliques or dictators from manipulating and will allow a fluid movement to address a written Strategic Plan and an understandable mission. No principals from existing organizations need apply. An organizing committee needs to start in Washington, DC, the center of the free world. This organizing committee, if it has any worth and credibility will grow quickly. If it does not, it will be duplicated and wither away. Another will take its place until we get it right.

Funding? That's pretty simple. 40 million African-Americans have nearly \$1 trillion dollars per year in disposable income. A membership fee of \$5 should produce millions in contributions if the message and Plan are clear. A few million dollars with the right structure, management and Plan will be quite sufficient. The

leadership, board and officers, should be few but totally dedicated. The Strategic Plan, concise but comprehensive or shall we say succinct. The implementation is key and must be deployed in a very simplistic fashion.

Oh, how sweet was my elementary educational experience. Our kindergarten teacher was Mrs. Womack who charmed us into wanting to learn and explore. Our first through third grade teacher was Mrs. Meyers (that's right, three straight years). She used repetition to give us the gift of reading, writing, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. When she got through with us we all had it down - everyone! This included the new immigrants flowing in from China and Mexico. They had functional English by the third grade. By the time we got into high school, we could handle anything they threw at us. By the time we grew up, being unemployed was actually inconceivable to my crew. The question was "How far do you want to go? How wealthy do you want to be?" Today, these questions seem so remote.

This new organization can defeat the shameless state of our educational performance as a starter. From there, we can move to the next shame. In regards to Africa, we can simply drill a water well in every village. That alone would eliminate the majority of annual child deaths in the continent. It can be done for about \$100 per well. I just don't know where the \$billions spent by USAID go.

The answers are right before us. We just need an organization that is committed to it and geared for it.

Harry Alford is the co-founder, president/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc. Reach him at www.nationalbcc.org.

Nigel Alston is on vacation. He will return the first Thursday in August.



THE ELLISON LAW FIRM



Eric S. Ellison
Attorney At Law

- Residential Real Estate Closings
- Commercial Real Estate
- Title Searches
- Real Estate Document Preparation

112 North Marshall Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
(Just North of 1st Street)
Phone: (336) 723-7370
Fax: (336) 723-7372
ellisonlaw@earthlink.net

"Dedicated To Providing You The Best Service."



Rep. Larry Womble

NC House of Representatives

71st District
Tel (336) 784-9373
Fax (336) 784-1626
E-Mail: LWistm@aol.com

Home Address
1294 Salem Lake Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27107



S. Wayne Patterson

Attorney At Law and Certified ADR Mediator

- Immigration • Social Security • Civil Rights
- EEOC Claims • Non-Profit/501c(3)
- Employment Discrimination

235 Peachtree St. Suite 400 Atlanta, GA 30303
8 West Third Street Suite 220 Winston-Salem, NC 27101

1-877-SWP-4LAW
or local number
(336) 714-8858
www.swaynepatterson4law.com



Donald R. Buie

BANKRUPTCY

Legal Help For Your Debt Problems

DONALD R. BUIE,
Attorney At Law

www.donaldrbuie.com



- ★ Free Initial Consultation
- ★ Stop Repossession & Foreclosure

773-1398
8 W. 3rd St., Ste. 100

Jessie Draft & Associates LLC



Jessie Draft/Broker
CRS, GRI, REALTOR

RNJDRAFT@MSN.COM
3750 Beeson Dairy Rd
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

(336) 403-1254 Business
(336) 748-0871 Fax

MULTIMILLION DOLLAR PRODUCER



LOUISE E. HARRIS

Attorney at Law

- Debt Relief under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code
- Consumer Problems
- Traffic Tickets & DWI
- Divorce
- Wills & Probate

17 Years Of Experience

Winston Tower
Suite 2223, 301 N. Main Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Call 24 Hours
(336) 761-0222

Quintessential white supremacist justice



A. Peter Bailey
Guest Columnist

When first hearing about the then 17-year old Black male teenager being sentenced to 10 years in prison for a non-forced sexual encounter with a 15-year old girl, my first reaction was that the girl must be White. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that there is no way that a Georgia court would give someone that kind of time for non-forced sex with a 15-year old black girl. Don't get me wrong, I have a 15-year old granddaughter and would be extremely angry at a 17-year old male having non-forced sex with her but it would be near criminal for me to push for a ten-year prison sentence for the teenager. The lesson to be learned from this is that we Black folks had better wake up and smell the collard greens and come out of the delusional trance that too many of us have been operating under during the past 35 plus years. Old schoolers

had better warn young Black men that though they may have their interracial flings in major metropolitan areas with some degree of safety, they put their lives in jeopardy when they have these flings in small cities and towns, especially in the South. Meanwhile whatever is necessary must be done to get that now 20-year old young man released from jail immediately.

Over 25,000 librarians poured into Washington D.C. for the annual convention of The American Library Association. It was enlightening to see several Black book publishers and one black distributor displaying their books in the huge Exhibit Hall of the D.C. Convention Center. These included Brand Nu Words (www.brandnuwords.com), Sights Productions (eric@sightsproductions.com), Solar Publishing LLC (www.solarpub.com), Africa World Press (www.africa-worldpressbooks.com), Books Subscribers (book-subscrib@hotmail.com), and Third World Press (http://thirdworldpressinc.com).

The latter is celebrating



Clingman

its 40th Anniversary this year. Their books cover a wide variety of subjects of importance and interest. They need our support. Don't be like the NAACP which, according to columnist James Clingman, contracted a non-Black publisher to manage the Authors' Pavilion at its 2007 Conference in Detroit. When asked why, says Clingman, a NAACP representative "responded with an equally outrageous excuse that they were not aware of Black bookstores, distributors or publishers in Detroit..." No wonder that organization is having a serious relevancy problem.

Those of us coming out of the Malcolm X wing of the civil and human rights movements of the 1960s always had a problem with the premise of Brown v. Board of Education that all-Black schools are inherently inferior. We regard that as psychologically damaging. All-Black schools were/are inferior because of deliberate malign neglect by public officials and too much apathy from too many Black folks. We believe strongly that neighborhood schools, readily accessible to concerned parents, guardians and activists then and now can provide the quality education needed by our children if we are unified in making that happen. Think about it. What vested interest do believers in white supremacy have in educating Black children so they can successfully compete with their children? We are the only ones who have a vested interest in providing our children with a quality education. And we can do that if we are serious.

A. Peter Bailey is an Afrocentric journalist, author, lecturer, college professor and activist.

The Choice for African-American News

617 N. Liberty Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

The Chronicle was established by Ernest Pitt and Nubisi 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

Contact Us

Phone Number: 336 / 722-8624

Fax: 336 / 723-9173

Web Site Address: www.wschronicle.com

E-mail address: news@wschronicle.com

Business Office 723-8428, ext. 100 PAULETTE LEWIS
Business Office 723-8428, ext. 101 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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

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