

PHOENIX OPINIONS-EDITORIALS

Brother Against Brother

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."
-John 10:16

A recent development reminds me of a disturbing true story about a number of Southern white servicemen wounded in the Korean War who opted to die rather than receive transfusions with blood taken from Black soldiers.

The same fate that befell those blindly stubborn GIs could also lead to the demise of a local religious-oriented radio station, WSMX, for identical reasons—blind prejudice.

According to the word on the street, WSMX has opted to remove religious programming sponsored by the Nation of Islam because, so the story goes, the station had been getting too many complaints from its loyal "Christian" listeners.

Before I go back to the Scriptures, let's try to think this one through in more earthly terms.

You see, any communications medium, whether it be WSMX, the Wall Street Journal or the Phoenix, relies almost solely on advertising or some form of "sponsorship" in order



From The Publisher

By Rodney Sumler

to operate. You know, like pay the bills (in my case, "Williams." My bills are to serious to be called by a nickname).

The Nation of Islam, just like every other denomination or church that sponsors a program on WSMX, has to pay hard, cold cash just for the opportunity. Last I heard, WSMX wasn't

exactly rolling in the kind of dough that grants them the luxury to turn away cash paying customers.

It is also rumored that WSMX refused to allow one church to broadcast because of emotions. The pastor of this church is a former member of the church that owns WSMX.

Then there are the potential legal ramifications. Unlike the Phoenix, radio stations are governed by the Federal Communications Commission which has strict rules and regulations prohibiting stations from barring people or groups from the air based on race, ethnicity or religion.

On a more secular note, this conflict places the station in disharmony with I Corinthians 12:4-5.

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord."

As you know, we are

not a race of monolithic needs, interests and tastes, particularly when it comes to religion. Blacks worship their God in many different sects and call him by many different names—God, Yahweh, Allah.

Too many blacks are critical of Jehovah's Witness because they call God "Jehovah." But what about "Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." Isaiah 26:4. What difference does it make what you call God as long as you praise, honor and acknowledge him?

This dilemma of pitting one brother against another for religious rea-

sions, unfortunately, is not without precedence. Not a week goes by where news about the Catholics and the Protestants in Ireland shooting each other up. Ditto for the Moslems and Christians in Nigeria.

In Winston-Salem, it appears that WSMX is instigating a unnecessary conflict between Christians and Muslims. Is it necessary? No!

I would hope that reasonable minds would come to the realization that whether you worship your God in a mosque, a temple or a church, we as Blacks, like the soldiers in the Korean War, are in the same foxhole together.

Tiny Indians Vs. Tiny Vikings

Athletics in our black households has become an important tool in the raising of our kids. In some instances it is more a negative than a positive to their total growth process.

If athletics take the place of all other realities, such as religion, academics and social contact then the parents and the individual is setting himself up for failure. It should in fact be something that is both fun and inspirational for the youth. It should instill in that youth that sometimes you win, and other times you lose. Being able to lose is equally important as winning. Why? Because in real life experiences, everything is not going to go our way and being able to accept defeat can be a humbling experience. These lessons are important in the growth process from birth to death.

On October 20, 1990 the Tiny Indians, of East Winston-Salem, and the Tiny Vikings will clash in a homecoming celebration that should encom-

Malcolm's

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pass the entire black community. The Indians and the Vikings are Winston-Salem's two only historically black football teams on the Pop Warner level. Some of the cities most talented athletes have donned one of these uniforms in their more formative years. And the talent seems to get better all the time.

Being a part of these organizations is important to the black community because aside from W.S.S.U. their is very little tradition left in homecomings since the closing of our predominantly black high schools and integration. Desecration was good for it's time, as well as today, but black traditions and discipline

slipped away within the transition. So if you've got imagination, and a craving for good football blended with "shaking and baking" team dancers, you won't want to miss the homecoming show the Indians have prepared for you at the Atkins Middle School field.

It is imperative that we support the efforts of parents, players, cheerleaders and dancers associated with these two programs because of historical and economical reasons.

Historically blacks in Winston-Salem, and the triad area, have come together in religious or community settings and have found time to communicate, celebrate and dedicate our efforts

into some fabulous times. More and more we are being separated from whence we came. No one wants to go backwards, but it is good for the spirit when we can look back and share some of the more simple things in our lives with the coming generation. It's been said by many, but heard or practiced by few: "If you don't know where you have been, how can you know where you are going?"

Economically speaking both the Indians and Vikings need your support. Not support as in "Buy us some equipment or transportation", but just come out buy a hot dog and some fries and enjoy our show. There are a number of black businesswomen/business women who could help with some of the items that make a program go. They need to stop waiting on others to solve our problems and step up and be accounted for.

Many groups and organizations take time to

plan trips for themselves to various locations. Why doesn't some organization say, "We want to arrange a trip for 30 Indians/Vikings who are active participants and maintaining a B-average or better in school." Just a little incentive will go an awfully long way.

We truly need to keep these programs alive in order to help keep our young people involved in competition and associated with positive role models. Many complain about the coaching and instruction, but those are only "backseat drivers" or "arm-chair quarterbacks". The coaches and girls activities coordinators deserve an A for effort. They volunteer 10 to 12 hrs., or more, per week to babysit for some and discipline others in the name of fun.

So Winston-Salem once again you are the captain of this ship. Your destiny is in your hands. Support our youth by

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