

MEMBER
NORTH CAROLINA



BLACK PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION

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Taking Us All to School

For three nights last week, the CBS television network took us all to school for a penetrating look at the problems facing contemporary American public education at the elementary and secondary level.

Instead of sensationalizing problems such as discipline, low test scores and low achievement, CBS' three-part broadcast "Is Anyone Out There Learning?" rationally outlined the problems, looked at a wide range of causes and described some of the solutions being tried around the land.

Unlike many media treatments of contemporary issues, "Is Anyone Out There Learning?" also gave the perspective of minorities and the poor in a non-condescending manner on such issues as competency testing.

We are not aware of the audience figures for these shows, although traditionally public affairs programming does not attract good audiences.

We do believe that viewers of the entire special have come away with a deeper understanding of what public schools of today are—complex microcosms of the larger society.

Those who missed the series should begin writing

the network and its stations for an early re-broadcast. Those three shows should be mandatory homework for every parent, teacher and student.

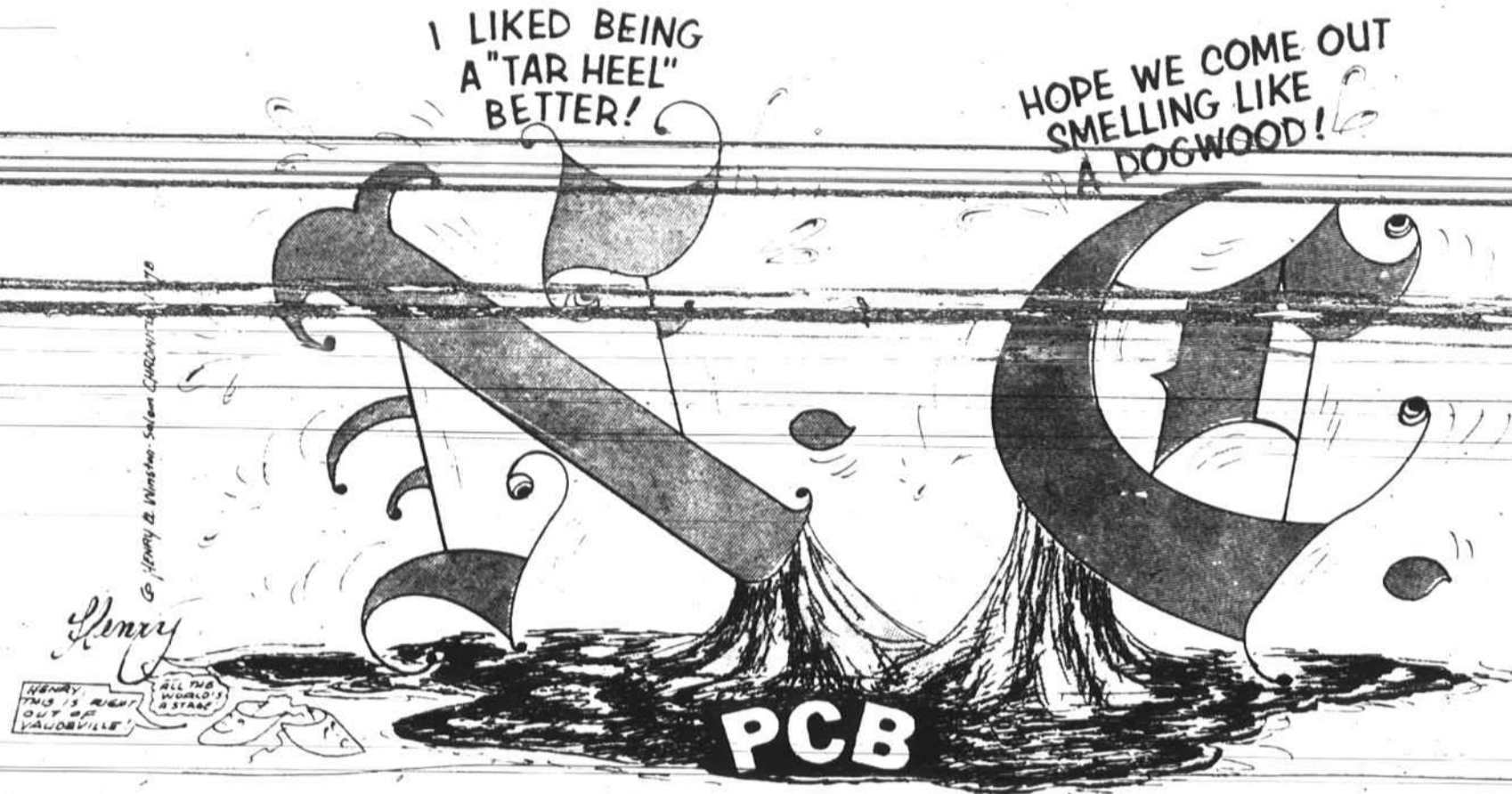
While we are discussing the best that television can offer, we note that ROOTS, the eight-part series that gripped America during its first showing, returns to the air on September 5.

After the first showing, many observers predicted that ROOTS would precipitate drastic changes in the nature of race relations in America.

Unfortunately, those changes have not yet come to pass as the "Reverse discrimination, Proposition 13" America of 1978 further delays righting the wrongs perpetrated on Kunta Kinte and his brethren and ancestors.

Part of the reason for the lack of permanent changes is the fact that "Baby, I'm Back" is shown a lot more often than ROOTS is.

Hopefully, the time will come when we no longer will feel obligated to mention the few standouts in the "vast wasteland" of television. We hope that such excellence will become the norm instead of the exception.



An Exercise in Democracy

The first Chronicle Issues Forum is now a part of the political history of the 5th District. Without tooting our own horn unduly, we hope that this event will mark a significant turning point in local political activity.

Imagine whether the scene would have been possible a few years ago. Two white congressional candidates addressing a mostly black audience on a predominately black university campus in a forum sponsored by a black newspaper.

Proud as we are, such items obscure the real import of Monday's forum. It was intended to stimulate this community to systematically evaluate the candidate on the basis of their positions on issues which affect them.

During the forum, the first part of this process was accomplished. The candidates articulated their positions on a wide range of issues.

Although some differences emerged, both candidates tended to give safe answers calculated as much not to lose votes as to gain votes.

Some members of the audience expressed their dissatisfaction with the answers of one candidate or the other following the session as if those answers and this forum were the end-all and the be-all of the campaign.

Those voters not satisfied with the answers given by the candidates should make their objections known and should call upon the candidates to clear up the fuzzy answers and campaign rhetoric. Such continuous follow-up will make the Chronical Forum a true success.

Regarding the two contenders, Rep. Steven Neal and Mr. Hamilton Horton, we believe the experience of facing a black audience and gearing their thoughts and answers towards such an audience should prove extremely valuable.

We hope they came away with a greater understanding of what issues are important, particularly to the black community.

We also hope that a broader message went out to political candidates in general: that reaching the black community should not be done by touching base with just a few people, but by making broad appeals to the collective black community.

To aid voters interested in the congressional campaign, we will be printing the transcript of the issues forum in the Chronicle.

We thank all those who helped make the forum a success.

Speaking Out with Tracy Singletary

Patrick Hairston is always reminding us that "we are not really free."

What better example do we need of this than our county's Sheriffs Department. Here is an elected official of our political system that has a wealth of untapped black resources and yet refuses to incorporate them into his organization on a meaningful level.

Only weeks after several concerned black leaders paid a visit to his office to express the community's dissatisfaction with his promotional policy he adds insult to injury by making promotion and not including any blacks.

Surely out of the 22 black members on his staff there are several that are deserving of a promotion. (If you checked further you will probably find that a number of blacks are being paid less than their white contemporaries.)

The sheriff's action is a more subtle approach to the classic "Last hired first fired" syndrome.

The law of the land is that you must hire us, pay us and promote us using uniform standards. However, the large number of EEOC complaints each year is an indication that this is not being done.

How much longer are we going to sit idly by while this action continues. The Sheriff's Department is not the only culprit; similar conditions exist throughout industry and government.

There are several courses of action that we can take to prevent this subtle form of racism. The simplest is to "Vote". We must stop being the only loyalist in the democratic party and vote for the "Man" not the party.

If there are no candidates running that we feel is capable of representing our interest then we must conduct a massive write-in for a candidate that will. We must demand that both parties encourage only those person that have demonstrated that they are capable of representing the views of all the people to run.

Identify and cultivate strong candidates from within our neighborhood.

Support the NAACP's efforts to open an office with a paid staff so that they can work with local industry and governments in eliminating racism.

Don't use products manufactured by those companies that are suspected of unfair hiring practices (the burden of proof rest with them).

Don't buy from stores that refuse to utilize blacks in all phases of their operation (we need jobs as managers as well as janitors). Begin to establish an economic base by establishing a black bank.

Patronize black businesses and if and when they inadvertently make a mistake demand that it be corrected, but have the same compassion and understanding that you have when you are wronged by whites.

When we are fortunate to have the opportunity to work for blacks give him the same 100% that is expected when working for white.

Take pride in your work, be indispensable. "Wake Up" East Winston, time is running out. If we don't take immediate action and establish a strong economic and political base "tokenism" will continue to be the name of the game well into "Century 21"

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir

The article "Mocksville Prison Conditions" was one long over due, but an article of that nature always brings a tremendous amount of reprisal against the writer in every possible way, therefore when an inmate does decide to speak-up and tell the truth, he must also decide to be willing to suffer; he must be willing to sacrifice all chances for promotions of any kind, honor grade, parole, etc.

The writer of the above mentioned article was shipped out Thursday, August 10, 1978 immediately after he joined approximately 105 other inmates Thursday morning in a 3 to 4 hour demonstration, which was an orderly and peaceful sit-down in hopes of getting an opportunity to express some of the problems and complaints they were having. (They got no results). However Friday August 11, 1978 a special shipment was in progress and 5 more

inmates who had been speaking-out and standing-up for other issues wrongfully forced upon them were shipped to Caledonia prison farm as punishment for whatever part they had played in the sit-down. It also was meant to instill fear in the other inmates, who may think of trying to voice their complaints in the future. (That is just one of the tools the (officials) use to keep the (inmates) from complaining openly, legal or otherwise).

Some of the complaints we were hoping to air on Thursday were as follow:

1. Implement a sufficient variety of recreation equipment. Weights, tennis rackets and balls, volley ball and net.
2. Eliminate open prejudice and discrimination in hiring, firing, disciplinary action and custody promotion, honor grade, parole, etc.
3. To hire more black officers, to promote or transfer Blacks into the capacity of Sgt.s or other

administrative positions.

4. That a black officer be placed in the assistant kitchen supervisor position.

5. That the unit canteen stock a variety of cosmetics to meet the needs of Black inmates.

6. That the unit give free birthday, sympathy, get well and other special occasion cards to the inmates of this unit in accordance to other units.

7. That the unit canteen stock a variety of special occasion cards for sale, such as "thinking of you" "thoughts of you" etc....

8. That the medical and dental services be more prompt and efficient.

9. That steps be taken to eliminate the dangerous inadequate and unsanitary shower facilities.

10. That some action be taken to alleviate the overcrowdedness of this unit, which was designed to housed 100 inmates, but to date there is 141.

11. That and investigation be made to clarify a rumor about a sergeant

carrying a twenty-five automatic pistol around in his pocket threatening inmates.

12. That an investigation be conducted to fine out if some officials have been supplying white inmates with knives to use against black inmates.

We the inmates of unit 4425 Mocksville, N.C. Prison firmly acknowledge that each of the above complaints are valid and that they are harmful to our health, wellbeing and protection.

We have tried in a number of ways to have these complaints corrected, but we have failed. Which leaves us no choice but to reach out to the people of the society, the tax payer and the courts. We are not asking for any special favors; we are not asking to be set free; we are only asking to be treated fairly, equally and like human beings, according to the laws and the constitution of the United States.

Due to the reprisals I can

receive from writing this letter I prefer my name not to be used unless it is absolutely necessary.

Respectfully yours
Name withheld

Neal Record
Attacked

To the Editor:

We were told a number of weeks ago that Neal was not working at his job. But when Ham was advised of the report, he refused to believe it; he has a genuine liking for Neal, and while they differ over numerous issues, felt Neal was doing the best job he could.

Perhaps, too, Ham had been reading the constituent material mass-mailed by Neal's staff which certainly lends the impression that he is hard at work.

It was our feeling that if the District has a part-time,

absentee Congressman, the people deserve to know it. Ham finally agreed—but on the condition that one of our staff personally verify the figures.

on the condition that the situation be so grave that it clearly is one that deserves to be an issue, and on the final condition that the issue be aired early enough in the campaign so that Mr. Neal would have ample time for a fair reply or explanation.

Accordingly, we sent a member of our staff, Mr. Karl Haigler, to Washington. He researched the actual committee records in each instance, including in his study the attendance, proxy voting, and in-person voting in each case.

His findings are attached. The notes from which these are tabulated are available for your inspection.

Beyond peradventure, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that Neal has had created for him an

image that is far from the truth so far as his attendance to his Congressional duties is concerned. He is an absentee Congressman—far worse than any other of our North Carolina delegates.

After all, committee work is the heart of the legislative process. As the Congressional Quarterly's Guide to Congress (2nd edition, 1976, p. 365) states, "Probably the most outstanding characteristic of the United States Con-

gress is the dominant role committees play in the proceedings. Committees are the gears and springs of the clock—the mechanism that propels this branch of government."

It is in this spirit that we are making this a central issue in our campaign.

Sincerely,
Wayne Whicker
Campaign Chairman
HORTON FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE

The Winston-Salem Chronicle
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