

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Still enduring

The NAACP turned a ripe old 75 last Sunday. And though it may be a little gray, wrinkled and battle-weary from fighting racism decade in and decade out since its birth in 1909, the organization is as viable and vibrant as ever, and perhaps more crucial to the well-being of America's black population than ever before.

Racial prejudice may, to a large extent, have exchanged white robes and bibbed overalls for three-piece suits and intellectual babbling about quotas, forced busing and an animal called "reverse discrimination," but it's still there, and so is the NAACP.

There have been storms, to be sure, including the well-publicized internal struggle between Executive Director Benjamin Hooks and the former chairman of the NAACP's board, Margaret Bush Wilson, as well as a legal tussle with an entity that once called itself the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. But the NAACP is still there.

"Yes, it's rough and there are huge roadblocks," said newly elected NAACP President Enolia McMillian at an anniversary celebration in Harlem, "but you don't have to take those other roads. We can still knock some of those roadblocks away."

Locally, things aren't much different. The NAACP endures, yet it struggles.

Much is expected of the local chapter, but little usually is given in return by a constituency composed of too many individuals who flock to the NAACP when they are in trouble, and snub it when they do well.

Former NAACP President Pat Hairston likes to tell a story about some local blacks who apparently consider it taboo among their white friends to be known members of the NAACP, so they slip him their membership dues on the sly and ask him to keep it under his hat.

Still, the local chapter, like its national counterpart, continues to struggle, not only in litigation, but as a major force in negotiating "Fair Share" agreements with businesses that reap much of their profits from black consumers, but do little in return for the black community, and in getting black people to register to vote.

Hooks says the NAACP has the "best record of any organization in America -- black or white -- in registering voters."

The numbers back him up.

The organization's branches, which number more than 1800, have registered 1.5 million new voters since 1980. Five hundred thousand of them were registered last year.

What's ahead for the NAACP? More triumphs -- and more struggles. There will be battles and there will be battle scars.

The NAACP "may have lost its glamour," Hooks says, "but if we keep on doing the work, we'll be like the old ugly cow that keeps giving the milk."

Happy birthday, NAACP, and, for all of our sakes, may you have hundreds more.

Crosswinds

Lawrence Joel

By Lou Beall, U.S. Army.

The echo of the U.S. Army Old Guard's 21-gun salute and the willowy, somber notes of "Taps" by the bugler marked America's final tribute to one of its heroes Monday afternoon at Arlington National Cemetery.

On Feb. 4, Spec. 6 Lawrence Joel died here in his hometown. But it is for the many lives he saved for which he will be most remembered.

In the sweaty, humid Vietnamese jungles 19 years ago, Joel became an American hero. He was a medic assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, in Vietnam. For acts of courage and bravery, Joel received his country's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor.

On Nov. 8, 1965, the Viet Cong launched a vicious attack against Joel's company, wounding or killing nearly every man in the lead squad. Joel treated those men and continued moving forward to aid others who were injured. While giving aid and moving man to man, he was struck by machine gun fire. Despite the painful wound, he continued to aid his fellow soldiers.

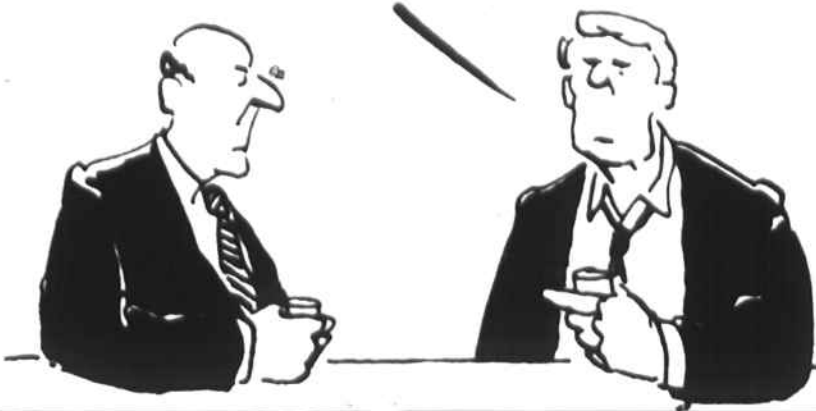
Finally, Joel bandaged his wound and exposed himself to intense fire again. As bullets dug up the dirt around him, Joel aided another soldier. This time he was hit in the thigh, but ignored the new wound and dragged himself over the battlefield, successfully treating 13 more men before his medical supplies ran out.

Before the 24-hour battle came to a close, Joel got new medical supplies and again exposed himself to intense gunfire. He shouted words of encouragement as he crawled to treat newly wounded men. Joel continued to comfort and treat the wounded until his own evacuation was ordered.

Joel was one of 54 black Americans who have received their country's highest decoration for heroism and bravery. Since colonial days, blacks have defended and continue to

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REAGAN MISREAD LEBANON... MISUSED THE MARINES...



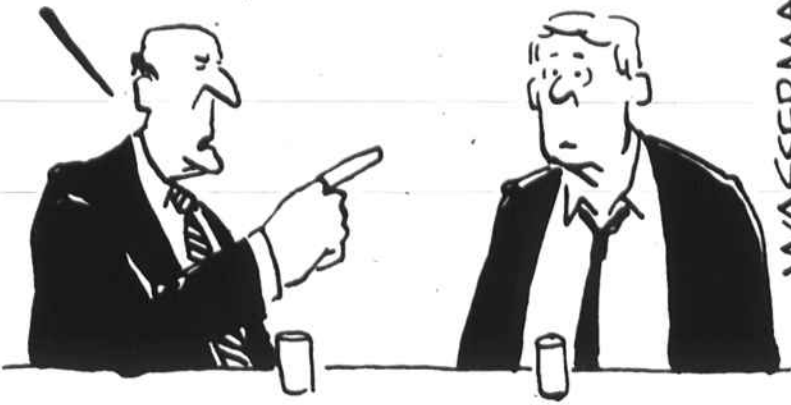
AND MISLED CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



NOW, HE'S BOMBING THE PLACE TO SMITHEREENS



TO MAINTAIN CREDIBILITY



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Reagan: Reversing civil rights

By JOHN JACOB
Syndicated Columnist

The Justice Department has a new partner in its campaign to reverse important civil rights gains, and that partner is none other than the agency created by Congress to be the nation's watchdog over civil rights progress -- the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The compromise that extended the life of the commission also loaded its membership with supporters of the administration's anti-busing, anti-affirmative action line.

The newly reconstituted commission began its new lease on life by issuing a denunciation of "quotas" as if that was today's biggest civil rights worry. By doing so, the commission further muddied the waters, perpetuating public confusion over quotas and numerical goals and timetables.

Quotas are one small tool in the affirmative action arsenal. They are not mandated by any law and are only ordered by courts as a remedy for gross violations of equal opportunities, and, occasionally, by private voluntary agreements, again, to correct gross discrepancies in opportunities.

The commission also killed some planned studies about the effect of budget cuts on the minority poor, demonstrating its lack of concern for the disproportionate impact such cuts

have had on minorities. This is a very legitimate civil rights issue the commission should be concerned about. Such concerns are at the core of the commission's responsibility to investigate government policies and to assess their impact on equal opportunities.

By abdicating its legal responsibility to serve as a protector of civil rights and as an advocate of equal opportunity, the commission, in effect, joins in an unholy alliance with the Justice Department, which has similarly shirked its responsibilities.

"By abdicating its legal responsibility to serve as a protector of civil rights and as an advocate of equal opportunity, the commission, in effect, joins in an unholy alliance with the Justice Department, which has similarly shirked its responsibilities."

In fact, the Justice Department has become one of the most visible foes of actions designed to enhance civil rights.

While the commission was sounding off against "quotas," the Supreme Court was handing the Justice Department a slap in the face by throwing out its pleas for a review of an affirmative action plan adopted by Detroit.

Detroit's police force used to be a paradise of discrimination -- few blacks were allowed entry to the force and fewer still could hope for promotions to the rank of lieutenant be

made on the basis of one black appointee for every white until such time as the police force better reflected the racial composition of the people it was supposed to serve.

No one was promoted who was not qualified -- but the administration decided to use this as a test case of so-called quotas. In fact, as lower courts pointed out, the Detroit system was constitutional. It did seek to remedy past discrimination; it did not stigmatize whites; and it did serve an important, overriding purpose -- all standards by which the Supreme

Court has deemed such affirmative action agreements constitutional.

By seeking to reverse this, the Justice Department was trying, in the words of Detroit's mayor, Coleman Young, "to destroy the progress this country has made in recent years in providing basic constitutional guarantees to all American citizens."

The Supreme Court's rebuff probably won't keep the Justice Department from pressing its aggressive assault on affirmative action, nor is it likely to discourage the Commission on Civil Rights from doing its part in

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The church's role: A minister's view

By REV. CARLTON EVERSLEY
Guest Columnist

The black church in America has been in formal existence since the 1780s. Ever since its beginning, it has been criticized, along with its ministerial leadership, for being too divided politically, acquiescent, Uncle Tommish, socially useless, overly emotional, too other worldly and economically unhelpful. Although local NAACP president Walter Marshall's recent critique of the national and local black church, "What is the role of the church?" (Feb. 9), in the *Chronicle* may have been many things, it certainly wasn't original.

In a way, Marshall pays the black church a huge left-handed compliment, for apparently he thinks it can solve all the massive socioeconomic, political and psychological problems of black folk almost all by itself, if only it wanted to. This view, implied in the tenor of Marshall's tone, is overly idealistic. The best characterization of the black religious experience I've ever encountered in 10 years of intense study is found in Dr. Gayraud S. Wilmore's "Black Religion and Black Radicalism." Wilmore states that the black church contains all the very best and very worst aspects of the black heritage in America. In other words, one could add further critiques of the black church: sexist, autocratic, anti-

intellectual, etc. Yet the critical distinction between Wilmore and Marshall is that Wilmore is keenly aware that virtually anything and everything positive blacks have done in America has either been led by or substantially supported by black church folk.

This not only includes Nat Turner's slave revolt, which Marshall cited, but the Gabriel Prosser and Denmark Vesey revolt plots, the establishment of the black press, black insurance companies, black schools and colleges and black human rights organizations such as UNIA.

"It seems to me that most black churches and pastors, like most black people, are doing the best they can with the resources available to them."

MOWM, CORE, SCLC, SNCC and, yes, even the NAACP.

A more indepth analysis of "the black church in America" would reveal there are in fact three different strains of black religion that have existed since slavery, which sometimes overlap, but which still exist today in Winston-Salem and throughout the nation.

The first strain I call the Phyllis Wheatley strain, which buys the white slave master theology that God created blacks to be slaves to whites (Genesis 9:20-27, Ephesians 6:5-9) and is grateful to be a slave because slavery includes Christianity. The se-

cond strain has always been the most prevalent and it's the "don't-bother-me-I'm-trying-to-cope," which places emphasis on going to heaven because life on earth is hell.

The final, revolutionary and smallest but most important strain I call the Nat Turner strain. It says, "Because I'm a child of God, I must not be a slave to any man." If we're concerned about the socio-political, economic and spiritual liberation of the black community, we should support the last strain and urge the middle strain to this position.

It seems to me that most black

churches and pastors, like most black people, are doing the best they can with the resources available to them. Adoration and worship of pastors is heretical, but vindictive and vituperative labeling is unhelpful. We need critical but loving support and common courtesy with basic respect like everyone else. Nobody criticized black churches when they provided the NAACP with over \$4,000 for the recent voter registration drive.

Marshall's critique also ignores the biblical definition of the purpose of the universal Christian church, which is to evangelize the world about a sav-

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HERE'S OUR STRATEGY FOR NICARAGUA - WE RUN COVERT OPERATIONS TO GET THEM RATTLED...



THEY TIGHTEN SECURITY AND SQUELCH DISSENT... THE REPRESSION FUELS UNREST...



THE PEOPLE RISE UP... THE GOVERNMENT FALLS... AND FRIENDS OF THE U.S. TAKE POWER!



OF COURSE, BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE WITH CUBA - IT COULD TAKE A WHILE



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Chronicle Letters

Earned honors

To The Editor:

I extend to you and your very fine staff my heartiest congratulations. Placing first in general excellence, first in appearance and design and first in the use of photos in the recent North Carolina Press Association's journalism awards is confirmation that the *Winston-Salem Chronicle* is an outstanding newspaper.

It is a vital part of our community, and these awards are well-deserved. Congratulations, also, to Mr. James Parker for placing second in sports photos.

I know I speak for all of our citizens when I say we are extremely proud of you, your staff and the work you are doing to keep our citizens informed.

Larry W. Womble
Alderman

My Sincere Thanks

To The Editor:

(This letter was addressed to Staff Writer Robin Adams.)

On behalf of my entire family, I wish to express my profound appreciation for your well-written and flattering profile of me in the Jan. 24 edition of the *Chronicle*. (The editorial was great, too!)

Moreover, I want to thank the *Chronicle* Advisory Board and the citizens of Winston-Salem for voting me *Chronicle* "Man of the Year."

As was stated by one far greater than I, "There is no greater honor than to be honored by your own for doing what you ought to be doing anyhow."

I am truly humbled and proud of this recognition and am inspired to keep on keeping on, knowing that there are those who appreciate the sacrifices made and efforts undertaken in the ongoing struggle to empower politically and economically blacks, poor whites and other people of color in this land -- indeed, in this world.

I thank you all for this honor, and pray that God will grant me the courage, strength and wisdom to continue to wage war against injustice, ignorance and insensitivity.

Right on to the black press.

Clifton E. Graves Jr.
Winston-Salem

Jesse's Wagon

To The Editor:

I am really appalled that otherwise intelligent black leaders in our city have jumped on the bandwagon to campaign for Jesse Jackson. Their minds are obviously on one track -- that Jackson brought Lt. Robert Goodman home. For the first time, I wonder about the caliber of our beloved leaders.

In the first place, mere common sense has me to question whether Jackson committed this feat in only a one 90-minute chat with President Asaad. It is beyond my imagination that he did, or any man could do so with any kind of leader anywhere.

Other matters I question: (1) Rev. Jackson did not make the journey for political reasons, as some claim, if he had no idea whether he would succeed or fail. (2) If he made the journey for political of any kind of reason, he was with some knowledge from somebody that he was with at least a 70-30 chance of succeeding. (3) How could he afford to make the journey, taking two sons, enjoying the most superior of travel and housing accommodations when he is without one cent to warrant matching government funds to run his campaign for president? (4) Is he a serious contender for the office of president -- abandoning his campaign without any funds -- to make

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