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An unlikely ally

Grown-ups say and do the darndest things, especially during election years.

Vernon Robinson, a man we think we've accurately labeled as a "devout Republican" in our news columns, has suddenly appeared in the local Jesse Jackson camp.

What's more, Robinson, who is black and teaches in the business department at Winston-Salem State University, has done more than grin and shake hands and nibble hors d'oeuvres at receptions.

In fact, he's been a surprisingly prolific fundraiser for the Jackson effort, though no one can quite figure out why.

Alderman Larry Little, the Jackson campaign's Forsyth County coordinator, is more than slightly suspicious of Robinson's motives, and has in effect said he'd personally prefer not to see Robinson's face in the Jackson campaign office on Fourth Street. Robinson may even be a Republican spy, Little says.

Though Little may have reacted a bit less tactfully than politicians are supposed to during campaigns, he only voiced what others have whispered privately while scratching their heads and wrinkling their brows.

What is Vernon Robinson up to?

Why is a man who has supported Helms and Reagan passing the hat for Jesse Jackson, who would like nothing better than to see Helms and Reagan both cast out of office on their conservative duffs?

Such talk perturbs Robinson. And it has hurt his attempts to raise funds for the Jackson campaign, he says. "The longer the cloud exists," he says of Little's charges concerning his motives, "the longer I'm made ineffective as a fundraiser."

Robinson says he was asked by Jackson state campaign coordinator Rex Harris to work for Jesse because of his experience in such matters. (Harris was out of town and could not be reached when we called the Jackson office in Fayetteville.)

Robinson also says he is working for Jackson because his candidacy has raised issues no one else has sought to address, including racism in South Africa and the viability of a female vice presidential candidate.

It's high time blacks spoke for themselves in the political arena instead of liberal whites, Robinson says.

And Robinson says he is black first and a Republican second.

We can buy most of that. But the questions remain.

Where, for instance, will Robinson stand if Jackson gets the Democratic nomination and runs against President Reagan?

His initial answer: "It's irrelevant who gets the nomination."

After further conversation and questioning, including whether Robinson is working for Jackson because he thinks he can't win and knows he won't have to decide between the president and the preacher: "I'm on Jesse Jackson's finance committee, not Ronald Reagan's."

Finally, after a bit more questioning, Robinson admits he would support Jackson over Reagan with a less-than-exuberant "Yes."

And what about Jesse Helms? Will Robinson support him against Gov. James B. Hunt for a seat in the U.S. Senate?

Robinson: "No comment. That's a no-win question."

Come again? Though we are still not anywhere near being convinced that Robinson is supporting the Jesse Jackson campaign for all the right reasons, we could raise the same questions about many of us who support candidates because of what they can do for us as individuals more than what they'll do for the masses.

Or about those of us who talk a good campaign but get laryngitis when the time comes to put our money where our mouths are -- or to ask others to do the same.

At least Robinson has reaped some results. And campaign creditors are much more likely to prefer cash over sincerity.

As for Larry Little, he says he has no hard feelings and even acknowledged Robinson's efforts at the grand opening of the local Jackson headquarters recently, though Robinson had left before he could hear it.

"If he wants to raise funds for our campaign, he can raise funds for our campaign," Little says.

Good. Now, let's hope the rest of this campaign's battles will be among the candidates.

Crosswinds

Hatin' comes easy

From the Iredell County News.

It seems ironic that in the noise and hype of today's fast-paced society that the more time-saving devices we create, the less time we have for one another, and with all the advancement made in recent decades in science and technology and the more we have to be thankful for, the less we are. With so little time for love and communication there's little wonder why hatin' comes so easy.

In our various organizations, at home, on the job or while commuting in between, we are filled with such tension and anxiety that each of us becomes a walking, flustering time bomb venting resentment and contempt with the slightest provocation -- or with no provocation.

There are those of us blessed to have lived in an era when time and society moved at a slower pace, when there were fewer of man's creations and we were more aware and ap-

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IT'S HART WITH A LEFT TO CENTRAL AMERICA... MONDALE WITH A RIGHT TO THE MIDDLE EAST



HART JABS TO THE SPECIAL INTERESTS... MONDALE LANDS A HOOK TO THE HAIR SPRAY



JACKSON, THE REFEREE, PRIESTHEM APART AS THEY VIE FOR ARMS CONTROL ADVANTAGE



ANOTHER FLURRY OF LOW BLOWS TO THE INTEGRITY AND THE ROUND IS OVER



AS THE MEDIA MEN GO TO WORK IN THE CORNERS, IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE NEITHER MAN LEADS



HOW'S IT LOOK TO YOU, TEDDY?



Death penalty allows for no errors

BY JOHN JACOB
Syndicated Columnist

Death seems to be coming back into style -- official, state-ordered executions. For a long time, thanks to the Supreme Court ruling, there was an unofficial moratorium on the death penalty.

But now, the pace of executions is increasing. The Supreme Court ruled that courts don't have to make special reviews of a death sentence to assure that it is proportional to sentences given others convicted of similar crimes in the state. And many congressmen are supporting measures to increase the number of federal crimes carrying the death penalty.

That's all wrong. From a moral as well as a social standpoint, the state has no business killing any of its citizens for any reason. The death penalty is a return to primitive vengeance and a rejection of civilized morality.

Part of the problem today is that the Supreme Court never went as far as it should have back in 1972 when it invalidated state death penalty laws then in existence.

Had it simply found what many believe to be true -- that the death penalty is unconstitutionally "cruel and unusual punishment" -- then states would now be out of the business of killing. Instead, most simply rewrote their laws to meet the court's narrow objections.

As a result, there are almost 1,300 people on death rows all across the

country. And if anyone suggests that having killed other human beings they, too, deserve to meet the same fate, then they also ought to admit that at least some of those 1,300 are innocent of the crime for which they were sentenced.

The law of averages suggests that 1,300 juries and judges can't be right 100 percent of the time. Mistakes happen. But with the death penalty, mistakes can never be repaired.

Plenty of instances of miscarriages of justice have been publicized in recent years. Two men were pardoned after someone else confessed to the crimes for which they were almost ex-

disparities.

A recent study of the imposition of the death sentence indicates that race is a strong factor. The pattern in the eight states studied showed that murderers of white victims receive the death sentence more often than murderers of blacks.

In Georgia, for example, the study found that in 773 cases involving the murder of whites, the death penalty was imposed 67 times, or 8.7 percent. But in the 1,345 murders of blacks, the death penalty was imposed only 12 times -- less than 1 percent.

Few people are prepared to defend publicly racial disparities in sentenc-

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ecuted -- and their reprieves occurred due to accidents. In one case, a man survived hanging because the rope's knot slipped; in the other, a technicality caused a delay in the execution.

Occasional miscarriages of justice should be enough to invalidate such an extreme penalty, but there is considerable evidence that a general pattern of injustice applies to the death penalty.

Racial differentiations are an inescapable part of the use of the death penalty. In a society in which racism still is embedded in the minds and hearts of too many people, the death sentence reflects gross racial

ing or even to justify the death penalty on grounds of "an eye for an eye" vengeance. Most of its supporters claim the penalty is needed because it deters others from committing capital crimes.

But deterrence -- if that's the real reason for the death penalty -- does not deter. States that have death penalties on the average have more murders than states that do not have the death penalty. Some experts even suggest that the death penalty encourages homicide in cases where the perpetrator is unbalanced or has an unconscious wish to die or to be punished severely.

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The aftermath: Grenada reconsidered

By MANNING MARABLE
Guest Columnist

The invasion of Grenada has now receded from national debate. The story of Ronald Reagan's illegal and unjustified attack on another sovereign nation no longer is reported on the front pages of American newspapers.

American troops had seized three of the island's best hotels and had turned the local radio station into a "psychological operations" center. Rewriting recent history, American

reporters and officials quickly portrayed the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop as a "moderate socialist" who had been liquidated by "terroristic Marxist Leninists" in a bloody power struggle. To help restore "democracy," the former tyrant, Sir Eric Gairy, was returned to the island.

The media and the U.S. government are now promoting the image of a "safe, pacified Grenada," the perfect little island paradise, just the spot for vacation-bound whites of the upper class. A recent *Washington Post* article presented bikini-clad women posing on Grenada's beaches, in front of strands of barbed wire and armed U.S. troops. Grenada was a suitable setting, the *Post* declared, "because of fashion's turn to

primitive prints, often African-inspired or with animal patterns." Hidden beneath the hype, nearly buried under the American propaganda, is the real meaning of the Grenada revolution itself.

What was accomplished under the New Jewel Movement's government from 1979 to 1983? Why did the Reagan administration and his puppets in the region, notably Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga, wish to crush this democratic, popular revolution?

"The media and the U.S. government are now promoting the image of a 'safe, pacified Grenada,' the perfect little island paradise, just the spot for vacation-bound whites of the upper class."

Several weeks ago I had the opportunity to discuss these issues with Ian Jacobs, Grenada's Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations in 1983. Jacobs had also served previously as personal assistant to Bishop and was one of the principal spokespersons for Grenada's revolution.

Jacobs noted that neither Grenada's population of 110,000 nor its small size would have seemed to constitute a threat to U.S. security in the Caribbean. Most of Grenada's

weaponry was "of World War II vintage" and the army had no anti-aircraft missiles. Yet the Central Intelligence Agency actively engaged in terroristic activities for years to destabilize the government. "The only reason the invasion took place," Jacobs notes, "is because of what the Grenada revolution represented throughout the Caribbean and in the Third World."

The New Jewel government immediately initiated programs which created a regime "by the people and

Chronicle Letters

A Republican for J. Jackson?

To The Editor:

Several people have questioned why I, a Republican, am involved in the Rev. Jesse Jackson's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. It should be apparent that the importance of Jackson's campaign transcends personalities and even party lines. All but the most dimwitted among us would recognize this fact if they merely looked at the hope in the face of a young black child who can today legitimately aspire to the highest office in our land.

Several persons have questioned my role in the Jackson campaign as a result of Alderman Larry Little's charges (that Robinson's fund-raising effort is an attempt to infiltrate the Jackson campaign). I am a member of the state finance committee for the Jackson campaign. If Mr. Little had problems with that fact, he should have taken them up with Jackson's state chairman, Rex Harris, who personally recruited me, rather than the front page of this newspaper.

I must apologize if my role in the campaign offends Mr. Little. I would be glad to give the over \$1,000 I have raised back to the contributors but must sadly report that the money has already been sent to the state campaign office.

Mr. Little's savage, unprovoked and untruthful statements about my role in the campaign have hurt the finance effort, the lifeblood of political campaigns, more than he will ever know. As a result of those statements, the individual I recruited to solicit at Winston-Salem State University will not do so. Further, the individual I recruited and trained to solicit funds at a large local company recently informed me that due to Little's statements, it would be easier for him to raise money if I were no longer involved.

Given the timing of the Little's statement, just as most folks have money to contribute at the end of the month, one has to wonder, indeed, whether he is the infiltrator.

The people of Winston-Salem have seen an attack on my character and motives in the past two weeks. This attack was followed by what is possibly the weakest excuse passing for a retraction ever printed in this paper. The people of this fine community will have to decide whether or not I now stand on principle as I have in the past and whether or not Mr. Little has shamelessly and inappropriately used his position as the Forsyth County Jackson for President coordinator to pursue a personal vendetta against me.

Anyone, be he white, black, brown, red, or yellow, seeing Rev. Jackson's performance in the debate last week as he rose above his opponents to a higher ground, must have stood a little taller, a little prouder to be an American. With this statement, let us put away personal differences and merge efforts to propel the Jackson campaign further on the road to victory.

Vernon L. Robinson
Winston-Salem

The Real Issue

To The Editor:

I see where some of our so-called black leaders here and across the country are supporting the Rev. Jesse Jackson for president. Well, I have news for all of them. The Rev. Jesse Jackson isn't the issue in this year's presidential election -- Ronald Reagan is.

We need to get him out of office. And if by some miracle Jackson did get the Democratic nomination and all the black votes, there is no way he can defeat Reagan in the general election. The

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