

Winston-Salem Chronicle

Founded 1974
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Hard Knox

The state's Democratic Party has tried hard to restore a kindred spirit among its warring factions.

But the rifts created during its bitterly fought gubernatorial campaign are as deep as they are wide.

Making matters worse is Eddie Knox, who obviously decided that the animosity he harbors toward Gov. Jim Hunt for Hunt's hands-off stance in the primary is more important than the best interests of his political party or the black voters who supported him in large numbers.

True, it was Knox's wife Frances and brother Charles, not Eddie, who dropped a political bomb on the party last week by publicly endorsing Sen. Jesse Helms at a Regional Airport press conference.

But Eddie Knox might as well have been there. His apparent approval of his wife's and brother's actions, coupled with his barely lukewarm endorsement of the Democratic ticket in November's general election, nearly amount to an unspoken endorsement of Helms, anyway.

Friends of Knox might argue that what happened last week is further evidence of the former candidate's forthrightness, character and belief in principle, no matter what the political liabilities.

And, granted, Mrs. Knox, who masked her contempt for the governor, the media and what seemed like the rest of the world about as well as Jesse Jackson has masked the fact that he is black, was right in characterizing Hunt as a master politician who does what is most politically expedient.

Moreover, Knox should respect his relatives' decisions to support whomever they believe in.

But their announcement, with a grinning Helms on hand to bask in the glory of it all, was borne more out of bitterness and a thirst for vengeance than enthusiasm for Helms.

Otherwise, how could they support gubernatorial candidate Knox, whose comparatively progressive platform was diametrically opposed to what senatorial candidate Helms stands for, then vocally sing Helms' praises?

That's a 360-degree turn if ever there was one.

We haven't forgotten that we endorsed Eddie Knox, in good faith, in June's primary runoff against Rufus Edmisten.

But, had we known what would happen a month later, we wouldn't have.

Knox and his family have taken sour grapes to a new low.

Crosswinds

Turning back the clock

From the Portland Observer.

The recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling which placed seniority over affirmative action is as detrimental to Afro-Americans as the "separate but equal" ruling in 1896. The court legitimized the illegitimate notion of "reverse discrimination."

Affirmative action was the only active redress to systematic and institutional policies that excluded Americans by race and sex. If an employer discriminated against people of color and women in the past, affirmative action allowed for numerical readjustment.

Under the Reagan administration, society has disclaimed any responsibility for making people of color social, economic and political minorities. White males are in a position of reaping benefits for acts which they claimed they played no part in. "Why should I be laid off when I've put in 15 years at the plant and this black guy has only been here for four?" asks a white worker in defense of his seniority rights.

However, if the plant did not hire blacks 15 year ago, the black worker could not reap the equality of security granted his white counterparts. He or she will be laid off in recessions and barred from promotions because of discriminatory acts 10 or 20 years ago. People of color will continue to pay for the sins of those who would not hire them because of their color or sex.

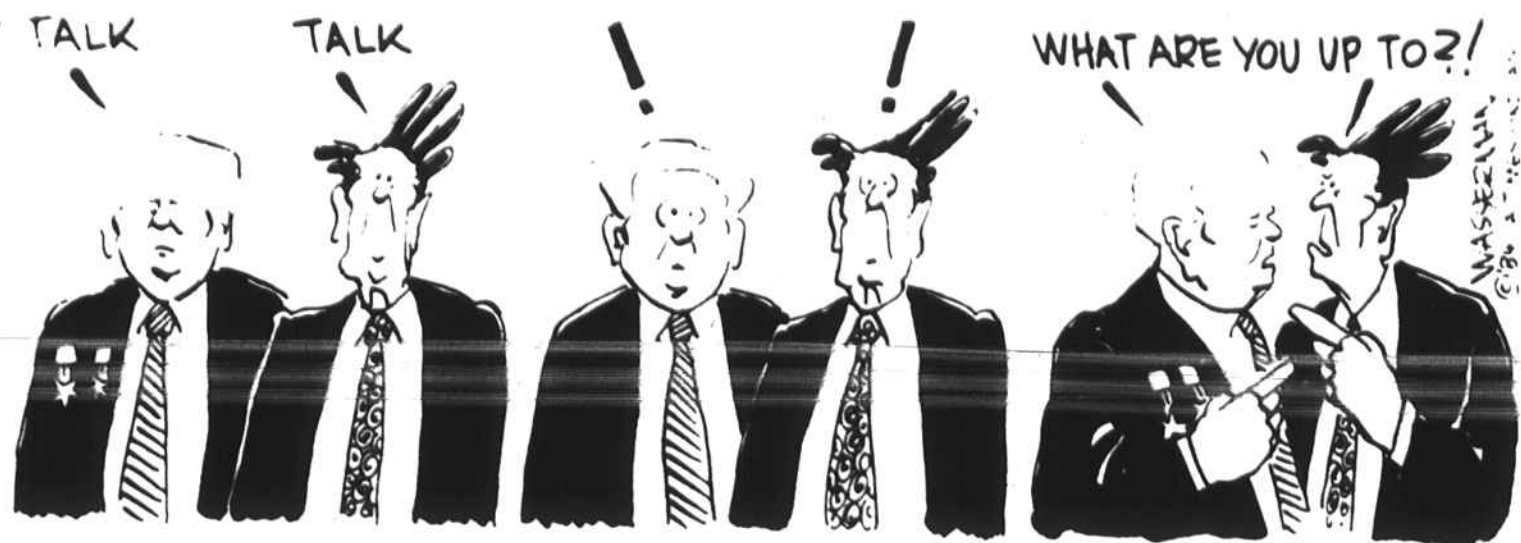
The seniority system in the collective bargaining agreement between company and the union perpetuates, or "locks in," the effects of past discrimination.

When Congress and the courts made white male supremacy illegal in employment, both the formal and informal system of selection remained intact. There was the "old boy" system of filling vacancies by word or mouth and preferences for sons and nephews of employees.

Also, stereotypes held by personnel directors about the kinds of people best suited for certain positions, and assumptions that certain ethnic groups have a natural monopoly in other positions, perpetuate past discrimination.

Federal agencies and the lower courts were willing to confront these much more complex obstacles to equality by imposing goals and quotas.

Please see page A5



High technology, low priorities

By JOHN JACOB
 Syndicated Columnist

America is a nation of change, and in recent years changes have come fast and hard. They are evident in new technologies, a restructuring economy and a meaner social outlook.

The first of those trends is of special importance to our educational needs. It is generally accepted that we are at the dawn of a high-tech era.

That means the future will belong to those who can work at computer terminals, be comfortable with advanced data processing and communications technologies, and have access to the techniques of an information-based economy.

This trend poses a major challenge to the education community, and especially the black colleges, which graduate the majority of blacks. It means many will have to retool. They'll have to adjust curricula to the high-tech age and provide students in all disciplines with the fundamentals of technological literacy.

And that challenge is compounded by the financial squeeze faced by most of those institutions, and by the traditional aversion to math, science and other subjects that are fundamental to the high-tech era.

Some 600 blacks a year earn Ph.D.'s in education, but only 20 to 30 in engineering and physical sciences, and only about a half dozen in math.

In 1982, only one black person got a Ph.D. in computer science.

If you look at

undergraduate degrees, similar percentages can be seen. As much as we need educators, social workers and others skilled in the human and social services, the black future will be limited if we don't have our share of the skills required by a high-tech society.

This is a problem that has its roots in social disadvantage, inferior public education and lack of opportunity in elementary and high schools.

Future physicists and engineers come to college with sound backgrounds in math and the sciences. But most black students have been denied the access to those backgrounds and the encouragement to succeed in those fields.

grams that helped disadvantaged young people make it in college have been a prime target for the budget cutters.

And the Department of Education's proposed restriction on grants and loans to students will inevitably force many black people to abandon their hopes for higher education.

A special target of the enemies of equal opportunity in higher education have been the programs that provide financial assistance to graduate and professional education. And assistance to struggling black colleges has been confined to lip service as the resources made available to them are nowhere near proportionate to the needs.

"... As much as we need educators, social workers and others skilled in the human and social services, the black future will be limited if we don't have our share of the skills required by a high-tech society."

The problem is compounded by national policies that have undermined the little progress that has been made toward greater equity.

Those national policies are widening the gap between black and white, rich and poor. The 1985 budget plans to make more cuts in education aid. The official response to the calls for excellence has been school prayer, rhetoric about discipline and tuition tax credits that would undermine public education.

Higher education funding for minority and low-income students has already been slashed deeply. The TRIO pro-

An educational system can turn out more scientists and engineers than GM does cars. But if they are drawn from a favored elite while the rest of our students are doomed to semi-literacy, the system itself is far from excellent.

In fact, it is a failure. Equity is not an issue that can be sidestepped. For blacks, it is the central issue -- equal access to quality education is the prime issue on the black education agenda.

I believe it has to be at the core of national educational policy as well.

John Jacob is president of the National Urban League.

Reaganism: Preparing the few

By DR. MANNING MARABLE
 Syndicated Columnist

Predictably, the Reagan administration's response to the outcry of black educators and administrators has been contemptuous.

For example, last year the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights ordered a study of eight colleges for the "effects of student-aid cuts on institutions with large numbers of black and Hispanic students."

Reagan, of course, had succeeded in restructuring the commission to obtain a clear voting majority for his right-wing views on desegregation and affirmative action.

As a direct consequence, this January, the commission

voted 5-3 to cancel its study on black and Latino higher education. Hispanic Congressman Linda Chavez, director of the commission, informed the press, "Unless the commission wishes to establish that federal student financial aid is a civil right guaranteed to members

destruction created by the budget cuts of 1981-83, the administration callously chose to bury the truth."

Chavez's role in the attacks against minority educational opportunity is more than a little ironic. Growing up in a poor Chicano neighborhood

"Ironically, however, the collapse of black schools and cutbacks in tenure-stream positions for young black faculty are occurring precisely at a time when white colleges are reducing their overall numbers of black professors and administrators."

of minority groups, this project would appear clearly beyond our jurisdiction."

Since the results of the study clearly confirmed the human

in Albuquerque, N. M., she attended the University of Colorado and earned a degree

Please see page A5



Letters

Brother, you better care

To The Editor:

Ben Franklin said it long ago: "Gentlemen, we must all hang together or we will most assuredly hang separately."

Well, sports fans, dear old Jesse Helms, that great defender of Roberto d'Aubuisson, is doing it again. No one can call Helms lazy -- since everywhere a human right or a bit of equality raises its wee head, Helms is on the spot like a great big jack boot ready to stamp it out if he can.

Now he is after the Civil Rights Act of 1984, which is intended to overturn a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on sex discrimination. The high court said a law banning sex discrimination by colleges does not permit cutting off financial aid assistance to schools that violate the law.

"So what," you say. "What do I care if the women don't get money to play volleyball?"

Brother, you better care.

Sponsors of the bill thought merely shoring up the Title IX education law would not be enough. So, to be safe, they added language to ensure that similar protection is extended to minorities, the handicapped and the elderly. Helms hit the roof, because the proposed bill would mean help for all of us, and not just those in school.

Come November, we need to hang together, and get Jesse Helms out and Jim Hunt in the Senate. I want, as I am sure you do, too, a senator who will look after the welfare of all of the people, and not just dictators, would-be dictators and petty tyrants in general.

So, while we still have a vote, for the Lord's sake -- use it.

Nell Scott Weaver
 Winston-Salem

Congratulations

To The Editor:

(This letter was addressed to Ernest Pitt, the publisher.)

This comes to congratulate you and the staff of the Chronicle for the recognition received from the National Newspapers Publishers Association as the best black newspaper in the nation. The recognition is not only an honor for the Chronicle and the Winston-Salem community, but it should serve as a source of inspiration to other young black men who aspire for a career in business.

What you have accomplished in 10 years should dispel any doubt in the minds of those who feel blacks cannot operate a successful newspaper or business.

I salute you for your outstanding accomplishments, and I feel that the overwhelming majority of citizens share this feeling.

Jerry Drayton, Minister
 New Bethel Baptist Church
 Winston-Salem

Hate to see him go

To The Editor:

The news of Clifton Graves' resignation from Winston-Salem State University and his plans to move to Connecticut (Chronicle, June 28) almost struck me as though it was an obituary.

Of course, we know Cliff will still be alive and kicking as he

Please see page A5