

## Clifton Graves

From Page A4

rich history being dutifully recorded and preserved by the New Haven-based Connecticut Afro-American Historical Society, a vitally needed, yet poorly supported entity whose purpose it is to preserve Connecticut's African American history, as well as educate the general public about the struggles and successes of blacks in this, the Nutmeg State.

For despite the tranquil, "liberal" image Connecticut in general and New Haven in particular may present to the unknowing, casual observer, history quietly records numerous incidents which refute that image.

Did you know, for example, that in spite of the fact that Connecticut had outlawed slavery in 1788, Africans were still sold in this state as late as the 1820s?

Did you know that there was a white, racist-led riot in New Haven in 1837?

Or, that Connecticut blacks elected their own "Negro governor" from 1750 to 1865, who administered justice in the African-American community?

These historical tidbits, coupled with more recent realities, such as the Bobby Seale-Black Panther trial in 1970, the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1980s, the election of Thurman Milner as Hartford's first black mayor, the furor surrounding the appointment of New Haven's first black school superintendent, Dr. John Dow; New Haven's abnormally high rate of black teen-age pregnancy, and the horrid conditions of the rat- and snake-infested housing project of Elm Haven (New Haven) -- all provide an interesting backdrop, a

definitive contrast, to the ivy towers of Yale and the luxurious mansions of Greenwich.

Yes, brother Malcolm, though some folks will refuse to admit it, historical experiences and present-day realities clearly indicate that Connecticut -- not unlike New York, New Jersey, etc. -- remains "up South" for the majority of its African-American citizens, a condition which we will continue to observe and analyze in the weeks to come.

For more information about the African-American presence in and contribution to Connecticut, contact Ms. Emma Jones, Connecticut Afro-American Historical Society, 444 Orchard St., New Haven, Conn. 06511.

(Clifton E. Graves is assistant corporation counsel for the City of New Haven.)

# TOUGH NEW LAW GOES INTO EFFECT



## Letters

From Page A4

language. It is frightening that Ronald Reagan can make more than 300 verbal blunders in three years and still be perceived as a strong and competent leader.

To disguise the president's ignorance as if it were a strength instead of a weakness is dangerous. If a teacher had gone on television and defended the big oil companies by stating that "trees caused pollution," the school board would have forced him to resign. Moreover, what would happen if a teacher fell asleep in a meeting with the superintendent?

Well, President Reagan not only falls asleep in cabinet meetings, he fell asleep in a meeting with the Pope and everyone thought it was cute.

Ronald Reagan's ignorance is no joke. His arrogance is nothing to boast about. The noticeable contradictions between Reagan's rhetoric and his policies, combin-

ed with his hypocritical way of dealing with the issues are not the stuff that this country was built on. The president's policies make it clear that his vision of America does not include "liberty and justice for all."

His "Alice in Wonderland" approach to national defense shows that his vision is more fatalistic than futuristic. This country needs a lot more than a set of worn-out clichés about "America standing tall again" to survive.

With the destructiveness of Reagan's policies, America may be standing tall; however, the question is what are we standing tall for?

Is the president standing tall for the 40 million Americans who live below the poverty level? Sure, he kicked the Grenadians, but what did he do when we lost 200 men in Lebanon?

What did the president do when the Russians killed over 60 Americans aboard a Korean airliner? Sure, he really got tough. He sold them more wheat.

Now that American bodies are being returned from Central America in plastic bags, will Mr. Reagan stand tall by sending boys to Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and other tiny places in Central America to die?

On Nov. 6, 1984, black Americans must go to the polls and vote in record numbers. Our votes alone will not stop Reagan.

However, a strong opposition against Mr. Reagan's repressive and war-mongering habits may be the spark that will start a movement to save the earth for mankind and democracy for our children.

Walter Marshall  
Winston-Salem

## IF YOU BREAK IT, YOU COULD GO TO COURT

The North Carolina General Assembly has enacted a tough new law that goes into effect on October 1, and we intend to use it.

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### The law is clear

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## John Jacob

From Page A4

years old or more and only two, the most conservative, are under 60.

The addition of just one more judge in tune with the thinking of the current slim majority would be enough to move the Court solidly to the right. Instead of those 6-3 and 5-4 decisions in close cases, the liberal minority would be completely isolated.

Two such judges would be enough to keep the Court on the rightward course for many years

to come, an especially troubling thought when we consider that the federal courts have often been the sole protectors of civil rights.

And that thought is even more troubling when we consider it would be ruling on cases brought before it by a Justice Department actively seeking to overturn past civil rights decisions that extended black and minority rights.

(John E. Jacob is president of the National Urban League.)

## Crosswinds

From Page A4

know in their hearts that privilege cannot be reserved indefinitely to a minority. If deliberate and peaceful ways are not found to accommodate the majority, other

means will evolve. That alternative, to use the famous words of a conservative Prime Minister, may be "too ghastly to contemplate."

## Self-Esteem

From Page A2

incorrect behaviors. However, remember that yelling is not communicating.

- Try to avoid discussing marital problems in front of the children. Sometimes they feel that they are to blame for the disagreements between their parents, especially young children.

- Never discipline children when you are angry. You will be more effective in handling the misbehavior of your children when you have calmed down.

- Encourage your children to develop their own interests and activities. They need to feel competent in some areas in order to develop positive self-esteem.

- Don't be afraid to let your children know when you think they have done a good job. Learn to praise their accomplishments; do not just criticize their failures.
- Use discipline to teach your

children how to manage themselves. Be careful that you do not lead them to believe that they are bad persons because they have misbehaved.

- Remember that every child is different, so do not expect all of your children to act the same way.

(Dr. M. L. Clark is a developmental psychologist and faculty member at Wake Forest University).

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