

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Brick without straw

A football careened off a goal post in Norfolk Saturday afternoon and ended Winston-Salem State's season.

Quarterback Mike Winbush, a little player with a heart as big as the Gaines Complex, literally followed the ball off field goal kicker Tyrone Smith's toe to the goal post.

As the officials waved the last-second scoring attempt off-target, Winbush pleaded with an official for a moment, began to sob as the shock wore off and the hurt set in, then, in a show of class we've come to expect, congratulated his Norfolk State opponents on the win.

Meanwhile, sophomore wide receiver Masha Paul fell to the artificial turf and cradled the ball in his arms, as if somehow grasping it would magically restore the CIAA football title that had slipped through his and his teammates' fingers by a single point.

Though sports and editorial writers indulge in hyperbole all too often, it was a magnificent game.

More importantly, however, the fact that WSSU made this game period is a tribute to Coach Bill Hayes, who consistently offsets a meager budget and resources with hard work and imagination to produce winning football teams. Hayes is a lot like senior quarterback Winbush: He is the working man's coach, a former center for North Carolina Central whose school is too small and poor to field a football powerhouse; so he fields a powerhouse anyway.

Winbush, a pigeon-toed scrambler who looks like anything but a football player, is too short to be a quarterback and can't pass, say his critics; so he passed, ran and led his team Saturday like a man possessed, prompting even opposing fans to rave about "No. 1."

WSSU athletic director, basketball coach and resident legend Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines calls Hayes a man who "makes brick with no straw."

Gaines, of course, ought to know, since he's made enough of the same type of brick over the years to become the winningest active coach anywhere -- including the ACC.

Still, both Hayes and Gaines wouldn't mind some straw every now and then, in the form of increased alumni and community support for Winston-Salem State's growing academic and athletic programs. Contributions, single-game attendance, the support of fundraising drives ... every little bit helps.

In the meantime, join us in applauding Bill Hayes and his 9-2 football team for the lessons they've taught us this season -- on and off the field.

Crosswinds

The drug problem

From The (Raleigh) Carolinian.

Two reports in two different publications recently identified drugs as one of America's foremost health problems.

One account indicated that 36 percent of the high school seniors in a 1982 survey reported using stimulants.

Art Linkletter told a Raleigh audience recently, "In the United States, we use more drugs than any Western industrialized nation. We feel we should be happy all the time.

"We are living in a country where we are taught that the old medicine cabinet is there and if you don't feel good, take something. They (drugs) are effective. They are drugs that make you feel good, and quickly. They eliminate pain and the harsh realities of life. Since life is not fair, if you're in a problem, you tend to look for something that makes us feel good."

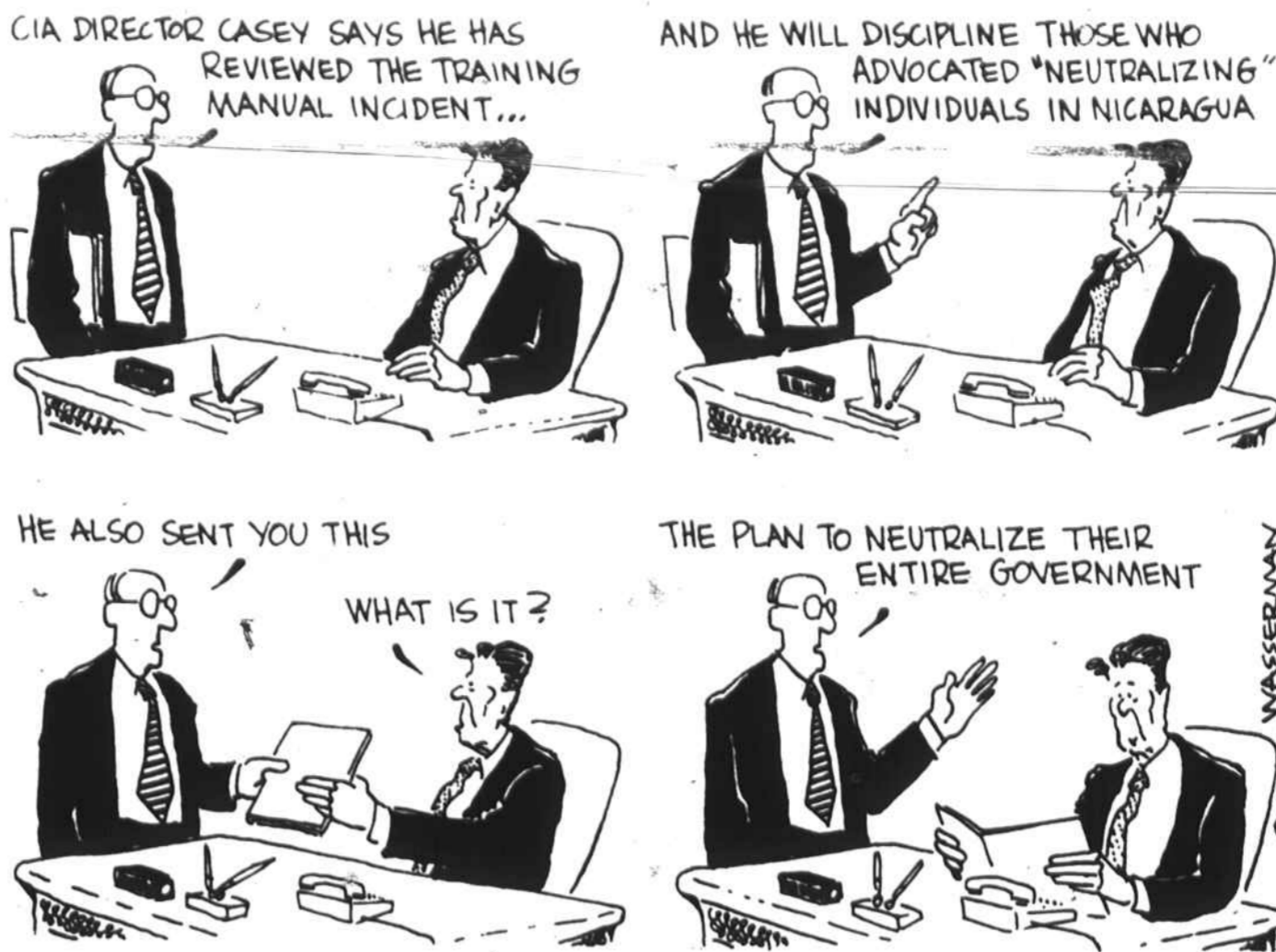
Another published account points out that television commercials promise "a pill for every ill." We learn that relief is available on the grocery shelf.

A result of this "feel good" obsession is the destruction of the human fabric within our society. The segment of our society which collapses will be the group least able to defend itself -- the black community.

Consequently, there is a greater need for the black community to educate itself regarding the ills of drug involvement. This is not a task of others, but one for our own members of the community who are knowledgeable.

Between drugs, alcohol, the jails, homosexuality and war, the chances of our youth accomplishing a productive life are decreasing rapidly.

Certainly, in regards to the drug problem, we can involve ourselves in providing some solutions. It would pay for the black community to commit itself to helping eradicate this problem from its midst -- much less than it could potentially cost.



The mythology of black status

By JOHN E. JACOB  
 Special to the Chronicle

There's a new myth about the black status in our society. In the past, blatantly racist explanations of black poverty flourished. Poverty, the old myth went, was due to racial inferiority. Then the myth was refined to blame poverty on individual failings -- blaming the victim.

Now, there is a new myth and we might call it blaming the helper. It says that federal programs like job training, welfare and others rob people of initiative, create dependency and prevent blacks from competing in our economy.

A little common sense would demonstrate that whatever the failings of any single program, the body of social programs developed over the past two decades has given people the tools with which to compete.

If poverty is growing, that is mainly because our society is still mired in systemic discrimination; our economy is not flexible enough to create jobs for all and our educational system fails to educate people for an advanced economy.

The new myth about poverty exists because it provides a convenient excuse for cutting



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programs that alleviate poverty.

The nastiest twist in the new mythology is the claim that blacks themselves share it. Unreliable poll results are trotted out, supposedly showing significant numbers of blacks who feel their situation is unchanged over the past five years of federal social program cuts. Of course, that only demonstrates that their situation five years ago was what it is today -- bad.

In fact, the black situation has demonstrably worsened through destruction of key safety net programs. Poverty

declined when programs geared to providing fresh opportunities were in vogue. It increased sharply when those programs were abandoned.

Studies show black poverty is now at 36 percent, the highest rate since the Census Bureau started publishing its figures in 1966. The typical black family lost over five percent in real income between 1980 and 1983 -- the highest loss for any group. In the same period, an additional 1.3 million blacks became poor, almost half them because of the withdrawal of federal programs.

Part of the new mythology also says that black poverty is the result of one-parent households and welfare dependency. But black one-parent families are poorer than white ones. And there is a direct link between female-headed families and unemployment. It is lack of jobs, not welfare, that has the greatest negative impact on black families.

The peddlers of the new myth don't tell us how the poor and the hungry are supposed to survive without welfare and food stamps. They don't tell us how people are supposed to become independent. Please see page A5

How Mondale lost his coalition

By MANNING MARABLE  
 Special to the Chronicle

No incumbent president in recent history deserved to be defeated more than Ronald Reagan.

Behind his patriotic rhetoric stands a monument of public policy failures unequalled in our generation. A quick comparison of Carter's record with Reagan's first term shows that real interest rates, factoring inflation, increased from 0.2 percent to 4.7 percent between 1980 and 1984, and real home mortgage rates jumped from 2 percent to 6.4 percent after inflation.

The Census Bureau notes that the number of poor people had climbed by 6 million since January 1981 and the average unemployment rate under Reagan is 8.6 percent, well above the Carter administration's 6.4 percent figure. Real farm income fell by over 50 percent between 1981 and 1984. Even the politically conservative Tax Foundation in Washington, D.C., has computed that the median income of a typical family of four, after inflation, was \$107 less this year than in 1980.

The real beneficiaries of Reaganomics have been the

large corporations and upper fifth of the population, which has gained 8.7 percent after inflation and taxes since 1980. Despite these statistics, as well as a record of foreign policy blunders and domestic policies which reinforced racial and gender inequality, Reagan buried Mondale at the polls.

Conventional media wisdom now claims that

"All Reagan had to do throughout the campaign was to embrace elements of the New Deal-Great Society which retain popular support, such as Social Security and public housing, and not to fall asleep at inappropriate times."

Reagan's charisma and personal popularity was decisive in his victory. Any rebroadcast of the first presidential debate, in which the incumbent appeared disoriented and at times comatose, should discourage the view that Reagan was "more qualified" to lead the nation than his Democratic challenger. I would suggest, instead, that Reagan did not win the election at all; Mondale, despite all his advantages, lost it.

Consider the candidate himself. The basic theme which could have united the various factions of the

Democratic Party -- labor, blacks, Hispanics, women's groups, Southerners, young urban professionals -- was the issue of fairness.

Reagan's budget cuts had hurled millions into poverty and the vast majority of lower-to-moderate income Americans have not been touched by the 1983-84 "recovery." But throughout

much of the campaign, Mondale focused his challenge on the uninspiring issue of budget deficits and the necessity to increase the taxes of all families with annual incomes over \$25,000.

Instead of criticizing the bloated Pentagon budget, condemning its purchase of \$10 billion worth of F-15 fighters for \$9,600 each, Fritz called for annual defense increases of 3 to 4 percent. Instead of calling for major programs to reduce unemployment and to improve public health care and social needs, Mondale proposed Please see page A5

Crisis looms in day care

By MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN  
 Syndicated Columnist

President Reagan recently signed a proclamation declaring the week of Sept. 2-8, 1984, "National School-Age Child Care Awareness Week."

There's nothing unusual about that, except that the proclamation was dated and issued Sept. 21, 1984, 19 days after the week was to have been celebrated.

Those of us who have been studying the state of the nation's child-care system had to smile rather sadly at this latest example of the president's symbolic, rather than real, response to the needs of children.

Despite all the recent news about the shortage of good child-care, the sexual abuse of some children in day-care centers, and the dramatic growth in the number of women in the labor force, neither the federal government nor the states have made the commitment necessary to ensure safe, affordable, quality child-care for those who need it.

The Reagan administration's response has been to cut the Title XX Social Services Block Grant, the major source of federal day-care funds for poor children, by 21 percent in 1981. Since then, despite increased need, 25 states are spending less for day-care than in 1981, 27 states are serving fewer children and 15 states are paying 1981 wages to child-care workers, according to our latest Children's Defense Fund report, "Child Care: The States' Response."

Without leadership and money from the federal government, most states simply cannot and will not meet the growing need of families for child-care assistance, which is absolutely necessary if poor families are to be able to work and to avoid welfare.

Child-care is not a luxury, but a necessity for millions of mothers, especially black mothers who have to work when their children are young in order to make ends meet. In 1983, two-thirds of all women in the labor force were single, widowed, divorced, or had husbands who earned less than \$15,000 a year. Adolescent mothers who need to finish school or training and find employment also need child-care.

For years, our government leaders have been warned that our country would soon face a child-care crisis, and they ignored that warning.

Now, more than five million young children return home from school to empty houses because their working parents cannot find or afford child-care. Please see page A5

Letters

A note of thanks

To The Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Attorney General Rufus L. Edmisten, former candidate for governor of North Carolina, to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of the citizens of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County who supported me. Please see page A5

