

Forum

Marshall, Ashe Did Much For Themselves; But Did More For The Black Community

The nation's recent loss of Thurgood Marshall and Arthur Ashe requires a strong and immediate focus on the careers and impacts of these two conspicuously successful, very different but similar black heroes.

Marshall and Ashe were different in that they followed different paths to the summits of their chosen fields. They were similar in that they "broke new ground" to establish valuable new vistas from which black men and women can look and new "horizons of tomorrow" and plot courses to seemingly remote and formerly unattainable dreams.

Marshall chartered an ideal path for black professionals. Ashe chartered an ideal path for black athletes. Both are excellent role models for parents, teachers, mentors and youngsters seeking pathways to success in today's muddled, murky and dangerous circumstances.

Marshall and Ashe, like most blacks, came from working-class homes. Both sets of parents had high hopes for their children, encouraging them constantly to see and reach for better things and higher goals. Two other factors, however, enter the upward mobility picture. They are MENTORS, including social support individuals or groups, and COLLEGE EDUCATION.

PARENTS: Marshall's mother was an elementary school teacher in Baltimore, MD., and his father was a pullman car waiter until he became a steward at a white, segregated yacht club on Chesapeake Bay. Both had steady, middle-class jobs. Ashe's mother was a home maker and his father was a city playground guardian and caretaker in Richmond, Va. Later, Ashe's father opened his own landscaping business. Marshall and Ashe had strong parental supervision in loving, hopeful environments.

MENTORS: Marshall's father was also his mentor. "He taught me how to argue, challenged my logic on every point, even when we were discussing the weather," Marshall said. "My father turned me into a lawyer without ever telling me what he wanted me to be."

Ashe's mentors were Dr. Walter Johnson of Lynchburg, Va., (Althea Gibson's former teacher), and Richard Hudlin, a tennis official

in St. Louis, Mo., at whose home Ashe stayed while in high school to be coached by Hudlin.

EDUCATION: Marshall had intended to study dentistry, according to his mothers wishes. She pawned her wedding dress and wedding rings to help him pay expenses at



MINORITY REPORT

By JAMES E. ALSBROOK, Ph.D.

Lincoln U. of Pennsylvania. But he was so successful on the debating team that he changed to pre-law. Then he went to the Howard U. School of Law and graduated in 1933 with high honors. Meanwhile, he worked as a busboy, waiter and grocery clerk to get college money.

Ashe improved as a tennis player while in St. Louis and became the fifth-ranked junior tennis player in the nation. He accepted a tennis scholarship at UCLA where his techniques were polished by coaches including Pancho Gonzalez, the professional champion whom Ashe defeated later. Ashe continued to improve and in 1965 was ranked third in world competition.

SUCCESS: Marshall became a civil rights lawyer and his career is well-known. He joined the NAACP and rose to chief counsel when Charles Houston resigned. His landmark 1954 desegregation victory precipitated a landslide of legal consequences that transformed the public policies and traditions throughout the nation. He has received numerous distinctions, citations, and degrees.

Ashe became increasingly dominant in tennis competition as a member of the U.S. Davis Cup team, winner of the U.S. Amateur title in 1968, the Australian Open in 1970, French Open Doubles in 1972, World Champion Singles in 1975 and Wimbledon Singles in 1970. He has received many distinctions, citations, and degrees.

Marshall and Ashe did very well for themselves, but they have done more for others. They have provided black students, parents, educators and mentors with priceless examples, road maps and role models showing how to reach what had been considered unreachable dreams.

Clinton's Strategy Toward Angola

There are millions of sisters and brothers in Africa who are waiting to see if President Clinton will move expeditiously to change twelve years of counterproductive American foreign policy toward Africa. Nowhere on the continent of Africa is this more critical today than in the Republic of Angola. The tragic reality is that the people of Angola have had their suffering prolonged an exasperated as a direct consequence of the violent and aggressive military intervention by the United States and the racist regime of South Africa through the support of the terrorist activities of Jonas Savimbi's UNITA right-wing forces.

During the last five years we have written extensively on the "proxy war" in Angola and how most Americans even to this day, still are not aware of the fact that our tax dollars have been used in the past by the Reagan-Bush ideologues to sponsor massive death and destruction inside and African nation that has done everything it could possibly do to make friends with the United States. Although Angola has consistently provided the United States with oil and other natural resources since gaining independence from Portugal in 1975, the United States has refused to give full diplomatic recognition to Angola. It is as if the United States wants to ultimately control both the people and the natural resources of this African nation by the violent overthrow of the legitimate government of the Republic of Angola. Now that their is a new administration in Washington, it is time for the United States to repent for its past sins and misdeeds in southern Africa in general and in Angola in particular. We appeal to President Clinton and to Secretary of State Warren Christopher to grant immediate full diplomatic recognition to Angola and to refrain from giving further support to Jonas Savimbi and UNITA. The past foreign policy of the United States toward Angola was immoral and illegal in terms of international law. The African-American community in the United States cannot condone any thought of continuing the hideous policies of Reagan and Bush toward Africa. Since the September 1992 "free and fair" elections in which the ruling part, the MPLA, won the democratic right to lead the nation of Angola

into a new era of peace and economic development, UNITA has reignited civil war only because they lost at the ballot box. How can the United States justify supporting right-wing antidemocratic forces in Angola? How can the United Nations allow Savimbi to openly expose his contempt for the U.N. monitored elections by opting for an escalation of war in southern Africa?



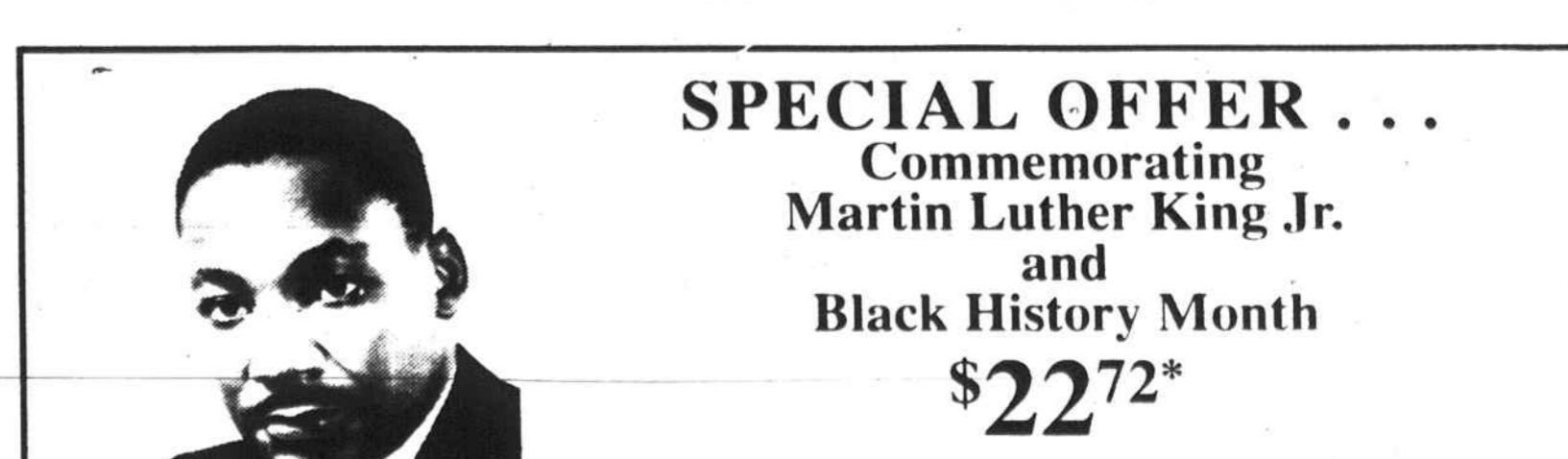
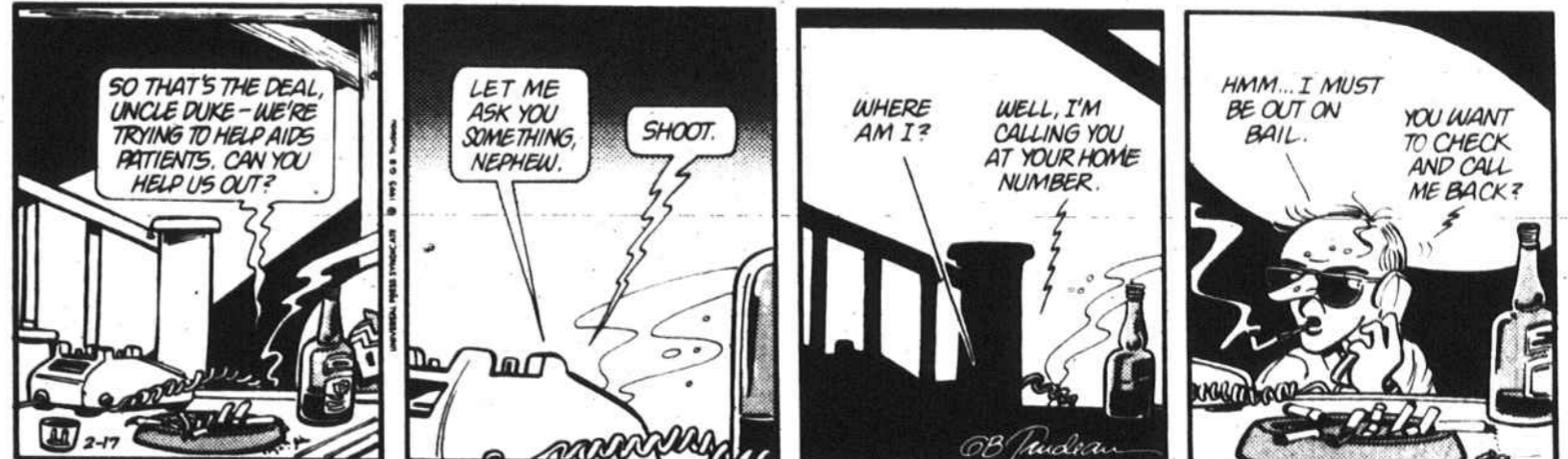
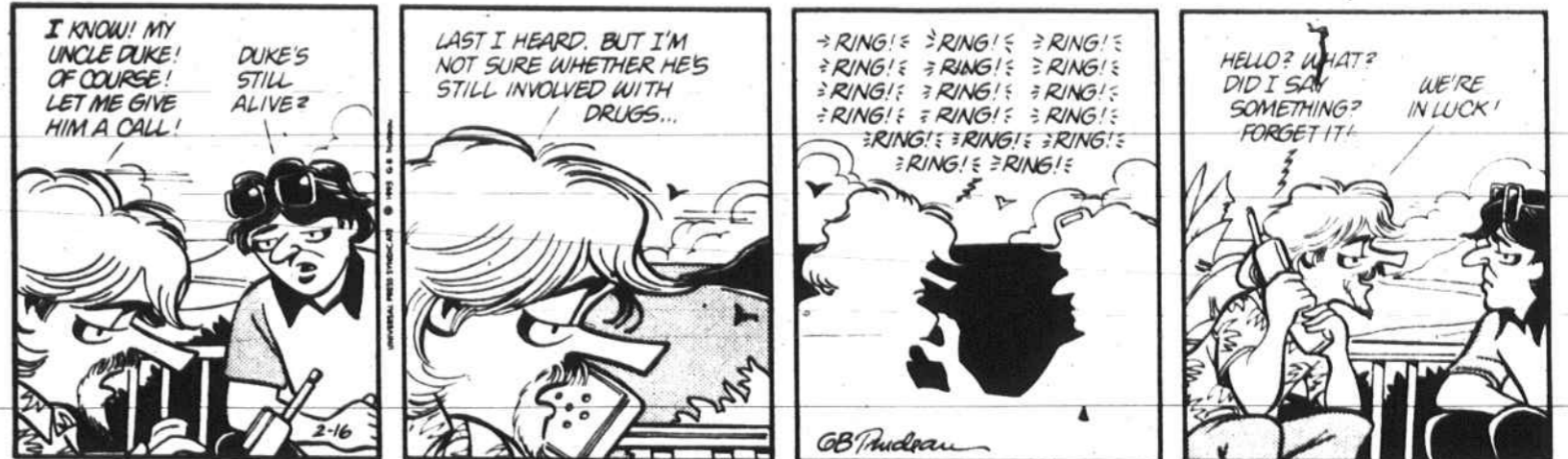
CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL


By BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.

It has now been revealed that since the elections last September there have been more than 10,000 persons killed and over 1 million displaced because of the UNITA's war against the people of Angola. The blood of innocent Angolan women and children stains the carpet on the floor of the White House. President Clinton must act with dispatch to remove this stain and construct a "productive and moral" foreign policy on Angola. During our last visit to Angola a few months ago, we witnessed thousands of Angolans express their desire for a lasting peace. The United States was one of the nations that demanded Angola have democratic elections. Now in the wake of the elections, it is the historic climate of American and South Africa's interventionism that sands as the obstacle to a lasting peace. Secretary of State Christopher needs to clean out all of the "skeletons in the closet to the State Department." The situation in Angola is urgent once again. We need to let the members of this session of the U.S. congress know that the public at large is gravely concerned about Angola and other parts of Africa. There should be Congressional hearings on the resumption of war in Angola with the use of U.S. weapons and materials which have been stockpiled by UNITA prior to the elections. The Congressional Black Caucus should call for immediate action by the Clinton Administrations this issue. Yet the bottom line is until there is a massive groundswell of protest from communities who care across the nation, then the situation will only become more deplorable. President Clinton: "Angola cries for help and in the name of justice and democracy, we demand that you act now!"

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





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