

## Cavanagh

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friends and genuine friends. When people were calling me racist (after the mayor saluted a Confederate flag in 1997), those genuine African-American friends were more loyal to me than some white folks who knew nothing about the issue, but just jumped on the bandwagon and created this frenzy that made me appear and legitimized that I was in fact a racist. I can't keep people from believing what they want.

**TKW:** So, you don't think you, more than any other Republican, you don't think you had a great deal of black support more (mayor interjects)....

**JC:** If I did, I am thrilled that you are saying that. I had friends, but I am not sure I am following you about any more than usual. I have been in an alderman race; I have been in two Senate races, and then the mayor's race and the mayor's race again. So I don't know...things change.

**TKW:** I remember reading quotes from you in The Chronicle in '97 (Nov. 6, 1997, to be exact).

**JC:** Saying what?

**TKW:** It's great that I have this African-American support (mayor interjects).

**JC:** That was probably on the issue of the Confederate flag (that issue did not make The Chronicle until Nov. 20, 1997).

**TKW:** No, I believe (mayor interjects)....

**JC:** When you win, you thank everybody.

**TKW:** I read about Mr. (William) Andrews supporting you.

**JC:** Yes, Mr. Andrews came in during the Confederate flag issue. I think you got the two issues mixed up.

**TKW:** OK, maybe I did. So, since you don't believe you received a lot of African-American support in '97 (mayor interjects)....

**JC:** Why do you keep asking me that question? I don't know. I don't go back and look at statistics. I am not one of those people. I am not a facilitator. I am not a detail man. I can hire people to do that all day long if I wanted it done. I can do that.

**TKW:** I understand, but there are two papers in this city, and one is an African-American newspaper (Mayor interjects).

**JC:** There are three. There's Qué Pasa....

**TKW:** OK, there's the (AC) Phoenix too, so we can say four. But as an African-American newspaper, these are questions that I need to ask. Can you win this election without African-American support?

**JC:** Can I win? Of course not. No one can. I don't know anybody who can without a certain amount of African-American support unless you are as popular as Reagan or something and you ride on his coattails and the voting population gets out there in massive numbers. But typically in this town, no you can't get elected....When I say can't, again, I qualify that with unusual situations that might come up. Why doesn't an African American run for mayor and find out?

**KN:** If I may interject real quickly, one of the things I have noticed of Jack is that he does not look at people in terms of race. He looks at them as the citizens which he serves. Regardless of being black, Hispanic, white, he serves with his heart. So to say it's just this one population is not a concept in which he walks in a consistent basis because he looks at it as we are all equal. We are all the same.

**TKW:** I understand (Narvaez interjects)....

**KN:** He knows that he needs your vote as much as he needs mine. There is no distinction. He needs the vote of the people.

**TKW:** I understand completely, but I was just piggybacking off of a comment that the mayor made about black churches, where he specifically said black churches. So, I understand that completely, but my comment was in regards to that.

**TKW:** (Back to mayor): What do you think your image is among African Americans in the city?

**JC:** (long silence) For those that know me, it's probably very, very positive. Those that are only going to make their decision based on what happened four years ago, and I have some people still say 'we have heard that you are a racist' or something like that. I can't believe they haven't...if you just take a look at my history and what I've done, which is history. It's not what I think I am going to do; it has already been done. In my votes or in my...If you talk to just (Alderman) Vivian Burke, going back to 1977, she constantly mentions the things I was a part of to make sure that the African-American community was very much brought in to everything I knew that was possible, and that positive decisions were made, including the Human

Relations Committee, which I helped create in my committee, etc.

But I don't like to talk about those things because you want to make this race and/or an issue like that or what African Americans think. And you are going to make a big issue out of, I guess, black churches now. You say whatever you want, Kevin. That's what you have done in the past with me anyway.

You have taken good things that I have done and turned them around or not even mentioned it because there is a bias, I think, in that paper, especially toward a white person, but more so even toward a white Republican.

**TKW:** (sigh) All right.

**JC:** Based on what I have seen, not what I think but what I have seen you do since you became what you have become (TKW was named The Chronicle's managing editor in January). So this interview isn't any fun for me because I already know you are going to spin this, couch this in such a way to put me in the worst possible light rather than the best. So you go ahead and do your thing. But I have been persuaded by my staff to meet you.

**TKW:** Well that's fine, Mr. Mayor, but I didn't bring up the black churches. I did not ask a question about anything African American before you brought it up. If you want to listen to the tape, that's fine, but I didn't mention race until you brought it up yourself, sir. So I don't understand... (mayor interjects).

**JC:** OK, let's go on to the next question.

**TKW:** Going back to that incident four years ago, that you



Cavanagh speaks at an event promoting youth employment.

also brought yourself twice, what happened there - four years ago with the flag.

**JC:** You tell me what happened?

**TKW:** Well, I am giving you an opportunity to just explain, again.

**JC:** (Mayor mumbles)

**KN:** If I may interject, actually that situation has nothing to do with what is presently going on and the history of what Jack has done to affect this city.

**TKW:** OK, why don't... (KN interjects)

**KN:** It has nothing to do with the mayoral election presently.

**TKW:** Why don't I just let the mayor say what he wants to say and I'll leave. I mean, because my questions are not being answered, so there is no reason for me to be

here. So if you say what you want to say, I'll write the story and that's it.

**JC:** Something I want to say about what?

**TKW:** About 2001 - whatever - because I am getting flustered a little.

**JC:** Oh yea, what does it feel like?...It feels bad, doesn't it?

**TKW:** I did not come here for this. I came to ask questions. I don't have time....There are 10,000 stories in the community that could be covered.

**JC:** I agree. She's (KN) going to get you a flier. (The flier lists the mayor's key accomplishments during his first term. Promoting diversity within his office, the National Black Theatre Festival and the CIAA's return to the city were among things listed.)

# Myths about Islam dispelled

FROM STAFF REPORTS

There wasn't a seat to be had last week at a forum held at City Hall that focused on educating the public about Islam, a religion that has been on the minds of many Americans since the terrorist attacks Sept. 11. Sponsored by the city's Human Relations Commission, the forum, titled "Understanding Islam," featured a panel of local people who provided insight on the subject.

Among them were Charles Kimball, a professor of religion at Wake Forest University. Kimball talked about the religion's rich history, a history that includes the creation of the first schools of higher learning, long before the Western world's Oxford and Cambridge.

Muslims know the rich, vast history of their religion; it is non-Muslims who are largely ignorant of it, according to Kimball. The professor also urged Americans not to look at Islam or the Middle East with a narrow scope.

"You can't think of Islam in monolithic terms," Kimball said. "Algeria is not Afghanistan."

Imam Khalid Griggs of the

city's Community Mosque was also on the panel. His mosque experienced some vandalism in the wake of the terrorists attacks, which were allegedly

perpetrated by Muslims. Griggs said forums such as the one last week are an important part of the healing process.

"It is very important that we discuss this in an open forum," he said.

A better educated public, Griggs said, hopefully will prevent further attacks on Muslims in this country if another terrorist incident were to occur.

"Maybe we want to be so quick to react and lash out," he said. "Our concern is what happens tomorrow." Two local Arab Americans were also on the panel. The forum will be shown on TV-13 today at 6 p.m., at 2 p.m. on Sunday and at 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 29 and Oct. 31.



Griggs

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