

FORUM

The Dangerous DVD



Julianne Malveaux
Guest Columnist

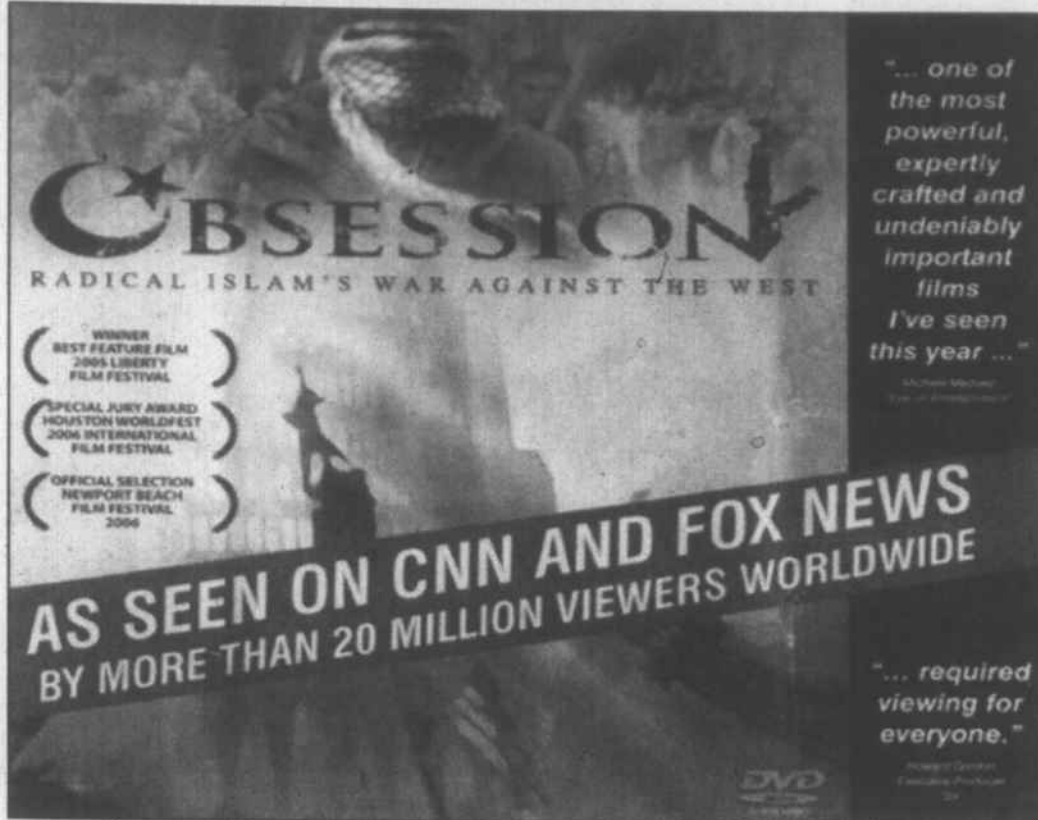
A dangerous little DVD was inserted into newspapers in 70 different cities last month. Titled, "Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West," it is a deliberately and distortedly frightening view of "radical Islam" that is designed to incite fear into the hearts and souls of Americans. Imagine these Americans now going to a Palin rally and hearing Barack Obama's middle name spat out. These cannot be coincidences.

To be sure, the Obsession film begins with a disclaimer that the majority of Muslims are peaceful. But then, a series of frightening and violent images are highlighted as example of Islam's war against the west. The hour-long film makes it appear that Islamic forces attack the west, without context. How many of these attacks, no matter how reprehensible, have we provoked?

To be sure, the perpetrators of September 11, 2001, were beyond reprehensible. Instead of apprehending them, though, we decided to go to another country and start a war that is now costing us about a trillion dollars.

Radical Islam does not have to attack the west. We've done ourselves, and our economy; damage enough with a war that has caused us to lose esteem, and allies, all over the world. While most of the world embraces a war against terrorism, the link between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Ladin has yet to be established.

The Clarion Fund, which produced and distributed Obsession, spent millions of advertising dollars so that newspapers around the country would include their DVD as a paid insert. In Denver and Dayton, Portland and



Philadelphia, Las Vegas and Lansing, readers were treated to a DVD that sells for \$12.95 on the Internet.

It costs \$4.95 to review the DVD online. And the Clarion Fund claims that 28 million were distributed. If the DVDs wholesale at \$5 apiece, the Clarion Fund made a \$140 million campaign contribution to those who would connect Obama with "radical Islam."

Couldn't they just be pushing a cause? There is the adage, "timing is everything".

You have got to question the timing of this distribution in an election that appears to be closer than it ought to be if we simply went on the merits of the candidates. Obsession injects fear and apprehension into a campaign that is already full of irrationality and emotion - from the women who were supposed to be swayed by the addition of Sarah Palin to the McCain ticket, to the people who hesitate to vote for Obama because he is of African descent.

Now, there is the fear mongering over radical Islam and a film designed to incite both

fear and anger. At a time when we ought to be building bridges, Obsession builds barriers between Muslims and others.

A more useful film might compare sections of the Bible with sections of the Koran to understand how much all religions have in common. As I watched Obsession, I remembered the taut post-9/11 days in the United States when many Muslims were seen as suspects in 9/11 incidents.

In Washington, D.C., where I lived at the time, Muslim cab drivers seemed to take special care to display an American flag in or on their car to indicate their fealty with our country or to protect themselves from violence. Fearful and angry Americans beat random Muslims, and accusations flew. Because of the secrecy that permeates that time, we are not sure whether innocent Muslims, accused of terrorism, were deported. We do know that our "intelligence" agencies were granted increased power because of the "war on terrorism".

All of us should be educat-

ed about the dangers that face our country. One of those dangers is intolerance. As the United States becomes increasingly diverse, we need to learn more about all of the cultures that make up this great nation.

We need to learn more languages so we can be more competitive with other countries. And we need to learn about the range of Islamic thinking, in cultural context. Radical Islam has been partly shaped by aggression on the part of the United States.

Timing is everything. These DVDs weren't given away six weeks before an election except to attempt to influence the election. If you watch Obsession, do so with a grain of salt. If you object to the message, reach out to the Clarion Fund and let them know that while they have the right to distribute propaganda, everyone is not swayed by it.

Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women. She may be reached at presoffice@bennett.edu.

Whining Conservative Hypocrites



Peter Bailey
Guest Columnist

Conservatives and their neo-con cohorts in the journalistic and academic worlds get a real kick out of ridiculing those Black folks as whiners who insist that this is not a post-racial society, that White supremacy, if not racism, is still persuasive throughout the land.

Does this mean that we have hopelessly thrown up our hands as some Black folks charge? No, it means that we acknowledge racial reality, not racial illusions. As for the conservatives who call us whiners, they are premier world-class whining hypocrites who, in op-ed after op-ed, in book after book, on television and radio program after television and radio program, most often in the same media that they are criticizing, whine loudly

about "liberal bias in the mainstream media."

This has been going on for nearly 50 years. One would think that a group of propagandists who are backed by numerous right-wing foundations, think tanks, universities, corporations, organizations and individuals with many billions of dollars on hand, would have, by now, launched their own nationwide media empire.

Instead of doing so, they weep and wail and moan and groan about how terrible they are treated by the "liberal" press. That's whining in its essence.

I wonder if those people throughout the country who have accused Senator Barack Obama of being naive and close to traitorous for saying that he would meet with the president of Iran with no preconditions, are aware of an article published on page A3 in the September 21, 2008 Wall Street Journal.

According to the article, Iran, a charter member of

President Bush's "Evil Empire," has "since the 2008-2009 marketing year began on June 1, bought more than one million tons of hard red winter wheat directly from the U.S. ... The purchases mean that at least 3% to 4% of domestic wheat exports for the marketing year will go to a country the U.S. hasn't done business with for more than a generation..."

Somebody is making mucho dollars from this deal. Funny, I haven't heard or read a peep from those more patriotic than thou propagandists who would scream like hyenas if Senator Obama proposed or even supported such a deal. After all, Iran is a mortal enemy if, we are to believe Rush, Sean, Wall Street Journal editorial writers, and Fox News pundits. Once again they have demonstrated their shameless hypocrisy. By the way it is very revealing that the Journal published the article, not on its front page, but on page 3. By any standard of newsworthiness that I am aware of, that should have been a leading article on the

front page.

October 31, 2008 should be a precious memory day for Black people in the U.S. It was on that date in 1919 that Marcus Garvey's Black Star Line launched its first ship, the Frederick Douglas, from Harlem's 125th Street Pier.

Accounts say that thousands of people gathered together for the launching and thousands more greeted the ship when it stopped in places like Cuba and Panama. The remarkable thing is that the money raised for that historic economic venture was provided by Black people.

It was an incredible example of what collective economics can accomplish. We owe praise to Mr. Garvey, to those who worked with him and those Brothers and Sisters who contributed money to the cause.

A. Peter Bailey, a well-known Civil Rights activist, can be reached at apeterb@verizon.net

Jessie Draft & Associates LLC



Jessie Draft/Broker
CRS, GRI, REALTOR

RNJDRAFT@MSN.COM
3750 Beeson Dairy Rd
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

(336) 403-1254 Business
(336) 748-0871 Fax

MULTIMILLION DOLLAR PRODUCER

Sharon S. Dobbins, ChFC®
336-631-9905



PLANNING TO RETIRE SOON?

Congratulations!

Retirement is a big step. Choosing payout or distribution option can be difficult and scary.

GET THE FINANCIAL GUIDANCE YOU DESERVE FROM A KNOWLEDGEABLE PROFESSIONAL

Planning - Investments - Insurance

Branch Office: 500 W. 4th Street, Suite 201-C • PO Box 21294, Winston Salem, NC 27120

Securities and Advisory services offered through Great American Advisors, Inc. Member FINRA, SIPC and Registered Investment Advisor. GAA is not affiliated with Dobbins & Company Financial. Securities involve risks including possible loss of principal.



S. Wayne Patterson

Attorney At Law and Certified ADR Mediator

- Immigration • Social Security • Civil Rights
- EEOC Claims • Non-Profit/501c(3)
- Employment Discrimination

235 Peachtree St. Suite 400 Atlanta, GA 30303
8 West Third Street Suite 220 Winston-Salem, NC 27101

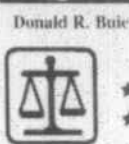
1-877-SWP-4LAW
or local number
(336) 714-8858
www.swaynepatterson-law.com



BANKRUPTCY

Legal Help For Your Debt Problems

DONALD R. BUIE,
Attorney At Law



- Free Initial Consultation
- Stop Repossession & Foreclosure

The Law Office of Donald R. Buie is a Federally designated Debt Relief Agency under Title 11 United States Code Section 528(a). We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code.

773-1398
8 W. 3rd St., Ste. 100



Rep. Larry Womble

NC House of Representatives

71st District
Tel (336) 784-9373
Fax (336) 784-1626
E-Mail: LWistm@aol.com

Home Address
1294 Salem Lake Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27107

ARE YOU BEING PAID FAIRLY?

- Do you work over 40 hours per week without **OVERTIME** pay?
- Does your employer owe you **unpaid** or other **withheld** wages?

Call: 1-866-WAGES-NC (1-866-924-3762)

www.wagesnc.com

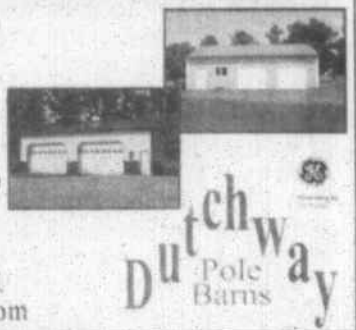
HARRIS, WINFIELD, SARRATT & HODGES, LLP
1620 Hillsborough Street, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27605

Garage Special \$6,900!

- 24 x 32 x 10 \$10,300
- 24 x 40 x 10 \$11,000
- 30 x 32 x 10 \$11,000
- 30 x 40 x 10 \$12,300
- 36 x 48 x 12 \$19,200
- 40 x 80 x 14 \$30,750
- 60 x 120 x 16 \$70,550

Financing Available!

1-877-434-4561
www.dutchwaypolebarns.com



THE CONESTOGA SOLUTION



Comprehensive Post-Frame Construction

Residential • Commercial
Equestrian • Agricultural

Your Life, Your Business...Our Buildings.

1-877-434-3133 www.conestogabuildings.com

Land Bargains - NC Mountains PRICED TO SELL

Spectacular views, upscale clubhouse, much more! Buy Now and Save!

Call now 877-MTN-LAND
or ultimacarolina.com

The Chronicle, the Choice for African-American News, is located at 617 N. Liberty Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101 336-722-8624 Fax - 336-723-9173 news@wschronicle.com www.wschronicle.com

The Chronicle was established by Ernest Pitt and Ndubis Egemonye in 1974, and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co., Inc. The Chronicle is a proud member of:

National Newspapers Publishers Association • North Carolina Press Association • North Carolina Black Publishers Association • Inland Press Association

THE CHRONICLE

HOME DELIVERY SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

- YES, Please send me The Chronicle
- 2 years: \$40.95
- 1 year: \$30.72
- 6 months: \$20.48

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____
 VISA Mastercard American Express Check enclosed Please bill me
Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

SEND TO: The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636, Winston-Salem, NC 27102

Business Office 723-8428, ext. 100 PAULETTE MOORE
Business Office 723-8428, ext. 101 ANDREA MOVES