

Editorials & Comments

JCSU Needs Athletic Commitment

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Editorial Writer

Johnson C. Smith University has recently announced the hiring of a new head football and basketball coach. Wylie Harris comes to Smith from Guilford College where he served as an assistant gridiron coach and Robert Moore, the roundball mentor, has journeyed to Smith from Virginia Union University where he had established a winning tradition.

With these sports personnel changes and a review of Smith's past athletic program, we are inclined to ask isn't this the time for the local school to launch an effective sports publicity campaign? We have raised this question because the Golden Bulls basketball teams of recent years have lacked consistency and even when the football team was having winning seasons, it was playing largely before empty seats at Memorial Stadium.

Therefore, in order for the new coaches to begin recruiting some talented athletes and in order for the school's alumni and friends to have something to cheer about, JCSU needs to develop and launch an effective sports publicity program. Such a program would be a first significant step by the school in showing its recognition of the fact the quality football and basketball programs are big business that require a substantial investment if equal return is to be expected. Good publicity will help to attract talented athletes and contribute to the development of broad based community support.

Undoubtedly, some Smith supporters would suggest that the school can not afford to undertake the kind of program we are suggesting, our reply is they can not afford not to. It has been done and done well by others so why not Smith?

For example, with a relatively small budget, super star Cedric Maxwell and a good well-planned sports publicity program, UNC-Charlotte's basketball team has played before capacity crowds from Charlotte's Coliseum to Madison Square Garden in New York City and to many points west. Furthermore, through planning and publicity Jackson (Miss.) State College and Gramlin College played a football game at Houston's Astrodome before 89,000 rawing fans two years ago. This was reportedly the largest audience to have ever seen a sports event under the dome.

We believe it takes big ideas to do big things, therefore, if JCSU's athletic planners will begin to plan programs of quality to support the efforts of their new coaches we will begin to see the fruits of their labor in the football and basketball seasons just ahead of us.

Just think, there are reportedly 272,000 black households within a 72 mile radius of Charlotte. A systematic well-planned sports publicity program aimed at just 10 percent of those households might fill Memorial Stadium for every JCSU football game this season. We believe it can be done, if you agree to tell Smith not us.

Liquor By-The-Drink Vote

As Mecklenburg County moves closer to the September liquor-by-the-drink vote, the bottle lines are becoming more clearly defined as the campaign leaders and workers are recruited and unprecedented numbers of people are said to be registering to vote.

It strikes us as odd that more people are apparently motivated to register and vote on the liquor issue than we have had on any other recent election. It strikes us as rather odd too that a black, Kelly Alexander, Jr., has been named a

co-chairman of the pro-liquor forces when we don't know at this writing what the impact of the liquor bill be upon the many black owned night spots in the County and City.

The emotional upheaval reflected in these developments appear to indicate that we have become intoxicated by the very thought of liquor-

by-the-drink. Let's hope this does not happen and that we keep in perspective the entire liquor issue regardless of who the winners may be

Is It Because Of Race?

The parent of 82 Charlotte-Mecklenburg school children filed suit in U.S. District Court last week seeking a temporary restraining order to prevent the school board from instituting its 1978 pupil assignment plan. The suit charges that the

While many parents, both black and white, reject the burden of school reassignment for whatever reason, we can look to Supreme Court Justice Blackmun's statement for the reason and continued use of racial balance in the public schools.

Blackmun says until the U.S. reaches a stage of racial maturity, that is, until we "get beyond racism, we must first take account of race. And in order to treat some persons equal, we must treat them differently." In this instance, the 82 children must be treated differently. Think about it!

WE MUST PREVENT OUR OWN CHILDREN FROM TURNING INTO JUNKIES, INTO THIEVES AND PROSTITUTES AND CONFIDENCE ARTISTS WHOSE PREY IS THEIR OWN PEOPLE. WE CAN PREVENT THAT.



Blacks' Destiny In Own Hands

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Young Is Profound Example Of Non-neutrality

Dear Sir: Ambassador Andrew Young is a profound example of non-neutrality. It is interesting to note that those endeavoring to discredit and ouster Mr. Young lead double lives. That is, while boasting about freedom, justice and equality abroad, these same flag-wavers deny civil or human rights at home. It is vital and necessary for Ambassador Young to continue stepping on toes in order to discourage the orgy of self-righteousness and hypocrisy in high places of government.

There are those who say that Young is not playing the game well, he is not a diplomat. I would agree, he is not a bureaucratic game player and Mr. Young knows it. He never pretended to be a diplomat, however, he is a politician. Andy Young might have picked an inconvenient period to highlight his past as a civil rights activist and in expressing his sentiments that "in our prisons there are hundreds, perhaps even thousands of people I would call political prisoners," nevertheless, it is his past which gives him entree in the Third World and Africa. What ever African policy surfaces - Andy Young is it! Mr. Young should not be condemned because of his outspokenness and honesty. It should be the reverse for condemnation. Certainly, this is not the case. President Carter knew very well the background of his (alleged) good friend. That is, his involvement in the civil rights movement and indeed

epitomizing political dissidents at home during the 60's. So either the President should dismiss Young from his appointed office or continue to allow him the opportunity to represent the "moral consciousness" or a great

nation uncloaked in a deceptive hypocrisy.

Black and White Americans should be supportive of a rare man like Young in high office in the current times of moral governmental bankruptcy.

By Norman Adams

Appreciates Post Support

Dear Sir:

We greatly appreciate the support given by our local papers concerning the Medicaid program and changes desperately needed in the program to more adequately serve people with costs of health care. Thousands of citizens across the state participated in this calling, writing, and meeting with their legislators to let them know that people were not receiving necessary assistance because of the very low income ceiling of \$141 a month. Our legislature had set this ceiling in 1969, yet who could meet this standard? What senior citizen could live on \$141 a month? We wanted to know if our legislators could!

During the last session of our N.C. General Assembly, the following changes were made in the Medicaid program: 1. Reinstatement of the dental coverage and 2. Increase in the income ceiling to approximately \$158 a month.

The increase in the income ceiling was very minimal and will probably be eaten up by the automatic increases in other areas, but anything would have been an improvement!

Reinstatement of the dental coverage was overwhelming received by hundreds of senior citizens across the state. However, our legislature deemed it necessary to attach a provision in the law requiring "prior approval" for the majority of dental work needed by elderly people. Strictly, this could mean long delays in dental care for elderly people. Whatever the intent of the provision, the ones who will suffer will be the recipients.

The staff at the Department of Human Resources are meeting now to work towards an interpretation of the provisions and to come up with guidelines for dentists to follow. Enclosed is a letter sent to Secretary Sarah Morrow that, again, restates the importance of the program for low-income elderly and the need for an interpretation that will prevent delay in patient care.

Senior Citizens For Better Health Care
Johnnie Evans, Contact Person
Charlottetown Terrace Apartments
1000 Baxter Street
Charlotte, N.C. 28204
PH: 332-3049

TO BE EQUAL

By Vernon E. Jordan Jr.



Africa Policy Back On Course

America's Africa policy, founded on good basic principles and winning the respect of Black African nations, took a bad fall a couple of months ago. After months of painfully rebuilding America's image on the continent, it appeared that the Administration was going to throw it away by opting for a policy of Cold War confrontation.

The immediate cause of the temporary reversal was the invasion of Zaire's Shaba Province by exiled Katangans. The invaders crossed the border from Angola. Two responses followed, both of them ill-advised.

First, after French troops flew in to repel the invaders, former colonial powers suggested formation of a strike force to put down similar rebellions in African countries.

African leaders reacted in anger. Led by Tanzania's Julius Nyerere, they saw such a force as a plot to reassert dominance over the continent. Nyerere argued that while African nations have the right to ask for foreign troops to defend themselves, such a force would operate to keep unpopular governments in power after they have lost the confidence of their citizens.

He also made the point that intervention would be geared to prop up regimes favorable to the West, no matter how unpopular they were with their own people. Africa would thus be a pawn in the Cold War, with East and West sending proxy fighters into a continent that wishes to remain free of such entanglements.

The second response, this time by the U.S., was a campaign against Cuban-backed Angola. Cold War hardliners in the Administration prevailed upon President Carter to make some tough statements charging Cuban and Angolan backing for the invasion of Zaire. There was talk of asking Congress to repeal the Clark Amendment, which forbids U.S. intervention in the Angolan civil war. And the CIA initiated a campaign to win support for a covert operation to overthrow President Neto's government in Angola.

For a time it looked as if the Administration was looking for a showdown with the Russians and their Cuban puppets in, of all places, Africa. Such a step would inevitably have led to terrible bloodshed among the African people and a bolstering of the run-away white dictatorships in Rhodesia and South Africa. It would have undone the hard work of U.S. officials, especially UN Ambassador Andrew Young, in building American-African friendship.

For weeks the Administration was sending contradictory signals. While the hardliners were whipping up sentiments for a showdown, the realists were making a case for continuing the successful policy of the past year-and-a-half. It looks like the realists have come out on top, but the incident was deeply troubling. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, in a June speech, rightly stated that the U.S. would not "mirror Soviet and Cuban activities in Africa because such a course would not be effective in the long run and would only escalate military conflict and great human suffering."

Now there's a move to improve relations with Angola, which would welcome stronger Western ties.

Our New Day Begun

Hooks Issues Call To Action

By Benjamin L. Hooks
Special To The Post

Detroit, Michigan - The crisis posed by the Bakke issue, demands that those of us assembled here at the NAACP Symposium on Bakke, issue this call to Action:

1. To immediately commence monitoring the Affirmative Action Programs of all educational institutions in their respective communities through the NAACP's network of branches, and state conferences, and in cooperation with church groups, labor groups, fraternal orders, educational leaders, legal counsels and others similarly committed.

Corporate, business, labor and government leaders are called upon to publicly reaffirm their commitment to Affirmative Action. Furthermore, youth councils and college chapters of the NAACP will mobilize to participate in this monitoring operation.

2. To organize a national Task Force to work with the NAACP in evaluating the trends reflected by the monitoring reports and fashion appropriate means of dealing with those found to be diluting meaningful programs or deviating therefrom.

3. To commit the NAACP legal apparatus, in cooperation with the National Bar Association, the National Conference of Black Lawyers and other similarly committed groups of lawyers, to catalogue cases in which Affirmative Action programs are under attack in courts and other tribunals; and to take steps to intervene or file "friend of court" briefs.

4. To declare war on all attempts to weaken or destroy affirmative action and civil rights enforcement through the attachment of "riders" and amendments such as Eagleton-Biden and the Walker Amendment. This war will be carried to those who support, overtly and covertly, these amendments. Every branch and official of the Association and other organizations committed to this cause, will coordinate meetings with every United States Senator, Congressman, Governor, State Legislator, Mayor, and member of a City Council - to state our position on affirmative action and these nefarious amendments.

The worthiness of every candidate for public office in the fall and succeeding elections, shall be tested by their position on this question. In this connection, we note with



Benjamin L. Hooks considerable consternation, the role that has been and is being played in this rape of civil rights enforcement by so-called "liberals."

We intend to follow-up these personal approaches to legislative leaders in the local communities with a nationwide civil rights mobilization in Washington.

5. We note with appreciation and hope, that President Carter has instructed agencies of the Federal Government to press their affirmative action program, and not to seek refuge in distorted interpretations of the recent Bakke decision. Nevertheless, the times and the crisis demand that there be sustained Presidential leadership. That leadership should

include the calling of a White House Conference on Affirmative Action, and should involve business, industry, labor, church, legal and educational interests.

Just as the recent trails of dissidents in Russia have raised fundamental issues of human rights abroad, the Bakke decision at home has precipitated a crisis in civil and human rights in this

Letters To The Editor

Park Helms Is Wrong?

Dear Editor:

You are right, Mr. Grant; Deacon Parks Helms is wrong! Certainly, Mr. Grant, your article in the Observer June 23, 1978 which says: "They suppose to be serving the people instead of their masters," and that a few of them have forgotten this. Yes, many of our hearts are burning because one of our "said brothers," Deacon Helms, was the chief leader for the "Liquor-By-The-Drink Bill and Passage," which will have 2,000 or more little children on starvation and out of school and maybe out doors in a year or so, or many more people killed by drunken drivers because when the father spends \$1.50 for that

little tablespoon full of whiskey it will call for another and another and on and on.

The rent money and all the bill money is gone. Plus he may get in his vehicle drunk and kill someone or himself before he gets home.

Now concerning the Bible and the Deacon one said: "God and the Devil do not live in a room together. One must move out." Nor do they share crop no mans soul. You must be all here or be all there. No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other or else he will hold on to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon, Matthew 6:24.

Deacon Parks Helms and the church no serves can easily be like a court case I heard some years ago in Savannah, Ga., a man was being tried for tax evasion on a business he owned and called "Greens Christian Center" which had been raided and found liquor and gambling devices in it.

The prosecutor told the jury that "Greens Christian Center" could be anything, just a crowd of gamblers out yonder in the woods. So if that Baptist Church have not fired Deacon Helms, it does not represent the Baptist Church, but just a crowd of people over yonder, following Helms; and not God.

Deacon Parks Helms and

burning social issues. Although we applaud the President's recent statement on affirmative action, we feel that this issue goes far beyond the heads of agencies and requires national attention on the White House level. This must be done without delay before a national misapprehension and deliberate distortion of the meaning of the Bakke decision takes hold.

Rev. F. M. Cunningham

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