

Editorials & Comments

Williams: Guilty Or Scapegoat?

After two years of fear and frustration, and an eight-week trial, a jury of eight blacks and four whites took only 12½ hours to find Wayne B. Williams guilty of killing two of Atlanta's 28 missing and murdered black youth.

While insisting he was innocent, Williams was immediately sentenced to two consecutive life terms by Superior Court Judge Clarence Cooper. Ironically, under Georgia state law, Williams will be eligible for a parole review in just seven years.

Ironically, too, is the anticipated lingering fear and psychological scars that the lengthy ordeal is leaving on the city of Atlanta. These concerns undoubtedly will be aided by the belief of some that a killer is still free, that Williams may be on the streets in just seven years, and the doubts of others as to whether Wayne Williams is guilty at all.

Each of these is a real possibility because the decision to close the books on 24 of the other cases is not satisfying the

parents of some of the victims that they will know who is

actually responsible for the death of their children. Furthermore, the haste with which Atlanta police authorities closed the books on the other cases has

caused some to question whether Williams is guilty or whether he's being used to ease the pressure to find and convict someone. This latter point becomes increasingly significant by the

fact that the prosecution was allowed to introduce evidence about 10 of the other murders to show a pattern of behavior by Williams.

Finally, within an hour of the guilty verdict, polyester-cotton shirts were on sale for \$4.25. The shirts carried the message, "This T-shirt made with fibers from the Wayne Williams trial, Fulton Co. Courthouse, Atlanta,

1981-82." This commercial exploitation seems a fitting end - if it is the end - to a strange ordeal with many unanswered questions about our criminal justice system and how it works.

Dr. Wheeler:

A Very Committed Person

Dr. Raymond Wheeler, a nationally known health and nutrition expert and civil rights activist, died on February 18 of an apparent heart attack.

On the day of his death, the 62-year-old Wheeler had spent four hours in a meeting with attorney Julius Chambers talking about a strategy to stop Congress from cutting the food stamp and school lunch programs. Furthermore, when death took Wheeler later that same day he was preparing to attend a dinner to honor the late Fred Alexander, a black state senator and city council member.

Attorney Chambers echoed the sentiments of many when he said Wheeler's death "is a great loss for the city and for the county. He was a very committed person to improving human needs and opportunities in every area one could work in - making sure the poor would be able to eat and obtain housing accommodations, making sure blacks were able to obtain opportunities in housing and education."

Dr. Wheeler worked on the Southern Regional Council, a bi-racial civil rights organization. He was one of the founders of MOTION, INC., and he worked closely with former governor Terry Sanford on a poverty program that became a model for other parts of the country.

Among his other tireless efforts, Dr. Wheeler investigated health and medical care among black children in Mississippi and

reported to a U.S. Senate Subcommittee in 1967 on extreme poverty and starvation. His work is credited with helping to bring hunger to the attention of many national leaders in Washington.

Mayor Pro Tem Harvey Gantt said Dr. Raymond Wheeler "was a friend and a man who cared." In effect, whether you knew him or not, Dr. Raymond Wheeler, a native of Farmville, N.C., was a friend of blacks and the poor. Even in death he showed his by telling his wife that upon his death he'd prefer that friends send memorials to the Southern Regional Council, 75 Marietta St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30303, or to the N.C. Civil Liberties Union, P. O. Box 3094, Greensboro, N.C.

Glass House And Stones

Organizations purporting to cure all the ills of a society or known to mankind must be extra careful in their behavior lest they appear to be no more than extensions of like personalities, i.e., the "Congressional Club."

Revelations lately regarding the questionable spending habits of this group of like-passioned individuals sound similar to the many other disclosures which appear weekly in government settings, unions and from time to time in industry.

The answers the "Club" gives to the questions generated by the revelations sound awfully similar to the familiar and classic responses to which we have become accustomed.

BLACK BOOT-STRAPS

79,000,000,000.00
(SEVENTY NINE BILLION DOLLARS INCOME OF BLACK AMERICA 1979)

"BLACK RETICENCE TO SEIZE INITIATIVE TO ORGANIZE THEIR COMMUNITIES IS A MAJOR FACTOR AND AN IMPORTANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITIES UNDER DEVELOPMENT."

DEAN DOUGLAS C. GLASGOW
DEAN - HOWARD UNIVERSITY



Tony Brown's Comments

Call For New Malcolm Trial

"By His deeds, He shall be known."

That statement so eloquently describes Brother Preston Wilcox, Convener. "Brother" Wilcox, as the professional educator likes to be referred to, is now rallying attention to - as usual - the underdog.

Always a fighter against racial injustice and unchanged over the years in his commitment to the Black community, he is now, in his quest for the truth, opening up the old Malcolm X slaying to a new investigation.

Both my television series and a recent "60 Minutes" segment have presented enough on-the-air evidence to reopen the case.

But a Black community ground swell is needed to reopen the case and investigate the new revelations made by Talmadge Hayer, the only person to confess to killing Malcolm X.

When Hayer, now Mujahid Abdul Halim and serving a life sentence, gave me the first television interview, he explained that Norman Butler and Thomas Johnson, also serving life sentences, were not members of his assassin squad.

"My two co-defendants, Norman Butler and Thomas Johnson, have always maintained their innocence in the case, and that even during the trial, I had stated myself that they were not involved in the killing of Malcolm X."

The five alleged co-assassins were named by Hayer - and in Peter Goldman's book, "The Death and Life of Malcolm X" - as the actual planners and co-conspirators. This new information has not, however, been sufficient to

move a New York court to reopen the case.

And now AFRAM Associates, Inc., Brother Wilcox's Harlem based service and resource center at 68-72 East 131st Street, NY 10037, 212-281-6000, has held its first symposium on this issue with Mike Wallace, Peter Goldman, Osman Shah of the American Muslim Mission and Adayemi Bande, a radio personality, as participants.

A brilliant researcher, Wilcox points to information, that if true, would mean that Butler and Johnson are innocent.

"They were not present at the Audubon Ballroom on February 25, 1965 when the assassination occurred. They were less than adequately represented by their lawyers and they were determined to be innocent of any charges by one of the admitted killers, Talmadge Hayer, during the trial and in a letter to Governor Hugh Carey on January 18, 1982," Wilcox declares.

In the aforementioned letter to Gov. Carey, Hayer stated: "I stated that these two men are innocent of the charges of killing Malcolm X. I have submitted affidavits to the courts naming those who are co-conspirators in the killing of Malcolm X. However, my efforts have been of no avail." AFRAM, as a service to subscribers, makes all of these documents available.

In a letter to Leo Levy of New York's Division of Parole, Wilcox explained, "This is a classic instance of the wrongful conviction of two defendants in a fair trial demonstrating that justice can be manipulated

to confuse truth with fiction."

There are other extenuating circumstances. In a 12-year investigation of this issue, I still wonder about France's refusal to allow Malcolm's plane to land there. The Muslims did not have that kind of international power.

And who was the "thin-lipped, olive-skinned man with slanted eyes" who followed Malcolm in Africa and Europe and fits the description of the mysterious second man allegedly arrested at the scene of the crime?

Was there a second man arrested at the scene of the crime as the early editions of the New York papers said? If so - and he disappeared while in the custody of the police - was there government complicity in the murder?

Hayer's admission has created some new questions and placed others in a new context. If he is telling the truth, the implications are frightening. It means that the Muslims were so infiltrated that many of those in the Nation of Islam were government infiltrators who could commit crimes and destroy the Muslims simultaneously or individuals who could profit from crime in the name of their alleged faith.

In short, the Muslim organization was exploited. And, if so, Butler and Johnson could have been also.

"Tony Brown's Journal," the television series, can be seen on public television on Channel 42 at 8 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

By Rev. John Perkins

Walk Your Talk



Biblical Basis For Power

Last week I talked about power and how it should be used. We need to find out how to obtain it, and utilize it in a way that it does not corrupt the person who has it. This power must, also, not be detrimental to the community.

I am discovering this is an awesome situation. The reason we have so much poverty, death and broken homes is because we do not know how to creatively use power.

In the beginning God gave Man vast amounts of power. But then, Man disobeyed God. Man relinquished most of his power to Satan. Through man's disobedience - his sin - he has come under the dominion of a power other than God's.

Because Man is dominated by satanic power, the power men have is tainted. Every desire of Man is selfishly motivated. The apostle John refers to this as "... the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life..." And we exercise our power within the contest of that lust. So we have hunger, death, racism and murder in our life.

The issue is how can power be used in a way which benefits man instead of destroying him?

For the Christian, the Word of God is his guide book and Christ is his perfect example. In the beginning of Christ's ministry, He stood up in the synagogue in Nazareth and said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor." (Luke 4:18).

Anointed carries the idea of a power that is given by God. But what does Christ do with His power? Does He use it for exploitation? The scripture says He proclaimed release of captives, gave sight to the blind, freed the downtrodden and proclaimed the favorable year of the Lord - an era of economic justice. Christ did not use His power to bolster Himself.

Jesus is our example of how power should be used in a creative manner. Even after His capture by oppressive Roman guards and subsequent torture death of crucifixion, Christ still displayed His power by rising from the dead, showing His power even over death.

Even though Christ is no longer in the flesh on earth, He is able to empower Christians to carry on His work after the Ascension. He tells the first Christians "...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. Ideally, when the Christian is under the power of God, the decisions he makes will be for the good of humanity.

The power that Christ gives the Christian enables him to channel and focus the power he wields in the world for good. For example, I recently attended a conference of a coalition of religious broadcasters. I did not realize how much political power evangelists wielded until I analyzed the Christian television and radio media and the vast financial resources they have. They have power for sure, but how will they use it?

Christ, our example, has the power of life and death. The scripture goes as far to say that all things hold together because of Him. With this much power, surely He can give individual help to everyone of us in both our minute and monumental decisions.

Responses to this column may be sent to Walk Your Talk, 1655 St. Charles Street, Jackson JS 39209.

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Affirmative Action Methods Facing Serious Challenge

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
The Bupartisan Congressional Forum on Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action...



Alfreda L. Madison

by the Administration; civil rights appointments, Justice Department intention to overturn the Weber decision, which allows management and labor to set up voluntary methods for prohibiting employment discriminations.

Representative Fauntroy spoke of the timeliness of the forum because minorities are facing a serious challenge to their full citizenship rights. He stated that this challenge is born of a scapegoat psychology. The lack of a clear understanding of the economic transition and economic problems has led to a scapegoat response that reflects itself in anti-minority feeling directed at minor-

ities at all levels of American life.

Jack Greenberg of NAACP Legal Defense said there is a fundamental reason for affirmative action. He alluded to the fact that before the Brown decision, Washington was more segregated than apartheid Johannesburg, South Africa. He stated that affirmative action is necessary to eradicate discrimination and in the eradicating process, there must be some numerical standards and goals. He gave justification for affirmative action; compensation to victims for past discrimination, best known device for bringing together a nation divided by racism and it makes enforcement possible and workable. Greenberg criticized the merit system as really being somewhat of a farce since selection in jobs and universities have often included family connections.

Representative Patricia Schroeder spoke of the Government RIF on women and minorities, as being dismissed because they are last hired and last promoted, so the lack of seniority is enforced in

their dismissal. She stated that slashed budgets, lowering reporting levels, and changed functions are the clearest indication of this Administration's lack of interest in EEO.

The President of Equitable Life Insurance said that corporate America has the inescapable imperative responsibility to make jobs equally available for all people. He stated that it is good business practice for corporations to aid in providing a system where all people can enjoy equal education, advocacy, entrepreneurial and employment opportunities. He emphasized that women and minorities must advocate strongly their causes.

Eleanor Holmes Norton said women and minorities have suffered from stereotyped perceptions - all people can't work, Vietnam veterans were not prepared for jobs, women by work done in the home. She related some unhealthy affirmative action perceptions. The average person doesn't know what affirmative action is, some people are for it, because some

others are against it, and national leaders speak out against it without full knowledge of what it's all about. She gave the example of President Reagan's lack of knowledge of the Weber case. She criticized William Bradford Reynolds for his emphasis on time tables and quotas as reasons for opposition to affirmative action. Mrs. Holmes said that affirmative action techniques are legal in application which is derived from Title VII passed by the Congress. Affirmative action requires diversified recruitment. She says that to correct the system, the Court of Law is not enough. The simple concept is that women and minorities have been excluded but now they must be included.

Vilma Martinez of the Mexican-American Legal Defense gave criticism of Senator Hatch's amendment SJ41, which makes illegal any law that makes distinction on account of race, color or national origin, which sounds like a repeal of the 14th Amendment. AJ41 requires victims to prove intent to

discriminate. It prohibits private industry from adopting voluntary affirmative action programs.

Joseph Dela Cruz, President of the National Congress of American Indians, said 20 percent of the Indians on reservations are unemployed. He spoke of how the Reagan Administration has banished the hope that the Indian Self Determination Act of 1974 gave them.

This meeting clearly emphasized that the Reagan Administration has ignored the advantages and gains may be affirmative action and that instead it is using various methods to discredit and render gutless all affirmative action measures.

Constituents must pressure their national representatives and the White House through letters, phone calls and face to face contact, if possible.

