

LETTERS TO THE POST

Dole Needs Attitude Adjustment

The nation is tired and fed up with Sen. Bob Dole's tired rhetoric concerning the national deficit and everything else that he grumbles about.

Mr. Dole's problems seem to be anger... angry because he has been unsuccessful as a presidential candidate... angry because it seems that he is a paraplegic, bitter because he was not selected as a vice presidential candidate to run with Mr. Bush... Downright disturbed because the Republicans lost the White House in the last election. The smart thing that Mr. Dole should do is to get his wife, if he knows where she landed last, and go home and have some children... if that is possible.

The nation and his party are being badly served with his continued rhetoric.

JAMES FOX
Charlotte

How Close To Political Utopia?

The June 30 Charlotte Observer quotes one of the Voting Rights experts as saying Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's ruling in the case of the North Carolina redistricting plan was "Utopianism." Of course Utopia would be on its way to realization if we could obtain a political system in which race no longer matters. Surely a desirable state of all fair-minded people. The question is how may this be done considering the past and present attitude of the majority of citizens who exert the power?

After 1900 one Southern state after another, at their Constitutional Conventions contrived means of circumventing the 14th and 15th Amendments. It was the Grandfather Clause in Louisiana, the education test in Tennessee, the property qualification in Mississippi, the character tests in Virginia, and everywhere the poll tax and the white primary. By 1910 the Negro in the south was as completely disenfranchised as he had been under slavery.

"In 1965, the Voting Rights Act, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson suspended literacy tests and other devices found to be discriminatory as qualifications for voting in the states Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and at least 26 counties in North Carolina."

Now, North Carolina has met the requirements and the state has officially approved the 1st and 12th Congressional Districts. In 1992, the Justice Department under President Bush told the state to create two districts with a majority of black voters. It had. The Supreme Court decision unsettled what many thought was established.

One is forced to ask how far we are to the Utopia described by Sir Thomas Moore.

FLORETTA D. GUNN
Charlotte

More Emphasis On Remediation

After spending a year as a social worker in a local middle school, I wonder why we have allowed the "D" students to exist in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. I'm not talking about the Exceptionally Certified students (Learning Disabled, Mentally disabled, or Attention Deficit Hyperactive) but those students who will probably make D's and maybe an occasional "C" throughout their middle and high school years. These are students who enter middle school reading 3-4 years below grade level and will spend the next 6 years struggling to understand language arts, social studies, science, health and all courses which require them to read for information.

This past year I became just as frustrated as my students, their parents, their teachers, and their tutors (which our program provided) as they struggled to keep up with all of the written instruction. Why these students can not read their studies on grade level is not as important as how to help them catch up to where they should be.

With all of the successful reading remediation programs that are available to adults through literacy programs, why can't the same process be used with middle and high school students? Do they have to wait until they graduate from high school before learning how to read? Can we not include these remediation classes in the regular schedule without having to re-write that entire middle school curriculum?

Let us change the "D" student from despair to determined to succeed.

RITA BROWN
Charlotte

Two Rules For Foreign Policy

Welcome to the Terrodome.

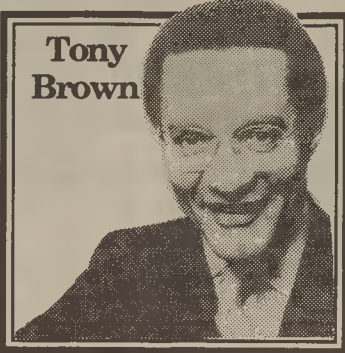
President Clinton called for a raid on Iraq's intelligence headquarters in Baghdad, which sent Tomahawk cruise missiles to do the destruction/terrorism, while once again killing innocent Muslim civilians and destroying their homes in the process. This was supposed to have been a "retaliation" against an "alleged" attempt to assassinate former President Bush. This seems more like a cleverly devised scheme created to destroy Iraq's intelligence operations.

Clinton said the attack, (which was unauthorized by the United Nations and not valid under international law) "sent the message we needed to send" against terrorism. Webster's dictionary defines terrorism as the use of terror and intimidation to gain one's political objectives. In definition, this describes the recent attack on Iraq, among others: Panama, Grenada, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, the list goes on. The so-called "terrorist" events that have been created are miniscule compared to the major terrorists events that have been committed by the beasts of this country.

Many may wonder why the U.S. was swift to "retaliate" against Iraq, but has done nothing to punish the Christian Serb aggressors against the Muslims in Bosnia. The answer is simple. It is because they are Muslim. The U.S. can not directly kill Muslims in Bosnia and have "just cause," but by not allowing this aggression they are indirectly killing Muslims in both places. Stay tuned, the double standards of the real terrorists will continue... Watch your back!

HAMPTON HOUGH
Charlotte

Who Represents Blacks?



When the political description "liberal" is used by the mainstream media, it now refers exclusively to black Democrats and, to a lesser extent, white and black feminists.

And liberal causes are now relegated to such social welfare issues as increasing the very "entitlement" programs that are driving the debt and the interest on the debt (your family's share is about \$50,000 as of this week - and growing) - without limiting even their growth or cutting the political pork payoffs that hide in the so-called "stimulus" bills.

So it's not hard to understand why budget conscious white America and a handful of blacks see the liberal Congressional Black Democratic Caucus as a group representing fringe issues. The result is that liberal blacks, virtually all black politicians, are an increasingly marginal force in American politics - despite the numerical increase in black elected officials.

Most of them will blame racism for their political isolation, but a closer look will show their politics to be the real culprit.

The flip side of this concern is the question: are blacks in Congress representing the legitimate interests of the black community or white liberal causes? Case in point: abortion.

Last week, blacks in Congress, allegedly defending the rights of poor black women

to get an abortion put a television show not seen since the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas soap opera.

According to The Washington Post, "tempers flared" after Rep. Cynthia McKinney, a black Democrat from Georgia, said she had just about had it' with the white men, Republican and Democrat, who were backing a "discriminatory policy against poor women who happen to be disproportionately black."

After the hisses died down, Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.) sponsor of the 1977 Hyde Amendment which has limited government payments for abortion to saving the life of a woman and now wants it amended to include federal funds for rape and incest victims, responded to the enraged chorus:

"We tell poor women, You can't have a job, you can't have a good education, you can't have a decent place to live. I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll give you a free abortion because there are too many of you people and we want to, kinda refine, refine the breed."

Essentially, Hyde said what black people are saying everywhere. The system prefers dead black babies to radicalizing the conditions which could make them successful as living human beings.

But the double standard doesn't permit a white, and certainly not a Republican white man like Hyde, to say what many, if not most, black people believe. So the black liberals tried to shut him up with the worn-out tactic of "racism."

"At that point," the Post said, "an angry Rep. Cardiss Collins (D-Ill.) rose and grabbed the nearest microphone. 'I'm offended by that type of debate.'"

"I'm going to direct my friend (Collins) to a few (black) ministers who will

tell her just what goes on in her community," and unimpressed Hyde shot back.

"Several other black female lawmakers quickly got out of their seats and tried unsuccessfully to respond. During a subsequent procedural vote, tempers still raged as several black women screamed at Hyde," the Post observed.

Then the abortion-on-demand black women's lobby tuned on white male Democrats as well in what the Post story called "a bizarre kind of chaos on the House floor."

Are these black politicians in step with the abortion-rights movement or the black community? The answer is readily at hand.

A poll by Home Box Office and the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a black think tank, proves that most blacks flunk the ideological abortion litmus test of these liberal feminists. Almost a majority, 47 percent of blacks, believe that abortions should be legal only under "some circumstances" - conditions very similar to the revised Hyde amendment. Only 32 percent said abortions should be legal under any circumstance, whenever you want one at government expense, as the black politicians want for poor black women.

That's why these outraged black politicians will not make these same abortion-when-you-want-it demands in the black churches where they must go to be reelected.

The Joint Center's study also found that 33 percent of blacks consider their political views to be "conservative," 31 percent "moderate" and only 28 percent "liberal."

So who does this tin-cup brigade of fringe liberals represent?

TONY BROWN is a nationally-syndicated columnist.

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The Images We Show Our Children

By Dr. Paula Newsome
SPECIAL TO THE POST

What type of images are we showing our children? Who are we acknowledging and glorifying in our society? Two recent incidences on television occurred that

have bothered me. Let me share with you why I am troubled.

First I, like most of the world, enjoy basketball. I am attracted to the visual imagery of these human beings having to run, jump, shoot and think all at the same time. The beauty of that sport is unsurpassed in my book. During the NBA playoffs, however, I was constantly exposed to a "color analyst" who had difficulty making his subjects and verbs agree and who overused the verb "be." This person has also publicly touted his sexual exploits with little regard for how his wife may feel at this public disclosure. He bragged about his lifestyle, which was fraught with excesses and abuse of responsibility. Is this person, Magic Johnson, the only African in America NBC could find? I think not.

So the message as I see it is, don't worry about learning much in school, don't worry about learning adequate communication skills, don't worry about being irresponsible because if you're a big enough basketball talent or star, we will still pay you big bucks to stand in front of our children night in and night out and it is all okay!

Friday night, I just happened to watch Arsenio Hall and I was sorry I did. Women were constantly being degraded and talked to as if being good sexual partners were all our daughters could aspire to do. I was even more shocked at Bell Biv DeVoe's performance of a new tune with scantily clad women dancing in a sexually exploitive manner. I thought I was watching a burlesque performance instead of a late night talk show. The final click of the remote control came when BBD surrounded this female in the center of a circle making lewd and suggestive motions and the five males encircling her. It looked like what we used to call a "train" and what today may be called "gang rape."

It is no wonder to me that Magic Johnson and Arsenio Hall are good friends. They both have a very different sense of values. The bottom line for them is money, not the messages they may be sending.

While Africans in America do not launch mass writing campaigns to the media we ought to do so in these cases. While I always support Africans in America "making it," I have come to discover that at what expense people are making it is even more important to me.

Let's let Arsenio know that holding one's crotch on television and using profanity actually makes us turn off the television set instead of turning it on. Let's let NBC know that we love Magic and our support, but let's get an African commentator who took the time to pay attention in English class.

We as adults have to constantly look at the images we are showing our children.

DR. PAULA NEWSOME is a Charlotte optometrist.

U.S. Shouldn't 'Help' Somalia

By James Stroud
SPECIAL TO THE POST

It was less than one year ago (December 1992) that the U.S. undertook its relief, rescue, and peace restoration mission in Somalia.

The world was reminded daily of the starvation of millions of women and children fleeing the wrath of Somalia's warlords the collapse of any form of government, and the utter chaos that resulted.

The U.S. and UN pondered, considered and debated for years ('90-'92) just what to do to help the beleaguered country in the face of world opinion. It seemed as though they were worried that some of the world body would disapprove of the leadership of the U.S. in rescuing that country from its hand wringing, and indecision while crying large "crocodile" tears.

Finally a decision was made by George Bush to save some of his dignity as a defeated politico by going out of office as a world hero by releasing U.S. troops and arms to free up the ports at Mogadishu. Mind if you will, there had been ships sponsored by various world health organizations sitting within sight of the besieged city with up to 50,000 tons of food and medicine for weeks, and even months. These relief supplies rotted while the world watched Somali warlords henchmen, thugs, and thieves parade openly without fear of any consequence, but back to the main point:

With the U.S. taking the lead, (and the UN waiting for permission to help the city of Mogadishu was taken from the roving gangs, order restored, people fed, Band Aids passed out, and the U.S. was shown as a hero of humanitarianism, but whoa!

Whatever happened to those warlords who caused the need for this rescue in the first place? What happened to those roving bands that were killing unarmed relief workers to steal the meager supplies? Where did all the bad guys go?

Reports numbered less than 100 the number of gangsters, thugs and thieves captured, arrested and/or killed. Strange!

Meanwhile, the news was that the warlords were holding council, and meeting with the U.S. and UN officials to work out "settlements"?

After a few months, all was declared much better, and the U.S. troops came home, leaving the "peacekeeping" forces of the UN to hold things together. This was in the interest of rebuilding the city/country.

Now here we are again. They're back.

These same warlords. The most outstanding one in the person of "general" (of what army)? Mohamed Farrah Aidid.

Other Minorities Proactive In Dealing With Bigotry

William Reed
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Whenever African Americans are wronged in American society, they do everything possible to demonstrate, have the world contemplate, and fully illustrate that act of discrimination. You will hear about

how "they done me wrong" from the hurt party, and if it is a really bad act of prejudice or racism, more than the normal that we encounter day-to-day, you will hear about the act, or read about it, in the general community media. But, a question for the African American community, which has found itself in this situation so many times, to ponder, is

that: "Is it probable that Asians, Arabs and Jews get discriminated against in American society too? What do they do when they find that they don't get served at a restaurant, or turned away from a hotel, or forbidden to see the girl, or boy, of their dreams? Do they act like us and try to make everybody guilty? They don't get mad, they just get even.