

WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

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A Tragic Progression

by Dr. Kenneth R. Williams
Chancellor WSSU

Inaugural ceremonies of presidents of the United States were held on March 4 for many years. This was, of course, five months after they had been elected. The March 4 date was chosen to give the newly elected presidents ample time to travel from their homes to the nation's capitol.

Viking I, an unmanned spacecraft, launched by scientists of the United States, began sending pictures from Mars on June 19. The craft was one thousand miles from the planet Mars at that time. These early pictures and others received since June 19 were so clear and definite that the July 4 scheduled landing of the spacecraft has been scrapped as the scientists search the surface of the planet for a landing sight better than the one they had chosen.

These illustrations, one from the eighteenth century and one from our times, illustrates dramatically the progress that Americans have made in the last two hundred years in conquering time and space. They represent a tremendous accomplishment on one hand and a pathetic tragedy on the other.

It is tragic to realize that we have developed our minds to the point that we are able to land men on the moon, send pictures to the earth from Mars, mass produce almost anything that comes to mind, conquer practically every disease but still find it impossible to live together in peace, harmony and prosperity.

This country after two hundred years is plagued with problems that it seems unable to solve. There is no logical reason why the extreme poverty that can be found in every state of the Union should exist in a country that has the capacity to produce what this country has. No really thoughtful person would attempt to justify a system that says to bright eyed, intelligent little children that they belong only among the outcasts and must become reconciled to that fact early in their lives. It must take years of practice for a person to reach the point when he is able to sing with gusto, "In Christ there is no East or West, in Him no North or South", while saying to his fellow tax-payer, I will fight to the finish to give all that I have to maintain the lines that separate us.

The Founding Fathers had a dream. They have us the guidelines for a great society. Faced, as they were, with the dilemma of standing at the crossroads of human history where tradition, ancient authoritarianism and new ideologies met, they could be expected to do little more than point the way. This they did. Succeeding generations have failed them in many ways. Americans have done a commendable job of improving everything but themselves.

There is ample evidence that Americans living in the last quarter of the twentieth century differ very little from those who

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N. BARBEC
7-76
SOUTH AFRICAN RODEO

To Be Equal By Vernon Jordan, Jr.

July 4th is finally upon us, the culmination of the months-old Bicentennial build-up largely devoid of content.

It's too bad, because flag-waving isn't enough, rampant commercialism that wraps products in red, white and blue, isn't enough, and pious declarations of a mythical past just aren't enough.

A proper Bicentennial observance would re-examine the ideals that led to the founding of this nation and the gap between those ideals and the reality of today. And a Bicentennial should be a time of national debate to formulate goals for the next century.

Very little of this kind of national self-examination has taken place. The old myths have been reinforced and the hypocrisy that was so blatant in our past and is so strong today has largely gone unchallenged.

It is almost forgotten that the Founding Fathers included a disproportionate number of slaveholders, including Jefferson, the man who wrote the immortal words of the Declaration of Independence "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Small wonder then, that an Englishman of the period complained "How is it we

hear the loudest yelps for liberty from the drivers of Negroes?"

The hypocrisy Samuel Johnson castigated continued as blacks were enslaved for almost the first hundred years of the nation's history and kept in peonage and second-class citizenship since then. Even the precious right to vote was denied blacks in the South until passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

But this does not dim the truth of the words enshrined in the Declaration, it only testifies to the immoralities of the men who shaped our constantly changing society.

And it should not blind us to the tremendous impact the American Revolution has had on the world.

The Revolution fought for ideas of equality and for government based on the consent of the governed inspired the world-wide movement toward greater freedom and justice and today is an inspiration even to those revolutionaries in colonial countries whom our government has opposed.

But here at home it sometimes seems as if blacks have few allies in trying to make the Bicentennial relevant.

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Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:

I wish to express my appreciation to Congressman Stephen Neal for his vote in favor of the HEW appropriation bill, which included the funds for the National Cancer Institute. Lives are already being saved. His vote means that still more will be saved as the recent clinical advances are extended throughout the nation.

I recommend that those to whom the Conquest of Cancer is important vote for him in the November election.

Yours truly,
Solomon Corb, M.D.,

Chairman
Citizens' Committee for the
Conquest of Cancer

Dear Editor,

I think it is high time women should know the difference in clothes when buying them. Halters and shorts are for beach wear or around the house. A woman should have more morals than to wear such things downtown on public streets. It is open temptation for our men.

There's no wonder why so many cases of rape appear here in our city. The law should be passed forbidding women and teenagers from wearing halters and shorts downtown. Children through age 9 years is all right for them to wear this.

No, I am not trying to tell

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