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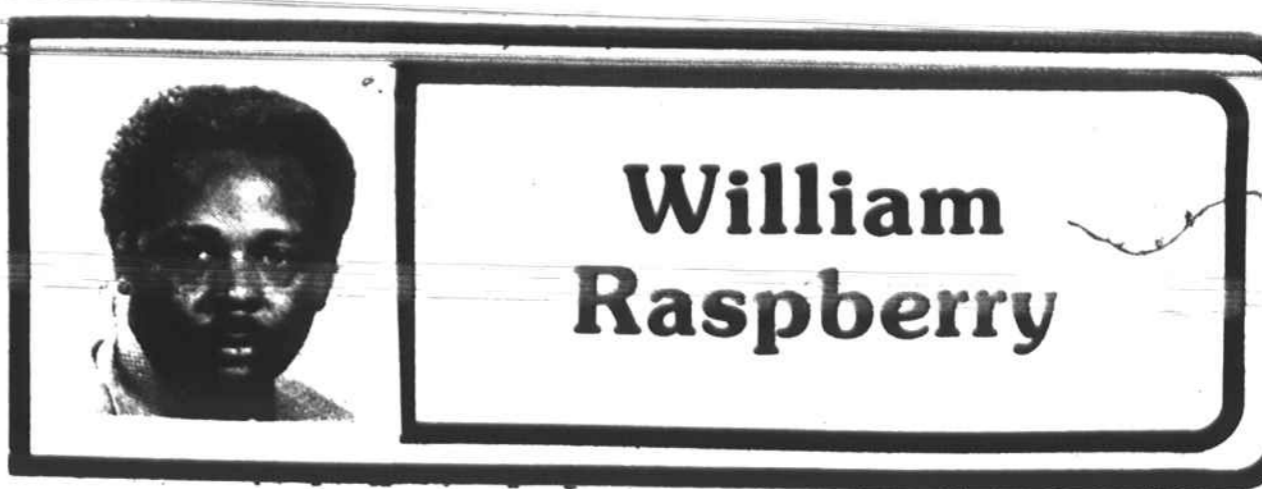
Elaine L. Pitt Office Manager

Affirmative Action Races Its Demise

Washington - It was a beautiful windup.

"If a person is denied employment because of race, national origin or sex," the assistant attorney general for civil rights said, "the consequences may well be so serious as to make other civil rights largely academic. For example, access to equality of housing opportunity has little practical significance if an individual is discriminated against in the job-market and cannot earn a wage to purchase decent housing. Similarly, a diploma becomes less valuable if it fails to open doors to positions for which the person was trained."

Then came the delivery: a sweeping curve so wide of the plate as to constitute a wild pitch. Or a bean ball. William Bradford



William Raspberry

Reynolds, the administration official charged with civil rights enforcement, called for an end to affirmative action as generally understood.

"We no longer will insist upon, or in any respect support, the use of quotas or any other numerical statistical formulae designed to provide to non-victims of discrimination preferential treatment based on

race, sex, national origin or religion."

It was a definition calculated to cut the moral ground from under affirmative action. After all, who (except white men, for whom it is a matter of routine) can countenance preferential treatment for "non-victims of discrimination?"

Reynolds' proposal, offered in testimony at a con-

gressional hearing on affirmative action, was for handling discrimination complaints only on a case-by-case basis, which is to say a proposal for not handling them at all, save in the most flagrant of cases.

The remarkable thing is that he seems to understand the problem that led to such concepts as "goals and timetables" for correcting racially skewed hiring pat-

terns. Affirmative action, originally promulgated by President Lyndon Johnson, involved expanded recruitment of minority applicants. It quickly became apparent, however, that employers who wished to continue to discriminate could do so, even while casting a wider recruitment net. The question arose as to what might properly be done if such an employer met the Johnson requirement by interviewing impressive numbers of minorities without significantly changing his hiring patterns.

The answer: insist on changed results - or at the very least an explanation of why the results hadn't changed.

Reynolds, naturally, describes it differently. Some, he said, "were impatient with the progress of minorities and began to urge use of new hiring requirements designed to achieve immediate numerical equality among the races in the place of work."

He would handle the recalcitrant employer by supporting suits by individual applicants who could show they had been discriminated against in the personnel office. Lots of luck. To begin with, the person who is rejected by a large company usually cannot know who got "his" job, let alone whether his qualifications were equal or better. Under the present rules, the rejected applicant could point to the death of minorities or females on the employer's workforce as evidence of discrimination. If the complaints were upheld, the employer could be required to do something about the make-up of his staff.

Not under the Reynolds rule. To the extent that "doing something" about evident discrimination involved a requirement to hire members of a discriminated-against group - without regard to whether the individuals hired had themselves been discriminated against by the employer - it would amount to preferential treatment at the expense of white potential employees: reverse discrimination.

Where an applicant is able to prove that he has been discriminated against, Reynolds would require that he be hired and -another big windup - "seek injunctive relief directing the employer to make future employment decisions on a non-discriminatory, race-neutral and sex-neutral basis."

Then: "To ensure that the injunction is followed, we will require as part of the remedy that the employer make special efforts to reach minority or female workers through comprehensive use of employment recruitment techniques, such as media advertising and visiting high schools and college campuses... (and) regularly file records detailing its recruitment efforts and revealing the number of minority and female applicants being attracted." He would even seek, "Where appropriate," percentage recruitment goals.

And again the wide-breaking pitch: Reynolds is talking recruitment, not hiring. This whole elaborate scheme of injunctions and follow-up and record-filing deals only with getting minority applicants. Victims of discrimination could tell him that it doesn't help a lot to require a biased employer to take your application. It's getting the job that counts.

A Myth At UNC

White people - at least many of them - believe that black people are not quite as intellectually gifted as they.

When we attend predominantly white colleges and universities, for example, they claim that most of us do so under relaxed admissions standards.

That's just not right, they say. Whites have to work so hard to get in, they argue, and lose their spots to blacks with lesser credentials.

Well, a couple of years ago, Associate Dean Hayden Renwick of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a black man, accused the school of failing to admit qualified black students and, in numerous cases, admitting white students with considerably weaker academic credentials.

Those "special cases" included sons

and daughters of alumni who had very low SAT scores and athletes with same.

Some black applicants denied admission were National Achievement scholars, among the cream of the crop of rising black freshmen.

And UNC tells HI-W that the pool of "qualified" black applicants is too small. We beg to differ.

Renwick's accusations caused considerable furor on the UNC campus, but the local media all but ignored them. Many of the state's larger daily papers, for instance, shunned investigative coverage - or any other - on the matter, electing instead to criticize the state's black institutions.

And the University of North Carolina neither fired Renwick, reprimanded him, nor responded to his allegations.

We think we know why.

Put That Ball Down

Here's some food for thought for those of you who plan to be professional athletes:

According to a 1974 University of Colorado study, only one black person in every 18,000 made a living in sports.

Only one out of every 6,000 black males in the 18-64 age group played professionally, the study added.

In a 1974 New York Times study, 200,000 high school seniors played basketball and 5,700 college seniors played the game. Only 211 of those college seniors were drafted by the pros,

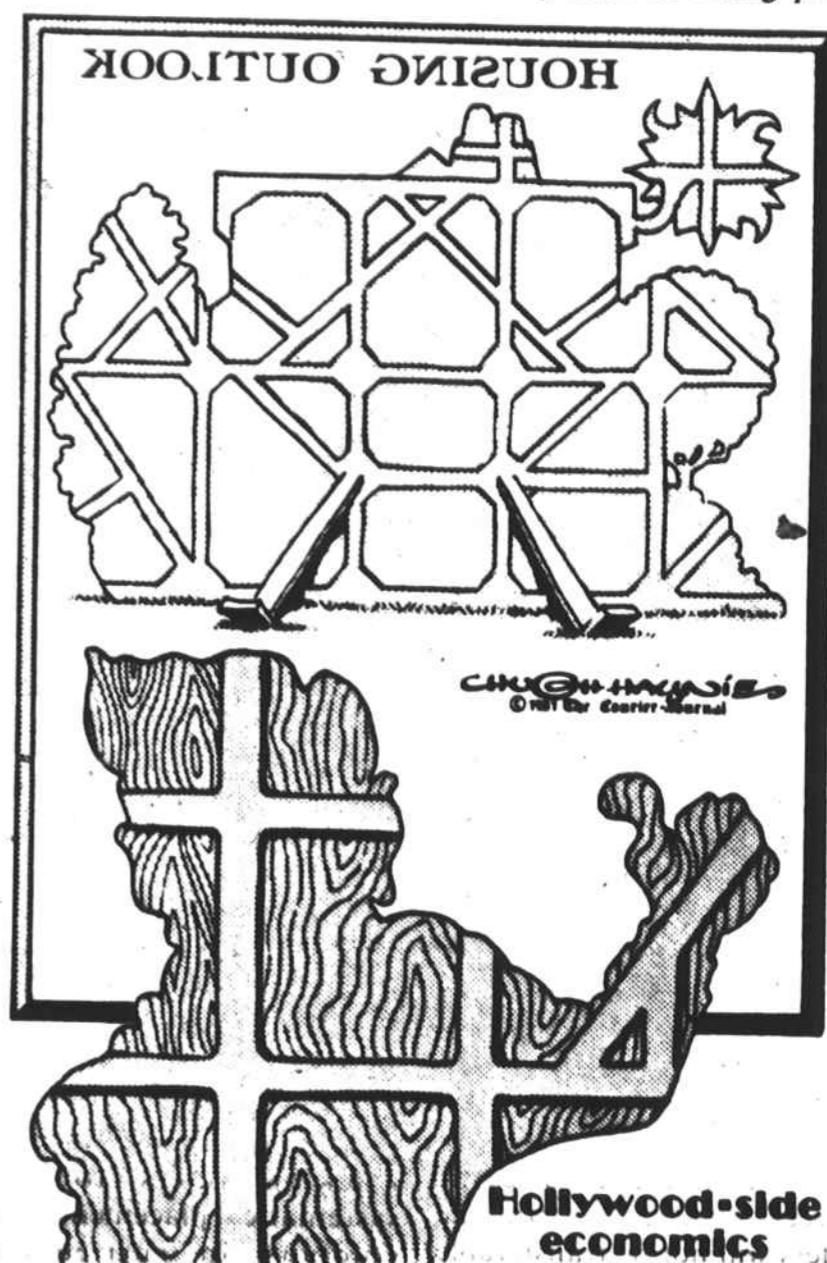
though, and a grand total of 55 signed contracts.

Today, with only one professional basketball league, about 20 rookies annually get a spot among 284 pro players.

As far as football is concerned, only one out of every 1,000 high school football players makes it to the professional ranks.

Those statistics are as good a reason as any for black youth to do their homework.

And for black parents to make sure of it.



Rev. Warner R. Durnell

HOW WE SEE IT

Father Michael B. Curry

"Is Abortion Murder?"

We have been asked this past week, "Where was your article?" Yes, a search through last week's Chronicle would not have uncovered the whereabouts of our article. The truth of the matter is, we were unable to write it in time for printing. Our debate over this highly controversial series of articles on issues that in one way or another involve the taking of human life (abortion, euthanasia, war and capital punishment) has been unusually lengthy. We have been divided in our opinion and have found it difficult to arrive at a consensus. After a little give and take on both sides, we dare to share our beliefs. First, on the question: "Is abortion murder?"

The sixth commandment states, "Thou shalt not kill." (Exodus 20:13) A more accurate translation is: "Do not commit murder." (Good News Bible) God has placed an extremely high value on human life. Human life is to be preserved and respected. However, there are times in which the justifiable taking of human life is consistent with the command to preserve and respect human life (see "How We See It," October 22, 1981). It is our contention that under some circumstances, abortion is a means of preserving and respecting life, while at the same time being forced to take a life.

We believe that abortion is morally permissible only in such cases where (1) carrying the fetus to full term would cause severe physical harm to the woman and/or infant. However, where modern medical services are available, the conflict between the obligations is often reducible; (2) pregnancy is the result of incest or rape. Here abortion is a means of protection against further harm for a woman who has already been the victim of violence; (3) pregnancy and the responsibility of rearing a child would be too great of a psychological and emotional strain on a minor or even an adult. Before an abortion in these cases of psychic stress, supportive resources, which would enable the teenager or woman to cope with child bearing and rearing,

should be sought out first.

We firmly believe that abortion for reasons of birth control, unwanted children and deprived socioeconomic circumstances, in and of themselves, do not constitute the justifiable taking of human life. The fetus is a form of human life. From the beginning the fetus has its own genetic endowment, different from that of either mother or father. True, a fetus is not a fully developed human life, and should not be treated as such. It lacks characteristics of consciousness and personality which makes us fully human. It is incapable of surviving outside the womb until its nervous and circulatory systems are developed during the gestation period. But having said all this, the fetus is human life in potential, and to take it for reasons other than out of a need to preserve and respect life that is already fully developed, i.e. the woman, is unjustifiable.

As we earlier stated, the unjustifiable taking of life is murder. This does not mean that abortion is an illegitimate moral choice in every situation, only in those cases where it is the choice of a woman and society that seeks to make its life less burdensome.

In summation, there are no simple solutions to most serious abortion questions. It is a conflict between life and life. This means that there will always be a tragic dimension to any decision for abortion. There are cases where abortion may be morally permissible; otherwise, we are forced to call a spade a spade: it's murder. Either way, God forgive us!

Send your opinions to:
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27102

Letters To The Editor

Educational Interest And Needs Of Blacks

To The Editor:

Many thanks for the Chronicle's coverage of the various community organization's efforts to provide programs that address the educational interests and needs of Black people. A special thanks is also given to Ms. Marilyn Truesdale, new program administrator for resources in the minority community, for planning as her premiere program a discussion of education and the black child.

In this climate of Reaganomics and the resulting constant uproar from (some) Congressmen and the general public over budget cuts of social programs; we could easily lose sight of the federal government's more subtle moves toward cutting, and possibly eliminating of educational programs and services.

In fact, historically and traditionally, schools have been our primary social institution.

And for Blacks, they have been the major, and in many cases, the only means for upward social and economic mobility. Lack of federal assurances for a free and appropriate education for our children would be the ultimate blow in virtually eliminating future serious black challenges to the social structure, economic and political powers in this country.

Each parent, each public and community organization should seriously concern itself with providing

information and participating in dialogues and efforts to raise the consciousness of concerns about where the black child stands in the educational system.

Is he or she losing ground or falling through the cracks? Are gains being made or lost? Where has the black child come since Brown v. Board of Education 1954? What can be

done by parent and community now that the federal government appears to be gradually relinquishing its mandates for financial support of education of the masses?

Issues that should be watched very closely in the near future include repeals of education acts, repeal of the Voting Rights Act, competency testing, tax breaks for parents who send their

children to private schools, further cuts in educational services (breakfast, lunch programs, Title programs, support personnel, etc.), block grants to states wherein the state determines how the money will be used for education, Supreme Court rulings on use of federal money for busing (desegregation), etc.

Rhonda Covington

Clarify The Quotation

To The Editor:

I wish to clarify the quotation appearing in the Chronicle's (October 29, 1981) coverage of the YWCA-sponsored panel discussion of "Education and the Black Child":

The basic program with the black child preparing for college deals with tracking, or being misled.

This statement is confusing and, in addition to being taken out of context, is misleading. It is misleading in the sense that tracking might be viewed as the only important issue relevant to Blacks at the secondary educational level. There are many more issues, e.g., unfair and disproportionate suspensions, grading systems, black history, the killing of the self-concept, etc. These problems are probably found in any school in any city in this country. Furthermore, the basic

program (in WS/FC schools) does not deal per se with tracking. It is a program designed to meet the academic skill level of a stu-

dent. Granted, some students are in basic programs who can function successfully at more difficult levels.

See page 5

Corpening And WSSU

To the Editor:

Your editorial describing Mayor Wayne Corpening's relationship with Winston-Salem State was inaccurate. In fairness to Mayor Corpening and out

of appreciation for his invaluable assistance to our university, I would like to publicly acknowledge his support.

In his multiple role as Mayor, member of the UNC

See page 5

"Food For Thought"

To the Editor:

I just want to take this opportunity to tell you that I enjoy very much Mrs. Naomi McLean's articles in the Chronicle. These articles are very

inspiring and contain a wealth of "food for thought". I look forward to reading them weekly.

Vivian H. Burke,
Alderman