

Crosswinds

Dungeon Sunlight?

From The Fayetteville Times

North Carolinians are apparently much more willing than criminal justice policymakers have been to give nonviolent criminals a chance to pay their debt to society outside prison walls.

A statewide poll by the 1982 Citizens Survey found two-thirds of those questioned favored the "community group home" approach, allowing nonviolent criminals to work off their crime in a restitution program. Nine out of 10 favored the current programs getting underway in more than a dozen locations, which allow offenders to pay off their victims through community service work, or through a portion of their earnings at a job. Moore County's program for young offenders has already become a model for that sort of program. Cumberland County has a program fitting private or public work for individual offenders. About one defendant a week is now being kept out of prison and on a job by the program.

These approaches to reducing the jammed prisons, where three inmates are crowded into spaces meant for two, have barely gotten off the ground, but it must be said that they have become extremely popular with many judges.

They are the result of a pioneering study done by a non-profit commission headed by Judge Willis Whichard of the State Court of Appeals and financed by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

That study found that 55 percent of the state's prison population consists of nonviolent offenders, people whose crime did not involve any sort of physical harm to anybody else. Naturally, a large stock of this group did include people whose crime had meant financial loss or cost to their victims.

The "alternatives to incarceration" which this toughminded but humane study group devised, surely point the way toward a criminal justice system emphasizing restitution through work outside prison walls and fences.

The commission's carefully-wrought recommendations are like a window opened on a fetid dungeon. They suggest practical ways in which lives can be salvaged and redeemed outside of the prisons which so often are breeding places for more crime.

As a result of the Whichard study and its recommendations, more than 20 programs are either underway or on the drawing boards in various places in the state to put into practice the alternative approaches. So far, the effort has largely been a nongovernmental one. The program in Moore County, for instance, has harnessed the altruism and community spirit, and the time, of civic club members who supervise young offenders in various self-supporting work projects (wood-cutting, tree-growing.)

The results of the public opinion survey adds new impetus to the approach. They should also hearten the governmental policymakers, the administrators, legislators, and the governor, to dare to grasp this opportunity to move North Carolina out of its present dark age as the state which puts more of its people behind bars, fences, and barbed wire than any other. The evidence grows that there is widespread public support for a more humane, a more workable way to exact society's debt from people caught in the web of justice.

Meeting The Challenge

Our crumbling but venerable old friend, the Patterson Avenue Y, won't be around much longer.

Once the wrecking ball levels the modest, 30-year-old structure, a more modern, sleekly designed successor will have begun to rise at Winston Lake -- if fundraising efforts to finance the project continue to go smoothly.

One aspect of that drive is a \$100,000 challenge grant from the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation that stipulates only that 1,000 contributions must be made to the Y's current gifts campaign by members of the black community. That, in other words, means that 1,000 black folk need only fill out a slip of paper and give at least a dollar to the cause for the challenge money to go to the Y.

And although the money trickles in steadily, the challenge should have been met days after it was issued.

To date, however, the halfway mark still has yet to be reached.

It reminds us of the campaign to build the Patterson Y in the 30s, which stalled for so long that the weather-beaten future-site sign collapsed decades before the first brick was laid -- more than two decades later.

By no means is this to suggest that the campaign has fared badly. To the contrary. But let's go ahead and get the thousand contributions out of the way -- and our new Y on its way.

About Letters

The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor as well as guest columns. Letters should be typed or neatly printed and concise in length. They should also include the full name, address and phone number of the writer.

Letters should be addressed to Chronicle Letters, Winston-Salem Chronicle, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.



Liberal Carpetbaggers Real Losers

By TONY BROWN
 Syndicated Columnist

Two days before his birthday, Harold Washington became the first African-American mayor of America's second-largest city.

Although it was only a hairbreadth victory of 41,000 votes over an inept opponent whose major asset was being white, it was nevertheless historic and rife with national implications. It will give the black community's anti-Reagan sentiment a new shot in the arm; it may even go from 98 percent to 98.1 percent.



Brown

Besides, the Republicans are not counting on the black vote to win anyway; Reagan's victory was a landslide without it in 1980. The white liberal-carpetbaggers in the Democratic party are the real losers, not racism in Chicago. Frantic editorials in all of the white-carpetbagger press and old Carter administration liberals are warning blacks that political power under their control is detrimental to their future.

Reminds you of a line, written by a white man, from "Porgy and Bess": "I got plenty of nothing and nothing's plenty for me." Afraid that the field hands may be coming into their own by running a black candidate in the Democratic primaries and developing leverage over the ultimate white winner, Hamilton Jordan, Jimmy Carter's chief of staff, warned: "There is one danger in this strategy. While there is talk every four years of 'brokered conventions' -- promoted by the very people who dream of being the brokers -- the fact is that in the past seven presidential elections in both parties, one candidate arrived at the convention with the lead in delegates and went on to receive the nomination of his party."

"Consequently, one of the risks of a black candidate hoping to play broker is that by the time the convention begins, there would be nothing left to broker. If this happened, not only would the black influence be unfelt at the convention, but the candidate(s) most deserving of black support would also find their black votes siphoned off to the black candidate. So the nominee of the party would arrive at the convention without the help of black voters and with less of an obligation to address their concerns."

He concluded his false logic with the old disunity appeal: "They should measure carefully the risk and consequences of manning a campaign that, if successful in uniting black leaders and voters, would put all of their political eggs in the basket of a single candidate/broker, and, if unsuccessful, would split the black community and dilute their ultimate influence."

Another white liberal newspaper called Washington's appeal to a black power base racist. It also asserted that Washington was unqualified because he wanted to dismantle a crooked white-ethnic, anti-black political machine.

Before Washington, Chicago's mayors were "qualified" because they were willing to run a crooked machine. And if Washington had ignored a black power base, in the name of the best man winning on the basis of appealing solely to whites, would he be the mayor of Chicago today?

The fact that our future in this country depends on helping one another has not gone unnoticed. We know that giving and not getting politically is political genocide. We also know that the Democrats are petrified at the new assertion of black political power.

The Democratic white ethnics are going to go Republican in droves, hoping to preserve their "racist" advantages. The candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination will, of necessity, move to the left,

and nearer food stamps, affirmative action and jobs programs. And, as a consequence, move too far to the left to be elected by an increasingly conservative electorate.

But who cares? If the Democratic party needs the exploitation of the black community to win, because of racism, then it deserves to lose. If that party's nominee is only acceptable if he ignores the issues of his black constituents, then how can he represent their best interests? He can't.

The logic to punish the Democrats in 1984 is overwhelming. The logic to simply line up behind the lesser of the racist-evils is suicidal.

A black Marxist has called for a "progressive" black candidate to appeal to the Latinos, trade unionists and "liberal blocs." He means white communists. Being one who sabotaged the National Black Independent Political Party's early ability to effect a plan to put forth a viable candidate to represent black interests, he simply wants to substitute white communist domination for white Democratic domination. But, like Jesse Jackson, he knows a good idea when he sees one. This Marxist "race-relations" expert should run a black, but as a Marxist for the Communist party's candidacy.

And why don't the black Republicans use this opportunity to run a black for the GOP nomination and force black issues on the Republican Party's agenda? No matter how small their constituency, they are members of the ruling party and, as a result, will be listened to. It would give them the platform and the opportunity to articulate their principles in a black context.

Of course, that leaves independents like myself to hope that all of the party affiliating of our black brothers and sisters will work, for a change, for the African-American community.

"Tony Brown's Journal," the television series, can be seen on public television Sundays on Channel 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Chicago, Winston Not So Different

By CLIFTON E. GRAVES JR.
 Chronicle Columnist

For the past several months, the electronic and print media have understandably devoted an extraordinary amount of time and space to coverage of the Chicago mayoral race, which, as you know, was won by black candidate Harold Washington.



Graves

Brother Washington's significant victory has rekindled the hopes and aspirations of African-Americans nationwide. From Birmingham to Boston, Louisville to Los Angeles, New Orleans to New York, and Washington to Winston, black people are filled with inspiration and buzzing with anticipation as pending local and national elections draw near.

And while it is imperative that we keep Washington's victory (and, in-

deed, the entire electoral process) in its proper perspective (i.e., a means to an end, not an end in itself), we must nonetheless capitalize on the momentum generated by the Chicago victory, and begin to work now toward the galvanization of our collective political muscle.

Yes, if we heed the lesson of Chicago, analyze the *modus operandi* of its extensive grass-roots voter registration/education drive, and implement a similar program geared toward our particular needs, then, who knows? Maybe Winston-Salem can elect a black mayor as soon as 1985.

Now, surely there are cynics among you who smirk at such a suggestion. First of all, you cynics say, "Black folk won't vote." Second, "White folk won't vote for a black candidate." And third, "There aren't any 'qualified' potential black candidates around."

Well, this writer respectfully disagrees with all of the above assertions, for the following reasons:

•National and local statistics reflect the fact that black folk will turn out

and vote when there are black candidates seeking office.

•Recent elections indicate that, in the campaigns of Tom Bradley (California), Andrew Young (Atlanta), Allan Wheat (Kansas, City) and even Harold Washington, segments of the white community can be nurtured and counted upon for support. Further, even with a sizeable population of "red-necks" and "blue-bloods" present in our community, Larry Womble, Mazie Woodruff, Charlie B. Hauser, Beaufort Bailey and Annie Brown Kennedy have proven that there are enlightened whites who will judge candidates not by race alone.

•There are at least 10 competent, committed and electable black men and women in this city capable of administering the office of the mayor. (Incidentally, aldermen Larry Little and Virginia Newell top this writer's list of possible mayoral candidates.)

Thus, given the above facts -- coupled with an all-out, concerted voter registration/education drive (beginning yesterday), involving

Politics And Race

By JOHN E. JACOB
 Guest Columnist

Harold Washington's election as mayor of Chicago was a stunning victory, bringing an exhilarating feeling of pride and power to black people. It also says a lot about the volatile mixture of race and politics in this America of 1983.

As the designated candidate of the Democratic Party and the winner of its primary, Washington should have won easily; the Democratic nomination has meant landslide victory on Election Day for the past 50 years.

Yet the election was a close one, with most whites defecting to the Republican candidate. Apologists can offer lots of reasons but none of them hold water. If Washington had been white, he would have had the general election locked up on Primary Day.

There is no getting around the fact that race was the only real issue in the campaign. And that resulted in one of the ugliest election campaigns in memory, even for Chicago, a city where politics is almost a blood sport.

It is tragic that so large a majority of white voters could not bring themselves to vote for a black candidate of their own party. Some didn't even know the name of the candidate they did vote for, telling reporters they intended to "vote for the white guy."

Even more deeply tragic was the way their racist poison infected even small children. I saw schoolkids interviewed by television reporters saying they were for Washington's opponent "because he's white."

The most ridiculous explanation of this phenomenon that I have heard is that there's nothing wrong with voting for a white candidate since blacks were almost unanimous in their support for Washington.

But there's a big difference. When blacks vote for a black candidate, it is a positive act of pride; a positive step toward affirming their group's inclusion in the decision-making that affects their lives. We saw a very similar effect back in 1960 when Irish Americans turned out to vote for John F. Kennedy for the same reasons of pride and at last getting one of their own into the power structure.

But when whites vote against a black candidate because of his race, it is a negative act; a refusal to

Please see page 5

Chronicle Letters

Jackson's 'Candidacy'

To The Editor:

Recently, I read a letter in your paper stating that the Rev. Jesse Jackson, director of Operation PUSH, could not qualify to become president of the United States.

Jackson was born in South Carolina, and received his education in North Carolina, graduating from North Carolina A&T State University.

The qualifications for being president of the United States are to be a natural citizen of the United States and to be 35 years of age. So Jackson would qualify.

When will we as black people make change for us? Don't black folks qualify to make decisions for other people?

We never ask for the qualifications of someone else; we just vote for names.

President Lincoln did great things for Americans as did Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, to name a few.

Jesse Jackson is as natural born an American as they were.

Rufus Pearson
 Winston-Salem

Constructive Criticism

To The Editor:

As a subscriber to the Chronicle, which I think is a very good weekly

Please see page 5