

Winston-Salem Chronicle

Founded 1974

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The victory margin

From the North Carolina Black Press.

Gov. Jim Hunt says he wants to be the nation's number one education senator. He says he wants to make education the federal government's top priority.

At the same time, he admits these are long range objectives. Gov. Hunt's number one priority, should he become North Carolina's freshman senator, is to help the government reduce, maybe even erase, the huge federal budget deficits.

Gov. Hunt wants North Carolinians to vote for that basic agenda November 6 in his effort to unseat incumbent senator Jesse Helms.

Questioned last week by a team of award-winning reporters and editors from four of the state's top black newspapers, Gov. Hunt laid that agenda out in clear, precise terms.

The publishers of these four newspapers — the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*, *The Carolina Times*, the *Iredell County News* and the *Carolina Peacemaker* — invited the governor to come before North Carolina's black press and answer a series of hardhitting questions on issues ranging from the Black Agenda to Economic Development.

The publishers also invited Sen. Helms to the session for the same purpose. Sen. Helms did not reply to the invitation. This, of course, raises serious questions about Sen. Helms' willingness to represent all of North Carolina's citizens.

But Gov. Hunt came and the three-tier foundation of his senatorial bid, as he outlined it, is to reduce the deficits, balance the budget and make America the world's best educated nation.

Specifically, Gov. Hunt's educational agenda as U.S. Senator from North Carolina looks like this:

• He supports a moderate increase in federal education spending in math and science programs to attract more young students to those fields earlier in their educational careers.

• Until the federal budget deficits begin coming down, state and local governments, in Hunt's scenario, must continue and even increase their strong support of public education.

• The federal government must work to get the deficits down, hopefully within four years.

• Once the deficits are manageable, and the economy is firmly on an upswing, the federal government must then make education its top priority.

As the governor said: "Making the very best education possible available to all of its people so everyone can achieve to the peak of his/her potential is the greatest investment this nation can make in its future."

It all sounds good!

But in trying to make a decision in this Senate race — probably the most vicious and certainly the most expensive in the nation's history — black voters face three mind-boggling challenges.

The first challenge is to erase the traditional mindset of voting for the so-called lesser of two evils. Black voters, rather, must evaluate these candidates, both on their respective records and based upon a hardnosed, objective assessment of future needs.

That is not an easy task!

For if the national objective is to return to "those days of old," when America, as the Bible says of Israel, "...was in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep," then Sen. Helms has been a formidable politician.

But if America's future can best be described in the words of *The Negro National Anthem*: "...facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on 'til victory dawn.

So the question in this race is not a choice of the lesser of two evils, but rather which future do you see for America, and who appears to be better equipped and more eager to work for that future?

The second challenge facing voters, particularly black voters in this super-charged senatorial race, is to be able to overcome the intense emotionalism that has accompanied this battle from the beginning, and evaluate the records objectively.

The question is what has Gov. Hunt done, and to what extent does that indicate what he is likely to do?

The third challenge is probably the most difficult. That is the responsibility to hold the next senator accountable to all constituents.

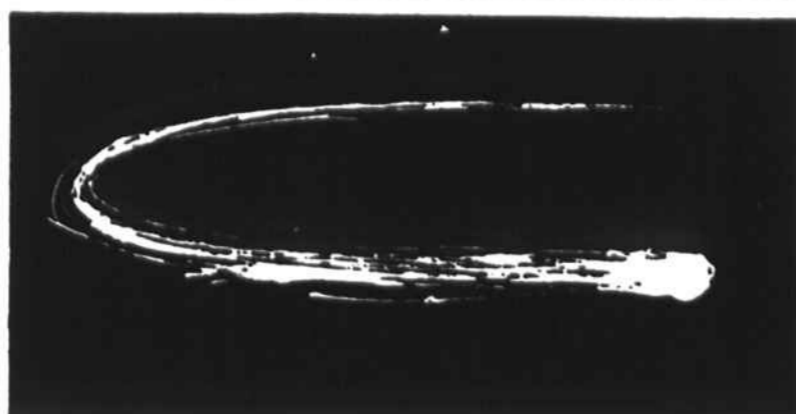
Governor Hunt said some very interesting — even encouraging — things during the nearly two-hour interview. Among other things, he said:

• As senator, he will insist that the U.S. Justice Department vigorously prosecute documented cases of Klan attacks and racially directed violence.

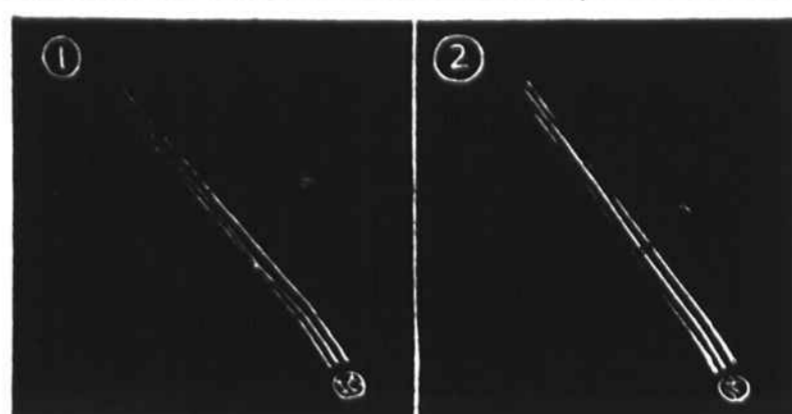
• As senator he will not depend upon political hindsight to determine if some something worked, but rather will

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WASHINGTON'S HEAVENLY BODIES:



THE LANCE COMET - APPEARS FROM THE SOUTH AT ODD INTERVALS



THE BURFORD METEOR - FELL TWICE ON THE SAME SPOT



THE PLANET MEESE - LARGE BUT RECENTLY OUT OF VIEW



THE MILHOUS MOON - ON THE RISE AGAIN

Freedom train moving backward

By JOHN E. JACOB
Guest Columnist

The majority of black Americans are too young to remember yesterday's struggles. But we can't afford to forget. The people who fought — and died — to bring freedom to America just 20 years ago made it possible for black people today to take a giant step on the road to equity, to excellence and to empowerment.

Without their sacrifices there would have been no black presidential candidate in the primaries; there would be no black mayor in Bull Connor's home town; there would be few blacks on construction sites and in corporate offices.

The blood they shed was spilled in the struggle for human dignity and human rights. It is a struggle that still continues in other ways and on other levels.

Twenty years ago the Freedom Train was an express that roared through the conscience of America. Its enemies were the Klan and the racists who stood in the schoolhouse doorways and said "Never."

But 1984 is not 1964. Our Freedom Train today is a local that often seems to be running



John Jacob

backwards. Today our enemies wear three-piece suits and honeyed smiles. They tell us people are poor because they are lazy; that they are unemployed because they want the minimum wage, that they are hungry because they buy liquor with food stamps.

Too many Americans today think that passing a few laws was enough. They think the struggle is over. They think discrimination is a thing of the past and poverty the fault of the poor.

They are wrong. The civil rights laws were the first step toward equity, not the last.

The struggle is not over and

it won't be over until the discriminatory barriers that impose poverty and disadvantage on millions of Americans are torn down.

While some blacks were able to get into the schools, the professions and the jobs that mainstream America always enjoyed, far too many others were left behind. They climbed the first steps of the ladder to equality before they were kicked off — by recessions, by subtle discrimination, by last-hired, first-fired.

Still others never got on the ladder at all. They are trapped by the destructive heritage of racism and ground down by a throw-away economy that refuses to treat them with the human dignity they deserve.

In virtually every index that counts, we can document the rise and fall of the black hopes:

• income — In 1960, black family income was 55 percent of white income. By 1970, it was up to 61 percent. But today, it is back to 55 percent.

• jobs — In 1960, 10 percent of blacks were unemployed; in 1970 it was 8 percent, but in 1983 it was 19.5 percent. Even

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Letters

Praise from Epperson

To The Editor:

It has been brought to my attention the honor your fine periodical received from the National Newspaper Publishers Association. It is also my understanding that your newspaper has been recognized with the Best Weekly Periodical in North Carolina Award over the last two years. What a record of achievement!

Having been associated with the media industry, I know the hard work and dedication necessary to reach the consistency of excellence your paper has achieved.

Congratulations on your past and present accomplishments and best wishes for your continued success.

Stuart W. Epperson
Winston-Salem

A drinking cure

To The Editor:

I am writing this article in reference to the minister caught twice because of a DUI.

As a minister, alcohol counselor and drug counselor, I would like the readers of that article to really know what an alcoholic is. It takes six to seven years, if you weigh from 150 to 175 pounds, to become an alcoholic.

When your mind demands alcohol and your body demands alcohol you cease to be a "weekend drinker," and "a payday drinker" or a "social drinker." You are an "alcoholic!" You are sick, both mentally and physically.

You are in the same category with anyone that has an illness. The only difference is that alcoholism is the worst disease that a person can have. Cancer — which an operation, use of radiation or chemotherapy can cure — may end its growth.

You cannot operate on alcoholism. Arthritis — you can take pills, kill the pain and lead a normal life. An alcoholic can only take another drink. A heart patient can take pills and not expose themselves and live a normal life even with a transplant. There are no pills that an alcoholic can take and nothing can be cut or something new transplanted.

To the minister that was mentioned in (the recent) article, as a counselor I have found out that the only cure for alcoholism is God! As a counselor at the Home of Hope, we use a three-step program — God, you and others! This works when everything

As a minister I would say having a job driving a truck with a heart condition, at any time you may have a heart attack and kill someone or yourself, so the company would not let you work. A minister is called on at no announced time to pray for someone or to listen to someone when he wants to talk or to ask for spiritual guidance. I ask how would you feel if you were called on for help and you were under the influence of alcohol? You would not be able to carry out God's work.

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The Civil Rights Act of 1984

By MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN
Syndicated Columnist

As you watched the Olympics this year, I'm sure you were proud of American women athletes like Cheryl Miller, Evelyn Ashford, Mary Lou Retton and Joan Benoit, all at the very pinnacle of athletic accomplishment.

In part, their accomplishments are due to a federal law called Title IX. Title IX, a key civil rights law,

in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

In February of this year, however, the Supreme Court narrowed the reach of Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments in the case of Grove City College v. Bell. Because of the Supreme Court ruling in this case, the door has been opened for colleges and universities to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age and handicap.

The question presented to the justices in Grove City College v. Bell was which "pro-

gram or activity" was subject to Title IX, only the college's financial aid program or the entire institution?

Grove City College is a small liberal arts college in Pennsylvania. Many of its students receive federal financial assistance in the form of Basic Educational Opportunity Grants.

"Because of the Supreme Court ruling in this case, the door has been opened for colleges and universities to dicap."

Under Title IX, institutions that receive federal funds are required each year to submit forms to the Department of Education assuring that they are consistent with the law.

But Grove City College officials refused to submit the written assurance, arguing that Basic Education Opportunity Grants go directly to the students and only indirectly to the college.

The Supreme Court

disagreed and found that the grants to students were assistance to the college and triggered Title IX rights for the students. But it also said that only the specific programs or activities receiving the federal funds are subject to Title IX, not the institution as a whole.

The Court's decision, in ef-

fect, permits a college to receive federal financial assistance in one program (for example, student financial aid), but at the same time discriminate in other programs at the same college that aren't aided by the federal government (such as physics or engineering).

This ruling is very bad for women and also for minorities and others protected by other similarly worded federal laws.

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HOW DO REPUBLICANS FEEL ABOUT GERALDINE FERZARDO'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS?



WE FEEL VERY, VERY SORRY FOR HER. WE'D LIKE TO FOCUS ON THE ISSUES--



AND WE HOPE SHE CAN LAY THIS MATTER TO REST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE



ACCORDING TO SOME PEOPLE, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE HAS SHE HAS?



WAGNER