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Preserving our history

The needs of the black community are many, and in all too many instances, the resources to meet those needs are few. All across the country, black people desperately require adequate housing, clothing, employment and the necessities of life which other Americans take for granted.

But even as we struggle to find the financial means to provide such necessities, there are other, non-physical needs, as well. One of these is preserving black history and our unique cultural heritage -- intangible possessions which define us as a people and support us in our search for individual identities.

That's why we think a recent proposal by local historian Joseph Bradshaw to establish a museum for Winston-Salem's black history has merit and deserves serious attention.

Bradshaw, a 69-year-old retired teacher, has been collecting photographs, slides and other artifacts about the city's black community since 1957. Among this collection are invaluable photographs and documents about the old Atkins High School and the city's only black-owned bus line (the now-defunct Safe Bus Co.), as well as information about prominent black men and women who not only shaped the development of the immediate black community, but that of rising generations which moved elsewhere.

"To prepare for our future, we must never forget our past," said Bradshaw in a recent *Chronicle* personality profile. His collection of black memorabilia has been a labor of love. Now he is offering the fruits of that labor to anyone committed to developing such a museum.

Such an institution would be an important educational asset to Winston-Salem. It not only would display our heritage, but also could serve as the focus for historical research. The museum could direct, for example, a local oral history project, through which community volunteers college students armed with tape recorders would interview the city's black residents for a permanent record of what the city was like in the recent past and how it has changed, for better or worse.

Financing poses problems for any black undertaking, we realize. But investment in Mr. Bradshaw's project promises to deliver a much greater return in the long run than many profit-making ventures.

Crosswinds

Russia vs. Hymietown

From The Miami Times.

When Jesse Jackson described Jews as "Hymies" and New York City as "Hymietown" in off-the-cuff remarks to two reporters, one of whom printed the remarks, the press was lauded for doing the right thing even though Jackson insisted that his comments were not meant for public consumption.

It was argued that, as a presidential hopeful, all of Jackson's statements were important to a full understanding by the public of the man who was asking them to make him the leader of the nation.

The one man who went public with criticism of the reporter who published Jackson's remarks was Louis Farrakhan, and he used language which made his defense untenable.

Compare that with President Ronald Reagan's statement during a microphone test two weeks ago when he jokingly said: "My fellow Americans, I'm pleased to tell you that I just signed legislation which outlaws Russia forever. The bombing begins in five minutes."

White House officials were reluctant to comment on that statement because, they said, it was off-the-record and not intended for publication.

There was much writing in the press about how the president does these sorts of jokes as self-mocking humor and to ridicule those who see him as a warmonger.

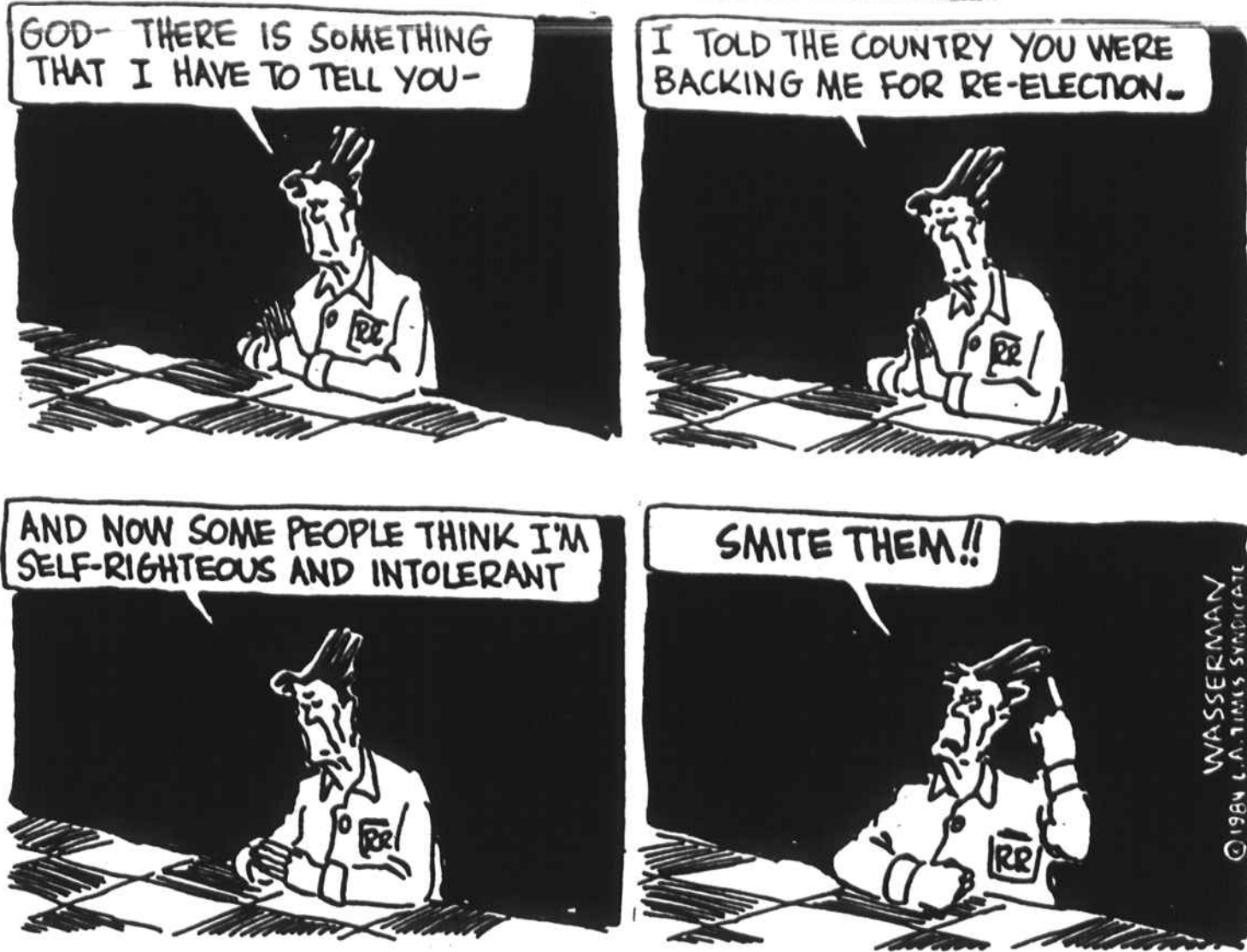
Then Reagan told reporters in Montana that no one would have been concerned about his remarks about the Soviet Union "if the press had kept their mouth shut."

"It isn't funny," Reagan said. "If the press had kept their mouth shut, no one would have known that I said it."

That is nothing if not a rebuke to the press for publishing the remarks of the president in circumstances where they were not meant to be made public.

But then, so Jackson insisted, were his remarks about "Hymietown," but Jackson was drawn over the national coals, fueled by Jewish anger, and he had the good graces to apologize. Where is the national outcry against the President's strange sense of humor?

Are there separate standards for the man who is president and one who is Black and happens to be trying to reach to the highest office?



Is affirmative action dying?

By JOHN E. JACOB
 Special to the Chronicle

Affirmative action is central to the black quest for equity. But the war for affirmative action is in danger of being lost.

The Supreme Court just said that seniority takes precedence over minority jobs. Reasonable goals and timetables are stigmatized as reverse discrimination and quotas. Perpetuating black disadvantage is excused by pious statements about a "color-blind, racially neutral society."

Well, black people also want as color-blind, racially-neutral society. But we're not there yet. And the only way to get there is through affirmative action programs that overcome discriminatory barriers to opportunities.

There's nothing color-blind when the black poverty rate is triple the white rate. There's nothing racially-neutral when black unemployment is more than double the white rate.

The heritage of racism will not be broken until effective remedies overcome the disadvantage imposed on blacks because of their blackness.

That means race-conscious remedies based on positive inclusion of black people into mainstream America. Such remedies would replace the historic negative exclusion of black people.

In 1789 the U.S. Constitu-



John Jacob

tion defined blacks as three-fifths of a person for counting purposes. In 1984 we are still three-fifths of white people as measured by family income, by employment, by educational attainment, by all of the other meaningful measures of life.

Affirmative action is not a new concept. Back in the 1930s, when racist administrators kept blacks out of work relief programs, the Public Works Administration wrote specific hiring quotas for blacks into its contracts.

We've lived with veterans' preference for years and no one complained about reverse discrimination. Throughout our history we had an unwritten affirmative action code that reserved the best jobs and schools for white males.

Black people have been -- and continue to be -- subjected

to pervasive negative action that will perpetuate our disadvantage unless our society implements positive affirmative action as a remedy.

I am not prepared to abandon the war for affirmative action as lost. The hostility of the Justice Department and the inconsistencies of the court notwithstanding, there is still hope that the innate fairness of the American people will give affirmative action a chance.

I am encouraged by a recent Harris Poll that asked this question of potential voters: Do you favor or oppose federal laws requiring affirmative action programs for women and minorities in employment and education, provided there are no rigid quotas?

Two-thirds said, "Yes," they favor such laws. Less than one in five opposed them.

Now, the poll doesn't mean too much in the general scheme of things. But it is heartening that such a strong majority backs affirmative action in the face of the extraordinary campaign against it.

If nothing else, that poll ought to put some backbone into politicians in both parties who seek to exploit racial divisions by pandering to racist sentiments.

(John E. Jacob is President of the National Urban League.)

Letters

Judge Hayes due respect

To The Editor:

I am sure that I speak for a large segment of the community in extending congratulations, good wishes and wholehearted support for attorney Roland Hayes upon his appointment as district court judge.

It is too bad that positive words of support had to come from the white community and negativism from the black community. Although this attitude is very typical in Winston-Salem, it is nonetheless disturbing.

This fine product of this community (is) always a hard worker, involved in church, community and civic activities; intelligent, and most of all, qualified for this position by virtue of education, experience and temperament; yet someone finds fault with his appointment.

The old platitude that "the white man" can't hold you down unless he stays down with you while he holds you there is no longer true. There are lots of "brothers and sisters" around who are more than willing to do the job of keeping you down.

They dare you to let a better education, a larger piece of the economic pie or some outstanding achievement cause you to stand out from the crowd. They find it much easier to sneer at achievers than it is to give them a hand up.

I am sure that attorney Hayes will not allow any of these attitudes to dampen his enthusiasm for doing his best, just as he has always done. He will find that we who respect him and wish him well are in a majority.

Mrs. Martha J. Young
 Winston-Salem

On the mark

(The following is an open letter to *Chronicle* Columnist Clifton Graves)

Dear Mr. Graves:

I read your column whenever I read the *Chronicle* and enjoy it very much. You have the same attitude and opinion as I have on many subjects.

After I read about your move to New Haven, Conn., I became interested in writing to you. Your column about Vanessa Williams finally made me pick up the pen and paper.

What you wrote to Ms. Williams is exactly what I have felt from the beginning of her ordeal: she has been used by the same ones (white America) who she was sure would never harm her.

It is a shame what dollar signs do to the minds of many Americans, but I agree that she should know this and it is about time she found out.

My boyfriend and I had a discussion about Ms. Williams' ordeal and he could not understand why I insist on not wholly trusting some white people. I do not, because many, not all, of them have ulterior motives, such as:

- to use blacks to get ahead;
- to gain their trust and then hurt them;
- to strengthen the view of blacks as inferior;

Please see page A5

The key to black voter turnout

By JOHN W. LEWIS JR.
 Syndicated Columnist

WASHINGTON -- In the spring of 1981, Coleman Young, the black mayor of Detroit, had a dangerous economic and political problem to solve.

His city was faced with the most serious economic condition it had faced since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Detroit had a \$119 million budget deficit for the 1981 fiscal year and a projected \$145 million budget deficit for the following year.

These devastating back-to-back budget deficits made it likely that if the deteriorating financial situation were not quickly turned around, the city would face bankruptcy when the fiscal year ended on June 30, 1981. Detroit's road to the brink of bankruptcy was paved with statistics explaining the ever-widening gap between city revenues and expenditures.

KID - YOU CAN'T LET HIM PUSH YOU AROUND



YOU GOTTA COME OUT FAST AND COME OUT SLUGGING



WHAT ROUND WAS THAT?



THE INTRODUCTIONS



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