

Winston-Salem Chronicle

Founded 1974

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The Black-Rep's rep

Armed with what founder Larry Leon Hamlin terms "a couple thousand dollars, a lot of optimism and a firm belief in black art, black culture and black people," the North Carolina Black Repertory Theatre debuted in 1979 with Athol Fugard's "Sizwe Bansi Is Dead."

Five years later, the "Black Rep," as its friends and patrons affectionately call it, has come a long way.

The company's guild, founded in 1981, boasts more than 600 members and provides a strong, active auxiliary to the theatre company.

The Black Rep also fields an orchestra of accomplished musicians and vocalists that provides a polished and entertaining outlet for those among us who can sing or dance, as well as act.

More importantly, the Black Rep set its sights squarely on providing quality black theater locally from the start and never has wavered in that mission.

In an era when some of us seem so intent on apologizing for being black and assimilating with all due haste, the Black Rep always has recognized that black theatre is different -- that it is a special brand of drama shaped by the unique culture and experiences of black people.

Hamlin and the company also realize that such an affirmation of blackness is no threat to other cultures, but merely a celebration of our own and an invitation to other races and cultures to explore what being black is all about.

As for the quality of what it does, the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources recognized the Black Rep in January as one of the best organized and most respected black theater companies in the South.

We at the *Chronicle*, which recently celebrated its own 10th anniversary, applaud those accomplishments. We, like the Black Rep, consider ourselves a vanguard of black culture.

In that spirit, we've embarked on a joint project with the Black Rep's guild, agreeing to contribute portions of subscriptions sold by its members to the company.

Though we obviously hope the drive will reap monetary benefits, we're even more excited at the prospect of less tangible rewards. Black organizations and institutions abound in our community. Sustained cooperation among them doesn't.

We hope others follow our example of teaming with a partner whose goals and priorities are so similar to our own.

Meanwhile, we look forward to decades more of the Black Rep's delightful, provocative drama. As Hamlin likes to say:

"Any person, any community, any city, state or nation, that is not in tune with their history, culture and heritage, is living a life of illusion, because you don't know who you are. You have to know these things about yourself in order to be complete."

Crosswinds

Black reinvestment

From The Defender, Chicago, Ill.

American minorities and women must continue to establish banks, savings and loan institutions, realties, security firms and businesses on every level.

With black unemployment far greater than that of whites, we must improve our capacity to hire more of our own people. We must also increase our numbers among the country's elected officials. These actions are desperately necessary to prevent the continued economic and political devastation from which we suffer.

We must make tremendous strides in both areas because one without the other will still leave us vulnerable to second class citizenship.

A dollar should be passed among us many times before it leaves our communities. After a minority or a woman receives a salary, that money should be used in minority- or female-owned banks, realties, groceries, service stations and other businesses.

In this manner, we can grow financially stronger and be able to effectively fund the campaigns of and support more politicians who represent our interests.

If we all became millionaires tomorrow and didn't acquire proper political office, someone could strip us our wealth overnight. Were we to become politically powerful without developing economic strength, the majority of our people and politicians would still function in near dire poverty.

Financial and political growth are necessary to assure that we will be able to share life's opportunities equally with everyone else. It is not our intent to move ahead at the expense of any other group of individuals, but if we don't tremendously improve our circumstances, it is very unlikely that anyone else will do it for us.

THINGS HAVE REALLY CHANGED SINCE WE WERE IN SCHOOL- COLLEGE KIDS ARE REAL CONSERVATIVE



THEY'RE SUPER-NATIONALISTIC AND GUNG-HO FOR REAGAN!



I'LL BET WE COULD CHANGE THAT IF WE GOT OUT AND ORGANIZED



FOR WHAT?



TO BRING BACK THE DRAFT



WASSERMAN © 1984 LOS ANGELES TIMES/INDICATE

Convention movement a mistake

By JOHN E. JACOB
Special to the Chronicle

Thirty-two states have sent petitions to Congress calling for a national constitutional convention that would pass a new amendment to the U.S. Constitution mandating a balanced federal budget.

If only two more states pass such a convention -- and if some of those that have already passed meet court challenges -- then a constitutional convention must be called.

That would be a monumental mistake.

There are two major dangers in a constitutional convention. The first is that a balanced budget amendment might pass; the second, that the convention could become a runaway affair, rewriting the present constitution that has served us well.

The prospect of a runaway convention is dismissed by some experts who say that if the convention is called for the purpose of considering a balanced budget amendment, it can't go farther afield.

But others cite the original Constitutional Convention of 1787, which was just supposed to improve the existing Articles of Confederation, but threw that document out and



John Jacob

wrote the present constitution instead.

The fear is that not only would single-issue extremists dominate a new convention, writing new amendments banning abortion and busing and instituting school prayer, but that the existing Bill of Rights would be diluted, placing traditional freedoms in jeopardy.

That's not so far-fetched, since the polarizing, so-called "social issues" galvanize the energies of the far right.

So a new constitutional convention would be playing with fire -- and that holds even if it limits itself to a balanced budget amendment. For however worthy a goal balancing the budget may be, it can't

reasonably be a constitutional requirement. To make it one is bad government and bad economics.

It is impossible to balance the budget in the near future without chopping social security, Medicare and a healthy chunk of the armed forces. Another way would be a massive tax increase that could spark a major Depression. That's why neither presidential candidate is promising more than to bring the deficits down over a period of several years.

And virtually all economists agree that there are times when governments should run deficits. A government budget can't be compared to a family budget and the simplistic approach of the balanced budgeters could be fatal to the economy.

Even if they do get a balanced budget amendment through, it will have to be full of loopholes to be workable. If that happens, then the Constitution just becomes a waste basket for rhetorical flourishes to economic theories no one believes in, instead of being a sound, basic law of the land.

It is important to remember that the balanced budget movement is not a response to the massive federal deficits of

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Reagan threatening middle class

By CHARLES E. BELLE
Syndicated Columnist

As anyone who has existed under the present administration in the White House knows, black Americans and other poor people have been going ass backwards since the last presidential election.

The employment to population ratio, number of jobs held by the total black American population, has dropped -- not increased -- during these "better off" years of the current president.

This was the plan! Poor people to pay for lower inflation and interest rates while the wealthy worried about the "communist threat." Thus, instead of more black Americans being integrated into the American society where barely half (53.8 percent) were employed in 1979, now less than half (49.5 percent) are gainfully employed. Even Middle America has been astonished that their apple has had a bite taken out of it.

The year-to-year employ-

ment growth of the country was 2.6 million new jobs during the 1976 to 1980 period, but it fell by almost 40 percent from 1981 to the first quarter of 1984 to an average of only 1.1 million new jobs. In short, while there are more Americans coming into the job market, the economy was eking out almost half as many new jobs as it did during a Democratic administration.

This administration has added huge deficits to the budget without spending for needed

"Cutting out U.S. producers means cutting out jobs, eventually for white as well as black American workers."

social services -- a deficit which by itself requires more taxes from those who do work to pay the ever increasing cost.

These taxpayers are not likely to allocate more spending for social services while the wealthy continue to worship and maintain monstrous defense expenditures to defeat the comical "communist threat."

"thrill" that will take its toll in permanently displaced people in the U.S. workforce once their unemployment checks run out.

Overlooked in the short-run laying aside the obvious needs of Mr. Mondale's victories, fix your eyes on the president's points in the polls, proving once again that people polled often do not look behind their own pocket book.

White Americans are more greatly employed and thus in a position to partake of the

preponderance of lower price products currently available in the marketplace. A strong dollar which dictates lower price foreign goods in the marketplace also displaces American low-income workers and creates the largest trade deficit in U.S. history, which must be balanced at an expensive future date -- a short-term

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Letters

Deliver us from Helms

To The Editor:

He voted against clean air, against clean water, against food for little children, against saving the Social Security program.

He voted for cuts in Medicaid and Medicare and he voted for bombs and munitions. He raised not a whimper when the Pentagon paid \$1,000 for a screwdriver.

He presides over the demise of the tobacco program, all the while trying to convince farmers that he is looking after them. He won for them a 30 percent cut in quotas, a 252 percent increase in imports of foreign leaf, a 19 percent decrease in tobacco exports and a 48 percent increase in stabilization stocks.

The farmer gets to grow less, gets less for what he does grow and, soon, so few will survive the entire program will fall through, exactly what Mr. Helms wants.

The only farmers with any business in farming are the big farmers who can contract with the big tobacco companies to supply what they need. This is Republican mentality. It was Mr. Helms' tax on tobacco which forced the layoff of hundreds of workers at R.J. Reynolds tobacco factories. Thanks, Mr. Helms!

Mr. Helms, will you ask the unemployed and the farmer for understanding, for their sympathy while you direct their attention away from their economic disaster which you caused by asking them to support prayer in the schools?

Let there be prayer throughout North Carolina in the year 1984. Let there be prayer in the workplace. Let there be prayer on farm tractors. Let there be prayer at the kitchen stove. Let there be prayer at sun-up, at sundown, in the hearts and souls of men and women and children who seek and feel the spirit of prayer. Let us pray together. Let us pray out loud. Let us pray silently and in quiet places.

Let us pray, "Oh, Lord, how long must we suffer? Deliver us, we pray, from Jesse Helms. Let him be removed from high office. Teach him, Lord, to love his fellow men and not to place his trust in bombs, nor in Texas oilmen, nor in deceptive campaign tactics.

Teach Jesse, Lord, it is good and right to feed little children, to educate our youth, that it is right and just to heal the sick and to care for the elderly; only remove him from office now, Lord, lest he poison our land and lead us into war.

Amen.

Mattie H. Rey
Ararat, N.C.

Hunt a racist?

To The Editor:

Last Sunday, an article appeared in *The Greensboro News and Record* (Oct. 7 issue) that caused me to reflect on the current state of senatorial politics in North Carolina. The article was entitled "Helms Labels Hunt a Racist in Campaign."

Being an eight-year resident of North Carolina, I am well

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WAIT TIL YOU SEE HOW GEORGE BUSH TAKES CARE OF THE FIRST WOMAN VICE-PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE



AMERICA IS BACK! RONALD REAGAN IS OUR LEADER! ENTHUSIASM AND PROSPERITY ARE EVERYWHERE!



OPTIMISM! OPPORTUNITY! TAX CUTS! GOSH, IT'S ALL SO WONDERFUL!



HE MAY BE QUALIFIED, DEAR, BUT I THINK HE'S TOO EMOTIONAL

