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OUR OPINION

The monkey hustle

House Bill 565, which last week passed in a legislative committee by a 12-8 vote -- but only after being watered down almost beyond recognition -- is an insult to the political integrity of the black community. It would have been better to leave the bill, which would help local minority builders get city contracts, as it was and accept defeat rather than be insulted with what amounts to the monkey hustle.

Black folk know what the monkey hustle is. It's when someone tries to make a fool of you and doesn't even try to disguise the fact that he's trying to make a fool of you.

White Democrats, or rather "Republicrats," as *Chronicle* guest columnist Carlton Holland once labeled Democrats who hustle black votes but have no real interest in what benefits black voters, have done it to us again. The white Democrats in our legislative delegation have spent more time and energy destroying the enabling legislation than lobbying for its passage.

They forgot about doing what is right and instead chose to make the bill palatable to the opposition -- at almost any cost.

We know that compromise and negotiation are perhaps the two most important ingredients for passing legislation. However, everything was given up when the bill was amended in committee and nothing substantial was gained.

At the very least, if the opposition insisted on a 10-percent cap for required minority participation, then it shouldn't have limited the bill to only two projects (downtown development and the coliseum). Or, if it was going to limit the bill to the two projects, then it should have removed the 10-percent cap and left that decision to the aldermen, who should be making it in the first place.

But when you're doing the monkey hustle, you don't have to make those kinds of considerations. The bill even assumes that the coliseum bond referendum is going to pass, hence, absolutely no respect for black voters.

Now the ball rests squarely in the black community's court. As Jim Brown told Richard Pryor as Pryor lay in a hospital bed nearly burnt to a crisp, "Whatcha gonna do?"

We ask the black community now, "Whatcha gonna do?"

The trade fair

From cosmetics to office furniture to hair care to even automatic weapons, minority businesses strutted their stuff last week and made valuable contacts at the Fourth Annual Minority Trade Fair.

In one well-organized swoop, the fair addressed the special needs and problems of minority-owned concerns, helped create stronger ties between potential corporate customers and minority businesses and gave minority firms the chance to show their wares.

The fair's seminars encompassed such pertinent topics as city-county purchasing, purchasing techniques, advertising and sales and marketing skills.

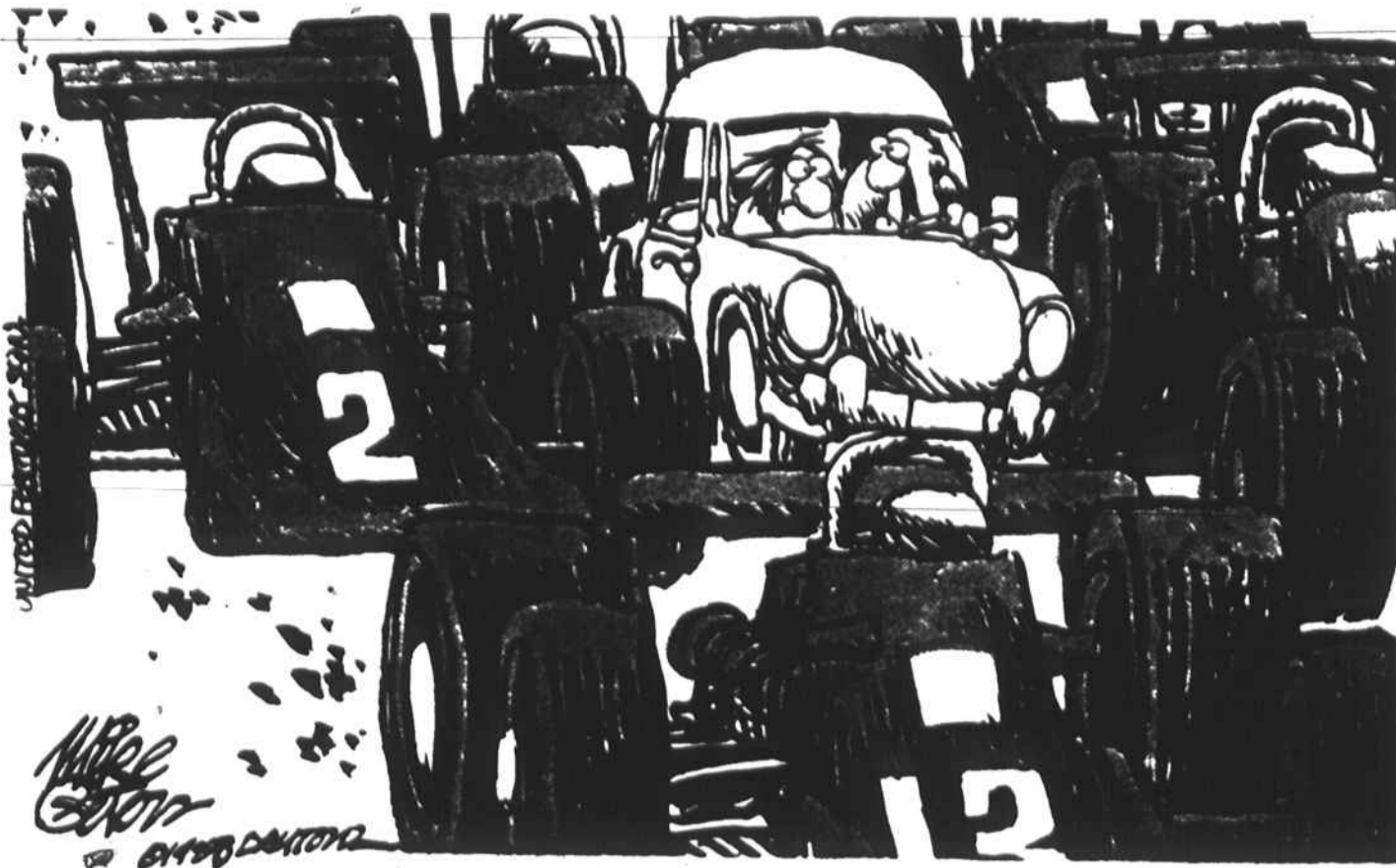
Ironically, the fair began on the very day that a bill that would increase minority contractors' business with the city narrowly survived a state House committee after being rendered toothless by an unprecedented nonlocal amendment.

And even more ironically, a seminar addressing such legislation had to be cancelled at the fair, unbelievably enough, for lack of interest.

If only the legislators -- Democratic and Republican -- who fought that bill could have been on hand at the fair, just maybe they might have better understood what the bill was supposed to be about: opening doors of opportunity to businessmen who are not part of the "good old boy" network and who simply want the chance to work hard and prove the worth of their products and services.

The trade fair also dramatized the value of partnerships -- in this case an encouraging, and we hope, more than cosmetic bond among black entrepreneurs, white-owned businesses, the Chamber of Commerce (particularly its Minority Business Council) and the city.

The trade fair isn't all it can be. It would be nice to see more booths next year, as well as more people visiting them. But the fair is growing fast, and the people who have continued to nurture it from infancy deserve a round of applause, especially its coordinator, Melvin "Rip" Wilkins.



I MEAN IT, MARGARET... I'M SICK OF THIS MEMORIAL DAY TRAFFIC.

Hunt: Will he die like Clyde Brown?

As a child growing up in Winston-Salem, I can recall on many occasions hearing my mother and other elders talking about the unfortunate case of Clyde Brown.

Clyde Brown was a handsome young black man who was killed in the gas chamber of North Carolina for allegedly raping a white woman.

Today, practically every black person and some white people who remember strongly believe that Clyde Brown was an innocent man. Many people have openly speculated that if there was a rape, it was committed by a close relative of the young woman.

The Clyde Brown story is powerfully imbedded in the minds of black citizens of Winston-Salem who are 50 years of age and older. Many of those who remember have made contributions to the Darryl Hunt Defense Fund, and they have been alarmed by the startling similarities between Darryl Hunt and Clyde Brown.

These similarities have raised ominous questions in my mind. Will Darryl Hunt die in the gas chamber like Clyde Brown?

I strongly believe that Darryl Hunt is an innocent man. The physical evidence found on the scene does not match up with Darryl in any way. Darryl Hunt has had 14 polygraph tests administered by outside, independent operators and he has passed

THE GUEST COLUMN

By LARRY LITTLE

every-single one.

The obvious question that comes to mind is why is Darryl Hunt still being held in jail? Why

The state has three or four witnesses who will attempt to put Darryl Hunt on the scene of the crime and one witness who will testify that he saw Hunt assaulting Deborah Sykes. My own investigations lead me to suspect that much of this



Darryl Hunt



Clyde Brown

is he likely to die in the gas chamber? My own opinions are these:

Darryl Hunt is a scapegoat. I believe that the police bungled this case from the very beginning, when they went to the wrong area of town in response to a phone call reporting the crime. The tremendous media coverage of such an atrocious crime has fueled the public wrath, and thus someone must pay, and pay in blood.

testimony will be proven to be outright lies motivated by the large, tempting rewards offered in this case.

The jury may be all-white. I believe that the district attorney, Donald Tisdale, will do everything in his power to keep black people off the jury. The jury composition will be the most critical factor in the trial. If prospective black jurors state that they have already made up their

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Duncan: Editorial was irresponsible

To The Editor:

In the interest of responsible journalism, your readers have a right to the facts.

I regret your interpreting my opposition to the quota bill as being racially motivated. As a woman in government, I am fighting daily for programs which are of considerable benefit to minorities and women, and just yesterday I voted against a bill which would have adversely affected both those groups. Incidentally, I voted with Rep. Dan Blue, a black legislator for whom I have the greatest respect.

For the record -- and this can be corroborated from a tape of the Local Government II meeting -- I never made the statement that I was opposed to the quota bill because "only one white man was on the board." That was hearsay and taken out of context. Nor can the opposition be purely partisan, since Democratic aldermen voted against it, and Sen. Marvin Ward criticized Rep. Annie Kennedy for changing the language of the bill without consulting members of the delegation. If you will check with Rep. Kennedy, you will learn that I was the only Republican who signed the bill in its original form. However, I requested that my name be removed when I discovered the bill was not identical to the one for which I had voted. That bill is on record at the clerk's office here at the General Assembly.

Moreover, Democratic legislators all over the state are

CHRONICLE LETTERS

Our readers speak

opposed to the quota bill because they believe contracts would be let to out-of-state businesses rather than to local people. As a matter of fact, I had previously learned that the Board of Aldermen had made aggressive efforts to promote the awarding of these contracts to local minority businesses, but simply did not have enough bids to fill their goals of approximately 10 percent.

citizens than anything else. I hope your readers will repudiate them.

Ann Q. Duncan
State House of Representatives
39th District
Raleigh

A note of thanks

To The Editor:

I would like to say thanks to the black aldermen for their stand on the coliseum project. We are proud of them for stan-



In my opinion, if we utilized the "urban enterprise" concept, which in the long run could lead to an increase in minority businesses, it would be of greater value to our black community and allow more bids from within our own city and state.

I am more than willing to do everything in my power to assist minorities. Unfortunately, irresponsible articles like yours do more to polarize all of our

ding up for more black participation in Winston-Salem construction projects.

Alderman Larry W. Womble is right -- we, the black community, need jobs. We, the black voters, put these aldermen in office to do just that -- to see that we, the black community, get part of the action. If they are not looking out for the black community, then they should not be in that position and will not be in that

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CHILDWATCH

There's famine in America, too

By MARIAN W. EDELMAN
Syndicated Columnist

WASHINGTON -- "Inside the remnants of a house, alongside a dirt road ..., lived a family of 13 people No food was in the house. The babies had no milk Only the flies which crawled on the face of the smallest child seemed to be well-fed. The parents were not; they had not eaten for two days. The children had eaten some dried beans the previous evening."

A tragic scene from a drought-plagued Third World nation? An historic glimpse of America during the Great Depression?

No. This is a portrait of an American family today, living in the heart of some of our nation's richest land, the Mississippi Delta. A group of doctors came across this family, and many others like it, as they traveled across America last year to find out the extent of our hunger problem in this nation.

Even to men and women who are used to seeing human suffering, what they found was very disturbing. The recently-released report of the Physicians' Task Force on Hunger in America says that "hunger and malnutrition are serious problems in every region of this nation."

It is hard to put exact numbers on this problem. But the Task Force report estimated that malnutrition now affects roughly half a million American children. Up to 20 million Americans may be hungry at least for some period of time each month. Low birthweight among babies and growth failures among children, among other medical problems linked to inadequate nutrition, are particularly serious among low-income families, the report says.

Hunger is now a "national health epidemic" that is "more widespread and serious than at any time in the last 10 to 15 years," the doctors tell us. And it's getting worse. Requests for emergency food are up all around the country. In Texas, such requests tripled between 1983 and 1984. In Wisconsin, requests doubled. The Connecticut Food Bank, located in New Haven, hoped that 1,200,000 pounds of food would be enough in 1984. They distributed 1,800,000 pounds.

The Physicians' Task Force cites three main reasons for the spread of hunger. First, the holes in the government programs that were set up to prevent hunger, such as food stamps. Second, the devastating economic recession of the early '80s, which threw so many Americans out of work. Finally, they blame the harsh Reagan administration cuts in human services programs, including a 1982-85 reduction of \$12.2 billion in food stamps and child nutrition.

"Little Regina, a listless 4-year-old who sat before her empty plate at a North Carolina day care center, is experiencing growth failure because she gets little to eat outside the program," says the report.

Hunger's rise can be traced to "clear and conscious policies of the federal government," according to the Task Force. It is up to us to reverse those policies. We must let our congressional representatives and our senators know that we want them to strengthen government programs which can help wipe out hunger: food stamps, the Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Feeding Programs and school lunch and breakfast programs, among others.

The most wealthy nation on earth can afford to fill Regina's plate. We must make sure Congress budgets the money to do so.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for children.