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OUR OPINION

This, that and the other

HOLIDAY THOUGHTS as alleged snow flurries wreak havoc and skies that were supposed to clear by the afternoon remain threateningly gray:

-- Kudos to the Board of Aldermen for designating Jan. 20 as a city holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

Now it's up to us to make the day something more than another vacation from work -- or an excuse for merchants to hold another sale -- by preserving King's memory and passing on his legacy to our young, too many of whom already don't seem to know who "The Dreamer" was, much less what he stood for.

-- District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale, who is about as popular in the black community these days as Yasir Arafat is in Tel Aviv, is a member of a United Negro College Fund Telethon committee. Meanwhile, Republican congressional candidate Stu Epperson sure seems to be sponsoring and appearing at a lot of programs lately that focus on the black community.

Not only does it look a lot like Christmas, it looks a lot like campaign time, too.

-- The city's Fair Housing Hearing Board is obviously more than a panel of figureheads who pay only lip service to fighting housing discrimination.

Their recent ruling that Grubbs Real Estate and Insurance Co. discriminated against a black apartment seeker and their accompanying request that the city file a lawsuit against Grubbs clearly show that the board's five members mean business.

Now the ball is in the aldermen's court, since they must decide now whether to file the suit.

We'll see then if the aldermen mean business.

-- "Rocky IV" is one of the worst, most contrived movies we have seen in years. It will also make a bundle of cash for Sylvester Stallone, who does not need the money. Life is not fair.

-- Winston-Salem State football Coach Bill Hayes was again recently a finalist for a job somewhere else.

You may recall that Hayes flirted with the job at Delaware State before deciding to remain here and win another CIAA Southern Division championship.

We were torn, as always, with Hayes' candidacy for both the head coaching jobs at Florida A&M and North Carolina State.

On the one hand, if anyone deserves a shot at a higher-level job with more resources and a better salary -- it's Hayes.

On the other, we'd sure hate to see him go; the man singlehandedly revived a dormant football program at WSSU. He'd be missed very sorely.

Dead serious

WE DON'T fool around when we select our Man and Woman of the Year.

We're very serious about these awards, and we make every effort to ensure that they mean something -- not only to the recipients, but to the community at large.

That's why we ask your help in selecting the persons to receive the honor, as well as input from our newsroom and our advisory board, which, in fact, endures the annual agony of narrowing the candidates and conducting additional research on nominees, should it be required.

Fortunately for our community, the competition is keen because so many invariably do so much each year; thus, the always-tough selection process is a labor we're more than willing to undertake.

We also don't subscribe to the notion that whoever is honored necessarily has to be a community celebrity. There are scores of unsung heroes and heroines among us who quietly do what needs to be done, sans headlines and accolades.

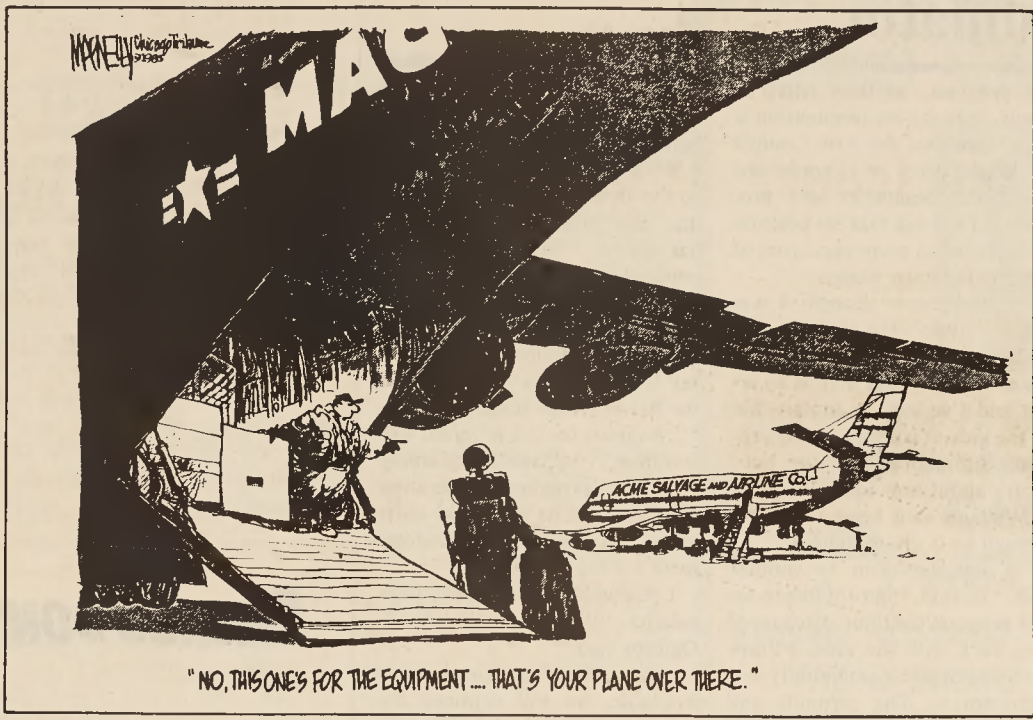
You may be one of them, or you may know one of them.

If so, please take the time to fill out the nomination form on Page A5 in this issue of the *Chronicle*.

Remember, the nominees will be judged on their contributions to Winston-Salem's black community during the calendar year 1985, and they will be announced in our special Jan. 30 "Year in Review" edition.

Last year's recipients were Dr. Elwanda Ingram, a professor at Winston-Salem State University and a community activist, and NAACP President Patrick Hairston, who will resign officially in January to devote his energies full time to being an alderman.

Thanks for your help, and happy holidays.



A tale of regrettably similar nations

This article is the second in a two-part series.

FROM THE GRASSROOTS

By DR. MANNING MARABLE

HAMILTON, N.Y. -- More parallels between black South Africans' struggle against apartheid and black Americans' struggle for civil rights:

Black labor leaders in South Africa and the United States recognize that one of the greatest barriers to fundamental social reforms is the failure of white working people to support the principle of racial equality.

Thembi Mkalipi, a black leader in Port Elizabeth, observes that "apartheid has been promoted by the employers and the government to divide the white workers from the black workers." White workers "identify themselves with the apartheid system," he says, "and they are prepared to defend the system at all costs."

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, formed in the United States in 1972, has repeatedly made the same observation concerning race relations here. Black labor leader Charles Hayes, currently a U.S. congressman, and other black trade unionists have noted: "As black trade unionists, it is our challenge to make the labor movement more relevant to the needs and aspirations of black and poor workers."

The goals of full employment, health safety standards in production, equal pay and educational opportunities which blacks demanded were also in the objective interests of white workers, he said.

In both nations, white critics of

racial inequality have emerged from the business community.

The "willingness" of the corporate sector to promote racial change can only be understood against the recent pressures exerted by the "Free South Africa Movement" in the United States and anti-apartheid world opinion generally. More than one dozen U.S. firms have pulled out of

ington and Burling, terminated its long relationship with South African Airways.

International and domestic demonstrations have prodded the South African corporate sector to face reality: the continued subjugation of 22 million people is not only inherently unstable and breeds constant repression, but in the long run it makes private in-



South Africa during 1985. Total U.S. investment has declined more than \$500 million. South Africa's rand has dropped to one-third of its value from 1983.

Since April, 26 U.S. colleges have divested from firms doing business in South Africa, and on Oct. 7 Columbia University of New York voted to sell \$39 million in apartheid-related stocks. Recently, the largest law firm in Washington, D.C., Cov-

vestment in the country highly questionable. A stable democratic government headed by Nelson Mandela would be preferable to a white-minority dictatorship.

Finally, there remains one regrettable parallel between the South African and American situations: President Reagan is widely viewed by American blacks as the leader of efforts to

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Tilting the courts to the radical right

NEW YORK -- President Reagan has appointed almost 30 percent of all current federal judges; by the end of his second term it is very likely that he will have appointed a majority.

Unlike previous administrations, however, this one is appointing judges who meet rigid tests for ideology. The president has stated he will appoint only judges who follow principles of judicial restraint. That's a code word that really means agreement with radical positions on controversial social issues.

Whatever one's position on such issues, it is important that the federal judges whose decisions affect our freedoms not be bound by narrowly conceived ideological litmus tests.

In addition, the administration's selecting process has resulted in restricting federal judgeships to affluent, ultra-conservative white males. Jimmy Carter selected blacks from 14 percent of the vacancies he filled, but less than 1 percent of President Reagan's judges are black.

In picking judges, the president leans heavily for advice on his attorney general, Edwin Meese, whose ideas about the role of the judiciary are strange, to say the least.

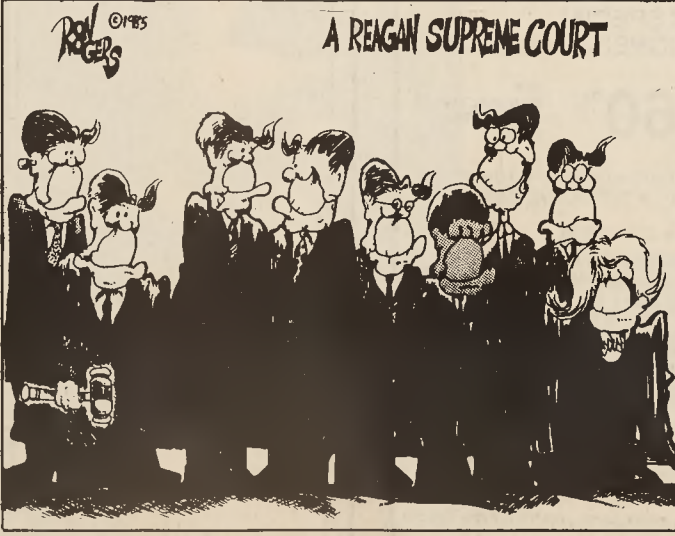
Meese seems to want to roll the clock back to 1789. He says judges, when dealing with constitutional questions, should stick

TO BE EQUAL
by JOHN JACOB

to the literal words in the Constitution. They should, in his words, "resurrect the original meaning of constitutional provisions." And he says "the only reliable guide" to today's constitutional controversies are the

stick only to what was on the minds of those men in gray wigs?

The genius of the Constitution they wrote is that it provides a framework allowing succeeding generations to interpret it to meet changing conditions. That's why we call our Constitution a "living document." Meese's theory would make the Constitution a



intentions of the authors of the Constitution.

Here we are, on the verge of the 21st century, and he wants all constitutional questions decided by what was on the minds of a very diverse group of people who lived 200 years ago and wrote a document that made slavery legal. Does Meese really want to

dead document, incapable of guiding us in a modern world.

Supreme Court Justice William Brennan recently demolished the Meese argument, which he called "arrogance cloaked as humility." Not only is it impossible to figure out the intentions of

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CHILDWATCH

Group helps fight the odds

By MARIAN W. EDELMAN
Syndicated Columnist

WASHINGTON -- Daphne Busby knows what it takes to survive as a black single mother.

And she has passed along "crash course in survival" through the Sisterhood of Black Single Mothers, a New York-based group she set up to help these women to help themselves and each other.

A black woman raising a family alone today faces very difficult odds. Eighty-five percent of such families headed by women under 25 are mired in poverty. Teen mothers, who are less likely to have job skills or experience, face an especially hard struggle.

But Busby is helping the young women to fight these odds and so must we. It is vitally important for all of us to speak out about the risks of teen parenthood. But we must also do what we can to help the many young women who are already mothers to make it on their own, including encouraging them to carefully weigh a decision to have a second or third child.

The first step toward self-sufficiency for these women, Busby says, is seeing themselves as "a person empowered." Many teen mothers have never been in charge of their own lives before. They need to learn "how to be their own advocates," she says, in such everyday matters as getting a landlord to fix the plumbing if it is broken or preventing friends from disrupting family life. Her network, which provides free advice and support from other mothers, many of them older, has helped many young mothers to learn these skills.

There are other programs around the country that are working to help teen mothers. A wide range of both public and private groups are reaching out to these young women, offering them support services to enable them to get their high school diplomas and jobs.

For example, the Teen-age Pregnancy and Parenting Project (TAPP) in San Francisco helps young women finish their high school education by providing them with needed supports such as child care, medical care and counseling.

TAPP is especially effective because it stays in touch with the teen mothers for several years -- long enough for most to get established on their own.

Other programs focus on preparing teen mothers to compete for jobs. For example, the Bridge program in Boston offers career counseling along with GED courses. At the Teen Mother Program in Cerritos, Calif., students are encouraged to explore career possibilities with their teachers, and are offered the option of on-the-job training at the local campus graphics and office occupation centers.

Some programs go a step further -- matching teen mothers with jobs. The Boston YMCA has a 10-month "Job Tips" program that offers both job training and follow-up advice on how to handle on-the-job problems. They place young women in lasting, private-sector jobs.

These programs are doing fine work, but, unfortunately, they are reaching only a tiny fraction of the teen mothers who need them.

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