

Graves

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seminars and workshops in Boston, Washington and North Carolina in attempts to raise black and white Americans' consciousness on the atrocities of Idi Amin's Uganda and Duvalier's Haiti.

Indeed, in recognition of my fund-raising and clothes collection efforts on behalf of Haitian refugees, Father Gerard Jean-Juste, director of the Miami-based Haitian Relief Effort, sent me a letter of commendation and phoned me to express his gratitude. This, Mr. Christison, was black self-help!

As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus International Affairs Braintrust, and TransAfrica (the only Black American lobbying organization focused on Africa and the Caribbean) for the past eight years, I have supported those respective organizations' long-standing efforts to bring national and international attention to not only South Africa, but also Haiti, Uganda and Ethiopia.

Indeed, if Mr. Christison did his homework, he would know that the Congressional Record is replete with speeches, resolutions and legislative packages presented by TransAfrica and the Black Caucus that focus on the

forementioned nations.

I might note that most of the legislative efforts were geared toward curtailing U.S. government support for repressive regimes in Haiti, Zaire (under Mobutu Sese) and Grenada (under Eric Gairy).

Now, let me hasten to add here that, while Mr. Christison raises a legitimate point that injustice anywhere should be challenged by all who purport to stand for self-determination and freedom, one must make it crystal-clear that there are significant distinctions between South Africa and the "repressive" nations of Haiti, Ethiopia and Amin's Uganda.

First of all, South Africa is the only nation on earth that constitutionally sanctions racism and oppression. Further, these barbaric mandates are carried out by a minority-white regime against a majority-black populace with the blessings of the alleged "free, democratic, Christian" Western countries of the United States, England, France, Germany and even Israel.

South Africa has been the subject of not less than 200 United Nations resolutions and actions castigating its racist, oppressive policies which will not just deny

my black sisters and brothers their civil right to vote, but moreover deny them their human, God-given rights to live as husbands and wives, to own and enjoy the land of their birth and to raise their children in dignity.

No, sir, Mr. Christison, I make no apologies for my stance against apartheid.

Yes, Amin was brutal in Uganda; the Duvaliers were repressive in Haiti; Mobutu is corrupt in Zaire. And the United States has black puppets in Grenada.

Yes, the political, economic and ecological conditions in Ethiopia are atrocious.

Yet, bear in mind, Mr. Christison, that your U.S. government has not helped Haiti, as it has South Africa, in developing nuclear technology. Nor have U.S.-based corporations invested billions of dollars in Ethiopia, as they have in South Africa.

Moreover, it is historically ignorant of anyone to downplay the significance of slavery, colonialism and neocolonialism in analyzing the whys and hows in the evolution of all of the governments in Africa and the Caribbean and throughout the Third World.

Whether it was the U.S. corporate exploitation and military intervention in Haiti, or the devious European scheming at the 1886 Berlin Conference, which maliciously divided up among white folks Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda (among others), the ramifications of colonialism and neo-colonialism have severely impacted on the Haitis and Ethiopias of this world.

To be sure, injustice is injustice, no matter the perpetrator. But one cannot myopically observe current events, or narrowly interpret history. In other words, to paraphrase the great African-American scholar/historian, John Henrik Clarke:

"Wherever on this earth there is turmoil, confusion, chaos and repression, you can rest assured that, at some point in time, the white man has been there and left his dastardly mark."

The facts speak for themselves.

Clifton Graves is a Winston-Salem native and the director of university relations at Alabama A&M University.

Johnson

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designed. The two aren't mutually exclusive, especially when there is no profit motive, as with private developers.

The city has made it clear that it wants to invest a little more in the first project in its \$2 million housing program. If it doesn't

change the preliminary plans for this one, neither it nor the black community will get their money's worth.

Brown

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that no white ever could. If you compare the \$11,565,000 that the eight white justices have collectively and use money as a criterion of a life's work, then Marshall's \$50,000 could mean that he was never born. But money is not why we were born, which is why we can't take it with us.

Marshall is the wealthiest Supreme Court Justice who ever lived. What could we possibly give him that God has not already given him? Most of the people who have made money have not made character.

knows we appreciate what he's done and how hard it was to do it. Everything he needed, God provided.

Tony Brown is a syndicated columnist and television host whose series, "Tony Brown's Journal," can be seen Sundays at 1:30 locally on channels 4 and 26.

Does a man with his character even need their money? I doubt it.

He knows we love him; he

Area Weddings And Engagements

Smith-May

Vickie Lamar Smith and Terry May were married Saturday, July 26, in a 4 p.m. ceremony at Macedonia True Vine Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Bishop S.D. Johnson officiated. The bride was given in marriage by her father, Walter Smith.

Serving as maid of honor was Wyteria Smith of Walkertown.

Bridesmaids were Jeannie Hairston of Madison, Arwilda Liles of Walkertown, Felicia McClinton of Greensboro, Dale Smith of Stoneville, Pauline May, Teresa Smallwood, Beverly Ingram, Sharon Williams, Stephanie McCullough and Miss May, all of Winston-Salem.

Flower girl was Shannon Searcy.

Best man was Willie May of Winston-Salem.

Ushers were James May, John May, Curtis McCullough, Lonnie Duncan, Reginald Miller, Johnny Ingram, Ronnie Knight and Robert Pettus, all of Winston-Salem, Ricky Watkins of Walkertown and Edwin McClinton of Greensboro.

Ring bearer was Jervon May.

The bride is a graduate of East Forsyth High School. She is employed by J.C. Penney at Hanes Mall.

The groom is a graduate of North Forsyth High School. He is employed by R.J. Reynolds Industries.

The couple will live in Winston-Salem.



Vickie Smith May

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