

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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EDITORIALS

Bork opposition growing

ON Monday, leaders of several national organizations of African-American elected and appointed officials, met in Washington D.C. to spearhead a "public mobilization campaign" to protest the nomination of Robert Bork to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The *Chronicle* supports this show of solidarity and hopes that our local community and political leaders will join this effort and begin a campaign in Winston-Salem.

This campaign was launched at an appropriate time. Last year, August 10 was designated, by Congress and President Reagan, as "National Civil Rights Day in America."

"We celebrate civil rights gains of the past on this important day," noted Gary Mayor Richard G. Hatcher. "It is important not to let any of our past gains slip away."

There is no question that Judge Bork, if nominated to our highest court, would shift the balance to the conservative side for the first time since the 1930's. And a recent study reveals that the haunting realization that our important civil rights gains could indeed slip away if Bork ascends to the Supreme Court.

The Columbia University Law Review recently released a study of over 1,200 non-unanimous Federal appellate court decisions made during 1985-86. Among its conclusions, the study showed that Judge Bork, who serves on the U.S. Federal District Court of Appeals, has a far more conservative voting (ruling) record than other judges named by President Reagan.

The study, which reviewed all of Judge Bork's decisions, found that Bork voted over 90 percent on the conservative side compared with 69 percent for his Republican colleagues. In 18 non-unanimous cases during 1985-86, for example, Judge Bork never voted on the liberal side. In government regulation cases, Bork voted in favor of business groups' cases against federal agencies seven out of eight times, yet opposing 14 out of 15 cases brought by public interest groups.

Just a scant glance at Judge Bork's judicial record should prompt us to agree with Rep. Mervin M. Dymally (D. Ca.), chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, who states, "This (the Bork nomination) is not just another political appointee--but the selection of an individual who could well change the face of American civil liberties for generations to come."

To dramatize the situation, various groups and public officials are planning demonstrations and other projects nationwide. Yesterday, marches were held in Gary, Chicago, Detroit, Birmingham, Oakland, Washington, D.C., Houston, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Cleveland, Honolulu and Los Angeles.

Winston-Salem should join the bandwagon by conducting its own demonstrations to spread the word about the potential dangers of Judge Bork. Do we want the civil rights clock turned back to the 1930's?

As Mayor Hatcher points out clearly, "few of us need need to be reminded what life was like for Blacks, Hispanics and women 50 years ago."

African-American

MANY readers have noticed the *Chronicle's* recent introduction of African-American as a description of black Americans. A growing number of newspapers have begun using this term and the *Chronicle* is no exception. Several reasons prompt this change.

First, African-American is an infinitely better description of our race, culture and heritage than "black" is. No matter what shade of color we are, our roots are in Africa just as Italian-Americans and Irish-Americans can trace their roots to Italy and Ireland.

Second, the word, "black" is always spelled in lower case, unless it begins a sentence. When placed next to other ethnic classifications in a story, as in "he appealed to Jews and blacks," it looks dwarfed by comparison.

Finally, African-American gives an upbeat, positive perception. When viewed closely, readers will find that African-American has a profound, positive and motivational message located in the last four letters of each word. They are worth remembering.

The *Chronicle* welcomes letters from its readers, as well as columns. Letters should be as concise as possible and typed or printed legibly. They also should include the name, address and telephone number of the writer.

Columns should follow the same guidelines and will be published if we feel they are of interest to our general readership.

We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and grammar.

Submit your letters and columns to *Chronicle Mailbag*, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.



Our plantation athletes

When African-American athletes go off to white colleges to play sports, we should ask them: "Which plantation will you be playing on this year?"

Mark Whitaker and his lanky frame went off to Virginia Tech, the state's largest university, and joined the basketball division of that sports plantation. That was in 1983.

This year Whitaker calls Tech's basketball program a "sophisticated slavery system" with "athletes pouring out their sweat, but not receiving degrees."

Actually, Virginia Tech has not graduated a single basketball player since 1981, and, you can be assured, most or all of the basketball players were African-American.

Virginia Tech has just issued a report about "serious breaches of academic integrity," including tampering with an athlete's grade to maintain his eligibility. In fact, most of them couldn't qualify for college as student-athletes (the players scored 440 points lower than other students on their SAT scores).

TONY BROWN
Syndicated Columnist

This leads one to conclude that they were never recruited with education in mind, instead for their ability to generate revenues from television, alumni donations and accelerate student recruitment. At the expense of these unpaid professional athletes, the university prospered.

Mark Whitaker wanted to be different. He wanted to graduate. He took real courses in his freshman year, including chemistry. The other African-American players couldn't understand this kind of behavior and laughed at him for going to class.

To keep his average up, Whitaker asked the coach to excuse him from away games. The coach agreed; he was winning without him. However, the coach refused the same request the next year when the team wasn't doing so well.

"Mark, I won't be needing you

for practice anymore," the coach said, and proceeded to pull his scholarship.

Whitaker stayed with the books and last month became the only basketball player at Tech to graduate in six years. If he had followed the White coach's advice he probably would be another statistic of failed integration. But he followed his Baptist father's and schoolteacher mother's advice instead and received his degree in management science. Whitaker's next stop is Atlanta University, a school where they care. Be assured that he will get his MBA there.

And if you know any of the other athletes at Virginia Tech or most of the white schools, please read this column to them. Chances are they can't.

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

Coalition Strategy: Part one

The major breakthrough in progressive and African-American politics in the Reaganite eighties has been the rise of the Rainbow Coalition, and the transformation of Rev. Jesse Jackson as a major, visionary leader in the tradition of Garvey, King, and Malcolm. As we prepare for next year's presidential primaries, we should make a critical assessment of the strengths as well as weaknesses in the Rainbow up to this point. If we fail to do so, Jackson's effort may yield no lasting benefits.

Why did 80 percent of the African-American electorate and a small but growing percentage of white liberal-leftists back Jackson in 1984? Because we viewed the Rainbow Coalition as an essentially social protest movement, a Black-led, anti-racist mobilization drawing its strength from the grassroots across this country, which had acquired an electoral form.

The Rainbow Coalition was fundamentally a revolt against the political betrayals and backwardness of the Democratic Party; but because of the absence of a mass, social democratic or labor electoral party in this country, the revolt had to occur within the Democratic Party's own primaries. We viewed the Rainbow as a means to build bridges across race, gender and class boundaries, linking up the various progressive struggles being waged by people of color, feminists, the homeless, the unemployed, gays, lesbians, trade unionists, farmers, housing tenants, and dozens of other key constituencies. and we also viewed the Rainbow Coalition as an opportunity to break the anticommunist, bipartisan monopoly within American electoral politics.

Through the campaign itself, we discovered that we could present our ideas to a large audience on domestic and international policies. By and large, this analysis correctly depicts the main reasons why this group will endorse the Rev. Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign, and why it will continue to build the Rainbow Coalition after next year.

But our commitment toward

ALONG THE COLOR LINE
By MANNING MARABLE

constructing a Rainbow movement should not for a moment obscure a critique of the weaknesses and potential problem areas of the Rainbow up to this point. Certainly there's been real organizational weaknesses and a lack of real leadership from the national center. Local grassroots activists were left frequently to fend on their own, without adequate support or direction. This situation should change, however, with the recent appointment of Ron Daniels as acting head of the Rainbow's national Office in Washington, D.C. Daniels was previously president of the National Black Political Assem-

mer view the Rainbow narrowly as primarily a means to barter more effectively for concessions from the Democratic Party's hierarchy, while not trying to overturn the undemocratic structure of America's party system. The left wing, on the other hand, sees the Rainbow as a necessary but transitional stage toward a new kind of basic realignment inside American politics. These two perspectives will continue to conflict with each other until one or the other become dominant. If the "moderates" win, Jesse's campaign may succeed in obtaining a few critical concessions from the white Democratic Party establishment, but the basic second-class, Jim Crow position of African-Amer-



bly, a pre-party formation of black progressive politicians which came out of the Gary, Indiana black political convention of 1972. Daniels has strong administrative skills, but more importantly, he also has a life long commitment toward building an independent political vehicle outside of the Democrat and Republican parties. Daniels has roots as a community activist in the Youngstown, Ohio, community, and he is a person who shares a clear commitment of anticorporate politics.

However, another real contradiction inside the Rainbow has been between some of the more moderate forces vs. Much of the left. The for-

VERNON ROBINSON

Turning over our dollars

If every African-American household in this city was given ONE MILLION DOLLARS, white folk would have the money by midnight that same day.

This statement opened a buy Freedom public service announcement that ran briefly in Wilmington. The spot cut so deeply to the core of self-hatred and generated so many complaints, that the station owner pulled it off the air.

Racism's crippling blow is not the untoward acts by whites against us. Its most crippling blow is that our people have internalized self hate and behave as if we are a poor minority.

Discrimination cannot humble a proud people, it just makes them work harder. A broken people, however, will boycott their own businesses making a white boycott irrelevant. Racist taunts at white colleges are not as bad as many our students at those colleges believing that white schools, cars, records and ice are better, faster, clearer and colder than African-American products or services.

But a new day is dawning in our community.

The buy Freedom Campaign has set out to change the spending habits of African-Americans as a means to start an economic revolution in our community. This revolution of new wealth and new jobs will seep away many of the social problems that stem from unemployment.

The African-American consumer is asked to spend half of his/her disposable income with a Freedom business, those of our businesses that give prompt service or good products at a fair price, support other freedom businesses and reinvest profits in the community. This compares with the 6.6% of our income currently spent with our businesses.

The buy Freedom Campaign has created a beachhead in the Triad. fifteen businesses have taken the Freedom Pledge in Winston-Salem. Many of you have seen the Buy Freedom Ad in the Enterprise section of the *Chronicle*.

I know this because John Shelton told me when I stopped by his gas station that three people came in earlier and bought gas for the first time because they saw the Buy Freedom ad. This campaign is no theory. It works.

Shelton, in time, will be able to spend more with Freedom media newspapers and radio which creates jobs as well as expanding his own business which also creates jobs. This revolution will take place without a shot fired, except those dollars fired from your wallet or pocketbook.

Last week, I did business with a Real Estate Developer. African-Americans bought property and hardware from him. He, in turn, bought a modem for his computer from me. With those very same dollars, I bought hair care products from Dudley Products. Dudley and his 150 or employees also support African-American businesses.

So you see, the dollar that someone spends at the hardware store in Durham turned over at least four times. This multiplier effect has not operated in our community because we spend our money away from the community rather than in a circle. If you turn a dollar four times in our community, that is three more car payments, three more mortgage payments or three more tuition payments than you would have by running elsewhere and spending your money.

We gave away over 93% of the over 800 million dollars we had as African-Americans in Forsyth and Guilford counties last year. This time next year, let's keep half of that money in our community.

Vernon L. Robinson is chairman of the 21st Century PAC of North Carolina.



Robinson