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Readers defend Burke; say let officials work

To The Editor:

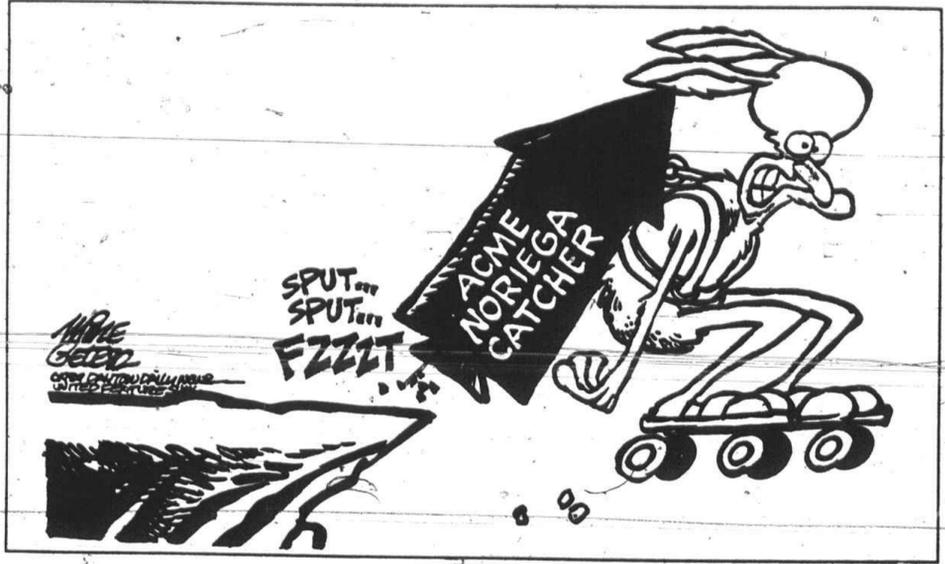
We couldn't believe what we were reading when we saw the attacks on Alderman Vivian Burke in the newspapers recently.

Alderman Burke has a reputation that she can be proud of. She has worked hard for our precinct and our city. We don't have to itemize the good things that she has done: Her campaign committee has published many times an article they called "Let the Record-Speak for Itself." It has not been challenged, so we can assume that even her attackers are aware of what a good job she has done.

For many years, black citizens all over the country have marched and rallied for equality. How can this group of attackers not see that Alderman Burke was voting for equal representation of chairmanships on the board? Why would our mayor name all four of the chairmanships to blacks when she knew that they will be representing all of the citizens of the city? It seems that this action caused the breakdown on the board. If she had named all four white chairmanships, this same group would, I think, be rallying against her, shouting "racism."

What message is this group sending to the aldermen? Are they saying, "If we don't like your vote on issues, we will ask for a recall?" What are they saying to our youth who might be interested in politics? Please think about these two questions. The answers to them will set the course for our city's future.

Maybe this group has forgotten



Alderman-Burke's hard work, but many of us have not. We respect her determination to stand up for and vote for what she believes to be best for our city. People soon forget, but many of Alderman Burke's achievements are visible.

Can there be other reasons for this attack on her and are people using this issue to confuse the citizens? Let's think about this, cancel the idea of a recall, get it behind us, and let the mayor and aldermen go about the business of looking after our city.

Rev. F.A. Leak
 Mildred C. Leak
 Winston-Salem

CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

About our real needs

To The Editor:

There is a campaign to recall Vivian Burke because of a decision she made as an elected official; an alderman, Patrick Hairston, was jeered at during a public meeting for expressing his opinion; a group tried to impeach Walter Marshall. These events concern me because they are actions to stifle differing opinions in our community. Most importantly, they also divert our attention from the real needs of our community. Our

black community is going downhill, and we all need to listen to each other in order to work together to improve our family life, help our children to become lovers of learning and have the self-esteem they need to rise above their environments and to witness Christ Jesus to our community so that we have the power to live morally.

These are times for service, not vengeance; for self-sacrifice, not self-seekers.

Esther C. Collins
 Winston-Salem

A need for indignation

HATE bombs are flying through the mail.

Two men are dead, one woman is seriously wounded, and several other people barely escaped injury as pipe bombs were dismantled at a federal courthouse in Atlanta and the NAACP office in Jacksonville, Fla.

FBI officials are placing the blame on white supremacist groups. A group calling itself Americans for a Competent Judicial System has claimed responsibility for the bombs.

The group claims the bombs were in retaliation for the 1988 rape and murder of a white woman in Atlanta, and threatens further attacks on Afro-American leaders.

Both of the men killed by the bombs, a judge and a Savannah, Ga. city alderman, were reportedly civil rights activists.

Violent acts of racism have been escalating during the past decade. According to a report by the Klanwatch Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., more than half of the hate crimes from the past decade occurred in the last two years.

The Howard Beach, N. Y., incident which left one black youth dead; the murder of an Ethiopian man in Portland, Ore.; and the murder of a young Afro-American youth, Yusef Hawkins, in Brooklyn, N. Y., are just a few of the more notable hate crimes that have occurred in the past few years.

It is appalling to the average person that anyone could be so filled with hatred as to randomly murder others because of their ethnic background. But what is more appalling is the apparent lack of concern among the majority media and our nation's political leaders.

These crimes have received minimal coverage in the majority daily press. When they are publicized, they are usually relegated to inside pages and are allowed no more than a few paragraphs.

Despite the fact that two people have recently been killed because of racist bombings, the front pages of most dailies are focused on Eastern Europe and Panama. These are, indeed, important news stories. But the random killings of civil rights and federal officials in this country deserve at least as much emphasis.

The daily media have been slow to follow up on the bomb killings. There has been no mention of the funerals of the slain, no mention of the civil rights activities of these two men which led to their murders, no reaction from the people close to them.

There has been no condemnation of the bombings from President George Bush or any majority member of Congress.

For the two men who died because they worked to ensure the civil rights of others, there has been no tribute.

It is precisely this type of apathy on the part of major opinion makers that allows such hatred and violence to recur. The acts are condoned by the silence. The deaths of Afro-Americans and other civil rights activists are trivialized by the majority media's lack of attention.

As the Klanwatch report states, "The hate that inspires these acts is not simply the product of a depraved environment or mental illness; it is the outcome of our own naivete and neglect."

It is time that we, as a nation, stop viewing these violent acts as isolated incidents committed by a crazed few.

We must recognize that we live in a political climate that endorses the victimization of minorities. That victimization has been endorsed by the Supreme Court.

The victimization will come to an end only when people who care about what is just and right are willing to challenge those who do not.

Selling conservative policy to black voters

The 1989 campaign results and the continuing inability of Republican candidates to win black votes give me pause to think. Many people who call themselves conservative, in fact, have no idea what conservatism means in terms of crafting public policy initiatives based on conservative principles.

This problem is particularly acute with regard to the policy challenges facing the Afro-American community.

If conservative Republican candidates and their supporters are unable to clearly articulate policy approaches that both address black concerns and are distinct from those offered by the Democrats, the GOP will continue to get few votes from the black community. Let's examine a public policy reading list that no self-respecting conservative should be without.

Currently two products of the great society programs are strangling the black family: welfare policy and subordinating all other education considerations to desegregation. Charles Murray's last two books, "Losing Ground" and "In Search of Happiness and Public Policy," detail what happens to policy when they are judged and continued on the basis of good intentions rather than results.

The black community has been conditioned to ask for another fix of poverty pills and, like the neighborhood junky, never will quit unless offered an alternative. Conserva-

tives must reframe the question rather than competing with the generals of the poverty pentagon in the other party.

Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., frames the question in the following manner: "Do you need government help with a particular problem? What solution will maximize quality, quantity and choice? And, who chooses? Conservative solutions must shift power away from the government to the disadvantaged and working families."

Robert Woodson of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise and Kimi Gray of the Kenil-

worth Housing Project have chronicled their winning program of empowering public housing tenants through tenant management. More info on tenant management and other self-help programs is available from the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, 1367 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Milton Freedman's "Free to Choose" is another staple of a conservative public policy diet. It suggests, to the extent we keep any welfare programs, that welfare be

distributed by vouchers for dependent care, housing and education. These vouchers would preserve quality, quantity and choice.

Mr. Freedman creates the philosophical basis for the Schools of Choice and school autonomy reforms that may actually produce a large number of public schools that work. He also provides the basis for a solution to young public housing residents becoming captives of the drug trade.

"Winning the Brain Race" by David Kearns and "Public Schools by Choice" edited by Joe Nathan outline how to harness free market

principles to restructure America's public schools. Drug dealing, the third major policy challenge facing the black community, exists in the housing projects for a very good reason. There is no legal free enterprise activity available there. George Waters at EDTEC, 309 Market St., Suite 302, Camden, N.J. 08102, has created programs to give ghetto teens an opportunity to create free market opportunities in the black community.

Tony Brown's Buy Freedom

campaign also harnesses the free market to address social problems by redirecting black income into the black community. Write Tony Brown's Journal at 1501 Broadway, Suite 2014, New York, N.Y. 10036, for more information on the Buy Freedom campaign.

Finally, conservatives (and liberals for that matter) would be well served by reading "After Apartheid: The Solution for South Africa" by Frances Kendall and Leon Louw. The book outlines how South Africa can peacefully evolve into a state that places great emphasis on personal freedom and a free market economy while accommodating great cultural diversity. If sanctions couldn't remove Manuel Noriega, they will never work in South Africa. "After Apartheid" gives the right an argument that the left cannot match.

I've tried to offer several suggestions on how conservatives can strengthen the appeal of conservative policy solutions to black voters by becoming familiar with both the policy and the philosophy that underpins them. Winning a mere 20 percent of the black vote would put the Democratic Party out of business at the national level.

In light of the coming 1990 elections, I hope my appeal won't fall on deaf or dim wits.

Vernon Robinson is a former candidate for the North Carolina General Assembly.



ANOTHER VIEW

By VERNON ROBINSON

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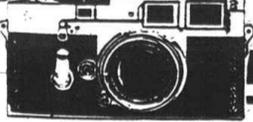
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Tony Brown's Buy Freedom

Chronicle Camera



What New Year's resolution would you offer your favorite celebrity?

A resolution, according to Webster's New World Dictionary's Second College Edition, is a thing determined upon or a decision about a future action.

The word is probably most popular during the last or first few days of any given year.

People resolve to quit smoking, lose weight, be more thrifty with their money or do numerous other things in an effort to make them better human beings.

New Year's Day is a holiday celebrated all over the world and has been for thousands of years. It's

celebrated by some on Jan. 1, by others at the beginning of spring and still others at harvest time.

More than 5,000 years ago, the Babylonians had parties and made New Year's resolutions. The Jews ate sweets for a sweet new year.

Iroquois Indians cleaned their

houses, made peace with their enemies, prayed, danced, visited each other and feasted.

The English gave Americans many of the New Year's Eve traditions observed in our country - such as toasting the year in with egg nog and writing resolutions.

The Scots gave Americans the New Year's Eve theme song, Auld Lang Syne.

Not much has changed in the way Americans celebrate the new year. People still gather in Times Square in New York City, and parades and football championship

games go on all New Year's Day.

Celebrities really come out at this time of the year. Rather than ask city residents their own resolutions for 1990, the Chronicle asked them what they wanted for their favorite stars.



"I want to see Eddie Murphy progress even further in 1990."

M.L. Miller



"My favorite is my pastor Jerry Drayton and I want him to continue to be outspoken and say what's on his mind."

Doris Pearson



Joe Gaston

"I'd like to see Michael Jackson do a movie next year."



Theresa Fleshman

"Roseanne Barr should resolve to do the same thing she did in 1989 - be a big success."



Cherry Jordan

"I want Prince to do a new movie that was better than the last one."