

Forum

Is Clinton's Strategy Color Blind

The day after Ross Perot made it a three-way race, a USA Today/CNN/Gallup tracking poll showed Bill Clinton opening a 17-point lead over George Bush.

A week before, several publications reported Clinton (44%) 12 points ahead — but in a statistical tie with Bush (43%) among Whites. Blacks accounted for almost all of Clinton's national lead, the survey indicated.

And Clinton succeeded in doing that by wooing Whites and staying away from Blacks, other than a media-visible visit recently to the

victory as a vehicle to enrich themselves.

During the Congressional Black Caucus activities, about 2,090 blacks handed over more than \$600,000 to the Arkansas governor. Each, according to writers Jacqueline Trescott and Mary Ann French in the Post, anted up \$10,000 or more.

I can't think of a single Black self-help effort to rebuild the Black community that could move 200 Blacks to donate \$600,000!

Amidst all of this hypocritical grandeur was talk of using economic power to help ourselves. One must ask some of these

Black investors who it is we are to help? Or is it just another hustle at the expense of the poor and disadvantaged Blacks?

If it is, why

do we need Black politicians? White ones would do just as well.

And since John Lewis is such an integrationist and does not see race as being an important issue in a racist society in which race is the sub-text for political issues, why does he seek Black votes by portraying himself as a leader of Black causes?

Why doesn't Lewis limit himself to issues such as the environment, health care and deficit reduction. While he's at his generic agenda, he might tell Clinton that his proposals to fire 150,000 middle-management government workers will devastate the Black middle class.

And Clinton's proposal to require small businesses to provide health care coverage to their workers by imposing a 7% to 9% payroll tax on unincorporated employers will drive most Black entrepreneurs into bankruptcy and lose scores of jobs for Blacks.

To Jesse Jackson's everlasting credit, although he's using a \$1.4 million Democratic Party budget to register Blacks to vote, during his speeches he does not ask Blacks to vote for Clinton.

Jackson knows that Clinton has insulted Blacks and used the natural animosities between the two men to demonstrate to Whites that he can control Blacks. Can John Lewis call Bill Clinton's Whites-only strategy colorblind?



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

Congressional Black Caucus' annual festivities.

Jesse Jackson has protested Clinton's stay-away-from-Blacks strategy, but it has been hailed by Rep. John Lewis of Atlanta, who now has a reputation in the Black caucus of not being a team player in matters of Black unity.

Lewis said that Black critics who agree with Jesse Jackson expect Clinton "to cater to and pander to every segment of the Democratic Party, and that's the mistake we've made in the past." According to The Washington Post, Lewis said the issues of the campaign "tend to transcend race."

In other words, Lewis wants a colorblind Black community not to seek special treatment during the "year of the woman," union concession, farmer subsidies, defense contracts for Connecticut and Texas, entitlement bloc protection for social security recipients and a political payoff for any voter bloc.

Lewis proposed that Blacks, who cast over 25% of all Democratic votes, should stay out of the way, lest their presence offend Whites, and let Clinton do his good 'ol boy, aw-shucks act and win. Then — maybe — he'll mention their needs after he's elected, if they fit the colorblind agenda.

Other well-connected, upper-class Blacks like Lewis approve of Clinton's Whites-only strategy also because they see his potential

Perry Phenomenon Sad Commentary

H. Ross Perot can afford to be wishy-washy.

The Texas billionaire who is now officially a candidate for U.S. president, is running for a position he does not want.

Then why is he a candidate? Because he represents the "none of the above" many voters want on the November ballot. To many Americans, neither George Bush nor Bill Clinton offers anything of substance. They

"I'm used to calling the shots and giving orders," he said during a television interview during the height of the call for him to enter the race. "That's the only way I can function. I don't have the patience for politics."

Neither does Ross Perot.

He, as Iacocca, would make a lousy president.

We must view the Perot phenomenon for what it is: a symptom of a nation that has

blems attracts its best leadership to lead it.

George Bush demonstrated

bad he is.

Clinton is the

of the worst Democrats

to offer, and

Perot has demonstrated the ability to do nothing but make money.

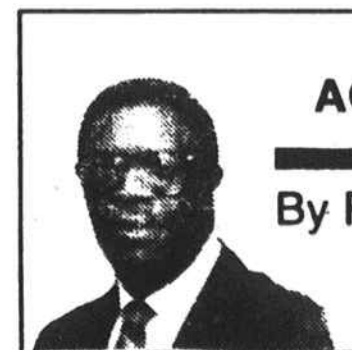
To say these three men are the best we have to offer as our leaders is a sad commentary on the state of politics in this nation.

We have allowed the science to degenerate into a field where true servants choose not to serve for fear of being asphyxiated by the stench of special interests, corruption, personal gain and incompetence — or any combination thereof.

Many honest and decent prospects who would make our political system work for the good of all America opt out because they are in such small minority that they simply would spend their time in office being frustrated by the current state of the system.

Perot should be a great reminder to all of us how desperate we are for good, strong leadership.

...And until we get it, any billionaire can buy our fantasy and further contaminate our



AGAINST THE GRAIN

By ROOSEVELT WILSON

want another choice, and Perot's ability to waltz in and out of the race for the highest office in the land is a symptom of the desperation many Americans have for some semblance of administrative competence.

Perot will be little more than a filthy-rich political footnote after the polls close on Nov. 3, but the fact that his childish, seemingly impulsive and impetuous antics can draw so much world attention gives cause for concern.

Through a much cruder version, the Perot phenomenon is similar to the Lee Iacocca phenomenon a few years ago after Iacocca turned Chrysler Corporation's sinking financial ship into a profitable luxury liner.

Americans began to dream that that kind of efficient management is what this country needs to rid itself of its obscene deficit and return to the creditor nation it once was.

Iacocca declined calls for him to run for president, saying he could not function in a political setting.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

Panel 1 (10-12): GUESS WHO'S BACK, CAMPERS! WORLD-CLASS FRINGE CANDIDATE ROSS PEROT! CAN YOU HEAR ME, MR. PEROT? CLEAR AS A BELL, SON.

Panel 2 (10-12): SIR, LAST MONTH YOU TOLD THE SENATE YOU HAD FRESH EVIDENCE OF VIETNAM POW'S... THAT'S RIGHT, 59 OF 'EM!

Panel 3 (10-12): UM... YOU SAID 30 AT THE TIME, SIR. LET'S NOT PLAY GOTCHA! I SAID AT LEAST 30! I COULD BRING HOME 30 WITH-OUT BREAKING A SWEAT!

Panel 4 (10-12): OKAY, 59. WHEN ARE THEY COMING HOME? AS SOON AS I CAN RUN CREDIT CHECKS ON THEM. STRICTLY ROUTINE. NO BIG DEAL.

Panel 5 (10-13): MR. PEROT, AS YOU NOW KNOW, RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT CAN BE PRETTY ROUGH... I'M WONDERING HOW YOUR FAMILY FEELS ABOUT YOUR JUMPING BACK INTO THE FRAY.

Panel 6 (10-13): ARE YOU SURE, SIR? THE DAY YOU DECLARED I THOUGHT HER FACE SAID IT ALL. WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT'D IT SAY?

Panel 7 (10-13): IT SAID "I'M MARRIED TO A PSYCHOTIC, AND THERE'S NOT A DAMN THING I CAN DO ABOUT IT." SHE'S A SAINT, A WORLD-CLASS SAINT.

Panel 8 (10-13): MR. PEROT, A LOT OF YOUR SUPPORTERS ARE DISTRESSED BY THE GROWING EVIDENCE OF YOUR BIGOTRY... MY BIGOTRY? THAT'S CRAZY! MINNIE MOUSE COLESLAW! BONKERS! PRESS MYTH NO. 1173!

Panel 9 (10-14): THEN WHY DID YOU TRY TO KEEP YOUR DAUGHTER FROM MARRYING A JEW, REPORTEDLY SAYING "YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR CHILDREN LOOK LIKE YOU"? I MEAN, I FIND THAT INCREDIBLE!

Panel 10 (10-14): WHY? BECAUSE OF MY EARS? THAT'S LOW! ARE YOU A JEW? MUST BE. I'M IN THE MEDIA.

Panel 11 (10-15): MR. PEROT, IT'S BEEN REPORTED RECENTLY THAT YOU TRIED TO DIS-CREDIT YOUR DAUGHTER'S JEWISH FIANCE BECAUSE, AS YOU PUT IT, "YOU DON'T THINK THAT I'D LET MY DAUGHTER MARRY A JEW." SIR, DO YOU THINK... THAT'S A FAIRY TALE! DAISY DUCK SALAD! NEVER HAPPENED! YOU KNOW, THIS ISN'T FUN ANYMORE! I'VE HAD IT! I'M DROPPING OUT!

Panel 12 (10-15): YOU'RE... DROPPING OUT? I'M GONE! OUT THE DOOR! END OF STORY! ADIOS!

Panel 13 (10-15): UM... OKAY. OUR GUEST TONIGHT HAS BEEN... I'M BACK! SIMPLE AS THAT! LET'S TALK ABOUT THE ISSUES!

Panel 14 (10-16): MR. PEROT, I WONDER IF WE COULD TALK ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL FOR A MOMENT... IT'S BEEN REPORTED THAT YOU SO DETESTED THE FINAL DESIGN THAT YOU HAD THE ORGANIZERS INVESTIGATED AND HARASSED...

Panel 15 (10-16): HERE'S THE DEAL: IT'S A COMPLETE FAIRY TALE! NEVER HAPPENED! AND THAT YOU OFTEN REFERRED TO THE MONUMENTS ASIAN-AMERICAN DESIGNER AS "EGGROLL"!

Panel 16 (10-16): BONKERS! CRACKERS! MICKEY MOUSE SUSHI! TEST, TEST! TELL MR. P THE TRAP'S ON!

Panel 17 (10-17): MR. PEROT, DO YOU THINK IT'S PROPER, INDEED LEGAL, TO INVESTIGATE THE CREDIT RATINGS OF YOUR VOLUNTEERS? NO, I, OKAY? NOW, LET ME FINISH. NO, I, THEY WERE ROUTINE INVESTIGATIONS. END OF STORY. NEXT QUESTION.

Panel 18 (10-17): LOOK, PEOPLE WERE CALLING DALLAS TO SAY, "WE'VE GOT CRIMES GOING ON DOWN HERE, THEFT, PEOPLE ARE STEALING FROM US!" WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?

Panel 19 (10-17): CALL THE POLICE? NO, I, OKAY? LET ME FINISH. NEXT QUESTION.

Special Kwanzaa Offer

for a limited time only, you can get a one year subscription to the Chronicle (regular price \$30.72) and the revised edition of Kwanzaa — everything you always wanted to know . . . for only

\$26.90

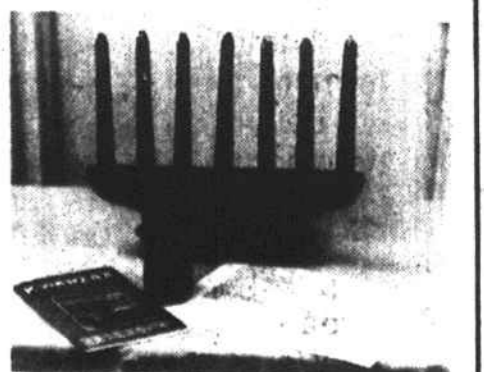
This season be prepared! This book is the most popular of all the Kwanzaa books according to Ed McCarter of special occasions. Supply is limited. So act NOW!

Clip and Mail

Send your check or money order to:
Subscription Dept.
Winston-Salem Chronicle
P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, N. C. 27102-1636

1 year plus Kwanzaa Book
\$26.90
Add \$6.00 for delivery outside Forsyth County, N.C.

Name _____
Address (City, State) _____
Zip _____ Phone () _____



Complete Kwanzaa sets available at Special Occasions Bookstore, 112 Martin Luther King Drive, (919) 724-0324

Vote
Tuesday, November 3