

LETTERS/OPINIONS

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Editorials

BCA on Target

Regardless of what those say who think all is fine and well in the world of college athletics, it ain't so. And the Black Coach's Association should be commended for forcing the NCAA to not only take note of that fact, but deal with it, too. There has been much hoopla the past few weeks over the BCA's insistence that colleges and universities allow for a fourteenth scholarship in basketball.



John Chaney

But some coaches and university presidents prefer to sweep this hot issue under the rug. Their smug arrogance fails to allow them to see the importance of just one more person — in all likelihood an underprivileged African American — getting a free education from each of the 300 Division I schools. But that's small fry when compared to the money that the athlete will likely generate for the school during his four years there. But they seem to be saying, 'Why give another black kid an education?'

The truth of the matter is that the hierarchy of most . . . most majority colleges and their athletic departments are an overwhelmingly white fraternity with black pledges disguised as ballplayers.

majority colleges and their athletic departments are an overwhelmingly white fraternity with black pledges disguised as ballplayers. And the Big Brothers do not want to share their power. They see it as the last thing they can hold on to, since blacks by a wide majority dominate numbers on the court and on the field.

As Arkansas basketball Coach Nolan Richardson has been saying all along, the BCA issue is about more than scholarships. It's about African Americans comprising nearly two-thirds of the total athletic teams of the 300 Division I schools, but holding down only three head football coaching jobs. It's also about the dearth of black team doctors and play-by-play announcers at major colleges.

Chief among the concerns of the BCA is the scholarship limitation. But also of concern is the abolishment of the graduate assistant coach position, an entry-level position that was occupied mainly by blacks. The BCA also is concerned over the lack of African-American representation on the NCAA and USA Basketball executive committees.

With all the money coaches — nearly all of whom are white — are making on shoe contracts, it's no wonder, they want to keep the doors barred.

"Blacks need not apply" is the message the NCAA officials and top brass at universities have sent for years. And the BCA is right on target for not sitting idly by and taking it anymore.

Credo of the Black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from antagonisms when it accords to every person — regardless of race or creed — full human and legal rights. Having no person, the Black Press strives to help every person, in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

Despite Hardships, NAACP Survives 85 Years

To the Editor:

This is the year which marks one of the greatest feats known to man — at least this might be believed by the NAACP's enemies and critics.

The group has survived 85 years as the premier civil rights organization in America.

Despite the fact, the mainstream media has hired only a few so-called black journalists to help sensitize its readership and "get the story."

Unfortunately, many of them still do not "get the story." In a world of spins and disinformation, these two forces have in many cases — not all — misled, lied, rumored, and even tried to literally crush the organization.

But the towering conviction of the NAACP's founding parents has insulated its contemporary leadership.

Corporate America realizes that their definition of "fair share" to the black community has traditionally been peanuts.

Additionally, many blacks who have achieved forget about reaching back for others.

So the need for an economically healthy black America demands refocusing, strong and consistent leadership, and the ability to reach out and change the growing deprivation from multiracial and multicultural achievements.

Under the current leadership of William F. Gibson, the NAACP and its board have cemented what appears to be an excellent partnership with Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., the new executive director/CEO, and the youths of America.



Michael Jackson waves from a carnival ride with unidentified youngsters as he hosts a Martin Luther King Jr. holiday party at his Neverland Ranch at Los Olivos, Calif., Saturday. The embattled superstar hosted some 100 children from South-Central Los Angeles at his 2,600-acre ranch.

They, with others, are addressing the needs of a sick and often selfish society.

Here's wishing the NAACP another 85 years of advancement for brother and sisterhood.

Gentry W. Trotter
CRISIS magazine

Thanks for Support

To the Editor:

We thank the community for the generous response in providing food for the needy during the recent holiday season. Because of your help, well over 40,000 food items

were donated, along with monies which were used to purchase perishable items.

As a result, we were privileged to provide holiday meals for 326 families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. A total of 1269 people outside of the mission received food. We also prepared and served 380 meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners at the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission. During 1993, we provided 88,500 meals and almost 30,000 nights of lodging to those in need. Over 140 decisions for Christ were recorded. Thank you for helping to make this possible.

Haynes Moore
Winston-Salem Rescue Mission

About letters . . .

The Chronicle welcomes letters as well as guest columns from its readers. Letters should be as concise as possible and should be typed or legibly printed. The letter must also include the name, address and telephone number of the writer to ensure the authenticity of the letter. Columns must follow the same guidelines and will be published if they are of interest to our general readership. The Chronicle will not publish any letters or columns that arrive without this information. We reserve the right to edit letters and columns for brevity and clarity. Submit letters and columns to:

Chronicle Mailbox
P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

Europe's Fascism: International Dimensions of Racism

I stood on a Paris street last month, as darkening clouds rumbled above. Beneath intermittent showers, marching in crude military formation, were several hundred members of the French racist political party, the National Front.

Most of the party members were wearing casual work clothes, blue jeans and worn leather jackets; the majority of demonstrators appeared to be in their twenties and thirties. All were shouting, and all were white.

I followed the motley procession as it made its way from the Boulevard Raspail, through the business district of the narrow Rue De Rennes, on the wall of dozen of buildings and doorways. One poster attacked French participation in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations, which were just being concluded in Geneva, Switzerland. Another flyer condemned symbols of "American imperialism" which supposedly undermined French culture.

The symbols included the Statue of Liberty — which was made in France originally and given to America as a gift — the trademark of McDonald's hamburger chain, and a gross depiction of an African-American basketball player, with huge lips and grotesque eyes. The National Front's slogans were provocative: "France for the French!" "Immigrants Out of Europe!"

The demonstration blocked an intersection, trapping a small automobile. Evidentially, the driver made the mistake of showing his outrage at the fascists. National Front members surrounded the vehicle and pounded it furiously. The motorist fled for safety, as his automobile was smashed. As the panic in the streets escalated, I wondered aloud, "Where are the French police?"

Saturday afternoon shoppers who had come to the busy district for Christmas shopping now

huddled anxiously against the walls of the brightly decorated buildings.

One elderly woman with red hair, perhaps a survivor of the German occupation of France a half century ago, was not intimidated. Stepping forward, she bitterly denounced the young thugs: "Fascists!" "Fascists!"

When the demonstrators reached a McDonald's restaurant, they began to shout in unison, pounding against the large glass windows and doors. Terrified patrons and employees fled. Then from the rear of the mob, about 20 "skin-heads" covering their faces with red handkerchiefs sprinted forward. They smashed a large plate glass window in the front of the restaurant, as well as the front doors.

Triumphant and cheering, the National Front members marched to the Tour Montparnasse, thrusting their rain-soaked racist banners into the dark skies. Once more, the police were nowhere to be found.

The neofascist National Front has tens of thousands of members and has garnered the support of several million French citizens. The Front appeals chiefly to the country's unemployed and working class whites, who feel that they are losing their jobs to nonwhite immigrants. By purging Arabs, Africans and other lacking French citizenship from the country, the Front declares, poor whites will advance economically.

Fascist, anti-Semitic and racist movements are growing rapidly across Europe in the post-Cold War period. In the past three years, right-wing extremists in Germany have murdered 30

nonwhites and have burned the home of Turkish and African workers.

In Russia's recent parliamentary elections, the racist and ultranationalist party of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy received significant support. In Italy, the granddaughter of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, running on a reactionary program, was only narrowly defeated in her bid for mayor of the city of Naples. The near political outlook in Europe is more dangerous today perhaps than at any time since the defeat of Hitler's fascism 50



ALONG THE COLOR LINE

By MANNING MARABLE

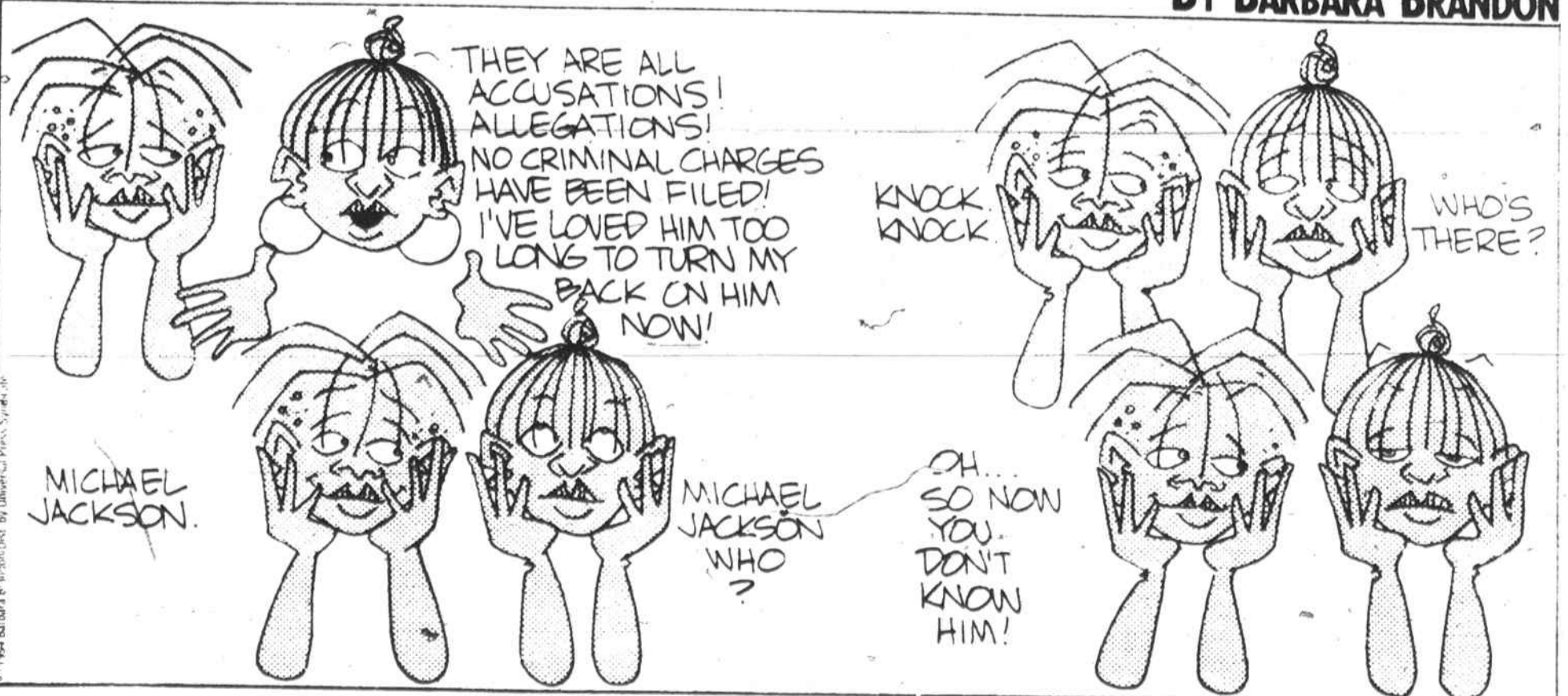
years ago. As the real wages of white workers fall and unemployment grows, the foundations for scapegoat politics and ethnics chauvinism increase. We must monitor closely the growth of parties like the National Front and provide support whenever possible to progressive and anti-racist organizations throughout Europe.

As I walked toward my hotel after the National Front's rally, I encountered one final poster, the most vicious all. A white man shown violent assault, with two black hands covering his mouth from behind. The slogan beneath read simply: "Freedom of Expression for Whites!"

(Manning Marable is professor of history and political science and director of the African-American Studies Institute, Columbia University, New York City.)

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