

Madness

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stop yelling that. It is not the other kid's fault that he has more leaping ability or athleticism than your child.

Another point of concern is the physical threats and intimidation hurled toward referees. The refs are out there for the most part just to keep order and to stay out of the game to let the players decide the outcome. Some parents seem to think the ref is out to get their kid or their team. I'm sorry to tell you that we have better things to worry about in our lives than to have a vendetta out against your child. Ladies and gentlemen, we have lives too, and it does not include concocting a diabolical scheme to foul your kid out of a game or to fix it so the other team wins. To try to physically intimidate a ref because your kid's team is losing is a bit irrational.

A funny story that happened to me recently: a mother yelled at her son that "the refs are cheating for the other team" and "the refs obviously want them to win" loud enough so the entire gym heard her. What she didn't know is that I am a good friend with her son's head coach, so if I were to cheat for

anyone, it probably would have been her son's team. It's ridiculous claims such as these that upset even the best of referees. I made it a point to shake the hand of the coach after the game and look her directly in her eyes as I was doing so, just to make a point, and the look of embarrassment on her face was all the satisfaction I needed.

One of the more subtle things I don't like that parents do is the undermining of the coach. I have seen countless interactions with coaches and players where the player is given direct instructions on what he was supposed to do, to only have a parent tell the player to do the exact opposite thing. I never understood the motivation behind telling your child to do something that goes against the best interest of the team.

To put the interest of your child above the interest of the team is always the wrong approach. I just think if a parent wants to advise their child, then become their coach, but don't tell the child to go against the plan the coach has laid out for the player, because it makes them look like they're uncoachable.

I am a parent of a child who participates in athletics. When I go to watch her play, I sit back and enjoy

watching my child do her very best. As long as she is having fun and giving it her all, that's the only thing that matters to me. When I see other parents losing it in the stands, it just makes me laugh.

As I thought about why these parents were acting this way, the thing that came to mind is that they probably have never had much athletic success themselves, so they are living out their athletic dreams through their children. I guess since I have achieved the highest of highs in my athletic career, I'm content to sit back and enjoy watching my child perform to the best of her abilities.

It's getting to the point where there are coaches and referees who have quit simply because of the parents they have to deal with. My hope is that this gets better sooner rather than later, because youth sports is about the kids, not the parents.

Sorry to tell them, but no one cares what they have to say, especially since most parents don't even care enough to learn the rules of the game.

Please, sit back and enjoy the game, like all the other well-mannered parents, and stop ruining a potential great experience for your child.

Ford

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much. But also, more indirectly in the impact he had on a whole generation on conscious Christian pastors in the black community who I was directly exposed to, like Jeremiah Wright Jr, James Forbes Jr. These were individuals who were a product of the challenge that some took on to try and deal with the contradiction that Malcolm X, above many others, pointed out between embracing a Christianity that had been hijacked by white supremacy with the history of black oppression and the problem with black people walking into black churches where every picture is a white Jesus.

I am the generation of preachers that was taught by the preachers who first were trying to reconcile those tensions.

The Chronicle: In the time since the Civil Rights movement, do you feel the trailblazers of the Civil Rights era would be pleased at the progress we have made?

Ford: It's a generational gap of how people will look at this question. I have a congregation of predominately older folks, many of whom are old enough to have lived through some portion of segregation and I think those who have that long view have seen how far we have come. I think it is a hard sell to suggest to folks like that, as you'll hear some people say, things are just as bad now as they were back then. I think you have to be careful making those kinds of broad, generalized comments. What is true is that we are seeing a type of vitriol, a type of bigotry that is very reminiscent of days of old, because the white power structure in this country is on its last leg and knows it. It's not inevitable, it's a matter of time.

The election of Donald Trump is rightly understood as a white lash against the elevation of Barack Obama to the presidency of the United States

for two terms. He (Trump) has been described as our first white president, not because all the other presidents before Obama weren't white, but that he ran on a just-beneath-the-surface, latent white nationalist identity, persona, profile and agenda.

We've come a mighty long way, we have to go back to what King said on the night before he died, "I've been to the mountain top, I've looked over, I've seen the promise land. I may not get there with you, but we as a people will get to the promise land." I would say we are still wandering in the wilderness. I would say we have made progress, but I don't know I would say we are there yet. There are still too many of our people that are disproportionately impoverished, it's still play-booked that our communities are the ones subject to gentrification, we're still dealing with mass incarceration, which is one of the last battles that has to be fought, and we have a long way to go. We have to get organized and united as much as possible in order to finish the work and finish the journey.

The Chronicle: Tell me about the process of

vetting the candidates you chose to endorse for our local elections.

Ford: There are a couple of considerations and one of them is looking at the challenges facing our community and the need for bold leadership that will work to bring the community together, but will also speak in innovative, creative and entrepreneurial ways and move in such a way to be a key player in helping to pull the community together and move us forward in ways we need to go to reach and achieve greater equity. I have personal relationships with some of these individuals and that's always a reality, particularly when you look at the situations where people have similar agendas.

Second of all, it comes down to those personal relationships to see how people impress you in terms of that bold mindset. The people that I have chose to stand behind for those elections that cross the boundaries of this church are individuals that really demonstrate that passion, that bold leadership, and will move us in the direction that we need to go.

Raye

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more years left to go, Raye Sr. is confident his son has only scratched the surface of his potential and will continue to get better.

"This season just goes to show, when you have a child and you teach them to believe in themselves beyond their imagination, this is the result you get," said Raye Sr. when asked about his son's accomplishment. "As the season went on, I tried not to get that in his mind, but to just

play a team game and let it come naturally."

As a coach and father, being able to witness your son/player make history was something he never thought would happen, said Raye Sr.

"When he hit the mark, he walked over and we were both crying like two big babies," said Raye Sr. "It was a great feeling as a father and to see your son set a goal and then accomplish it, is very special. I just embraced the moment and I am happy."

Raye Jr. has already

begun to garner attention from several colleges. He is thankful to those outside of his family and his teammates that have helped him get to this point such as Eric Ambrosio, Jerran Foster, AJ Atkinson, Mike Russell, Tristen Lawrence, Richard Daniels Jr and Dairl Scott Jr, just to name a few.

Over the next two years, Raye Jr. wants to win a state championship and try to eclipse the 2,000-point barrier.

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KEITH KING FOR CITY COUNCIL NORTHEAST WARD



BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FOUNDER AND OWNER OF KINGZ DOWNTOWN MARKET, 2004 BLACK ACHIEVERS AWARD (MINORITY BUSINESS) AS A MINORITY BUSINESS OWNER, I WILL WORK TO BRING MORE BUSINESS TO THE NORTHEAST WARD.

EMPLOYMENT

WINSTON SALEM HAS SEEN JOB GROWTH OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, BUT MORE JOBS ARE NEEDED. **IT WILL BE MY MISSION TO WORK WITH COMPANIES WILLING TO HIRE RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHEAST WARD.**

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE WS TRANSIT AUTHORITY. MEMBER OF DOWNTOWN WINSTON SALEM PARTNERSHIP AND NAACP. TRUSTEE OF REVEAL CHURCH OF CHRIST & CO-CHOIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. **I WILL WORK HARD SO THAT WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!**

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OUR CURRENT POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS A MAIN OFFICE IN DOWNTOWN WINSTON SALEM

I WILL PUSH FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOODS TO BE SAFER BY HAVING POLICE SATELLITE OFFICES IN THE NORTHEAST WARD

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

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