

Editorials & Comments

The Joan Little Trial

A whole lot of people are watching with considerable interest to see the outcome of the trial of Miss Joan Little that is now taking place in our capital city of Raleigh.

The Little trial has generated remarkable interest among different groups of people all over the world. First, perhaps because Miss Little is black and charged with a crime against a white. Second, there is interest because she is a female charged with a capital crime against a male member of the so-called Establishment. Third, there is interest in the case because it smacks of ruminations of the old evils manifested in the movie - Mandingo - which aroused racial feelings among the black population who viewed it recently.

In addition to the above mentioned reasons, perhaps the most significant one is that many persons, be objective in analyzing the matter be objective in analyzing the matter of Miss Little's innocence or guilt in the matter. Her plea is one of self-defense.

But Joan Little's case is anything but an open-and-shut one. This is primarily because of the lingering doubts about her basic character.

Everyone expects the black press to line up on the side of black persons accused of wrong doing by the white officers of the law enforcement establishment, everyone will begin to negate the notion because it looks so bad in print.

The Carolina Peacemaker is interested in seeing that justice is done - blind justice weighing the issues and the evidence impartially without fear or favor.

The fact that Joan Little has an extensive criminal record has nothing to do with the present case in fact. But any prospective juror or judge would be inclined to look at that record despite instructions to the contrary.

It is a foregone conclusion that Miss Little killed Oscar Allgood, the Beaufort County jailer; she admits to stabbing him a number of times after he allegedly raped her and, according to some reports, forced her to commit sodomy.

Those are incendiary charged indeed, and ones which most black people would be inclined to believe

Let Us Hear From You

For the last 6 weeks the editorial page has consisted of articles which are contrary to the belief of some, agreeable with others, and erroneous to others. The editorial staff

welcomes this patronage and we are extending an invitation to all to "Let Us Hear From You." We welcome the chance to print your opinion.

We, the staff, are only airing our opinions on particular situations and we don't expect complete compli-

given the past history of abuses heaped upon black women in jails by white men, particularly in small rural towns of the South.

And so the Joan Little case has become a cause celebre in our region. Everyone is calling for Miss Little to be set free, almost without a trial, forgetting the possibility that such counter charges totally false. (No physical examination of the victim was made reasonably soon after the alleged offense.)

One thing is certain, Oscar Allgood is dead, killed admittedly by a prisoner in his jail.

Is it possible that true justice can be discerned and dispensed? We fear that the waters may be muddied by secondary issues such as: 1) Is the judge capable of dispensing justice without bias? He has given preliminary indications that he wants to avoid any semblance of prejudice by agreeing to a change of venue from Beaufort County to Raleigh, the capital city.

However, he may show himself incapable of dispassion for traditional mores of the Old South - the principle that there is no harm in convening a jury composed of eleven whites and one black, or for that matter, an all-white jury to try a black accused of an offense against a white person.

One thing appears to be certain, Miss Little's attorney, Jerry Paul, seems to be destined to run headlong against any legal barricades erected by Judge Hamilton Hobgood.

The result will be a mistrial and Mr. Paul's citation for contempt - a charge which must be answered only in Judge Hobgood's courtroom. And Mr. Paul should be aware of this fact.

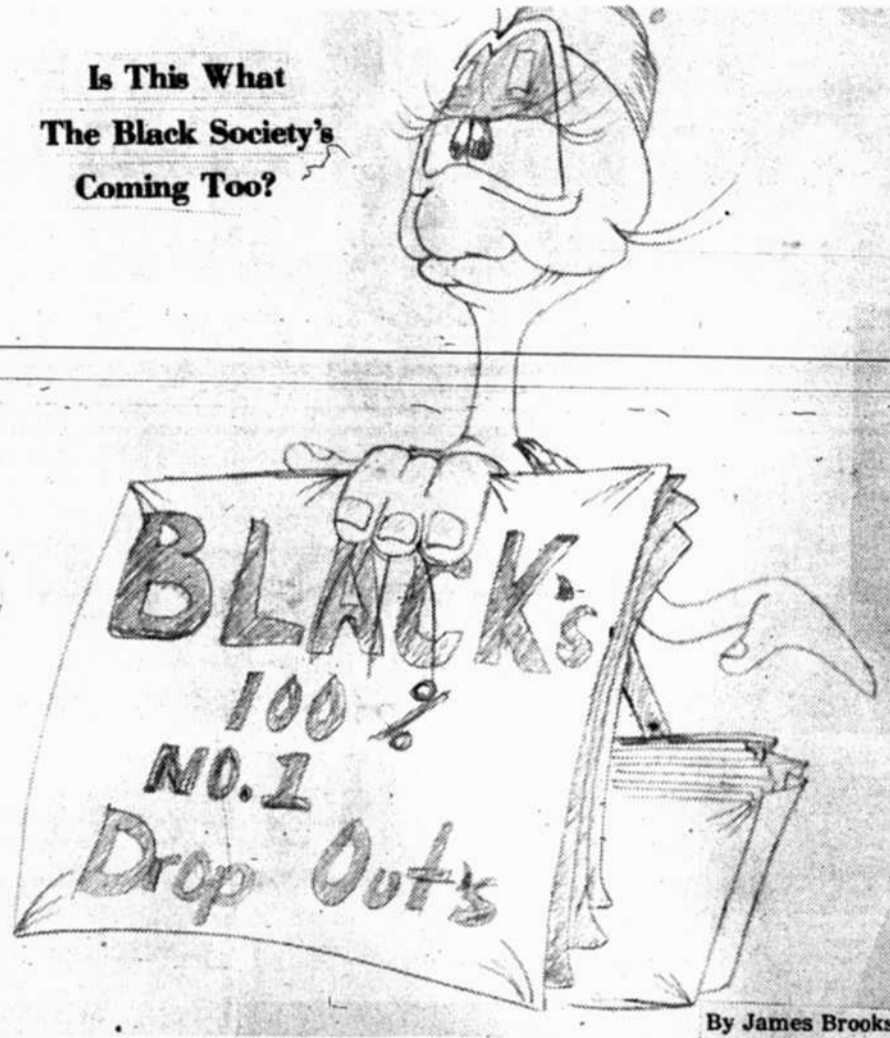
It seems to us, here at the Carolina Peacemaker, that Attorney Jerry Paul must act to protect the vital interests of Miss Little, the most rudimentary of which is that she be tried by a jury of her peers. Anything less than this is totally unacceptable by her attorneys and by the black citizens of North Carolina and of this nation.

Guest Editorial
By Dr. John Marshall Kilimanjaro

ance. We only ask that comments, corrections, and - or criticisms be forwarded with the name and address. When your letter is received it will appear in the next edition of the Post. Letters need not pertain to articles of the Post. Any opinion on any meaningful topic will be printed. Just mail your letter to:

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Is This What
The Black Society's
Coming Too?



By James Brooks

Is The Ending Of Our Dream, The Beginning Of A Nightmare?

Letters to the Editor

Jefferson Is Great Teacher

Dear Sir,

He is Black People's greatest teacher. Sherron Hemsley of "The Jefferson's" program on WBT is a blessing to Black people that he plays the part of a "Big Nigger" who has accumulated a little money from his dry cleaning business and now has forgotten the lesson of a point that "if you want to gather honey, don't fight the bees, for they are the ones who make it."

Now Black people-about one out of every five hundred- owns a little grocery store or dry cleaning service, or is a doctor or lawyer. These few begin immediately to abandon the thought that they are Black and would rather look on the other's as "outcasts" or not good enough to associate with them. On the other hand his action causes the unfortunate to despise him.

Just a few weeks ago, some White people who were protesting the building of public housing in a certain part of town where they lived were invited to meet with the city council to explain their grievances and believe it or not, to my surprise, a Black man who had managed to buy a home somewhere near this neighborhood was about he second or third person to appear before the T.V. camera and lend his support to this matter. Now, how does this Black person earn his living? He is a funeral director who sits and hopes for some Black person to die so he can get the job of burying him. You can be sure that if a thousand White people in that neighborhood died in one day, he would not get a chance to bury even one.

So you can understand that all the gripes against Whites by Blacks that they discriminate against them is not true. But, that the blessing of a Black person usually turns out a "Big Nigger" as we call it. Even though this man who owns a funeral service, his blessing remains as one good thing that the television station he appeared on is just one that not many Black people owe blessing to. He could have just gone home and closed his funeral home that night for he would not get another body to bury.

Rev. F. M. Cunningham Sr.

Minister Supports Moten

Dear Editor:

The workers of the Neighborhood Youth Corp and Minister at Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church are writing this letter to show our support for W. T. Moten. Although we recognize that the program has had a few problems we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Moten for giving us the opportunity to work this summer.

We feel that it was not Mr. Moten's intention to overhire, but recognizing the economic situation of the community, he wanted to provide jobs for college bound students as well as those of low income. We also feel that he should not be condemned for trying to provide jobs for that segment of society that so desperately needed work. These jobs could have possibly eliminated unforeseen problems that arise when youth are jobless and as a result roam the streets.

George E. Battle Jr.
Minister

TO BE EQUAL



VERNON F. JORDAN JR.

The Rise Of "The New Ethnicity"

A major development in our society has been the relatively recent rise of what has been called "the new ethnicity."

The old melting pot concept of America - that all citizens, whatever their ethnic origins, be made into some sort of homogenized "American" modeled on the Anglo-Saxon founders of this country - is effectively dead.

In place of the melting pot, there is a pluralistic recognition of our diverse origins, cultures and backgrounds, with the added realization that no one has to apologize for his forebearers, his race or his accent because they don't match the false ideal of the society.

Suddenly, we see people who used to change their names and smooth their manners adopting their tradition with gusto, enthusiastically putting the hyphen back into "American." Polish-Americans, Irish-Americans, Italian-Americans, Jewish-Americans, and many dozens of other groups are reaffirming that this is a nation of immigrants and that while we are all citizens of one land, each of us brings to it a special, specific culture and background.

America is a combination of all of those different cultures and its strength lies in a healthy, diverse pluralism that respects all and bellittles none.

In part, this new ethnicity stems from the civil rights movement of late 1950's and early 1960's. The black rejection of the white Anglo-Saxon model of supposed superiority and the revival of pride in our own ethnic background helped influence other groups.

Some people see renewed confidence by other ethnic groups as being somehow "bad for blacks" since the "ethnics" are commonly perceived by the media and others to be more liable to racism than others.

But a report of studies made over the past several years indicates just the opposite is true.

Writing in a new research publication, The Urban League Review, Dr. Robert B. Hill concludes that:

"Generally, we have found that white Protestants throughout the nation are more likely to hold unfavorable racial attitudes than white ethnics in similar size communities and regions.

"These findings strongly suggest that ethnics, who comprise only a small fraction of the population in most parts of the nation, have apparently been 'scapegoats' for many antiblack activities spearheaded by white Protestants. Thus, special caution should be exercised in the future before snap judgements are made about the 'racism' of white ethnics and the 'liberalism' of white Protestants."

Lest anyone think that such conclusions are tilted by the predominance of white Protestants in the south, where there are relatively few ethnics, Hill states that:

"In regions outside the south, white ethnics are still less likely than white Protestants to favor school segregation."

Some inter-group friction is almost inevitable in the early stages of ethnic self-discovery, but never as much as the media make it appear, and even such biases tend to melt away.

In this regard, blacks consistently come off as the most tolerant of all ethnic groups, evidencing less anti-Semitism, and less anti-other group feelings than others.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Second In A Series On Black Financial Institutions

By Robert Johnson
And John Douglas

Life insurance, according to a 1973 Lou Harris poll, was ranked by Americans as one of the safest and best investments available today. As early as 1893, when the oldest operating black life insurance company, the Southern Aid Life Insurance Company of Richmond, Va., began operations, black people have realized that not only is life insurance a sound investment, it is also a good business to be in.

Today's thirty-nine black life insurance companies have assets in excess of \$534 million. Not only have these assets been used to pay claims but they have also provided investment money for black businesses.

Although the last few years have been tough economically, black life



Robert Johnson

insurance companies have outperformed white insurance companies. Specially, over the past four years, the amount of insurance in force at white companies has grown only 42 percent, while the growth for black

insurance companies has been in excess of 250 percent.

Though sales growth has been spectacular in the last 20 years, the number of black life insurance companies has declined from 60 to 39. This trend is a direct result of several factors.

First, many black insurance companies have been unable to attract the high level marketing management talent necessary to design a variety of life insurance policies to meet the expanding needs of black families. The same holds true for sophisticated financial management talent that is needed to survive in today's extremely competitive insurance environment.

Second, black insurance companies are losing trained black insurance agents to white insurance companies as these companies integrate

their sales forces. Third, large advertising budget of the white insurance companies makes it easier for them to recruit new sales people as well as sell insurance. Finally, a number of black life insurance companies have been sold to white companies.

Economically, the best hope for the small black life insurance companies may lie in either merging with large black life insurance companies or pooling and consolidating the financial resources and talent they possess.

Nevertheless, black life insurance companies are expected to survive and prosper in the future. This is important for the black life insurance policy holder; and it may be even more important for black businesses, since black life insurance companies have invested considerable money in black businesses.

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