

Editorials & Comments

Whites Judging Black Visibility

From time to time the actions or omissions of white Americans has reminded us of the truism in Ralph Ellison's best seller novel, "The Invisible Man," which says black people are invisible as if non-existent because whites have largely ignored us or our contributions.

We were reminded of this recently when none of the presidential candidates responded to our invitation to appear at the "National Conference for a Black Agenda for the 80's." Another reminder occurred when it was announced that the nation's black population was undercounted by 7.7 percent or 2 million people in 1970.

Still another reminder of black invisibility occurred with the reaction to blond actress Bo Derek's portrayal in the sex-comedy movie "10," where she appeared wearing cornrows and beads, a traditional black hair

style. The New York Daily News said, "salons across the country started cashing in on the movie's success, and the press began to hype cornrowing as if it had just been invented."

Blacks across the country have been reportedly angered that white response to Bo's cornrows is simply another cultural rip-off - a feeling that another part of black culture has been exploited as it has so often in the past.

Marcia Ann Gillespie, editor of Essence Magazine, put the "cultural rip-off" feeling in perspective when she said, "when white America says they have this 'new style' they're saying, in effect, that all the black women across the country who have been cornrowing their hair for years don't exist," that is, they're invisible. The fact is, cornrow hairstyling can be traced as far back in Africa as 900 years B.C.

Yet another, and probably more significant aspect of imposed black invisibility, was brought to our attention with the death of Olympic hero Jesse Owens.

Myth Of Aryon

In winning four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Owens helped destroy Adolph Hitler's myth of Aryon (white) superiority. In spite of this accomplishment, Owens found upon returning to America that "I (still) couldn't ride in the front of the bus...I couldn't live where I wanted....(while) I wasn't invited to shake hands with Hitler, I wasn't invited to the White House to shake hands with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, either."

Furthermore, Owens, the visible hero who single-handedly tarnished both Nazism and

racism was made invisible by being ignored in 1935 and 1936 for the coveted Sullivan Award given to the best amateur athlete of the year. In addition,

Owens had to earn a living by performing as a freak for years through exhibitions involving races against horses and automobiles.

It was in fact only in death that Jesse Owens received a token of appreciation befitting his contribution to freedom in America and the world. In that tribute President Carter said, "No athlete better symbolized the human struggle against tyranny, poverty and racism." If these words are to have meaning, the living must not be denied their visibility.

Losing Favor

As the presidential primaries are held across America it appears increasingly evident that the candidates for the two major parties will be Jimmy Carter (D) and Ronald Reagan (R).

As we move closer to the November elections, incumbent Jimmy Carter is losing favor with a growing number of voters because of the nation's rampant inflation, his failures in foreign affairs and the feeling among blacks that he has not kept his campaign promises on a number of key issues.

On the Republican side Ronald Reagan, an ambitious but shallow and naive conservative is winning primaries because of two significant and disturbing facts. First, the Republican Party has offered a group of also-rans, with the possible exception of John Anderson, who lacked an identity with the American people on the relevant issues of inflation, domestic and foreign policy.

The second and more serious fact is that Mr. Reagan is winning primaries by using the television style instant quick-fix to complex economic and political issues. While he consistently utters mis-statements of facts, glosses over hard realities and totally ignores his own questionable leadership as Governor of California, Reagan is nevertheless gaining support.

For black voters this should not mean staying home from the polls on election day. It does mean that black voters will need to look more carefully beyond the personalities of the candidates to more fully understand the issues - inflation, welfare reform, defense, domestic policy

and each candidate and how his party proposed to deal with them. To do less in the 1980 presidential election will be to miss the whole point in voting. Begin studying the issues now, then vote on election day.



To Build A Better Black Community

As I See It

A Historical Ball Game???

By Gerald O. Johnson
Post Columnist

After listening to the likes of Joe Gari... (what-ever) and Tony Kubek announce baseball, Bret Musburger and Don Criqui announce basketball, and Howard Cosell and Don Meredith announce football, I am convinced that sports announcing is as easy as A.B.C.

After all, Oscar Robertson did it for years and the only thing he ever said was "Wow!" to prove that I can do it, I thought I would give you a demo. today. Here goes!

"Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, this is your play-by-play announcer, G.O. Johnson bringing you today's action between the Christians and the Lions. It is going to be an exciting game and I know you're going to enjoy it. With me today is my colored man, 'Ned the Nigger.' Hello, Ned." "Hello, G.O."

The coach for the Christians is the perennial winner and all around good guy Billy Graham. His assistants are Oral Roberts and Rev. Ike. For the Lions we have Alex Karras as the head coach with "Kimba" the lion and the cowardly lion assisting him. Kimba used to play with the Lions before becoming an assistant coach.

Ned, what's your outlook on the game? "Well, G.O., I think we are in store for a classic battle here today. The Lions outweigh the Christians by about 400 pounds a man, but the Christians have been known to pull out a few miracles when things are



Gerald O. Johnson

going rough. I look for Leo, Lippy, and Snaggle Puss to carry the Lions while Samson is the key man for the Christians. Moreover, I think...

The Christians are taking the field and the Lions are being let out of their cages, so we are ready for the start of this big game.

There is the gun and the game is underway. The Christians throw a javelin at the Lions but it fails to hit the target. The Lions seem to be stalking out a Christian for the kill. What do you think about that, Ned? "The Lions seem to be stalking out a Christian for the kill, G.O."

Thank you, Ned. I sort of wish you were out there on the field.

The Lions have a Christian running up the sidelines. Leo and Lippy are closing in with two other Lions cutting him off at the out of bound markers. Look at that son of David go. Wow! Leo leaped and knocked that Christian down. Now all the Lions are charging over to the area... ooooohh!

The Christians are down by 1 and struggling. Snaggle Puss has a Christian down on the 40. The Christian is twisting and turning trying to get some extra yardage, so he can go before the rest of the Lions appear on the scene. He is not going to make it because here comes the rest of the Lions. Boy, they are teaming up on that Christian and...oooohh.

The Christians are down by 2. Billy Graham is asking for a time out.

Well, Ned, are things going the way you expected? "Yeah, G.O., things are going pretty much like I expected."

Are they really paying you, Ned? Play has resumed and some of the Lions are lying down. They appear to be going to sleep. I don't understand it. What do you think, Ned?

"I think some of the Lions are lying down and they appear to be going to sleep, G.O."

Thanks, Ned. Where would I be without you? Some of the Lions have Samson cornered on the Christian's 10-yard line. If the Christians lose Samson they can forget it. But the Lions are closing in on him. Look at this! Wow! Samson has pulled out a jawbone of an ass and is beating three Lions to death. This unbelievable Samson is creaming three Lions single-handedly. What a surprise!

The four-part series on Central Piedmont Community College will continue next with Part II.

TO BE EQUAL



Sinking The Draft

After the initial wave of saber-rattling support, the public seems to have cooled to the Administration's plan to introduce a system of universal registration for the draft. Even a hawkish Congress seems dubious about the plan.

But the ease with which a revived draft surfaced at the first hint of international tension indicates that we'll be hearing more from that corner. So it is important to understand why it was proposed and why it deserves to be sunk.

The call to revive the draft was a purely symbolic act, a bit of game-playing in the shadow world of international politics. Its intended goal was to impress the Russians with America's "resolve," and "firmness."

In a world of nuclear weapons and large standing armies, a world in which a war would be fought and decided by the time fresh recruits were trained, instituting draft registration isn't likely to induce nightmares among the Kremlin's chiefs.

They know as well as we do that draft registration is a symbolic play, devoid of substance. They know that our military manpower problems aren't addressed by reviving registration.

The basic manpower problems are the failure to retain experienced and skilled officers and enlisted personnel, and the shortfall of experienced people in reserve units that would have to be called out in an emergency.

That goes to the issue of incentives for re-enlistments and for joining the reserves. If draft registration were passed tomorrow those problems would remain.

If a draft ever has to be instituted, the logical process would be for a declaration of national emergency to be followed by registration and conscription. A separate registration measure as is now proposed would wind up saving a mere seven days in the process, and is opposed by the Selective Service itself.

There's a lot to be said against rushing into a draft. Just having larger numbers of troops would awaken the itch to use them, encouraging the kind of adventurism that burned us in Vietnam such a short time ago.

But there's a hidden issue in the call for reviving registration, and that is the effectiveness of the volunteer army.

Until now we were told the volunteer army was working out well; that it was an effective fighting force capable of meeting our defense needs. Suddenly, we are told we need to reinstitute draft registration.

Either the nation has been lied to about the effectiveness of the volunteer army, or policy-makers agree that it is effective but don't trust it because so many soldiers are black. Do they fear that what officers can't control and manage blacks, that whites wouldn't join heavily black units, or that blacks wouldn't be reliable in combat or in civil actions against urban riots?

If that's behind the sudden infatuation with a draft it should be brought into the open and the clear anti-black bias inherent in such views exposed to the full light of day.

That blacks are disproportionately found in the service should be of no more concern to policy-makers than the long-standing tradition of disproportionate southern enlistments.

From The White House

The People Deserve Solutions Not Campaign Victories

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

President Carter has sent another budget to congress. This time he has reduced the budget from \$13 billion to \$15 billion cut. Outlays in fiscal 1981 budget are \$611.5 billion while the receipts will be \$612 billion which will give a \$500 million surplus during the year. This receipt will come from a gasoline fee of about \$12.6 billion and withholding tax on interest and dividends about \$3.4 billion. The gasoline surplus will come from the soaring gas prices paid by the consumers. Since the rich can always get around withholding tax on interest and dividends through reinvestments and other loopholes these too will hurt the less affluent.

The administration's budget cuts \$150 million from unemployment compensation. This is done at a time when there is a prediction of higher unemployment and with private sectors already cutting off employees - just about daily. How does the administration expect these



Alfreda L. Madison

people to even exist after the layoffs? The budget proposes \$213 million to be cut from the education program. This is done at a time when there is a great cry that many people are out of jobs because they are not trained for employment. These cuts can only add to the ill-trained unemployment list. Welfare demonstration programs will receive a \$239 million reduction. Revenue state sharing will be cut by \$1,714,000.00. The state and city officials have already begun crying out against

this move. Mayor Maynard Jackson of Atlanta, an ardent Carter supporter, said he told the President that revenue sharing should not be cut because it would greatly hurt the states and already devastated cities.

Health care will receive a \$66 million chop. This is highly unreasonable with the already astronomical health care costs continuously rising. The original supplement proposal of \$381 million for mental health and alcoholic services were withdrawn in this budget. Housing has been cut by \$92 million. Cuts have not been made in military spending.

There is a prediction that inflation will continue to rise. Upon close scrutiny of the President's budget, it certainly destroys his human rights theory. There are really no provisions in it for improving the welfare of the poor people, while the opposite is true of the more affluent. No real consideration is given to the mere existence of the poor. The entire budget increases their poor health, non-education opportunities, ill housing and insur-

ficient care for their mentally sick and alcoholic family members.

The wealthy corporations will not feel the pinch. All of their inflation can be passed on to the less affluent.

Mr. Carter's budget combined with congress' cuts produce an unhealthy, uneducated and criminal so-

CBS To Build 100 Homes

cont. from Page 1

Both HUD and the homeowner repay the FHA (Federal Housing Administration) loan to the bank.

"Payment is based on 20 percent of the adjusted gross income or a payment calculated at a four percent interest rate, which ever is higher," Sweet explained.

To determine adjusted gross income, multiply income before deductions by five percent and subtract that amount from the annual income. Then subtract \$300. for each dependent under 21 (except the spouse).

The income limit for initial occupancy is 95 percent of the area medium

income. Family size, income and credit all are considered when determining eligibility. Income for a family of two for example, must not exceed \$13,750; for eight the maximum is \$21,500 to qualify for the HUD subsidy.

If a family exceeds the maximum income limits it is still eligible for the grant but not the HUD subsidy. Sweet pointed out, however, that other types of loans are available.

Prior to 1976 this Section 235 program provided large subsidies to low income households and required smaller investments from them.

With such a large segment of the American people, to have a budget balanced on their backs while the rich are getting richer, there is bound to be a build-up of some type of explosive unrest in this country. The administration and congress should take a more serious look at what they, in reality, are

doing. In some countries revolutions are caused by oppression from a single leader. In the United States, people are oppressed by a few rich people.

Would the President and congress have shown the same compassion for its less affluent citizens as it has done for the Shah?

Sweet said CBS Realty will encourage a strong community organization in the Greenville area.

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