

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Civil Rights' Ups And Downs

The Reagan Administration years have been characterized as pursuing a policy on civil rights and affirmative action aimed at reversing the gains made by Blacks, Hispanics, women and other minority groups over the past 20 years. Therefore, any announced plans or policy changes involving citizens' wondering about the future of minority group rights.

This wondering was further justified last week when on the same day, May 24, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a civil rights policy from the past and President Reagan radically restructured the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

In more specific terms, the High Court overwhelmingly approved denying federal tax exemptions for private schools that discriminate against racial minorities. By an 8-to-1 vote, the Court encouraged the Internal Revenue Service to collect millions of payroll taxes from schools that discriminate along racial lines and to reject deductions for contributions to such schools. The somewhat surprise action by the Court was a significant setback to the Reagan Administration's civil rights policy approaches.

Simultaneously, President Reagan took the unprecedented step of firing three members of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and replaced them with appointees who reflect his Administration's conservative philosophy. Reportedly, Mr. Reagan took this action on the advice of Clarence Pendleton, the first black chairman of the Commission, who said he needed members with a conservative philosophy and thus less likely to oppose the President's civil rights program and policies.

While the Commission has no power to enforce civil rights legislation, it is the nation's major data gathering agency on civil rights and advisor to the President.

The change in the Commission's membership make-up by firing all of the Jimmy Carter appointees will make it a rubber stamp without objectivity for whatever the President wants to propose. Thus, black citizens and other minority citizens will have lost a voice on Capitol Hill that will offer objective criticism and support as given policy decisions might require.

More Athletic Exploitation?

A great deal has been said and written in recent months about college and university athletic programs and NCAA policies. Controversy has arisen over so-called higher academic standards for the admission of high school athletes, the financial incentives basketball coaches receive for entering their teams in certain pre-season or holiday tournaments, the illegal, indirect ways of giving so-called amateur athletes money for athletic contributions, and the failure of colleges and universities to assure that their athletes actually get a four-year college education.

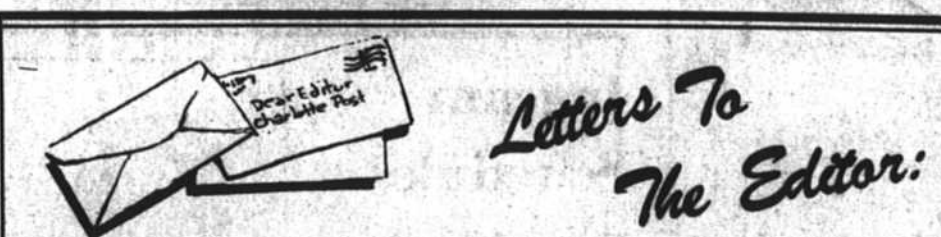
While these are just a few of the many questionable aspects of college athletic programs and policies, the latter point-assuring each athlete a four-year education and graduation with his class—has, without question, been a major failure of collegiate athletic programs.

For example, while great fanfare has been made about Virginia's Ralph Sampson receiving his four-year degree in graduating with his class, and how he bypassed millions of dollars in pro basketball contracts to receive that degree, most universities have very poor records when it comes to fulfilling their commitment to providing a timely four-year education.

It is by now a well known fact, as pointed out by a UPI survey, that the athlete who graduates in the traditional four-year period is the exception, not the general rule.

A comparison of six major universities in the two Carolinas shows that of 102 football players classified as seniors, only 33 graduated with four-year degrees with their class. For basketball, nine of the 15 players graduated. Officials at the six schools claim that graduate rates are generally the same for the general student body over a four-year period. Ironically, the NCAA's minimum required academic load would leave an athlete about two semesters short of graduation after four-years of class.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill athletic director John Swofford has said, "It's very difficult for many athletes in this day and age to carry the (academic) load and graduate within four years. Academics is still our greatest concern."



NAACP Membership Drive Is Successful

Dear Sir: The Charlotte Branch of the NAACP held recognition services for the Membership Campaign workers on last Sunday. The program was held at Walls Memorial Church, Rev. J. T. White, pastor. Mrs. Mary L. Clarke presided and music was furnished by the J. T. White Singers.

Kelly M. Alexander Sr., National Vice-President and N.C. State President, briefed the membership on the status of the NAACP nationally. He stated that the NAACP will survive the recent turmoil on the national level and urged the local branch to continue in the struggle for freedom.

Mayor Eddie Knox extended greetings and presented "Knight of the Queen City Awards" to Anna Hood and Charlene Price. He also gave the local branch a check in the amount of \$100 towards a life membership with the NAACP.

The local membership drive, which started in February, has brought in over 900 members so far. Kelly M. Alexander Jr., President of the local branch, praised the branch for its dedication in securing memberships and presented a plaque for "Outstanding Service" to Anna Hood, Chairperson of the 1983 Membership Campaign.

The following persons were presented certificates

or plaques by the Membership Chairperson: James G. Heath, President, Beta Nu Lambda Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Jane S. Reid, Basileus, Delta Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; Almetto H. Alexander, Patricia A. Buggs, Elder and Mrs. T. W. Samuels, Valerie Woodard, Kelly M. Alexander Sr., Kathryn Garnett, Louise Cherry, Mary Clarke, Mary C. Britton, Alfred Alexander, Lewis E. Clawson, Winnie Floyd, Margaret Alexander, Easter Johnson, Charlton Morrow, Lillie Beckham, Marie P. Tann, Kelly M. Alexander Jr., Donald

White, Pearl Alexander, and Veronica Motepe. Harold Lassiter accepted the award for Doris Mobley, President of Efforts for Progress Social Club.

The Membership Committee wishes to thank The Charlotte Post and everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the campaign. Persons who have not joined the NAACP may still do so by sending a check or money order for at least \$10, payable to the NAACP, 112 N. Irwin Ave., Charlotte, NC 28202 or 1327 Orvis Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28216, 333-4685 after 5:30 p.m.

Sincerely,
Homer Fennell

Community Centers

Dear Sir: Recently I had the opportunity to visit one of Charlotte's community centers. I was pleased with what I discovered. There were pre-schoolers and teenagers utilizing the facility to the utmost. Some were receiving help with their homework, others were receiving instruction in art, others were just conversing, but from each of their expressions it was obvious they were involved in a learning experience.

It was pointed out to me that several of the black communities in your city have easy access to these community centers are

with the help of dedicated parents rearing our young black boys and girls to accept responsibility and leadership.

I hope support for community centers will always exist so the potential of our race will always be visible and commended.

Sincerely,
K.L.P.

WORD ORIGIN

FIGUREHEAD - a wood carving usually of a figure or head of a person, placed beneath the bowsprit of a ship. It had no function, being merely decorative. Word now used to describe those in positions with no duties or responsibilities.

From Capitol Hill

Reagan Has Written Off Blacks For 1984 Campaign

Alfreda L. Madison, Special To The Post
The Washington Post carried a story stating that President Reagan has written off black citizens for the 1984 campaign. The Post said, "A senior White House officer said, the Administration has decided that no effort in the next 17 months would be sufficient to moderate opposition of Black citizens to President Reagan and capture a sufficient amount of Black votes."

The article pointed to the fact that Faith Whittlesey, Director of the White House Liaison Office, concurred with the assessment. It stated that Whittlesey has no Black or Hispanic persons on her staff. However, Whittlesey said the lack of Black and Hispanic persons on her staff is only temporary.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes was asked about the newspaper article; as usual, he became infuriated about the article and said there were two Hispanics and two Blacks in the liaison office. He stated that the President hasn't written off anyone for the 1984 campaign.

In checking with the liaison office, we were told that John Tiller, a Black, has recently moved to that office from the State Department, but his job is working with businesses



Alfreda L. Madison

and not as a public relations person with black citizens. Gloria Rojas, Hispanic, who has been working in the office of Mr. Zunigo, who was special assistant to the President, has been recently transferred to the Liaison Office, but she is not an Hispanic liaison person, as of now.

Mr. Bradley, Special Assistant to the President on Policy Development, said he is being given additional duty as a member of the White House Liaison Office. Bradley says that giving him this new additional position will not lessen his work and responsibility of policy development. John Vipond, White House Liaison Deputy Assistant said Bradley will be transferred full time to that department.

When Mel Bradley first came on board of the Reagan White House, he was in the Personnel Department

for the purpose of recruiting Black personnel for the White House. After complaints that there were no Black figures in policy making positions, Mel was given a position in the Policy Development Department. Now to be transferred as the public relations person between the White House and Blacks, gives reason to believe that Mel is the White House necessary Black.

In the recent press conference President Reagan was asked, "Recent reports have raised the possibility that you might abandon Black voters in the event you seek re-election—considering the backlash to your Administration policies in such areas as the budget and civil rights, how do you see your chances with black voters in the event you seek to run again?"

The President stated that his chances would be good with the Black voters if he could get the truth to them. He said his Administration has conducted 21,000 inquiries into suspected voting violations, extended Voting Rights for a longer time than has ever been done, regained money in wage disputes for people who have been denied fair wages. Mr. Reagan is concerned about the perception Black citizens have of his civil rights actions. He wants to change that per-

ception. However, he is doing that by idle rhetoric, instead of enforcing the civil rights mandates.

Mr. Reagan's statements were misleading; the 21,000 inquiries were not conducted by the Justice Department. Instead, they were sent voting changes that districts make which will have to be mailed to Justice as a requirement of the Voting Rights Act. The strong Voting Rights Act was extended not because of the Reagan Administration, but in spite of it. The Administration pushed for proving intent and against the effects test. The overwhelming bipartisan support of both Houses of Congress, mandated his signature, otherwise it would have been overridden.

The President, rhetorically reversed the hatchet job; instead of the job being done on his Administration by those who criticize his civil rights actions, the Administration has tried to hatchet civil rights gains to a complete death.

In speaking of his Administration's civil rights enforcement, Mr. Reagan ignored all the school busing cases and affirmative action accomplishments his Justice Department is seeking to dismantle, and that his civil rights policies are increasing racism.



Sabrina

God Bless The Child Who's Got His Own

God bless the child who's got his own - a familiar phrase from a familiar song - but what is the meaning of the phrase? Why should God bless the child who has his own?

The child who has his own has found security within himself; he believes in himself and capitalizes on the richness in the coloration of his skin.

For nearly a century it was believed that blacks could only be "neat and clean" never handsome or beautiful until the onset of the "black is beautiful" campaign of the 1960s.

This campaign made many Americans (mostly white Americans) stand up and take notice of blacks as being a beautiful race of people. It even made hair care manufacturers research and develop better products for Black hair care. And one step beyond that was the development of so-called Black cosmetics—which of course is ludicrous since all are the same, only the colors are slightly different.

The people products of the sixties appear to be a fairly secure bunch within themselves and their environment. They realize that their limitations are far out in the galaxy and anything can be achieved. The generation born in the sixties, the writer's generation, have a very strange and unusual characterization about them.

Designer jeans, good chains and flashy cars are the beauty symbols of this generation. External decorations seem to represent beauty rather than internal forces. This generation is preoccupied with outdoing a so-called friend rather than reaching his self actualization. The feeling of black is beautiful has changed to "my clothing makes me beautiful." Well how can clothing make one beautiful if he or she does not feel beautiful, handsome or secure within himself?

The child that has his own realizes that. All the unique qualities that make him black are the best to own, that he can rely upon himself and his intelligence. He has taken the phrase "black is beautiful" and uses it to promote security within himself. It is not the curl or straight of his hair nor the light or dark of his skin; it is the beauty of the self that he feels about himself.

Black is beautiful and God bless the child who can be thought of as the hand that washes the other. For a child to have his own he must have faith in himself and his people. He must believe that his potential is limitless and is bound by no one. The "black is beautiful" phrase represents a sense of security for the child in his race.

External decoration means nothing to him if it does not satisfy his being and is not used as a status symbol - such as designer jeans. The number of college or university degrees does not make the individual, it is what he learns and how he makes use of the degrees that make them important.

In the press conference, the President seemed to have overlooked the fact that he has been doing double talking about schools. He has heartily advocated tuition tax credit for private schools that are doing such a good job, parents are taking their children out of private schools and sending them to these public schools. The Civil Rights Commission stated that the three schools were recipients of federal funds for Title I program. What Mr. Reagan did not say is that he has cut the Title I money. He also failed to tell the press, that school officials are asking for more money for schools.

To get the Black vote the Administration will have to change its segregation course, to a strong enforcement of the civil rights mandates.

Center Plans Open House

The agencies at Double Oaks Community Service Center, 1326 Woodward St., will host an Open House Saturday, June 4, from 1-5 p.m.

During the first hour a Formal Opening Ceremony will be held with various notable speakers. This will be followed by ongoing activities planned by the agencies.

Agencies participating include Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte Area Fund, Parks and Recreation, and Head Start.

Barbara Brown, director of CPCC night classes at Double Oaks, invites the public to attend this event to find out more about the various services offered. Pre-registration will be held on June 4 for adults who wish to attend high school completion night

classes during the summer quarter. Other summer quarter classes offered include: adult basic education, upholstery, sewing, lingerie construction, literature of the Bible, and gymnastics (day or night classes).

For more information on Open House activities or summer classes, call Ms. Brown, Monday through Thursday from 5-10 p.m., at 372-3738.

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