

editorials & comments

Consciousness About Race?

A recent editorial in The Charlotte Observer (Sept. 30) said that selective voting in the primary by blacks on the basis of race "was even more obvious than usual" because of the relatively lower percentage of white voting, when compared to blacks and the appearance of two black Council at-large candidates—Willie Stratford and Bob Davis.

The editorial then raises the question: "Is this technique still necessary in Charlotte elections?" And it answers, "Unfortunately, it probably is."

We don't need to cover the history of who started selective voting; however, comments on some temporary events may enlighten all of us on some new aspects of a consciousness of race or racism.

First, when Birmingham, Ala., reelected its first black mayor recently with a biracial coalition and the largest victory margin in the city's history, "practically no one in the (White) national media was watching," reported the Washington Post, and adds, "...journalists had flocked 90 miles South to Montgomery, where a white conservative mayor had won a racially polarized election." While the city of Birmingham is a long way from being in full racial harmony, it has and is showing signs of progress. Why then did the mass white news media choose to ignore its historic event?

Secondly, following being named Miss America 1984, Vanessa Williams was interviewed by USA Today. Half the questions asked Ms. Williams were in one way or another dealing with the fact that she is black. In fact, in spite of her efforts to get the media to focus on her winning the Miss America pageant based on her singing talent, swimsuit competition and interviews, they insisted upon writing and asking about her race and being the "first

black" to win.

It was the same thing with the "first" black astronaut and is likewise with Hispanics and other minorities. The point is, it is the white-dominated news media that constantly wants to raise, identify and make issues—usually negative—about black Americans.

The Observer editorial frankly admitted that had there been a larger white voter turnout in the primary Stratford and Davis would probably not have finished first and second in the Democratic Party primary. If this had happened, as it may well in the November 8 general election, no one would have considered it "more obvious than usual" that fewer white had voted for the black candidate. The media appears to take it for granted that most whites still won't or don't vote for minority political candidates which explain no microscopic analysis of white voting patterns is conducted, but is always done to determine and comment on black or other minority voting patterns.

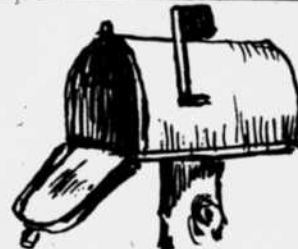
Selective voting on the basis of race, religion, geographic area, sex, age, whether one is pro or anti-labor unionist, and of course political party is in fact engrained in our national history. The talk by both major political parties of having a possible female vice presidential candidate is clearly aimed at getting the women's vote since they now represent over half the eligible voters in the nation. Until this kind of bias ceases, and especially such bias against blacks, selecting voting on some basis other than issues will continue to be a fact of life in America.

When and if Americans ever become color-blind and begin to organize and build coalitions based on issues of substance, then and only then will voters cease to vote based on skin color or sex.

Writer and economist Dr. Thomas Sowell reminds us of just how important accuracy for a policeman is. Sowell notes that firing a revolver is often based on a split-second decision where life or death, including that of the officer, may be at stake. Yet, those who judge whether a policeman fired his gun have days and even weeks to make a decision on whether the shooting was justified.



Letters To The Editor:



Board Acted Without Permission

Dear Editor: We are sending you copies of letters sent to the Governor of North Carolina and to the Attorney General.

We also wish to send you something that has apparently been hard to obtain; the facts about the so-called extended day-extended term experiment in Polk County.

First, we most certainly did not volunteer. Our school board volunteered us without our permission or even our knowledge.

Second, the North Carolina Legislature stated in Section 92 of the Appropriations Bill that the program could be implemented only after an open meeting was held in Polk County to ascertain that there was enough populace support to give this experiment a chance to succeed. This meeting was to be held by the State Board of Education. Chairman C. D. Spangler and only three members came. This certainly did not constitute a quorum of a board having thirteen voting members.

This meeting was called for 1:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon, not the best time to draw a crowd. About one hundred fifty citizens were present. At least seventy-five percent were clearly opposed to this program, but Chairman Spangler chose to ignore the man-

date of the North Carolina Legislature and his committee voted nine to two to disregard our feelings and forced this plan upon our children.

Third, and most important, to single us and Halifax County out for special treatment seems to be clearly in violation of the Constitution of North Carolina and the North Carolina statutes.

We have hired an outstanding law firm and have filed suit against both the Polk County Board of Education and the North Carolina Board of Education.

We fully realize that Polk County is one of the smallest and probably the weakest county in the state politically. However, our natural-born stock can mostly trace their ancestry as Americans to the Revolutionary War or beyond and we have been too long exposed to liberty and freedom to yield on this matter regardless if our opponents are five local little dictators or a bunch of political appointees, or the Governor of North Carolina himself.

Sincerely yours,
Norman Morgan
President

Sunday School Movement

Dear Fellow Church Worker:

The growth of the Sunday School movement across our nation and world over the years is a measure of the devotion of untold thousands of men and women who have recognized the worth of studying the Holy Scriptures and who have given themselves unstintingly to teaching others.

Sunday School teachers come from all walks of life. Some of our most famous leaders have been Sunday School teachers—men like George Washington and Francis Scott Key. Others are lesser known, but all of their contributions have

been significant to the Sunday School movement, the sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the well-being of our country.

America today has more churches than any nation in the world and more devoted men and women sharing spiritual nourishment as teachers of Sunday School classes. It is time for us to publicly and properly honor them.

Our state and your church have begun this worthy project. I thank you for your continued support.

My best personal regards.
Sincerely,
James B. Hunt Jr.
Governor, N.C.

Decision To Shoot?

In an attempt to strengthen its retraining policy, the Charlotte Police Department has designed a test to assess the accuracy of a police officer's ability to hit a torso of a human silhouette target. Failure to make a qualifying score will require an officer to turn in his/her revolver and be banned from street work until more practice can be scheduled and a passing score achieved.

THE CHARLOTTE POST
"THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER"
Established 1918
Published Every Thursday
by The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.
Subscription Rate \$17.68 Per Year

Second Class Postage No. 965500
Postmaster Send 3579s To:
1531 Camden Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28203
Telephone: 704-376-0496
Circulation 11,023

106 Years of Continuous Service

Bill Johnson Editor, Publisher
Bernard Reeves General Manager
Fran Farrer Advertising Director
Dannette Gaither Office Manager

Second Class Postage No. 965500 Paid at
Charlotte, North Carolina
Under the Act of March 3, 1878

Member, National Newspaper
Publishers' Association

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

Deadline for all news copy and photos is
5 p.m. Monday. All photos and copy
submitted become the property of The Post
and will not be returned.

National Advertising
Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

2400 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60616
45 W. 45th St., Suite 1403
New York, New York 10036
Columet 5-0200 212-489-1220

From Capitol Hill

Solidarity Movement Against Apartheid

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post
President Reagan's "Constructive Engagement" South African policy which is simply cooperation with South Africa in perpetuating its apartheid government, is clearly seen by black Americans, many white Americans and Black African nations for what it really is - South Africa's control of entire Southern Africa.

There is a solidarity movement, all across the country, against the Administration's policy. Recently a forum was held at the Capitol Hilton Hotel in Washington to intensify plans to stop the Reagan apartheid support. Issues that were centered around the United States South African ties were discussed. These were: "South Africa out of Namibia, opposition to the Reagan Administration's effort to link Angola with the separate Cuban troops in Angola, divestment of funds from corporations with involvement in South Africa, opposition to "Constructive Engagement" and imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa, freedom for all political prisoners and end to Pretoria's interference in the internal affairs of the Front-line States." Ways were discussed for accomplishing the goals. There must be permanent



Alfreda L. Madison

coalitions formed nationwide, which are alert and willing to demonstrate against any attempt to support South Africa. There have been demonstrations in some cities against South African consulates being placed in them. In Houston strong opposition to landing of South African planes, after the Civil Aeronautics Board ruled in favor of apartheid. Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles incurred the anger and widespread picketing when he welcomed a South African official to the city. There have been demonstrations in New York in front of the South African United Nations Mission. A large protest march took place against New York's Citibank, which heavily funds apartheid.

It was noted that progress has been made in the campaign to isolate racist South Africa in the cultural arena, with the main focus on U.S. arrests. Unit in Action Network,

educates, agitates and organizes the masses about the need to end the cultural U.S. South African collaboration.

In 1981, 50 U.S. artists performed in South Africa, 15 of whom were black, 22 in 1982, eight were black and only 8 U.S. artists have performed there until the present in 1983. According to U.N. Center Against Apartheid, only Devine, Sha Na Na, Barry Manilow and Linda Ronstadt defied advice not to go. The Jacksons and Floaters refused to perform in South Africa as early as 1977. Ben Vereen cancelled his performance in Sun City, of Bophuthatswans, the alleged Black homeland, which is only a sham. South Africa controls these carved out homelands' finance, foreign relations, defense, commerce, rail and postal services. Sun City is the second largest gambling city in the world. It has 250 slot machines, topless entertainment and interracial sex, which have increased crime, truancy, alcohol and prostitution. The Black South Africans refer to Sun City as Sin City. Entertainers are paid enormous sums. Frank Sinatra has been picketed by American blacks for his performance in Sun City.

The anti-apartheid movement prevented a South African Southern Sun Hotel Holding Company from building a casino in Atlan-

tic City. City and state-wide opposition was organized which raised many questions for Atlantic City. Proponents of the venture tried to camouflage the idea by stating that the company was a Botphuthatswans company. That facade was not accepted. This method was used by South Africa to sell apartheid to the American public.

South African deteriorating policing system causes it to attempt to relocate some of its corporations in other countries. This scheme is aided by Reagan's South African policy.

The forum enunciated a Southern African 1984 platform. It calls for support of U.N. Council military and economic sanctions against South Africa. Place stiff penalties on U.S. corporations and banks that do business with South Africa. Support international efforts to quarantine South Africa in sports, cultural, scientific and education. Remove U.S. South Africa military alliance. Oppose NATO plans to bring South Africa into the organization. Support majority rule. Demand freedom fighters and grant asylum on political refugee status in this country. The U.S. is asked to support U.N. Resolution 435, to end U.S. corporations in Namibia, prohibit importation of all goods manufactured or exported from Namibia.

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON

SCOPE

Sabrina

Television And Food

The America diet and American television, two of the most talked about institutions in today's society. Why? Because they work hand in hand. Turn on the television set, watch for, say thirty minutes, and see why.

While viewing one will notice that commercials are full of cleaning products, feminine hygiene products, toys and games, and food. This, of course, is during prime time and targeted toward women and children. Unfortunately! On most television commercials all good things are centered around eating—both consciously and unconsciously—ball games, outdoor recreation, love and romance. For example the shampoo "that put the ooooh in shampoo" shows a woman touching a man's hair in a restaurant. What does shampoo have to do with eating? And the fruit with the bright light or life shows folks coming in after "heavy" competition and having a big bowl of fruit to cool off. Why?

Food advertisements hit people where they live - in the mouth: with emphasis on the sweet area of the tongue. Which can be tickled best by candies, cakes and cookies. These advertisements are often created to appeal to children. A child sees the commercials after school and Saturday mornings and are convinced that he must eat that cookie to be socially accepted or be the best. Adults and children in these commercials seem especially happy because they are consuming a particular product. Kid logic takes the information, stores it and uses it as a weapon in the supermarket to get "mommy" to buy it. Mommy tosses the product into the shopping cart...child calms down; arrive home with product and the child does not like it! Sound familiar? Why do parents do this - because they do not want their child to want for anything. However, there is the tendency to forget that if a good, balanced diet is provided - then how can a child go lacking in the eating department?

McDonald's, Burger King, Hardee's, and Kentucky Fried Chicken have cornered the market on product temptation advertising. All show their food at its best during the advertisement. All are good commercials but have a tendency to be shown at the wrong times - midnight or right after the dinner hour.

The problem is not the food commercials themselves, but how they have shaped America's eating habits. The composition of the American diet is high in fat content and calorie rich fast foods. Supermarket diets include frozen and canned foods processed foods and foods to just open and eat. While these foods do contain fair amounts of nutrition "stuff," they rarely suggest in advertisements the use of fresh vegetables, meats and poultry. Frozen dinners seem to be the most balanced of fast foods.

It is realized that people do not preare and sit down to dinner as they once did. People are too busy to cook full dinners. However, more emphasis should be put on the kinds of quick foods eaten.

The American diet is also shaped by parents. "Clean your plate and you will get dessert," a common phrase to get children to eat. Parents have confused the importance of what's on the plate for how much is consumed. Parents should consider what is on the plate and how much of it and not force a child to stuff its face. If he is full he is full!

This is not to say that the American diet is all bad, nor that everything advertised is bad for you, but that more concern or emphasis should be placed on eating healthy, tasty and enjoyable foods. Parents may consider teaching their children the importance of striking a happy medium between fresh and processed foods and explain to them that one does not have to eat certain foods to be wonderful. The learning of good eating habits begins at home - so why not begin today teaching children and adults that all foods advertised on television must not be consumed.

Mercy To Check Halloween Candy

Parents looking for peace of mind on Halloween can come to Mercy again this year for free X-rays of their children's candy.

For the ninth consecutive year, Mercy Hospital in Charlotte and Mercy Hospital Medical Park in Pineville will X-ray Halloween candy to make sure the candy is free of solid foreign objects.

Last year, more than 200 bags of candy were X-rayed at Mercy Hospital at 2001 Vail Avenue in Charlotte. Nearly 100 bags of candy were checked at the Urgent Care Center at the

medical park, N.C. 51 and Park Road in Pineville.

This year, X-rays of candy will be done from 6-9 p.m. at the hospital Emergency Department and at the Urgent Care Center at the medical park on Halloween.

Mercy began offering the service in 1975 at the suggestion of radiology manager Joe Haner.

