

editorials & comments

Big Events Of 1983

If asking the question, what was the most significant event of 1983, the answers, undoubtedly, would be varied—based upon the respondents, interests and viewpoints.

For some, the U.S. invasion of Grenada constituted an act of aggression; for others a necessary act of self-defense. In either case, the invasion might have triggered World War III - the unthinkable, non-win nuclear war.

For others, the suicide terrorist bomb attack that killed over 200 U.S. Marines in Beirut, Lebanon, was the Big Event of 1983. Many people still wonder why we are there and what kind of military policy allowed our young men to be so poorly protected.

Yet, still others consider the revival of the economy that has seen unemployment decline and rising sales occur as the Big Event. Ironically, the Reagan Administration will want to take credit for the recovery. But to do so they will have to applaud Keynesian theory - deficit spending as a stimulus - not supply side economics. However, for the still thousands of unemployed, especially black youth, it does not matter what theory underlies the recovery because they are still jobless and living in poverty.

For many Americans, mostly black, 1983 had possibly three Big Events: (1) congressional passage of a bill to make the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a national holiday; (2) the selection of blacks as both "Miss America" and the "first runner-up"; and (3) the sending of the black astronaut into space.

King's Birthday

These events will undoubtedly make 1983 a banner year in the history of black America. Making Dr. King's birthday a national holiday is a clear national recognition of the contributions King made to the cause of civil rights in America, not just for blacks, but for all Americans.

The historically white, Anglo-Saxon "Miss America" pageant was shattered when black Vanessa Williams won the coveted crown. Significantly, too, Suzette Charles, also black, was named "first runner-up" in another historic first.

Equally, if not more important than being the first black "Miss

America," is Miss Williams' pageant history. She was not a beauty pageant professional - that is - she is not a graduate of many mini local pageants as were many of her competitors.

In addition, the 20-year-old "Miss New York" has shown that she is an independent thinking individual who will give her views on issues as she sees them, not as pageant officials may necessarily want.

The launching of the first black astronaut in 1983 created a new instant black hero and should result in renewed motivation for black youth to study science, math, geology and related subjects and want to pursue college training in these and similar fields.

Renewed Pride

These accomplishments by black Americans should be reasons for renewed pride, a greater sense of hope for 1984 and a reminder of greater challenges in the years beyond 1984.

Our point is that there is little time to relax and rest on these and similar accomplishments if we hope for their repetition and to have similar accomplishments in other fields.

The success and motivation for blacks to show similar levels of accomplishments in 1984 and beyond will come from probable currently obscure blacks with values, ambitions and a commitment to the work ethic in whatever they do that are similar to our astronaut, our "Miss America" and the heritage of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Much is said by blacks and about blacks who are poor, in poverty, inadequately educated, unemployed, unskilled and, too often, under fed.

While these are hard realities that we must not and cannot ignore and must all help to change, there is an equally strong need to say more about and see more clearly successful blacks as positive role models for other blacks.

The message to be conveyed is that if a black can become "Miss America" or an astronaut you, too, can achieve if you work at it with all your God-given talents and energies.

This may be the best solution to the problems of poverty, joblessness and poor education. Think about it!



Letters To: The Editor

More To Education Than Dimensions

To The Editor:
Those parents who say their children's education will not be improved by sitting next to children of another racial group in a classroom have not absorbed the message of the Supreme Court's unanimous 1954 decision in the case of Brown vs. (Topeka) Board of Education.

They have not been educated to understand the reasons for that decision. They have not learned that lesson. They see no point to desegregation. They prefer what appears to them to be the course of least resistance. They were and are apparently satisfied not only to live the rest of their lives in racially segregated patterns, but expect their descendants to do so as well.

In 1954 the Supreme Court said that the old formula of "separate but equal" accommodations was false, and must be abandoned in favor of desegregation. Resistance to the implementation of the Brown decision came not only from white bigots but also from certain Blacks who feared and opposed desegregation on various grounds. Some Black cultural nationalists perceived dangers to the con-

tinuation of their efforts. Some Black teachers and administrators feared loss of jobs and career opportunities. Some Black pupils feared they might not do so well scholastically in competition with whites. Some Black parents feared racial friction, trauma and tragedy resulting from desegregation efforts. Many people feared the unfamiliar, untried and unknown. The most frequently heard cloche was, "It's insulting to say a Black child can be well-educated only by sitting next to a white."

Nobody said that merely sitting next to a pupil of another racial group improves anyone's mastery of academic or vocational subject matter, but there is more to education than those dimensions. Opponents of desegregation, unlike the famous King Canute, seem to think they can stop the tide of change by command (or by stonewalling). Employment, higher education, and public life have become increasingly desegregated. Children raised in segregated patterns of education, play and neighborhood life are not well-prepared for the increasingly desegregated world of work, higher education and public life. The social aspect of education is as important in preparing young people for maturity as are its academic and vocational aspects. It is tragic that many parents are either incar-

able or unwilling to face this reality and to grapple effectively with the problems it entails. They may think that they are protecting their children by isolating them racially, but the truth is just the opposite. It is not easy to convince people of the logic of desegregation all along the line, but instead of avoiding difficulties, delay in this effort will only increase them.

M. K. Stone

Glad I-85 Is

Being Widened

Dear Editor:
I am glad to read that they are going to widen I-85, but since so much of the interstate is what a traveler sees as he passes through Charlotte it's too bad that a contract couldn't be let to put an irrigation system along the interstate and also to plant some flowers and make a visitor think that we people of Charlotte love beauty.

A few flowers can do a lot for an area and it's too bad the city couldn't have its own greenhouse. UNCC has a beautiful campus. Maybe someone out there might have a few ideas as to how our city could also become more beautiful.

Sincerely,
Bill J. Bloomer

Check the ads in The Charlotte Post each week for outstanding buys.



1983 Christmas Trends

The Christmas season has arrived. It brings with it all the wonder and joy that children and adults view in awe. It is a season of family and togetherness. One where the rich and poor, feel a sense of unity and promise for the future. It is the season to say thank you.

Along with all the good feelings, this Christmas season has made beings of otherwise rational men and women. This phenomenon is known as the "cabbage patch kit craze." People are standing in line long hours in the rain, snow and cold in hopes of "adopting" a cabbage patch kid.

Once the doors of the toy stores open, people race in like buffalo herds on the make and fight for the dolls stacked neatly on the shelves. Meanwhile these buffalo herds trample everything else in the store—causing other toys in not such demand to become scarce themselves. Toy store managers have to place the broken toys into the return to vendor boxes.

Scratch music is the craze this season among the dancing sect. This New York origin music is sweeping the country in much of the same way as disco a few years back. According to scratchers (the people who do it) and scratch lovers, scratch adds another dimension to pop and-or soul music.

Herbie Hancock is the leader of the pack in bringing the phenomenon into being. He and many others feel that one's individuality comes out through his method of scratch.

Tagging along with scratch is break dancing - another New York City original. Break dancing combines martial arts, gymnastics and acrobatics into a mixture of awesome moves. For one to successfully breakdance, one must be healthy, in shape,

flexible and slightly crazy to do all of that to the body! These people spin on their backs, dive and leap, turn and twist and execute other unusual moves with the body. Does this mean that instead of rocking around the Christmas tree singing Christmas carols, people will be breakdancing around the tree to the tunes of scratch?

Merchants are counting the shopping days until Christmas, children are counting the nights until Santa's arrival and the Marines are counting the days until they return home. Some will return before Christmas or New Year's; others will be delayed until after the holidays. If asked what each would want for Christmas, his reply would more than likely be to return home and world peace. The world peace part maybe a bit hard to accomplish but being home may be easier. The song I'll Be Home For Christmas will take on a new

meaning to each Marine and his family. He will learn that one is never too far if there is honest love in the heart: so he may not physically be with his family but his heart thoughts and love can and will transcend those miles.

Dreaming of a white Christmas? A great portion of the country will have its wish and then some. An arctic front has hit the country dumping snow all over and bringing record-breaking temperatures. Cold hating Americans are flocking to travel agencies and airlines in quest of a warm place with sandy beaches and blue waters. A major airline's winter slogan "Don't Go To A Warm Place Cold" emphasizes the importance of planning before "planeing" even if it is done in a rush!

Even with all the new trends, cold weather and news makers, Christmas is still a very special season. Smiles and twinkles cover the faces of children and adults. On Christmas Eve a strange and

wonderful hush comes over the land: a subconscious Christmas carol rings through the air. Men seem to move toward inner peace for a brief moment. The Christmas season is truly magic—even its carols transcend world problems in that everyone who celebrates Christmas sings carols of different origins.

May the wonder and joy of the season engulf everyone's heart so each may be able to enjoy the true meaning of the season - love - and carry it on throughout the year. I, the writer, take this chance to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday. And that the magic of Christmas will become the treasure of time. Merry Christmas and Happy New-Year!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE POST

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 Farrar 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 1493 New York, New York 10036
Columet 5-6200 212-489-1220

From Capitol Hill Minorities Cannot Trust Reagan?

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
A person's word is a rights leaders and some members of Congress, the Reagan Administration's bond has the same value as "a nickel with a hole in it." After a compromise to which all factions agreed was sent to the White House for the President's signature, according to leaders for an independent civil rights commission, the Administration renege on its word.

President Reagan has removed two prominent Republican women - Jill Ruckelshaus and Mary Louise Smith whom civil rights leaders and some members of Congress say the White House and Republican leaders had agreed, as a part of the compromise, to keep both of these women on the panel. How can the President say in one breath that he is for an independent commission, when in the next breath, he removes members who don't share his affirmative action, busing and commission chairman views? The answer is, No, he is not for an independent commission and his actions make it ludicrous to pay commissioners to reiterate his same words.

Even Republican leaders who were a part of affecting the compromise, have changed and are now supporting the President. Senators Robert Dole and



Alfreda L. Madison

Arlen Specter say no deal was made to retain Ruckelshaus and Smith. The night before the compromise was reached Senators Joseph Biden, ranking Judiciary Democrat and Republican Senator Arlen Specter told reporters that, included in the bargain, was an understanding that the new commission would include Smith and Ruckelshaus. According to Ralph Neas, chief civil rights compromise negotiator, Senator Dole and his staff said of the President failed to reappoint Mary Louise Smith, that Dole would back the House alternative to have a congressional civil rights commission, independent of Presidential control.

Are Dole and Specter so weak that they have to cave in to the Reagan tactic when they know it is, diabolically, opposed to Congress' purpose for creating the commission? Since Senator Dole has ex-

pressed interest in becoming Senate Majority Leader, in the event of a GOP-controlled Senate, his commission retreat questions the type of Majority Leader he will be and certainly, further down the road Presidential aspirations."

The fight over preventing President Reagan from controlling the civil rights commission has been a long hard struggle, as it has been with the Administration's other civil rights assaults.

In August the House repudiated Mr. Reagan's actions, by voting to prohibit any President from firing a commissioner without a cause. Then the Senate prepared to defeat two of the President's nominees. The vote was postponed. Senate Judiciary members and civil rights groups discussed several proposals - all included retention of Ruckelshaus and Mary Louise Smith. The Biden-Specter proposal of expanding the commission to eight members garnered enough support for passage. The White House did not support the compromise. When the compromise vote was scheduled in October, a desperate President Reagan fired three Democratic commissioners. This centers around bipartisan consensus that would remove the commission from the Executive

Branch to the legislative. At that point Senators Baker, Dole, Domenici and the civil rights community agreed to work with Senators Specter, Kennedy, Biden and their staff to save an independent commission.

After long hours on November 10, Senator Dole walked out of the Vice President's office and handed the assembled groups a paper with the proposal that President Reagan would reappoint Mary Louise Smith, House Minority Leader Michael would reappoint Jill Ruckelshaus, and the Senate Majority Leader Baker will appoint a Republican with strong civil rights credentials.

Ralph Neas, Executive Director of the Leadership Council, said, "Senator Dole informed us that Senator Baker, Congressman Michel and the White House agreed to the proposal. We believed Senator Dole. And we still stand by that belief, regardless of the events of the past several days." Neas disagreed strongly with Dole, Baker and Michel for asserting that there was no agreement on reappointing Smith and Ruckelshaus. He informed the press that even though Mr. Reagan had unfairly won the battle to pack the civil rights commission with his own mouthpieces - his was a greater loss.