

Editorials

The Charlotte Post

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On The New Racism

In a May 7 editorial, "Jackie Robinson, A Pacesetter," we wrote about the lingering problem of discrimination in Major League Baseball. In particular, as we looked at the 40 years since Jackie Robinson first wore a then-Brooklyn (NY) Dodgers' uniform. In more specific terms, we were dismayed to be reminded that not only are there no major league black field managers (there have been a few in past years), no black general managers, public relations officers, traveling secretaries, or even typists in the main office.

During this period of reflection on the last 40 years of America's supposed "national pastime," Major League Baseball's Al Campanis, an official with the L.A. Dodgers, said that blacks lacked the "necessities" to be major league managers and general managers. Baseball superstar Reggie Jackson said, "Campanis' statement...is the best thing to happen to minorities in baseball since Jackie Robinson. Campanis is not a ... racist, but he made a stupid, irrational statement that brought the problem into a sharper focus than we could have ever asked for."

Baseball Commissioner Ueberroth reportedly has urged the 26 major league team owners to begin a more aggressive approach toward affirmative action. The raised consciousness about the whole issue of blacks in sports management has now forced more discussion and thought in the National Football League. On the gridiron it's the same kind of Al Campanis mentality that has severely limited the number of black quarterbacks, much less assistant and head football coaches in the NFL and the college ranks.

We may owe a note of thanks to staff writer David Perlmutter of The Charlotte Observer too for his recent article about black coaches, or more appropriately, the lack of them, in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). University of Virginia basketball coach Terry Holland put the issue in perspective in the ACC, and probably in many other college conferences when he told Perlmutter, "The athletic world is normally thought of as a place where minorities are given an equal opportunity (at least as players) to succeed. A closer look...reveals a sad example of what token acceptance really accomplishes. There has been no affirmative action to confront the historic imbalance of coaches and administrators."

Coach Holland is not just spouting words. When he departed Davidson College to assume the head basketball position at Virginia in 1974 there were no black players or coaches. Holland hired two black coaches, one to replace the other. The first, Bill Cofield left

Virginia after two years to become head coach at the University of Wisconsin. Co-field's replacement, Craig Littlepage, served on Holland's staff for six years and then moved on to become head coach at the University of Pennsylvania and later at Rutgers University. Mack Calvin, an ex-pro player, now serves as a part-time coach. Significantly, Holland hired two black assistants both of whom moved on to become head coaches at other Division I schools. With Holland having had that kind of success with black coaches, it makes it difficult to accept the argument of others that talented black coaches are few and far between.

Bob Wade, the new head basketball coach at Maryland, is the only head coach of a major, revenue-producing sport in the ACC. We all know too that Wade was highly successful at Baltimore Dunbar High School. We also know that he has the difficult task of salvaging the Maryland basketball program from the death of Len Bias and the firing of coach Lefty Driscoll. Let's wish him well in his challenging task.

While Coach Wade received an opportunity in less than an ideal situation, Clarence "Bighouse" Gains got none. As everyone who knows anything about basketball, Gains has been head basketball coach at historically black Winston-Salem State University for 41 years, and has been highly successful. Yet, in this hotbed state of four high profile ACC schools, Gains has never been offered an opportunity to coach at any of the area Division I schools.

In spite of these negative realities about the absence of blacks in sports management positions, there are some reasons for optimism and hope. The National Basketball Association has three head coaches, including defending NBA champion J.C. Jones of the Boston Celtics, and two general managers. Secondly, with new enlightened leadership at the helm of Major League Baseball under Commissioner Ueberroth, changes will eventually come. Thirdly, in spite of the high profile of many black pro players, especially in football and baseball, the absence of visible black leadership on many teams is a factor in fewer black fans. Even when Branch Ricky first made Jackie Robinson a Brooklyn Dodger, it was not all for reasons of human relations—fans, black fans, and a new source of revenue was of equal if not greater importance.

We all know what the problem is, so let's begin to encourage and in fact insist that the powers that be make some changes, and with it will come less off-the-field social problems among black players.

Salute To Black Business

Five Carolina companies were named among Black Enterprise magazine's list of the nation's 100 biggest black-owned companies for the year 1986. Three Charlotte-based automobile dealerships were among these Carolina five. Sam Johnson Lincoln-Mercury-Merkur, Inc., and Metro Lincoln-Mercury are both owned by Sam Johnson of Charlotte. They ranked 18th and 59th, respectively. South Boulevard Chrysler-Plymouth,

owned by Omar Leatherman, was ranked 73rd, up from 100th last year.

The other Carolina firms on the 100 list are 36th ranked American Development Corporation of Charleston, SC, and Jerry Watkins Cadillac of Winston-Salem with a 52nd ranking.

For their effort and encouragement to other minorities, we salute their success.



OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE, OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING HANDICAPPED EVERYDAY BY TODAY'S BLACK MUSIC, A SOUND THAT CAN NOT LIVE-UP TO THOSE CREATED IN THE 1960's. BLACK MUSIC TODAY DOES NOT PROMOTE THOUGHT, IMAGINATION, OR EXCELLENCE. INSTEAD OUR SO CALLED MUSICIANS ARE PREACHING SEX AND UNREALISTIC VIEWS ABOUT LIFE. THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT WE AS A PEOPLE CAN NOT AFFORD TO LOSE, SELF RESPECT, DIGNITY AND THE MINDS OF OUR YOUNG!!

PIANA ROSS & THE SUPREMES
 THE TEMPTATIONS
 SMOKEY ROBINSON

"BLACK RENAISSANCE" SALUTES THE "MOTOWN SOUND" OF THE 60's. MUSICALLY WELL DONE, WE APPLAUD YOU!

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As I See It
 Gerald Johnson

Graduates Need To Plan For Careers

When I taught Computer Science at Johnson C. Smith several years back, I found myself spending a lot of time counseling students. The area where the students were the weakest was in career planning. Actually, the problem was not planning. Two similar situations stand out in my mind.

I had two students that were determined to be computer scientist. Neither had the aptitude for it. Both had chosen computer science for careers because they heard it was a high paying profession.

One student was a brilliant artist. He spent his spare time drawing and making sketches of various things. The other student was very articulate and he had a deep voice that was ideal for broadcasting.

I told the artist that computer science was not his field and based on what I knew about him, he should pursue a career that would utilize his artistic abilities.

I told the broadcaster that he should pursue a field that would utilize the strength of his voice.

The artist told me that he was going to stick with computer science because he wanted the big bucks.

The broadcaster took my advice and pursued a career in communications. Recently, I had the honor of getting a

progress report on both individuals.

The artist stuck with Computer Science and was able to get a job programming computers. He was miserable. It was nothing like we thought it would be. Even the big bucks were not there.

The broadcaster was doing national radio out of Atlanta, and he was having a ball. Not only was he having a ball, but he was making the big bucks.

The outcome for these individuals was predictable. They both chose good career paths for the wrong reasons. However, one (the broadcaster) got on the right track before it was too late.

Hence, to all of you '87 graduates and graduates of the future, never pursue a career solely on expected monetary rewards. Any field of study can pay decent salaries if you are good in the field and you seek the right profession that utilizes that field.

The key to your success is finding something that you are good at, as well as, something you like to do. If you enjoy doing something that you are good at, then you don't mind spending the necessary time to do an excellent job. Success rarely comes from working 9 to 5. Success will require putting in the hours necessary to get things done. The extra hours go unnoticed

when you are doing something you enjoy.

Therefore, to find out what your career objective should be, try the following. List all the courses that you do well in. Now, list the courses you really like. Make a third list of courses that appear on both list. These courses represent where your interests are.

Now comes the hard part. Take the third list to your guidance counselor and ask for a list of vocations that utilizes the courses that appear on your list.

Once you get a list of vocations, then you need to spend as much time finding out about each of them. There are reference books in the library that can help. Arrange visits to companies so that you can see what actually takes place on the job.

Talk to people in the various professions to get an idea of what the work is like. Most people will be more than happy to spend time with you to discuss their job.

Finding the right career takes a lot of hard work. But the time and effort are well worth it. Spending the necessary time now, while you are young can put you on the proper educational track to prepare you an enjoyable career.

Spending the time now may save you the cost of being miserable the rest of your life.

History Will Be Made In '88 Election

Special To The Post
 By Dr. Lenora Fulani

History will be made in 1988. In the Presidential election the American people will be able to choose from among three - not two - political parties. Besides the establishment and wealthy candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties, the New Alliance Party, the country's only Black-led multi-racial independent electoral party, will place a Presidential candidate on the ballot in all 50 states - a Black progressive independent

championing the social vision of the Rainbow.

The New Alliance Party ballot access drive is already underway in ten states. A national People's Convention has been called for the end of August as part of the intensive grassroots process of choosing who that Black independent candidate will be. I myself have been travelling across the country meeting with local and statewide leaders from the African American, Puerto Rican, Chicano, Asian, Native American, Jewish, labor

and gay communities. Everywhere I go I am asking them, "How can you use the Presidential candidacy of a Black independent to get what you need in your community, to advance the agenda of your organization, to bring the masses of disenfranchised people into the political process?"

A Black independent on a third party ticket in all 50 states and the District of Columbia is a major step towards guaranteeing real democracy for the people of this country.