

# "Shaka Zulu": Propaganda Pays Off

Did you watch "Shaka Zulu" on TV a few weeks back? Were you caught up in the excitement of a black warrior king finally being recognized as part of folklore? Did your heart swell with warm feeling toward WCCB-TV 18 and Pepsi for sponsoring the show?

On the face of it, the whole thing looked like a community service. Finally, black heroes are being recognized, right? Well, let's take another look at this fine community service.

What we have here is a purely business decision thinly masked as a public service. November is a big ratings month in television. WCCB-TV and Pepsi were looking primarily to pull big numbers of viewers—who would, hopefully, drink a lot of Pepsi.

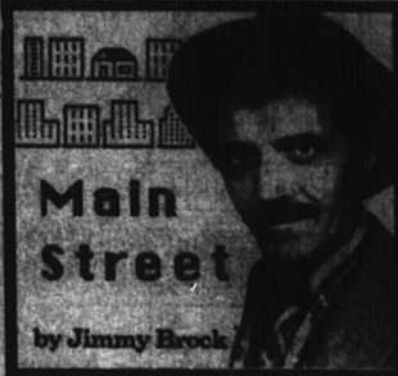
Sure, the TV station promoted the show as "educational"—even dishing out "study guides" like PBS sometimes does. But what we have here is just another "cowboys-and-Indians" flick—with the African blacks playing the Indians.

First of all, Shaka's rise to power and treatment of his fellow blacks was no worse than the way King Henry VIII of England treated his fellows. Or the countless butcheries under Russian Czars. And how about America? We have burned witches at the stake, enslaved and lynched blacks, murdered Indians, worked Chinese coolies to death—every "civilization" has the same horror story.

The worse thing about "Shaka Zulu" as TV, though, is all the same old stereotypes. Here's Shaka, coming to power by ape-like cunning. Of course, his dad gets his mom pregnant but won't be responsible. She goes to live in the "ghetto"—raising her child alone. Shaka becomes a sociopath because of this upbringing.

You expect to see a white-lady social worker materialize to help them at least get some food stamps.

And how about the suggestion



Main Street  
by Jimmy Brock

of cannibalism? Madwoman Ntombazi ties up a young prince and cuts hunks out of his arm. Notice how women are blamed as the source of all the evil? Shaka's mom, Nandi, is blamed for his murderous ways. If only she had humbly accepted her disgrace by Shaka's dad, and not tried to strike back. Why, Shaka might have become the Abe Lincoln of Zululand rather than being portrayed as its Hitler.

Did it take only a bottle of hair

dye, a Bible and some rum to bring Shaka down? Those Englishmen were so smart! Any student of American history will know that Africa's fall to the whites was very complex, and happened over more than the five years shown in Shaka Zulu. The rest of us need to read up on this.

The European rape of Africa was similar to the U.S. government's systematic genocide against American Indians. In fact, the African subjugation was the model for American policy.

Shaka was indeed a mighty Zulu king. American blacks would do well to be proud of his unification of tribes. Of course, Shaka had his darker side—and did shameful things, as most in power do. Still, he should not be reduced to a stereotype. Those who branded "Shaka Zulu" as propaganda were right. The irony is that propaganda doesn't usually pay off in dollars the way this TV show did.

### ADVERTISEMENT

God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 4:6  
The darkness of this world is right, rejoicing the hearts the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Psalms 19:8

PRAY FOR AMERICA

# Dorothy Bell Moves To Banking V.P.

By Herb White  
Post Staff Writer

Twenty-two years ago, Dorothy Bell took a night job at Wachovia so she could spend days with her children.

Today, that job has taken her to a vice-president's post with the banking giant.

Bell, 45, supervises 81 workers in Wachovia's night remittance division as a vice president. Contrary to popular belief, banking is not a 9-to-5 business. There is plenty to be done at night, which means the industry literally operates around the clock.

The hours are hardly typical—7 p.m. to 3 a.m., but after all these years, they aren't a bother.

"I must like it," Bell informed. "I've been working like that for 22 years."

Bell said she was looking for a night job when daughter Nina, now a biology teacher at Myers Park High, was a year old. Her decision was based on her and husband Vinton's desire to have a major role in their child's life. While Vinton, now principal at Harding High, worked days, she would spend time with the baby. At night, the roles were reversed. The arrangement went so well, it continued with Vinton Jr., a freshman at Furman and Danielle, a seventh-grader at Ransom Jr. High.

"My husband and I decided that we would be an influence in their education," Mrs. Bell said. "It's suitable for our family and I guess it's suitable for other families as well."

Vinton Sr. has been Dorothy's biggest supporter and she credits him for a good portion of her success.

"He's the reason we've done so well," Dorothy said. "He motivated me to do so well. He's my role model."

There have been many changes in banking during the past 22 years, Bell said, but the most important change is the speed computers bring to the industry.

"There wasn't a lot of automation," she explained. "You had to do everything manually. Now everything is computerized."

Another change has been in the number of businesses that



Bell

make their payments to banks through a post office box number instead of clearing them directly, Bell said.

As a supervisor, Bell said she acts as the medium between the interests of the company and employees. The job can be complicated sometimes, she said, but a good manager knows how to balance the sides.

"You've got to be as fair to the employee as possible and motivate them to give the best possible service," she said.

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Applicants must be high school graduates or have a GED and be able to type.

For more information, call the Urban League at 378-9834.

Mrs. Bell's company has a good record of hiring and promoting people who don't fit the profile of the typical banker, and she offered herself as proof.

"I'm a living example of that. They promoted me on my merits," she pointed out. "I just did the best that I could. I think they give each employee an equal opportunity."

# TIMELY RESPONSE PLEASES BUSY OWNER

Lee's Plastering Service, Inc. is a 28 year old business. A plastering and dry wall contractor, they specialize in commercial work. Owner Sylvester Lee started the company and continues to do all the estimating and purchasing himself. Asked the key to success in running your own business, Mr. Lee replied, "Working long hours." Mr. Lee also commits his time to Gethsemane AME Zion Church, where he is chairman of the trustee board.

"Republic cuts our banking time down," says Sylvester Lee. "Our needs can usually be handled with a telephone call and never involve a long drawn out process. We enjoy doing business at Republic because they seem to care. In five years of banking at Republic, we have found they deal with us on a more personal basis than our previous bank."

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