

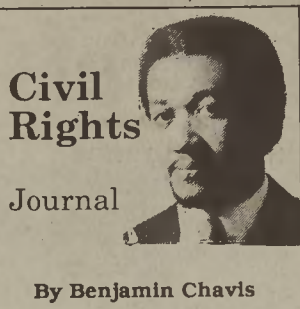
November Election Is Urgent

As the date for the presidential elections, November 8, 1988, draws near, the challenge and the responsibility for voter mobilization, particularly in the African American and in other racial and ethnic communities across the United States, take on a crucial sense of urgency. We need to continue to emphasize the importance of the upcoming elections.

On the issues of domestic and foreign policy, we have a vested interest in helping to determine the future course of this nation. The saying, "The hands that once picked cotton can now pick the President of the United States" is a true saying. The problem of the lack of voter education and awareness in racial and ethnic communities could be responsible for the perpetuation of the current Reagan-Bush policies. It is for this reason that we will be giving considerable attention through Civil Rights Journal on the necessity to "get out the vote" on November 8th.

I have just returned from the 18th Annual Legislative Week-end of the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, DC. The theme of this largest gathering of African American leadership was "The Struggle Continues: A Look Into The Future." Throughout all of the workshops, forums and braintrysts, there was a common sense of urgency and responsibility that something has to be done politically as well as economically to stop the devastating trends of the Reagan-Bush years against the interest of the African American community.

One publication that was distributed during the Congressional Black Caucus sessions



Civil Rights Journal

By Benjamin Chavis

was "The Future of African-Americans to the Year 2000" published by the Congressional Black Caucus. Its most trenchant finding is that if we continue as we have in the past, the American economic, social, and political systems will not adequately meet the needs of African-Americans, and they will not ever share fully in the abundance of this land. To overcome this dreadful potential future, dramatic new policies will have to be undertaken, and practices in many spheres of life will have to be substantially altered. The legacy of the Reagan-Bush years has directly contributed to the deterioration of the state of the African American community.

At the community level, however, there needs to be greater attention given to disseminating the wealth of information that circulates at conferences like the Congressional Black Caucus. For example, a young African American said to me recently, "Hey, I really don't have anything to vote for this year." Another African American who was a small business owner stated, "Reagan and Bush have

not really been that bad, at least we know what their policies are and we should just give Bush a chance to continue what Reagan has done."

More than any other administration in recent history, the Reagan and Bush team has refused to appoint African Americans as federal judges. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall is trying very hard to hold on until after Reagan leaves office. If Bush is elected all of the effective and hard work of Thurgood Marshall and many others will be judicially reversed by the kind of appointments Bush will surely make. In Africa, particularly in Southern Africa, if George Bush is elected, then thousands of African people will continue to lose their lives because of the Reagan-Bush policy of constructive engagement with racist apartheid in South Africa and the immoral and illegal support of the UNITA terrorists against the people of Angola.

Yes, we do have something to vote for. Yes, we do need a change in current U.S. domestic and foreign policy. If the struggle is to continue, then we must march in record numbers to vote on election day. Michael Dukakis has stated his commitment to cut off funding to UNITA, to impose comprehensive sanctions against South Africa, to redirect millions of dollars from the senseless military buildup to vital domestic social programs, and to help the United States become a more racially inclusive and equitable society. We must get out the vote. And we must mobilize now to ensure that we vote in record numbers.

What Does Duffey Strode Tell Us?

Duffey Strode, the 11 year old street preacher.

I know, I promised that I wouldn't write another word about him. Or about his preaching. Or about his little brother and his little sister.

Or his father. Like you, I am amazed that we still read about them every week. And see them on TV news--and talk shows.

Every time we turn around, Duffey has gone to New York, to Charlotte, or some other new place to "preach" and shout some message of hate to others. We've had enough. Enough of this ridiculous showmanship and exploitation. Who could be so stupid to think that we--or anyone--would care? And yet they keep bringing the Strodes back. And though we say we're angry, we keep coming back to read and hear more about them.

I don't understand. I don't understand me and I don't understand you. Maybe you can explain to me why the Strodes have outlasted Lizard Man and Dan Quayle as objects of media attention, and why they keep on grabbing hold of you and me.



D.G. Martin

One-On-One

Can you explain it?

Maybe it is because Duffey and his family make us think about so many other questions that have no answers for us. Like, what will happen to Duffey as he grows up?

Maybe we do know. Do you remember Marjoe? He was another child preacher pushed into the pulpit by his parents at an early age. He converted many, before his own faith was crushed when it came up against the pressures of adolescence.

How will Duffey handle those wild and crazy times that come with being a teenager? How will he react to girls, cars, beer, the streets, MTV, sex and to his own ideas and feelings bubbling up from his own insides? Where will he be ten years from now? Still preaching? I doubt it. I'll bet that he's running a beer joint ("Duffey's Tavern") or bumming around or, maybe, in jail for some act of violence.

Why so pessimistic about Duffey's future? To me, it is just so clear that what Duffey is going through cannot be good for him--and that it will leave permanent scars.

That's why Duffey keeps on getting our attention. He is a tragedy in the making. Something we can't stop and can't help. While we don't know exactly how it will turn out, we know that it is going to be bad.

And so maybe, our unwillingness to let go of Duffey and his family does tell us something--something bad about ourselves. Deep down inside, we just like to watch bad things happen to others.

Bush Child Care Neglects Quality

Guest Editorial By Cong. Augustus Hawkins

Now that presidential candidate George Bush has discovered that child care is a significant national issue, it is important to point out the differences between the Vice President's concept and the Act for Better Child Care, the major child care proposal in the Congress. After all, child care means different things to different people.

The Bush proposal drives child care through the tax code: eligible persons would receive a refundable tax credit of up to \$1,000 per child under age 4. The new tax credit would be phased in from very low income levels in annual household income of \$16,000 to \$20,000 over the first four years. The Act for Better Child Care, (A.B.C.) which I support, has been approved by the Education and Labor Committee which I chair. It provides direct financial assistance to needy parents. Under ABC, states could contract with child care providers for the care of low- and moderate-income children. Alternatively, states could offer parents "certificates" to use in paying for child care; caregivers would redeem the certificates for cash from the government.

The most basic flaw in the Bush proposal is that it does nothing to ensure quality care in the child care system. The A.B.C. bill in contrast, develops minimum federal standards in important areas of care for young children. The A.B.C. bill also earmarks 15 percent of the federal funds for training of child care workers; for recruiting new family day care providers; and to provide grants to begin new programs and renovate existing child care facilities. All of these efforts would foster improved quality in child care.

It's not that the Bush proposal has no merit, in fact it may be helpful as a supplement to the A.B.C. bill. But the Bush proposal by itself - only addresses one part of the child care crisis.

The Bush proposal also ignores another dimension of child care accessibility. The A.B.C. bill develops resource and referral programs to assist parents in finding quality care, while the Bush proposal assumes that parents already possess this information. While

parents may have some initial knowledge of available child care resources (ads in the newspapers, word of mouth, etc.), why not develop a professional program that helps parents through the traumatic and difficult dilemma of finding quality care for their child. In addition, the A.B.C. proposal would earmark three percent of the federal funds to encourage and strengthen business involvement in child care, and therefore bring child care closer to the parents place of employment.



Black Resources, Inc.

BRANDON, JR.

Letters To The Post

Please Help Survivors Of Gilbert

Dear Editor:

On Tuesday, September 20, as a survivor of Hurricane Gilbert, I returned home from Jamaica to be thankfully and joyously united with my family and friends. However, my thoughts remain with the Jamaican survivors of the devastating storm.

Gilbert's wrath ravished the island, claimed many lives, demolished homes, buildings, churches and left in its wake

an island of people experiencing homelessness and hunger, lacking water, medical supplies, sanitation, electricity, communication, employment and in some cases having lost all possessions.

Although the people of Jamaica and the government have begun struggling to overcome the devastation, they cannot do it alone. It was with great pride that I viewed the first United States military

plane arriving with supplies. Much assistance and relief is still needed.

Any parties interested in providing assistance to the people of Jamaica and letting them know that we care, please contact New Adventure Travel Service (704) 377-1099 or Fran Farrer-Bradley at The Charlotte Post (704) 376-0496.

BERYL STEVENSON

Inexcusable Remarks On WPEG

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter to Ken Koontz and Mike Saunders of WPEG FM 98:

I have often listened to your sometimes, inappropriate humor. Your latest ill-timed quip was inexcusable. Do you know the meaning of the term manic-depressive psychosis? Your barbs were tantamount to jesting about cancer.

There are thousands of us who suffer from this disease. We are black and white. We, sometimes, survive episodes

that range from gross displays of anti-social behavior to attempts at suicide that often succeed.

The disorder is the result of a chemical imbalance in the brain. Those of us who have been afflicted can no more prevent some of the consequences of our actions, without medical intervention, than you can thwart aging.

Why do I use a public forum to air my disapproval? Because, I have no confidence in your sense of fair play.

The date and time in question was September 23, 1988, between 7:20 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.. Obviously, your remarks were spontaneous and made in ignorance. I hope so. I would be devastated to find that you were purposefully abusive.

I would like a public apology to Mike Tyson, myself, and the thousands of unnamed others you have offended in tenor and tone.

MILLER BUSSEY

Ramesses: Is It A Grave Robbing?

Dear Editor:

The whole town seems to be ablaze with excitement over the Ramesses The Great exhibition scheduled for the Mint Museum. I suppose it is a great archeological treasure and an educational look at an ancient culture; but, two questions bother me.

First, how does this archeological removal of an ancient tomb differ completely from grave robbing?

Secondly, would this exhibition take place if Ramesses had not been from Africa, or if he had been Christian or Jewish?

I read that it is thought that Moses was a contemporary of Ramesses. I cannot believe, if an archeological team were to discover the tomb of Moses, that his body would be placed on public display.

GENE ALLIGOOD, D.C.

Networking Our Resources

Dear Editor:

Within the black and minority business world lies a wealth of ability and needed resources. We have companies and individuals who are just as qualified and capable as employees of large corporations. But, we specialize and operate in only one or two disciplines under one roof or per individual. This is not negative, it's just the way it seems to be.

We are designers, engineers, manufacturing firm owners, marketing consultants, business consultants and salesmen. My particular interest is in product development and realization.

My concern is the lack of all these resources being available in a package network to companies and individuals. A network core group made up of these individual companies should be brought together with a mutual purpose in mind. The purpose being, the lending of each other's ready access to resources in developing a product or products selected by this core group. All

the necessary tasks will be performed by or through this group, using the available knowledge and resources of the group members as they are needed. Each member could donate his or her effort in return for an interest in the product or products.

To get a product from concept to the marketplace sometimes seems out of reach since not many have all these necessary resources at their finger tips. I enjoy developing ideas and products and do receive some satisfaction from my efforts.

Design and development is generally where my area of experience ends. From there, manufacturing and marketing become necessary.

That's when the advantage of having access to this willing group would be realized. The next stage of the process would then be continued by those possessing the necessary experience and resources from within the core group. This would give the decided project a better chance of succeeding,

considering the fact that without these areas of interest a project is hindered or even canceled.

I did not stress finances because the objective of this appeal is about helping ourselves diversify and broaden the use of our possessed experiences and resources. Naturally finances will become necessary. When that time comes, it will be addressed by that area of the group with that experience.

The major objective of a core network like this should always be the main focus of the group. That is, to offer the necessary experience and resources to an effort which would possibly benefit the group financially and in many other ways and finally, sharing as a group the great satisfaction of a completed mission.

I would like to see a network like this formed around a project. I wonder if others have thought about this?

ANTHONY R. BARNES

Apologies And More From The Chamber

Dear Editor:

In reference to Gerald Johnson's editorial in last week's Charlotte Post ("A Need For A Black Chamber?", September 22, 1988) critical of the Charlotte Chamber for not mentioning The Post as one of the local newspapers, may we say that if one of our staff failed to respond appropriately to a public inquiry, we offer a sincere apology to The Post. Chamber employees would never intentionally sanction such a disservice.

On the other hand, we disagree with the allegations that the Charlotte Chamber has therefore failed in its mission. The Post is incorrect in stating that we merely sponsor programs to "placate" the concerns of small and minority business owners. In fact, the readers of The Charlotte Post should know the facts about the broad range and quality of our small member services.

A review of the 16 issues of Ventures (the official newsletter of the Charlotte Chamber) published this year reveals that our members were offered, regardless of their sizes, 206 opportunities to participate in events we sponsored. Here are just a few of those opportunities:

- Career Expo '88 which was co-sponsored by the Char-

lotte-Mecklenburg School District and the Urban League.

- Five seminars on business development for small business owners.

- An invitation to all members who want to serve on city or county commissions and boards to submit their names to the Chamber for consideration.

- Invitations to join more than 48 committees which recommend policies, design and run our programs.
- Forty business education opportunities with open enrollment.

- Sponsorship of 41 separate events and publications which serve to promote sponsoring firms.
- Applications for a free listing in the Chamber's directory of minority and women owned businesses, whether a member of the Chamber or not.

- The chance to nominate outstanding business people for their success as owners and managers.
- Subscriptions to referral services of the Chamber's new-comer programs, and
- The Chamber's group health insurance program especially designed for smaller firms.

There is no Chamber in the entire Southeast with the

breadth or opportunities for small and minority business owners that the Charlotte Chamber offers. We know that small business owners, minority or otherwise, join us to be a part of this community's business agenda. This chamber responds to those needs and regularly receives positive testimonies.

Eighty to eighty-five percent of all Charlotte Chamber members are businesses with fewer than 75 employees --- our accepted definition of small business. We have experienced a 75 percent gain in memberships in four years because we serve the bulk of our members. Our growth is a result of marketing effective programs to our members.

Opportunities for participation are available to The Charlotte Post and we sincerely invite the newspaper to take advantage of them. We believe that such participation will give you a greater appreciation for the Chamber's small business programs and give us more input as to how to serve you better.

CARROLL D. GRAY, CCE President

LAWRENCE J. TOLIVER, Vice President

What's On Your Mind?

Let us hear your comments, ideas and opinions. Write to:

Letters To The Post
P.O. Box 30144
Charlotte, NC 28230

Please include name, address and phone number. We edit letters for clarity and grammar.