

Bush Urged To Halt War

African-American as well as other church leaders recently made an urgent appeal to President Bush to stop the United States sponsored war on Angola. This multi-racial group of clergy and church leaders from across the nation expressed their opposition to Bush's support of Jones Savimbi and his terrorist group known as UNITA. It is a good sign when African American church leaders are joined by Hispanic American, Asian American, Native American and Anglo-American church leaders in this important appeal to President Bush. Tens of thousands of Angolians in their own native land have been murdered, tortured and maimed as a result of the vicious acts of brutality committed by UNITA on the people of Angola.

The following is the text of the letter that was sent to the President:

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to make an urgent appeal to you concerning the injustice of the present foreign policy of your administration toward the People's Republic of Angola.

We have a moral and a theo-

Civil Rights

Journal

By Benjamin Chavis



logical responsibility to speak out and to act for the cause of freedom, justice and peace. We are aware that in January of this year you wrote a letter to Jonas Savimbi, the brutal leader of the terrorist group UNITA. We are very dismayed that you have stated your intention to "continue all appropriate and effective assistance to UNITA" inclusive of covert military aid.

Today, Angola has the highest amputee rate per capita in the world, most of whom are women and children who have been criminally tortured and victimized by Savimbi's UNITA. Now that peace accords have been

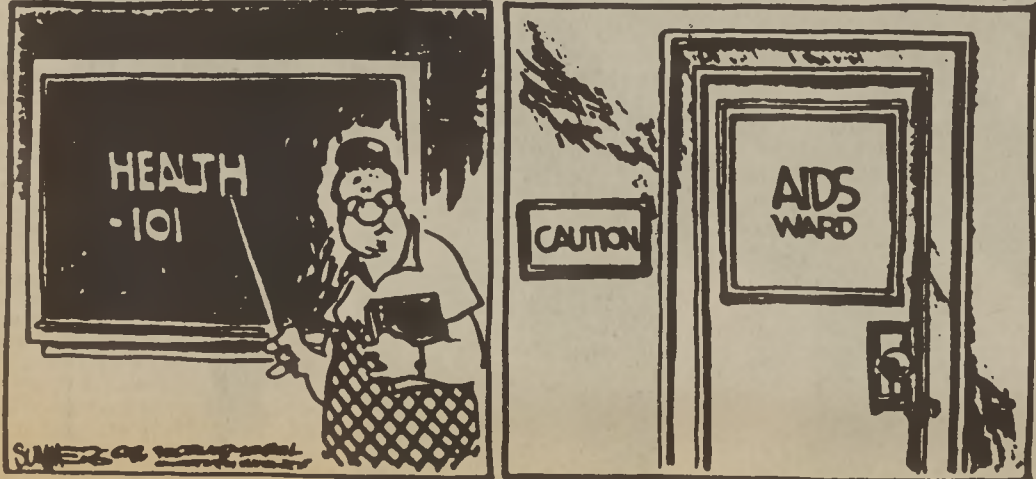
signed between Angola, Cuba and South Africa, why does the United States under your leadership continue to send land mines and other military weapons of mass death and destruction to UNITA? How can there be peace in Angola or in southern Africa if the United States continues to support the terrorism of UNITA?

We appeal to you, President Bush, in the name of Christ, to change your policy toward Angola in the following ways:

1. Terminate immediately all aid and support to Jonas Savimbi and UNITA.
2. Grant full diplomatic recognition to Angola.
3. Support the providing of medical care and emergency aid for the tens of thousands of victims of the unjust war on Angola.

Whether or not Bush will answer this letter -- or more importantly, whether or not Bush will change his current policy toward Angola will be dependent upon public outcry. Our sisters and brothers in Angola need our help and solidarity and most of all they need our united voice demanding justice and peace.

Where Would you Prefer To Have Your Child Learn About Sex?



Civil Rights Laws Must Be Enforced

Guest Editorial
By Augustus Hawkins

Black American writer Langston Hughes once wrote: "What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Or does it explode?"

This passage is worth pondering when one examines the previous administration's lack of commitment to civil rights over the past eight years. This neglect has become even more evident in a report issued by the Majority Staff of the Education and Labor Committee, which I chair.

The report is based on an investigation of the civil rights enforcement activities of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in the U.S. Department of Education. The conclusion of the report is that OCR has failed to enforce the civil rights laws they are mandated to uphold.

Basically, OCR is responsible for enforcing federal laws which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, handicap or age in all education programs or activities

funded by the federal government. Among its other responsibilities, the OCR is obligated to make sure re-segregation, even in its most subtle forms, does not take place in our public schools. An example of a violation in need of review would be a school district which has neglected the needs of minorities by setting up a two tiered system, with low expectations for minority children, and high ones for non-minority children. This discriminatory pattern is evidenced many times in schools which focus special college preparatory courses on white children and direct vocational/manual training to minority children.

A review of how the OCR handles its cases, by people who have complained about discrimination, reveals that the agency has not vigorously enforced laws protecting the rights of women and minorities in education since 1981. This conclusion was reached, in part, by statistics showing that OCR closed 99 percent of its complaint reviews by either finding no violation or reaching a settle-

ment prior to issuing a final comment. In most cases, a "settlement" simply means a promise by the school district not to discriminate. OCR rarely monitors to determine if such promises are ever kept.

Furthermore, during 1982 to 1988, the Reagan Administration cut the budget and staff of OCR, arguing that it could "do more with less." Despite such cuts, this agency failed to spend all the monies allotted to it, further weakening its enforcement capabilities.

We have found throughout our history that when civil rights laws are strongly enforced, important gains have been made in educational opportunity for women, minorities and the disabled.

The gains of the past 20 years, although tangible, have not been sufficient to overcome the prejudice and discrimination which still exists in our society. We can no longer afford to defer the dreams of those who have the desire, ambition, and the talent to contribute to our society.

Letters To The Post

On Bringing Sense, Sanity To Athletics

Dear Editor:

Gerald Johnson's views of Proposition No. 42 and No. 48 ("Too Little, Too Late," February 23, 1989) were very well taken.

Certainly television has caused many to lose rhyme and reason. We even felt that in the Division II football championship over the past couple of years. We moved our championships two years in a row to accommodate TV for no money -- only exposure. We almost sacrificed the integrity of the championships.

But there are other items that are more than a notion that further create the reasons we have such laws on the books. Education is supposed to be for the good of all -- those of us of color know that our kids are not being educated.

Counselors do not provide the total information to educate all of the people. Teachers are afraid of those who may be larger and/or louder than their classmates. Principals have no authority to discipline because the laws have deserted them. School systems are stripped of their authority to say that "if you can't pass, you can't play."

Little leagues have pinpointed the potentially great athlete as early as eight or nine years of age. But the high school coach is more concerned with winning than building men and women. The same pressure on the large university coach is somehow being put on little league, junior high and senior high

school coaches.

There is nothing wrong with the desire to win, but until we get our young people to start using athletics for its true values early in life, we will not eliminate the need for rules like 42, 48 or 64 -- there are some others equally as asinine.

The second item is equally as important as Johnson's views on 42 and 48. Presidents and Chancellors must not abrogate their FINAL authority to determine the destiny of any program within his/her university. Hiring and firing must be the last words in their offices, not the Athletic Director's or the alumni's.

Final authority must rest in the hands of the person assigned to run the institution -- it may be a rubber stamp authorization -- but when problems occur, the Chief Executive Officer must be the one to know why, how, when or what. Others can only recommend not to handle such a vast program as athletics.

Celling caps must be put on expenditures so that athletics becomes a helper to the entire university -- not a program set apart because of its ability to generate big, big dollars. All programs MUST benefit from athletic dollars that are made, even though athletic programs would receive the lion's share of what's made. This would keep good programs strong and cause weaker ones to seek their own levels.

I am sure there are many Chief Executive Officers who

feel, as it was reportedly said by the Chancellor at North Carolina State University, "the coach is larger than I am." I would hope that was not said, but when we look at how the tail wags the dog, I am sure many feel that way.

One thing I feel very certain of is that smaller universities that do not have the resources of the larger ones do not allow this to happen. I believe the larger one with a strong statement of cooperation by conference and national university heads could more equally say the same.

I think a coach should be required to win -- after all that's why we play games. But I think the rules should be the same for all -- ample opportunity with adequate resources and facilities for similar types of schools. But that cannot be because we do not like to be told what we should or cannot do by those whose job it is to be in charge.

Let me close with Horace Greeley's statement that states very simply and succinctly what athletics MUST be about:

"Fame is a vapor; popularity, an accident; riches take wings.

"Those who cheer you today, may curse you tomorrow. All that endures is character."

Athletics must be taught for those reasons in order to bring some sense of sanity and pride to our programs.

JOHN D. MARSHALL JR.
Director of Athletics
Fayetteville State University

Piedmont Gas To Clean Up Eyesore

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter of information to the residents of the Northwood community as well as users of North Hoskins Rd. near Beatties Ford Rd.

By the time this letter is read, the eyesore, piles of tires along N. Hoskins will have been removed.

I know many people have called the city's maintenance

service to have these tires picked up. I was advised of these calls when I looked into the matter.

Piedmont Natural Gas Company is clearing their property and what resulted was illegal dumping that has gone on for many years. I applaud the gas company for removing the debris.

As a community, we need to

continue to call for service when we see the need. We also need to assist in seeking out and prosecuting those responsible for illegally dumping garbage on our streets and highways.

My sincere thanks to Piedmont Gas for removing the tires and cleaning up the area.

ELLOREE MINGO-ERWIN

End To South African Apartheid Is Forseeable

Dear Editor:

Apartheid is merely a more tolerable form of slavery. But apartheid is still slavery. It is appallingly un-kind, vicious and arrogant to the point of extreme egotism.

I know little black children in South Africa are still walking into bullets. They find apartheid that intolerable.

Apartheid, nevertheless, will not forever be. The very number of people affected by apartheid will overwhelm the system. It diminishes South Africa at the expense of white South Africans too.

The road may be very long, very stony and very bloody. South Africa is in the midst of an "evolutionistic" revolution.

Hard hearts turn to stone and stone gives way to sand.

Deep in my soul I am sustained by the clear and certain knowledge that apartheid will not forever be.

Apartheid will self-implode one day, I do believe.

DONTHERZA D. DUVERGER

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

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

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

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

Proud Of The Fortitude And Unity Of The Howard University Students

Fresh from his televised appearance before the Eastern Airline strikers, Jesse Jackson went directly to the next televised hot spot -- a student protest at Howard University where 2,500 students had occupied the administration building.

It was vintage Jackson selling Jackson. He successfully promoted his 1988 Democratic Party line that the Republican Party was the sole repository of white racism and labeled the ousting of Republican National Committee Chairman Lee Atwater from the university 30-member board of trustees as moral victory.

Atwater, who became a convenient umbrella for years of pent-up student frustrations over campus crime, housing and student loans, was just as lame in his Republican defense. Being as pure as the driven snow, all this official "the party of opportunity" wanted was a chance to serve the black community by raising money and scholarships for Howard and getting internships for the students at the White House, Atwater intimated.

Both Jackson and Atwater reeked of political partisanship; both were conveniently shielded from the truth by their shared objective of controlling the black vote. However partisan,

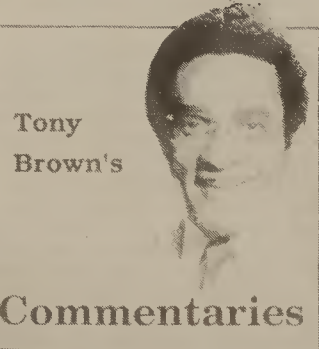
their ambitions were at least motivated by an understandable objective.

But it was a black columnist for *The Washington Post* whose motives are suspect, at best. Courtland Milloy, who has written previously that black people are incapable of economic self-sufficiency, interpreted the student activism as "Revolution by Flunking Out."

The Howard students, he wrote, suffered from the delusion that what they were doing was meaningful. "What black students should really be outraged about is the fact that so many of them are flunking out of school," charged Milloy.

To prove his point, he quoted from an article in *Harper's* by an English teacher at a white college in San Jose (previously, to prove his point that blacks were too brain dead to run a business, he used a white teacher at the University of Maryland as his reference).

The black "drop-out rate is 72 percent," despite the white colleges' attempt to help them; rather than demonstrating, they would be better off "reading and studying." Milloy quoted the teacher as saying. After all, blacks have "the highest drop-out rate and lowest grade point average of any group in American universities." Milloy further



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quoted his source from San Jose University.

And, Milloy stressed, the students at Howard cannot justify this academic failure by denouncing Atwater's presence on the board of trustees. "The issue, for now, is the proliferation of mediocrity among black college students, and what to do about it," the Black Sage of *The Washington Post* proclaimed. He seems to suggest that black students are stupid ("mediocre," he says) because of activism and retarded because they are activists.

The first thing Milloy can do is to examine his consistent hostility and deprecating attitude toward his own people -- and to black college students in par-

ticular. The second thing the neo-member of the white press can do is to read something other than *Harper's* for definitive "facts" about the cultural, sociological and psychological dynamics of blacks in higher education.

I would recommend that he begin with Dr. Jacqueline Fleming's book *Blacks In College* which documents, with longitudinal and latitudinal studies, the performance of black students in black colleges as superior to black students at San Jose University and the other 3,200 white colleges.

Although Dr. Fleming is black, which may not count for much with Milloy, she was trained at Harvard -- not Howard -- which should excite him to no end, and force him to reconsider his recurring anti-black bias.

The reason that seven out of 10 students at Howard and other black colleges graduate and seven out of 10 black students at white colleges do not is, according to several studies, a supportive environment. Furthermore, the drop-out rate for black students is not "72 percent," as Milloy reports.

White colleges have a 72 percent failure rate for black students. Black colleges have a 70 percent success rate. And contrary to Milloy's contention that

"White colleges have a 72 percent failure rate for black students. Black colleges have a 70 percent success rate."

Howard's protestors are failures, studies show that activist students have a higher IQ than non-activist students. Take, for example, John Davis, a 20-year-old electrical engineering major from Yellow Springs, Ohio, who protested. He turned down Harvard, the University of Cincinnati and Northwestern to come to Howard. But, as the saying goes, the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

From Milloy's description of black college students, you would expect the protestors to be a disorganized rabble, spitting out rhetoric of undeterminable nonsense. Instead, one student was heard saying, "It's all about responsibility. If you miss a class, you must make up the work."

When 2,500 of them occupied the administration building, their leadership was in tact and their organization was evident: the first floor was a first-aid station; the second floor was supplied with pillows and blankets for sleeping; and the third floor became a study hall.

When the riot police parachuted from helicopters with arms

and battering rams, the students repelled them with a carpet of human bodies covering the floors and hallways. When the university president threatened them with jail and expulsion, they answered him with a deafening unity. After disrupting Bill Cosby's speech, they recommended him for Atwater's old job.

And what about this for class: After the students had won their demands, April Silver, a protest leader, warmly shook the hand of Dr. James Cheek, Howard's embattled president, and said, "We thank you for your cooperation. We're glad things worked out the way they did."

It is the Courtland Milloys of Black America who should hand their heads in shame for not being proud of the beautiful flowers like those budding at Howard University and on black campuses across the nation.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL TV series can be seen on public television Sunday on Channel 42 at 5 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Please consult listings.