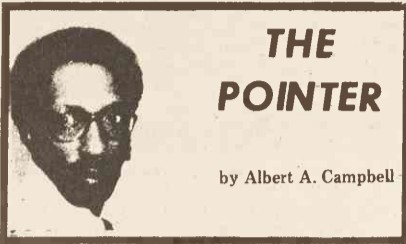


THE VIEWS OF THE WRITER'S ARE NOT ALWAYS THOSE OF THE PAPER'S

**'You're A Part Of The Solution, Or You're A Part Of The Problem'****THE POINTER**

by Albert A. Campbell

In this the so-called "Basketball Capital of the Country", apparently professional basketball can not survive. The statement just made I hope is untrue, because I personally would like to see the only major league sports team we have in this area remain.

As most of you know by now, The Carolina Cougars, this area's only big league team is not only considering moving to another location, but financially, they are compelled to relocate in a more supportive community.

The Cougars came to the Piedmont Triad area and established their headquarters in the Greensboro Coliseum Complex because of the coliseum's capabilities. The coliseum in addition to its large seating capacity, was uniquely located where it also served a 100 mile radius that included approximately one million people. Certainly with that kind of potential, most sports teams would consider the location attractive.

However, over the past four and one half years, the Carolina Cougars' attendance has continually fallen. The decline in attendance can not in any way be equated with the caliber of ball the Cougars have played over the years; The last of which was Division Champions. A championship team demands and normally receives support from its area fans, but not so in this area and the Carolina Cougars. The fans as well as the surrounding business community seem to take the team for granted. It is as though we the fans are doing the team a favor by allowing them to locate in this area. We have adopted the attitude that we are entertaining them instead of them entertaining us. They are at our disposal...and only when we need an added attraction.

In many areas throughout this country, the areas professional sports team is usually the pride and joy. It is the areas most popular conversational topic as well as the number one attraction. When looking at professional basketball on television, you will sometimes get a feeling of total commitment from the home team's fans. Home-made signs are decked throughout the arena claiming goodness for their home team. Support comes from the entire community, and usually the attendance is very good. Why then can't the same be here in this area? Is not the Carolina Cougars a top quality basketball team? After all, that team is loaded with some of the best talent in the country. What else could any community ask for, or is this area just not ready for clean family fun?

Additionally, the Black community certainly should look upon the Cougars as a boost to Black economic community. There is no other industry in this area that pays so many Blacks salaries comparable to those of the Carolina Cougars. Ask the players themselves, why do they continue to play ball year after year. I'll bet the answer will be plain and simple. MONEY.

This in itself is enough inducement to encourage more Blacks to support the efforts of community development. Personally, I feel that Black attendance has not been what it could have been, as compared to other locations.

Before it's too late, before the Cougars are forced to relocate somewhere else, before this area is again without a major league basketball team, let's all take another look at what we have here. Do we want to lose our largest attraction, or do we really care?

Can we sacrifice a bottle of scotch for a more meaningful experience, or are we incapable of appreciating other activities?

I would like to see the Cougars stay, and with a little help from the entire community, yes the Blacks also, I think they can.

**Community Control...?****TO BE EQUAL**

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

**Discharge Codes Still Discriminate; Deny Jobs**

A broad attack is being mounted on the way discharges from the armed forces are being used to deny jobs to people who would otherwise qualify for them, and if it is successful the country will have taken a major step toward securing civil liberties for veterans and in dismantling a system that encourages widespread discrimination.

Impetus to the movement to end abuses of the army's classification system came recently in a Federal Court decision striking down a town's ordinance that limited city jobs to veterans with an honorable discharge.

Thus, the Court struck at a practice common to private industry as well as government, a practice that discriminates against people on broad grounds that do not take into account the individual's circumstances or the discharge's relevance to the job at hand.

Just how discriminatory this practice is becomes obvious when we consider that about a million veterans left the service with less than honorable discharges since 1950 -- nearly 200,000 in the Vietnam era alone.

And most of these discharges were given under circumstances that would not earn any sort of punishment in civilian life. The system of military justice has a well-earned reputation for capriciousness and a dishonorable or general discharge might only be a whim of a commanding officer or a non-com's grudge.

So the Court's ruling is a step toward returning full civil rights and equal job opportunities to hundreds of thousands of people unfairly denied them. But there is another, less known aspect about discharges that discriminates against the millions of other men who have, or think they have, honorable discharges.

That is the secret code the services place on honorable discharges. There are over 200 such code numbers, each standing for some personal characteristic, and most big employers have access to the number code. So if a veteran shows up at an

employment office to apply for a job, an employer can see his discharge papers, note that the SPN -- separation program number -- indicates the man's personal habits or sexual activities or family problems noted, and deny him the job.

The really vicious part about all this is that the veteran himself has no idea what the code number means or why it was put there. He had no opportunity to challenge it, can't determine who made the judgement, or do anything about it immediately.

All this compounds the employment problems faced by minorities, especially since racial attitudes on the part of some officers and non-coms is prejudicial. And with blacks making up a fifth of today's army, the problem is bound to become worse.

The core issues here are the veteran's right to privacy and the army's right to make personal judgements about the men who serve. The armed forces' job is to defend the country against external aggression, not to erect a

secret code system that follows veterans back to civilian life. The Army has more important things to do than to serve as a screening unit for corporate personnel departments.

Right now the battle is being fought in the courts, although there are indications that some Congressmen will fight to restrict this code numbers game and that the armed forces themselves will try to streamline the system to guard against greater abuse.

But reform isn't what's called for. The system has to be uprooted completely if civil liberties are to remain intact and fairness served. The Pentagon ought to move swiftly to end the coding system altogether and to refuse to honor all requests for personal information about veterans. In fact, it ought to do away completely with the discharge system, merely giving each serviceman a certificate of separation when he enters civilian life.

**THE ROY WILKINS COLUMN****Black Mayors Say It- 'Crime Must Go' - NOW!**

If there had been any doubt that a Negro mayor just might not have an understanding of the principal problems of the whole city, rather than those of the areas where black citizens live, the doubt should be resolved by the inaugural speeches of the two new black mayors of Detroit, Mich., and Atlanta, Ga.

Both declared that crime was one of the big problems and both urged their citizens to help reduce it. Now crime, despite propaganda popular in some localities, is not racial. It is neither black nor white. When white people have been mugged or have had a relative attacked or killed by black criminals, it is difficult for them to be cool, objective, non-racial. The grief and bitterness are so great that it is hard to have a fair and balanced point of view.

Yet Mayor Coleman A. Young and the 35-year-old Mayor Maynard H. Jackson both know that crime is a city problem. Detroit fashioned its 1973 killing record and handed its black Mayor Young the label, "The Murder Capital of the World." Atlanta gave its young Mayor Jackson "a soaring crime rate."

Both of these elected men know that a city cannot grow and have an extraordinary crime rate. Businesses leave crime-ridden cities. The tax base shrinks; fewer enterprises, large and small, see the tax collector. Not only does crime drive the corporate taxpayers away, but those who must remain are senior citizens or children, who are on the welfare rolls or a very few dollars above the poverty level.

Poor citizens, white or black, require costly municipal services such as schools, clinics and other health services, garbage collection, fire and police protection and a dozen other items. Their tax money does not stretch this far. Deficits result and mayors become

gray-haired. Mayor Jackson recognized that crime and poverty go hand-in-hand. He challenged Atlantans to join him and the newly-elected city council in combating crime and poverty. He opined that if the latter were eliminated, crime could be reduced spectacularly.

Mayor Coleman Young in Detroit had a 3-day inaugural and spoke in soul brother language: "I issue a warning now to all dope pushers, rip-off artists and muggers. It's time to leave Detroit. Hit the road! I don't give a damn if they are black or white, if they wear Superfly suits or blue suits with silver badges. As of this moment," Mr. Young said, "we are going to turn this city around."

Three thousand people paid \$5.00 each to eat breakfast with the new mayor.

Mayor Thomas Bradley, the black mayor of Los Angeles, had sounded much the same theme, last July, with variations, of course, as southern Californians think of themselves as special people. Thus it was clear that black mayors, in order to be good mayors, must be mayor of all the people, not just the black people.

One black mayor elected two years ago once said: "We found almost the moment we got to City Hall that there were a hell of a lot of problems beside the race problem."

The good ones, like the good ones of any race, will hack away at crime and poverty (both of which have been all over the world for a few thousand years), at budgets and taxes, at strikes, at political doublecrosses, at slick performers and at fleeing businesses and whites heading for the suburbs, leaving present troubles for those of which they know nothing. The bad ones, like the bad ones of any race, we can get along without.

**PIEDMONT PROFILE**

BY CECIL BUTLER

**Time For Feeling Pensive**

Today, as I write this column I'm feeling particularly pensive. Therefore I will take a different tact with this article than I have before. I have been thinking for the last week, rather philosophically, and have raised questions which certainly have no clear answer, nor do they relate directly to politics. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of these questions and some of my thinking with you.

Last week, I had the ironical experience of celebrating Martin Luther King's birthday and dealing with the game of emotions that thinking about "That man", and "those days" cause in me. (Nostalgia for the early civil rights movement, the Greensboro sit-ins, sadness, satisfaction for the changes, and frustration because there are miles yet to go.) Those were the days when I was a young man, in school, thinking, and doing "my thing" to try to make a

difference. The irony of that day was that later that evening as I was rocking my sleepless son who had awakened, I saw an interview on the Tomorrow Show with the Grand Dragon of the Louisiana Klan. Seeing this Grand Dragon, this twenty-three year young man, speak openly of his fears, his hostility, and his belief in the superiority of the white race was not easy, especially since his image crept into my mind's mirroring of the King memory.

As I watched this man speak, I was aware that he embodied many of the artifacts which supposedly makes a secure, happy person. He is well educated (a recent graduate of L.S.U.), he did not speak of childhood deprivation. He was a successful young man. (His youngness made me particularly sad.) Yet I know that a man so obsessed with black movies,

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