

# EDITORIALS

## Wanted: A Generation Of Business Whiz-Kids

Perhaps our community needs a generation of business whiz-kids in order to correct the too long-held image of business inability.

We are being redundant when we say that we have mastered sports, entertainment and religion.

When news headlines appear reporting on "financial management problems" in our educational institutions, our mastery of sports, entertainment and the practice of religion has not met the need at hand.

It may be helpful to begin placing as much emphasis on business appreciation as we have emphasized education.

Weekly, if not daily, our youth are impressed with the idea of being a top-flight running back, dribbler, dancer, singer or any of the other skills that obtain attention. These talents are then suggested as being the road to success in our community.

It is unfortunate then that these same talents are not transferable in their benefits to the institutional and long-term welfare of the community.

The result is that alongside reports of athletic prowess we find accounts of institutional financial mismanagement. Stories of masterful showmanship and musical talent are accompanied by accounts of business failures.

As our churches prosper, our schools decline.

It is clearly apparent that the same effort must be made to instill natural business talent in coming generations sufficient to reorder our priorities and our reputations.

The emphasis must be made early in the lives of our youth, during kindergarten and elementary school years.

The business orientation must be promoted in the home, church, school and all other facets of community life.

We must applaud business acumen as much as we recognize athletic talent, musical ability or church performance.

The survival and progress of our community and the institutions that are within it or support it depend upon minds available to produce progress. It is necessary then that we take the necessary steps to provide for our future survival and progress.

Developing our appreciation for business is not an undertaking that we should look to government programs or corporate America to support. Our survival must be our concern foremost—with any other outside help being appreciated if it comes—but not being dependent upon such.

If the policy-makers and administrators of institutions like N.C. Central University and the several others that receive negative media attention were as proficient in the business world as the educational world, maybe the headlines would read differently.

## 12-Month School Is Good Idea

A 12-month educational calendar would take kids off the streets at crucial times of the year, put them in a learning environment and maximize physical and manpower resources available.

All three of the above results are healthy for Wake County citizens because they all help reduce costs to taxpayers.

Children on the streets, especially during warm months, engage in many costly activities that property owners, business owners and the police have to recover damages for. If staggering school attendance for various groups or varying months would help reduce the incidence of nuisance activities, we say go for it.

Because there is a significant need for many of the students to improve their school performance as is often reported in the press from tests and studies, every opportunity should be capitalized on by students, parents, teachers and school administrators to upgrade student achievement. The activities with which youth

occupy themselves during summer months are too often non-productive or counterproductive. The result is that performance retrogresses instead of progressing.

Church edifices and school buildings traditionally sit vacant and underused each week or for months, respectively. Enormous costs are incurred in erecting and maintaining these facilities, and it makes more sense to use them to their maximum.

Many teachers and administrators would seek to take advantage of the opportunity to work year-round. Those in the educational world often observe that teaching is a low-paid profession, and probably so, for nine months of work. This possible boost in working time should result in a commensurate increase in pay.

We urge the Wake County Board of Education to strongly consider the 12-month pilot program and, hopefully, move toward adopting the program for the entire system.

## National Black American Inventors Day

GUEST EDITORIAL

On Wednesday, March 17, Congressman Floyd H. Flake (D-N.Y.) successfully passed a bill in the House of Representatives which will designate March 27, 1988 as "National Black American Inventors Day."

Black Americans are the creators of thousands of inventions which range from items of

household convenience to items of vital importance to business and industry. Black Americans, throughout the history of this country, continuously created new and more efficient ways of working, thus inventing hundreds of labor-saving devices, revolutionizing industry and improving not only their lives but the lives of

(See EDITORIAL, P. 9)

## ARE WE REALLY READY FOR A REDNECK GOVERNOR COME THIS NOVEMBER?

Many citizens across North Carolina are appalled to learn that Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan, in meetings behind closed doors, is going around referring to conservative whites in eastern North Carolina as "rednecks." They are even more appalled to learn that Mr. Jordan also considers himself to be a redneck.

Now I did not know that we had an acknowledged redneck running for governor under the banner of the state's Democratic Party. Mr. Jordan and some of his supporters are maintaining that there is nothing offensive about the term, "redneck." It's just colloquialism, according to Jordan die-hards. That's sad because for most North Carolinians, both black and white, the term "redneck" conjures up a memory of nightmarish times. Times when violent acts were committed, of bombings, lynchings, of night riders, cross-burnings and of vicious men running amok dressed in white hoods and sheets.

There is nothing non-offensive, colloquial or folksy about the term "redneck." That anyone holding him or herself up for our state's highest elected office would maintain otherwise is abominable. Or that such a candidate would openly admit, not only to black voters, but to any group of voters, that he or she cannot be elected governor of North Carolina without the state's redneck vote, whatever that is, staggers the imagination. Such weird thinking not only slanders the good people of eastern North Carolina, but all of us, to say nothing of our state and its good name.

## MILLER SAYS

BY SHERMAN N. MILLER

### SHALLOW IMAGE OR DEFACTO RACISM

Black Americans are often stereotyped as solely fun-loving people. But is this image true or merely misguided folklore?

The 1988 Winter Olympics offered an opportunity to examine the validity of black America's purported blind pursuit of pleasure. On Medal Day for the figure skating competition, I was at the black Elks Lodge in Newark, Del. The Elk brothers and sisters are everyday black Americans who know how to let their hair down on the weekends.

There were a few brave souls watching the Olympic ice skating competition in the lodge's main barroom. Everyone else was engrossed in a record hop. My wife, an avid Olympic fan, was glued to the television.

As the competition got under way, I was very apprehensive because Debi Thomas was forced to carry the weight of the black community on her shoulders. I secretly prayed that she would not fall down.

As Debi skated onto the ice, her presence electrified the entire lodge. The disc jockey was forced to kill his music.


Each jump and rotation left everyone on the edge of their seats. When Thomas' hand touched the ice to prevent a fall, everyone wanted to cry for her. Some people could not contain their feelings.

When Thomas finished her routine everyone knew the gold medal was lost. Thomas' tears became an indelible symbol of black America's pain. But once Thomas' score was tallied the Elks were happy she had won the bronze medal.

After my emotions calmed, I realized that Thomas' true victory was that she had opened the white bastion of the Winter Olympics to black America. Furthermore, the black Elks' actions suggested that the purported pleasure-versus-value dichotomy in black America is just another ill-fated myth.



MILLER



## ERNIE'S WORLD

BY ERNIE JOHNSTON, JR.

### GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE VOTES

ATLANTA, Ga.—The woman hurriedly ate her breakfast explaining that she was on her way to a third church.

She had already been to an 8 a.m. service and the breakfast was a break that she took before being off to the second service.

At first I wondered why this woman would be going to three services.

Right at that precise moment the woman began to explain.

She held up a check made out to her for \$100. The check represented a donation to her political campaign.

It was the second time around for the woman who the last time around pulled in 24,000 votes for the judicial clerk's position she is running for.

This time around she plans to double or even triple those votes and she is going to do it exactly the way she was doing it that Sunday.

Her opponent, who has been in the position for about a dozen years, won with some 30,000 votes but this woman with boundless energy believes she can win with the votes that are not spoken for.

Her strategy is to talk one-on-one with you and before leaving, she has either a committed vote or a commitment to volunteer for her campaign.

And she is good at her methods of campaigning. This one Sunday as she sat down with a group of churchgoers she outlined her campaign.

First she told them that her campaign wasn't one in which she could promise jobs and then went on to explain what the office was all about.

"You can tell your friends that I am running and your friends can tell other people," she told the group.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson probably reinstated the type of campaign that this woman is waging.

Jackson has basically built his campaign around the church and he spends the major portion of his time speaking in the churches where he can meet the masses of people.

More and more candidates for office are taking a page from Jackson's book just as this woman is doing to go exactly to the heart of the votes.

I have always been a firm believer that candidates for office should wage a one-on-one campaign, hitting the street corners, going into the churches and extending a network of votes from individual to individual.

And that's the old style of campaigning when there were no television or radio or high-powered fundraisers to put money into campaign war chests.

As the woman got up to leave for another church, she talked about the \$100 donation.

"This is what keeps me going. When people respond to my candidacy like this, it makes it all worthwhile," she said.

## OPINION



## CHUCK STONE

### Our most honorable man

By Chuck Stone

"Talk about your Bush-Dole race and your Dukakis-Simon-Jackson race, this is the hottest race!" exclaimed a chuckling Jim Glassman, publisher of Roll Call, a popular Capitol Hill weekly.

Budget Committee Chairman Rep. Bill Gray, D-Pa., is in that "hottest race" to win. He's not just another black congressman. He's the black congressman. Political beatification has even merged his two names in one genuflecting breath, Billgray.

The story on the race was first reported in Roll Call, when Ohio Rep. Mary Rose Oaker claimed that she was the leading candidate to succeed Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., as chairman of the House Democratic Caucus. It was a logical claim. Oaker is the caucus vice-chairman and has been running the show well since Gephardt started running for president.

One of Oaker's challengers, Mike Synar, D-Okla., disputed Oaker's claim of widespread support. The other, Gray, attacked the reporter, Shannon Bradley.

Two weeks ago, Bradley wrote a second story about a Gray-hosted dinner to hand out \$1,000 to each of his 11 Pennsylvania colleagues — whether they needed it or not.

Congressman-to-congressman campaign contributions create "a corruption in the system," declared Rep. Jim Leach, a liberal Iowa Republican who has supported Gray on South Africa.

But Billgray is an honorable man.

"This is the most outrageous, obvious pandering I've ever seen," declared one distressed congressman, who paradoxically is supporting Gray for the caucus chairmanship.

His support is natural. Billgray is an honorable man.

When that second Roll Call story appeared, the exudation hit the fan. Billgray placed an angry call to Roll Call owner Arthur Levitt, who is also chairman of the American Stock Exchange, and questioned the reporter's integrity. He also denied trying to buy votes.

Billgray is an honorable man.

But history had repeated itself. In the 90 days prior to the 1984 election

for Budget Committee Chairman, Gray, a candidate for the position doled out \$27,000. It helped elect 44 Democrats, who helped elect him. This year, his two-term limit as Budget Committee chairman ends, and the peacock-preening Billgray desperately covets another national power base.

Knowing Billgray's penchant for being black when it suits his purpose, some opponents urged black Rep. Alan Wheat, D-Mo., to run with Oaker for secretary of the caucus. Within a few days, however, black leaders all over America had leaned on Wheat to withdraw.

Wheat genially shrugged off the pressures as "part of the game." Besides, Billgray is an honorable man.

But he is as intolerant of dissent as he is contemptuous of the First Amendment. When he couldn't persuade fellow Philadelphia Democrat, Rep. Tom Foglietta, to withhold support from the opponent of a Billgray City Council candidate, he reportedly nurtured a local black judge's exploration of a race against Foglietta.

Billgray denies the reports. For Billgray is an honorable man.

Influenced by his "blackier-than-thou" ideology, 17 black members of Congress have endorsed him for caucus chairman. However, one influential black Democrat, Rep. Louis Stokes of Ohio, has sent out a letter supporting Oaker. Its 38 Democratic signers include Texas Rep. Mickey Leland, former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; Women's Caucus chair Pat Schroeder; liberal elder statesman Don Edwards; senior citizen advocate Claude Pepper; and Hispanic elder statesman Ed Roybal.

Billgray does things in style. Last year, he successfully hustled one of the largest war chests on Capitol Hill — \$354,518. And only 60 days after he was first elected to office, from one of America's poorest congressional districts, he gifted his wife with a deluxe white mink coat.

Billgray has always been an honorable man.

© 1988 NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISES ASSN.

## CHILD WATCH

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

If you are a parent or are about to become one, one of the most important decisions you will make is the choice of your pediatrician. He or she will play a very large role in your life and that of your child. Infants and very young children need checkups several times a year, and even more often if problems appear.

Take your time in finding the right pediatrician for your child. Look for an individual who:

• Is willing to answer your questions. You need a doctor who will take the time to talk to you about your child's health, not rush you in and out of the office. He or she should be a good communicator, giving you clear and detailed instructions about any needed treatment. If you have particular concerns, your pediatrician should be willing to discuss them with you.

• Is affordable for your family. The first step, if you have health insurance, is to find out which services it covers. Most insurance policies do not cover some key preventive health services for children such as immunizations, and this means you will have to pay for them. Doctor's fees vary widely, including those of pediatricians. Find out how much a doctor's services will cost, and whether or not you will have the option of paying in installments.

• Can provide help during emergencies. You will find that worrisome problems have a way of cropping up on weekends or in the middle of the night. It could be a high fever that refuses to go down, or an injury in a household accident. Find out whether you can call your doctor or an attending nurse at any hour. Does he or she make house calls?

• Is affiliated with a good hospital. Find out which hospital admits your doctor's patients. Check to make sure it is a high-quality facility.

• Shares your views on personal issues. Doctors have many different attitudes and approaches on such issues as breastfeeding and circumcision. It is a good idea to make sure you feel comfortable with your pediatrician's ideas on these subjects.

• Takes a broad interest in your child. A good doctor does more than examine your child and prescribe medication. He or she should take an interest in your child's overall well-being. This means treating the child as a member of your family, and knowing about the health of other family members. It means checking up on whether your child is eating the right foods to grow and thrive. It means taking an interest in the child's safety and the suitability of child care and schooling situations. While your doctor should not dictate such decisions for you, he or she should be able to provide guidance if you want it.

## OTHER VIEWPOINTS

We all know that there was a time in our state's political history when opportunistic politicians felt that in order to be elected to public office it was necessary to pit the peoples of our state against one another based on race. But that time has passed and all North Carolinians long ago acknowledged that we were, one and all, the better off for it. Now, Mr. Jordan is apparently attempting to drag us back into a time when racial demagoguery was the only way to public office.

In his meeting with black leaders, what could they have possibly asked Mr. Jordan to support that so riled him to the point that he would, in effect, reveal that the Ku Klux Klan would disown him if he did? As a black Republican and a member of Gov. Jim Martin's Council of Minority Executives, we have asked the governor to support things that are of significance and beneficial to the well-being of our state. That they may be of more significance to black citizens than to others is of little concern or consequence because in aggregate, they benefit our state.

I cannot imagine an honorable governor of North Carolina, such as Jim Martin, suggesting that if he supports positive initiatives and programs designed to benefit the people of our state that he would hesitate to do so out of fear that he would offend some hate group. Let's take a look at some of the things that the other black leadership vehicles around our state have asked Gov. Jim Martin to support.

1. Issuing an Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement for so as to expand job advancement for all state employees.
2. Initiatives designed to strengthen the black family.
3. A Jobs Plus program designed to assist people in getting off welfare by

getting them to take jobs.

4. Becoming the first governor in the nation to initiate a program specifically for uplifting historically black colleges and universities of which North Carolina has the most.

5. Expanding opportunities for minorities and women entrepreneurs to access state contracts.

6. Backing a Victims Compensation Program.

7. Declaring a war against illegal drugs and substance abuse. Are these programs and others things that Gov. Jim Martin is afraid that if he lends his support conservative white voters in eastern North Carolina or anywhere else in our state would then refuse to vote for him? Very obviously not. No, they are positive things that work to the benefit of all of the people of North Carolina. That Bob Jordan, as a redneck, would disdain them is very sad indeed.

I assumed that the initiatives and programs like the ones mentioned above are the same kind as those that black Democrats were trying to get Mr. Jordan to support. As a redneck, would-be governor, he refused. Now perhaps the lieutenant governor is right. Maybe his redneck constituency will not vote for him if he supports programs like compensating crime victims or cracking down on drug dealers. However, I'll bet that should Mr. Jordan, on his next visit "down east," take the time and ask some of the region's white conservative voters about matters, they will almost declare to the person, that they support both programs.

(See VIEWPOINTS, P. 9)