



BLACK CAUCUS PROGRAM—Victor M. Julien (right), corporate affairs director of special programs for Anheuser-Busch Companies, presents a contribution to officials of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) at the group's 14th annual conference recently in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Accepting the contribution on behalf of the 415-member group (left to right), are: State Rep. Calvin Smyre of Georgia, former caucus secretary; Colorado State Senator Regis F. Groff, caucus president; and Pennsylvania State Rep. David P. Richardson, former caucus president.

Media's abortion bias is confirmed

By William A. Rusher

Conservative critics of the liberal bias in our media are understandably annoyed by the refusal of the media's defenders to admit that the bias exists. The most careful statistical demonstrations roll off them like water off the proverbial duck's back. What can explain such behavior, if not a stubborn and deliberate determination to ignore the plain truth?

There is, as it happens, another explanation, though it only very partially excuses such conduct. In the give and take of political controversy, we quickly become almost immune to any points that may be made by the other side, or even by individuals on our own side whom we do not regard as authoritative. We grow accustomed, in other words, to accepting information only from certain pre-approved sources.

This is as true of conservatives as it is of liberals. In 1961-64, I faithfully reported to the editors of National Review, of which I was then publisher, the growing strength of the Draft Goldwater movement, with whose leaders I was in close touch. The editors always heard me out, and smiled encouragingly; but The New York Times, from which they were accustomed to getting their hard news, hadn't reported the surprising strength of the Goldwater movement yet, and the editors clearly thought I was exaggerating. When the Times finally began reporting the facts, early in 1964, the National Review editors stared at me as if they had never seen

me before. As, of course, in a sense, they hadn't.

That is why David Shaw's four-part series of articles in the Los Angeles Times last month, on the blatant pro-abortion bias of the media in covering that huge controversy, is so important. Shaw is the paper's "media reporter," and a good one. More important still, he is personally a liberal—or at least on good enough terms with the liberals to command their attention. As with E.F. Hutton, when Shaw talks, liberals listen.

I haven't the space here to summarize, or even effectively sample, Shaw's articles, but free copies of them can be obtained simply by writing: L.A. Times Public Relations, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053. They are quite simply devastating, and they establish beyond any doubt whatever that the media's coverage of the abortion controversy is as twisted as a narwhal's tusk.

Shaw demonstrates that language itself is used selectively to favor the pro-abortion movement; that photographs favorable to the anti-abortion cause are routinely suppressed; and that police and prosecutorial harassment of anti-abortion protesters is often not reported at all. He has even found and quoted individual editors and reporters who are personally uneasy over these things.

To all of which a conservative may be tempted to reply bitterly, "And what else is new, Mrs. Nussbaum?"

But we ought not to be quite so cynical. Shaw has, however belatedly, discovered and exposed one thoroughly

gross example of media misbehavior, and done with it the one thing conservatives cannot do: Force the liberals to pay attention. I would not be at all surprised if at least a few liberal newspaper and TV editors instituted some reforms in their coverage of the abortion controversy as a result.

The job of conservatives is to try to persuade Shaw, and other fair-minded liberals, that the media's handling of the abortion controversy is not an exception that proves the rule, but conforms to the rule itself: In other words, that the media's coverage of American politics in general is every bit as biased and tendentious as their slanted reportage of the abortion controversy.

Gradually, it seems to me, we are making headway on this important front. The scandalous truth about the liberal bias in the vast output of America's national journalism, both print and electronic, cannot and won't be ignored forever.

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THE CONSERVATIVE ADVOCATE



WILLIAM A. RUSHER

Friends Of The Gallery To Host Buffet Dance In McKimmon Center

North Carolina State University's Friends of the Gallery will host its 1991 gala on April 6 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Jane S. McKimmon Center on campus.

The FOG gala will feature a "creative black-tie," champagne buffet dance with music by Bo Thorpe's orchestra.

FOG is a non-profit, university-affiliated organization formed to stimulate interest in the visual arts and to support the Visual Arts Programs at NCSU.

Mimi M. McKinney and Mary Lib Wood, gala committee co-chairs, say tickets for the event are still available but interested persons should purchase them soon.

McKinney said FOG expects to raise more than \$50,000 through the gala for the NCSU arts education programs, which will be expanded with the opening in 1992 of a new galleries addition to the University Student Center.

The first FOG gala in 1989 attracted some 600 and raised more than \$43,000 for art acquisitions, McKinney said. She said the event won a National Association of Balloon Artists Academy Award for the creative use of balloons, liquid lights and mylar.

"The decorations will be just as fabulous this year," McKinney said.

Tickets for the events are \$150 a couple, \$75 for a single, or \$600 for a table of eight. McKinney said half the cost of the tickets will be tax-deductible. Persons interested in making reservations should call

Lindsay Newsom at 755-1525.

McKinney said FOG is seeking corporate sponsors for the gala to make

it possible for all receipts to go to the art acquisitions and art education programs at NCSU.

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Nun Leaves Land To Two Cousins And Two Orders

The late Sister Thea Bowman, a prominent nun who dedicated her life to spreading the Gospel and furthering the cause of women and blacks in the Roman Catholic Church, left her estate to two of her cousins and two religious orders.

Sister Bowman, also a popular lecturer, poet, and singer, was highly regarded for her pioneering efforts in getting black Catholics to express their cultural heritage in the church. She was 52 years old when she died in April 1990 of breast cancer.

She was the only black member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and served as director of intercultural awareness of the Jackson (Miss.) Diocese. In 1988, she released an album titled "Sister Thea: Songs of My People," featuring 15 black spirituals.

In her last will and testament, dated April 22, 1985 (the same year she was diagnosed with breast cancer), the late nun stipulated, "I do hereby give and devise the house and lot where my mother and father lived and which is located at 136 Hill St., Canton, Miss., to Carl Bowman and Sallye Bowman of Memphis, Tenn., her cousins.

In addition, she gave "all the balance, remainder and residue of my estate and property, real and personal and of whatsoever nature and kind wheresoever located, as follows, to wit: a) one-third thereof, to St. Rose Convent, Inc., 912 Market St., LaCrosse, Wis., 54601; and b) one-third thereof, to the aforesaid Carl Bowman and Sallye Bowman... and c) one-third thereof to Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Human Development Fund or other Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration projects on behalf of the materially poor."

She also named Canton Exchange Bank as executor of her estate and authorized them to "reimburse to Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration... from my estate all medical and/or custodial expenses, if any, which may have been expended or incurred by it in my behalf and for which it has not been reimbursed."

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