

# EDITORIALS

## Waiting for Perot — and three VPs

By Chuck Stone

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Even non-presidential candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower did not keep the electorate twisting in the winds of indecision as long as non-candidate Ross Perot has.

But the Texas billionaire continues to tantalize the American public with his cunningly cute non-candidacy and Mario Cuomo-like dalliance.

"My polls show that he cuts across all segments of the American public," said Mervin Field, head of the highly regarded Field survey. His poll was the first to show Perot leading both Bush and Clinton.

Field was one of the many polling and survey experts at the annual meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research in this sun-drenched Garden of Eden by the Gulf.

When scholarly papers weren't being debated, conversations easily drifted into speculations about why voters find Perot so attractive. Many older voters see in his feisty success story some of Harry Truman's blunt-speaking, give-'em-hell style that upset a favored Thomas E. Dewey in 1948.

Voters of all ages are sick with disgust by a morally corrupt Congress that seems more concerned with its members' perquisites than its constituents' needs.

Women now see more clearly than ever the danger posed to their equality by a male-dominated fiefdom infested with sexist inquisitors like Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa. And blacks caught between the

Scylla of Republican contempt and the Charybdis of Democratic indifference are hungering for signs that Perot might be willing to reach out to them.

But the voters who have already jumped party ship to Perot's political lifeboat haven't the slightest idea where he stands on most gut issues. Nor do they care. As Wendell Wilkie said, "It's all campaign oratory, anyway."

More important to this turned-off segment of the 1992 electorate is a political upheaval that they hope will accomplish two goals: throw the rascals out and provide a spiritual catharsis.

Voters are also intrigued with Perot's potential for winning enough votes to permanently retire the favorite target of America's comedians, Dan Quayle. But that may be too charitable a characterization for the nation's highest-ranking feather-brain, who blamed the Los Angeles riots on the "Murphy Brown" television show.

Is it any wonder that voters have been waiting for Perot for a long time?

Having raised potentially high hopes for Perot's candidacy, I am just enough of a historian and political scientist to realize that he absolutely cannot win the presidency, *although I would love to see that happen* — as of this moment, anyway.

Perot's only hope is to siphon off enough of the 537 electoral votes from Bush and Clinton to prevent a majority and thereby send the election to the House of Representatives. That kind of standoff could be

avoided if Bush switches to a more electable running mate. Almost nobody with an I.Q. above 50 would disagree that a Bush-Gen. Colin Powell ticket would dramatically improve the president's prospects. Such a ticket could make this the first year since 1936 with a Republican presidential candidate positioned to win a majority of black votes.

On a more realistic side, however, it is ironic that both Bush and Clinton would benefit from vice presidents who share a common athletic charisma — a former football quarterback, Republican HUD Secretary Jack Kemp, and a former basketball forward, Democratic New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley.

A woman, says pollster Field, would help Bush, but would not do much for Clinton or Perot.

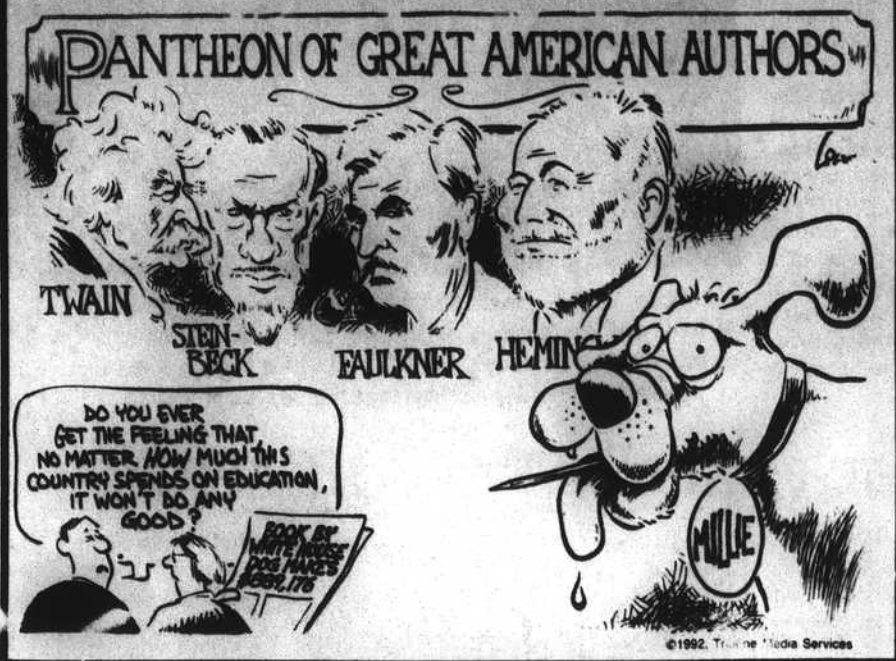
As for Perot, his domineering personality, cackling style and outside-the-beltway philosophy so overwhelms his candidacy that picking a vice president to add political stature would probably be futile.

Is there a demographically and ideologically perfect ticket? The double-P — Perot and Powell — would wrap it up. But that's the trouble with perfection — it's always so unattainable.

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CHUCK STONE



## Stop Denying Racism In America

BY BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS  
Guest Editorial

Nothing can do more to perpetuate a problem than to deny that the problem exists. Yes, inside the United States there is an unprecedented "urban crisis." There is the "crisis of the national economy." There is a devastating "drug crisis." There is a "health care crisis." There is the "AIDS crisis." And there is a glaring "moral crisis" throughout the nation.

But the most dangerous and historically long-lasting crisis facing this nation is the unmitigated denial that RACISM is one of the major causative factors that determines massive social and economic inequity and injustice.

Beware of the national debates about what caused the situation in Los Angeles. It is interesting how even some of the victims of racism get lured into debating whether or not they are responsible for their own victimization. Some of us get sucked into the perennial argument of "class vs. race" as an intellectual ploy or diversion from reality.

We have been monitoring the various theories, propositions, and analyses in response to the so-called riot in Los Angeles. As we have stated in an earlier commentary, it is a misnomer or mistake to characterize what happened in Los Angeles as a "riot." It was a social explosion triggered and ignited by the injustice of the verdict in the trial of the L.A. police officers who had brutally beaten Rodney King.

King was not beaten because he was "poor or disadvantaged." King was a victim of RACISM institutionalized in the "criminal" justice system. The white police officers who were involved in the beating of King were found not guilty because of the RACISM institutionalized in the court system. RACISM was both the "spark" and the "fuel" for the explosion in Los Angeles.

The volatile fuel that was ignited by the spark of the verdict in the King case has been and continues to be stored in gigantic social fuel tanks located in nearly every community and neighborhood in the country. The name of this fuel is RACISM. The high octane numbers of this fuel help to generate poverty, exploitation, degradation, oppression and genocide against people of color.

In some instances this fuel even has certain hypnotic properties that cause people of color to turn against other people of color. But, let us be clear, the fuel of RACISM is not natural. It is synthetic, or in other words it is man-made. RACISM was created and is maintained to facilitate, justify and ensure economic domination and exploitation of people of color.

RACISM is a sin before God. The church and religious community must help our nation to confess and to repent from this sin that threatens the future life of the nation. The church community cannot afford to be silent in the face of growing racial polarization of communities in every section of the country.

## Letter To The Editor

AN OPEN LETTER TO DIANE PAYNE, PRINCIPAL OF BROUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Ms. Payne:

My name is Carla Monroe and I was a member of the senior class this past year. The reason I am writing to you is that I am extremely disappointed with the quality of education that I received this past year, and I felt it was my duty to bring these grievances to your attention.

The first difficulty that I encountered was the widespread use of profanity among students. As I understand the policy of Broughton, and all Wake County public schools, it is against the rules to use profanity on school grounds. Unfortunately, I find that the majority of Broughton's students ignored the rule, and faculty members did little or nothing to correct the disobeying students. On occasion, I was even shocked to hear faculty members themselves engage in such language.

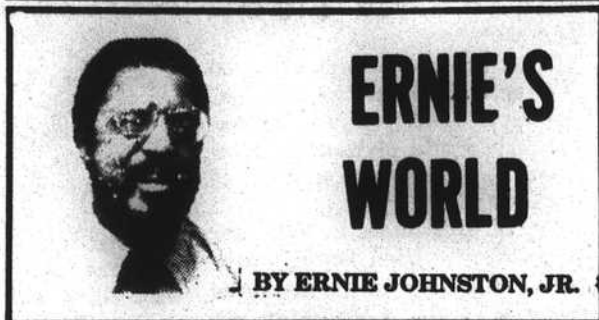
Secondly, I find that teachers do not exhibit acceptable behavior in the classroom. All too often valuable instructional time is wasted on senseless topics such as gossip, vulgar remarks, sexual innuendos, and racial jokes. These items have no place in the classroom, and teachers are wrong to endorse them by allowing it to occur. They simply must correct the disobey-

ing student and enforce the proper punishment. If established principles and rules were enforced instead of this "go with the flow" philosophy that Broughton has adopted, there would be a turnaround in the teen pregnancy, academic, racial and general apathy problems that are so rampant at Broughton.

Finally, I submit that a dress code be put into effect for teachers and administrators. The jeans, tee-shirts, shorts, tennis shoes and mini-skirts must go. These articles of clothing are completely inappropriate for the classroom.

Ms. Payne, I sincerely hope that you will take what I've written to heart, and I respectfully request that you address these issues promptly. I am confident that Broughton can overcome its problems and become the center of academic excellence, racial harmony and unity that it is capable of being. However, before it reaches this point, it is imperative that the groundwork is laid by expressing in no uncertain terms that disrespect, profanity, anti-Semitism, vulgarity or racial jokes will not be tolerated. It's time for Broughton to cut through the bureaucracy that has plagued it in the past and allow for the re-emergence of the positive role model the flagship school was once known as.

Carla Monroe  
Raleigh



## ERNIE'S WORLD

BY ERNIE JOHNSTON, JR.

### FORMAT CHANGE AT PREMIER BLACK RADIO STATION

I first got an inkling of what was going on at radio station WNJR-AM in Newark, N.J. when I heard the news that Herman Amis, a popular radio personality at the station who had been there for 31 years, was let go.

A few days later as I talked to a friend, I was told that the station had changed its format and was broadcasting various ethnic music (Haitian, Spanish, Portuguese).

So when I switched my dial to 1490, I was shocked at what I was hearing.

When I first came to the New Jersey/New York area, there were three radio stations that I listened to constantly—WABC-AM, WWRL-AM and WNJR-AM. Both WABC and WWRL have changed their formats—WABC to all talk and WWRL to religious programming.

The sign of the times. So now the sign of the times has caught up with WNJR which has seen some great radio personalities pass in front of its microphones.

I remember at times traveling on the eastern part of North Carolina and picking up WNJR late at night so the station is bound to have had listeners far outside its immediate listing area.

In its heyday there was a great lineup of radio per-

sonalities—George Hudson, Hal Jackson, Amis, Danny Stile and others.

They kept the station moving and they were personalities in their own right.

More recently there were people like Steel Colony, Jerry Love and Henry Singleton and longtime news personality Bill Franklin.

Franklin was a household word and a popular figure in and around the station's listening area. He had his sources and stood ready at all times to put people on the air to tell their story.

All of that is going to be missed through the format that has been instituted by the station's new owners. The community at large will lose out, especially the huge number of senior citizens who listened to programs geared to them and to the religious programming.

It's a personal loss to me after having on numerous occasions broadcast part-time (news substitute and hosting a sports news show) at WNJR.

Religious programming is expected to be a part of the new format because independent producers will be able to purchase blocks of time for their shows and already churches have gotten their time in place for the weekend.

But WNJR won't be like it was before. It never is. Once a station loses its listening audience, it is hard to reclaim it which is similar to a business losing its customers and attempting to get people back.

There aren't too many AM stations around the country (with the exception of talk radio formats) that are personality-oriented. They are all going by the way of either all talk or pre-programmed format.

WNJR is the last of the AM stations where you could turn it on, hear the personality talk heart to heart with his or her listeners, get news and information about the community and feel a part of the station's operation.

## COPING

BY DR. CHARLES W. FAULKNER  
CON GAMES

"Mister, my car ran out of gas and I am broke. Can you let me borrow money for gas to get home?"

"I need to get to an important job interview on the other side of town. Could you please let me have enough money to catch the bus?"

"My children are sitting at home with nothing to eat. They haven't eaten in days. Can you give me enough money to buy them a meal, please?"

These are just three of hundreds (probably thousands) of "con games" currently being run on people. And these are just the mild ones. A gentleman recently told me of a game that was run on him, and I could hardly stand the embarrassed look that was on his face. He said that as he was walking down the street, a man who was sitting on the front porch of an expensive house indicated that he wanted to talk to him.

The man told him, in quiet, secretive tones, that he had recently purchased an expensive 52-inch television set and wanted to sell it, because he had lost his job and desperately needed the money. He was asking for only \$125 for the set. This sounded like a deal that was too good to be true, so our friend paid the \$125 and was told to go around to the back of the house where the man would help him to put this huge, beautiful television set into his car. Our overjoyed friend went around to the back of the house and waited... and waited...

and waited... and... Naturally, our friend was the victim of a con game.

There was no television set, only a shrewd con man. Our friend might still be waiting at the back door, if he hadn't realized that he had been "taken."

The fact is that many people are manipulated every day by every kind of scheme imaginable. Today, when so many people find it necessary to resort to unethical "tricks of the trade" to survive, anyone could be easily victimized. In some cases, people have been seriously injured in the process of accepting, or even rejecting, attempts at flim-flam.

I am going to write a series of columns on the most common con games that are in use, so that you can protect yourself by spotting them immediately. But, I need your help. If you have ever been ripped off, or if you know someone who has, I want to know about it. Please answer the questions below and send your responses to me right away. Mail to: Dr. Faulkner, P.O. Box 185476, Sacramento, Calif. 95818. Hurry! I'm waiting to hear from you (you don't have to give your name).

Answer these questions, please:  
• What trick was used on you (explain it in as much detail as you can).  
• Where did it happen?  
• What did you lose?  
• Who did it to you?  
• What did you do about it?  
• Did you get what you lost returned to you? Why or why not?  
Send in your responses so that I can write about them.