

COMMENTARY

# Exposure to hate best way to conquer hate

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

The best thing that can be done to overcome evil is to shine light on it and show it for what it is.

In the light it tends to shrink and dry up and lose its power.

That's what happened in Cleveland when the Ku Klux Klan came to town on the same day the Browns came back home.

While 70,000 Clevelanders saw the Browns, only a couple of dozen went to see the Klan. In the light of day, the Klan looked like the pitiful, misdirected, out-of-date group of vitriolic haters that they really are.

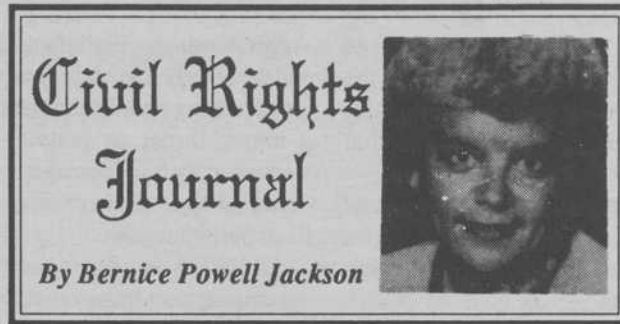
The Klan, the Aryan Nations groups, the Christian

identity groups, the militias and the white supremacist groups all espouse hate and all blame people of color and Jews and gay and lesbian people for their problems.

Some advocate a racial holy war which they believe will get rid of those of us who are not white and heterosexual and Christian. Some burn African-American and multiracial churches.

Some pick up guns and shoot innocent men, women and children; others plant bombs in federal government buildings.

Some, like the Klan, mimic their ancestors by donning the hateful white hoods and burning crosses and proclaiming racial



Civil Rights Journal

By Bernice Powell Jackson

invectives.

These hate groups epitomize what is wrong with America, even as we are about to enter a new century. But just as the Klan coming to Cleveland reminds us what is wrong, there are others who remind us what is right.

Young people in the Cleveland area reminded me what is right.

In response to the Klan

rally, young people from the Unity group in Cleveland Heights High School came back to school two weeks early and organized a rally and march against hate which drew 800 residents of this multiracial community. These were young people who were determined that the haters would not have the only word in Cleveland.

Churches and synagogues

and mosques which came together for services and programs reminded me what is right in America.

Rabbis and ministers and imams who said no to the Klan and yes to a plan for keeping the dialogue open between our communities.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Black Family Expo, Baldwin-Wallace College, the Positive Action Coalition all kinds of organizations and institutions which offered alternatives to the Klan march which focused on diversity and hope reminded me what is right in America.

Lots of people and places in Cleveland were determined that the Klan would not have the last word.

As I listened to the young people speak out against hate, as I watched them lead the march to erase racism and hate in our world, I knew that the Klan and its kind have already lost. They just don't know it yet.

I knew that all of those who have marched and protested and been jailed and beaten for human rights in this nation have not labored in vain. There's much, much work yet to do, but these young people can take up the banner.

They can and will make sure that hate does not have the last word. They can and will shine that light on evil. We just need to support them and encourage them and show them how.

## Carl Rowan's Commentary

### Onset of partisan journalism threatening sanctity of newspapers

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

More than a few bad practices have crept into American journalism since I joined the profession half a century ago.

But probably none is more despicable than the current habit of some newspapers of allowing political hatreds to cause them to print as news unprovable, character killing gossip.

A case in point is the sewage stream of headlines in *The Washington Times* and a few other mostly conservative newspapers shouting that Hillary Clinton had a long, extramarital love affair with Vincent W. Foster Jr., the former Little Rock, Ark., lawyer and White House aide who committed suicide in 1993.

In this case, the *Times* and some of the tabloids are "reporting" that Christopher Anderson has published a book alleging that Hillary was having an affair with Foster while her husband, Bill Clinton, was romancing other women.

Never mind that Anderson has engaged in the smelly practice of collecting gossip and rumors from dubious and often unnamed sources; the editors who hate the Clintons are more than content to spread the old, often-whispered charges wide as "news."

They know that by printing the book's lurid charges they will revive the whispers that Foster really was murdered — at the behest of either Bill or Hillary.

Highlighted as proof that the first lady herself was longtime adulterer is a quote attributed to the late James B. McDougal, one-time Clinton friend and business partner in the notorious Whitewater venture, saying: "Everyone knew about Hillary and Vince. Bill was not really in the position to



CARL ROWAN

object, now was he?" Well, "everybody" didn't know about such an affair, and "everybody" doesn't now know for a fact that one existed.

Hillary Clinton is, of course, a public figure, and those printing the charges feel that they don't have to prove anything or even show that they are not motivated by malice aforethought.

The assertion is made in the front-page *Times* article that Hillary was "deeply in love" with Foster.

Neither author Anderson nor anyone else except Mrs. Clinton can say that as a fact. But what better time for the Clinton-haters to broadcast this claim than when they fear that Hillary Clinton might be elected to the U.S. Senate from New York state?

When I entered the journalism business, the unwritten rule was that reporters didn't probe into or write about the private sex lives of politicians and business leaders, even when serious indiscretions and peccadilloes seemed provable. Editors had glass houses and saw only trouble in throwing stones.

But since the celebrated sexual misadventures of a few members of Congress, some reporters have tried to make glorious reputations by exposing the illicit sexual activities of elected officials. Some claim that these moral watchdogs do a great public service.

But it is not defensible journalism. The only editors who can be happy about this turn in American newspapering are those who value most of all having an excuse to vent their political spleens and damage or destroy the people in public life whom they despise.

## Lawsuit against Coke splitting Black America

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Where do Black Americans come down in the case of Coke's racial lawsuit?

There's no question that the general black population should have interest in the lawsuit where three current employees and a former worker allege that the world's largest soft-drink company paid them less money and withheld promotions from them because they are black.

Why should black consumers be paying attention to the Coke racial saga? Because we are heavier consumers of soft drinks than the general market.

Studies have shown blacks consuming nearly 10 percent more soft drinks more than the population as a whole, and are important consumers of the cola flavor segment.

So, if we are such a valuable segment of the soft-drink industry and if white managers and executives of Coke actually do discriminate against black employees, what responsibility do Black Americans, and their leadership, have to rectify the situation?

The lawsuit, filed in Atlanta on April 22, 1999, claims Coke pays blacks less, fires them at higher rates than other employees, and gives them lower evaluation scores. The case includes 1,500 black employees who've worked in salaried positions for the company since April 1995.

According to the filing,

### Business Exchange

By William Reed,  
Publisher of *Who's Who in Black Corporate America*.



the average salary for a black Coca-Cola management employee is \$45,215, compared with \$72,045 for other employees.

While the company reports that 20 percent of its employees are minorities, the lawsuit alleges blacks hold only two of 56 management positions in global marketing and one of 47 management positions in information systems. Black plaintiffs say there is one black in the 42 management positions in finance and one out of 82 such positions in technical operations.

What do Black Americans think of the suit and the situation?

Although the national black community has given little support to the employees, the case is reminiscent of the one Texaco Inc. settled in 1996 for \$176 million at the threat of a Jesse Jackson-led civil-rights boycott that blemished the oil company's brand name.

But, it is for sure that African Americans are apprehensive about dissing Coke. Coca-Cola has much

more of a philanthropic presence and image among African-Americans than did Texaco. Blacks spend over \$3 billion a year on soft-drinks and represent a market Coke covets. Coca-Cola has been visible in the black community for decades and has been even more visible since the April suit.

The irony among leading black voices has been interesting. On the exact date U.S. District Judge Richard Story was to hold a hearing on the suit, Tom Joyner, host of the nation's most popular morning radio show targeted to African-Americans, held a concert in Charlotte and asked all guests to bring Coke bottle caps to help the United Negro College Fund.

This occurred subsequent to the suit filing and after Ingrid Sanders, head of the Coke's community affairs and foundation, had appeared on the show to donate \$25,000 to the fund.

The family of Martin Luther King, Jr., who've been regular recipients of Coke's largess, are boycotting South Coke. Coca-Cola has much

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