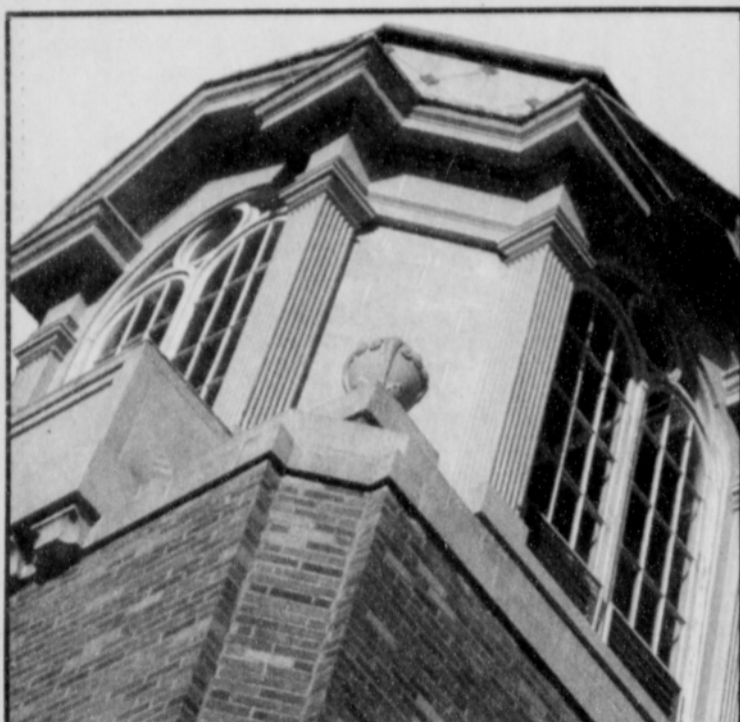


OPINION

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Our Work is Not Done

We must end America's divisions

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Sen. John Kerry released the following statement in observance of the 41st Anniversary of the March on Washington and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s celebrated "I Have a Dream" speech:

Forty-one years ago, on Aug. 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led over 250,000 peaceful protesters to the Lincoln Memorial on a



March for Jobs and Freedom. Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech firmly established the visibility in this nation of the injustices faced by too many African Americans in the south. Soon after the March on Washington and Dr. King's speech, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But, as Dr. King told us, the Civil Rights Act was "only the beginning of a new day...not the end of a journey." The next step in our journey must be to remove the barriers that keep us from drinking at

the same fountain of opportunity. Our work is not yet done when many of our kids are not receiving a quality education; when 44 million Americans don't have health insurance and people of color are significantly more likely to suffer and die from diseases like cancer, AIDS and diabetes; when African American unemployment continues to be double that of whites; when right-wing judges are turning back the clock, eroding many of the civil rights gains of the past 40 years; and when some in Washington are sowing new

seeds of division, not unity. John Edwards and I believe that we can do better. Our job is to end the division between the fortunate America and the forgotten America. We must come together to build one America. And we must carry the words of Dr. King in our hearts, who proclaimed on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.'"

African Americans and the Economy: Time for a Change

Prosperity has not returned

BY DR. EDWARD MONTGOMERY
Weak job growth and rising inflation have caused analysts and pundits to wonder about the strength of our economy. The much-touted Bush recovery seems to have left the public still anxious about their future economic prospects and Republicans scrambling

to explain why their policies really aren't working. African Americans know that this economy is simply not delivering the bacon for them. Indeed, a recent National Urban League report indicated that this is the worst turn-about in the labor market for African Americans in 25 years. With the poverty rate increasing each year since President Bush took of-

know that our little rebate checks had not really helped us get a leg up. While the African-American community has been through some tough economic times, it is striking that you have to go all the way back to Herbert Hoover and the Great Depression to find a president with a worst record in creating jobs than George Bush. Now the Republi-

not to blame for all of the woeful economic times that the country in general, and the African-American community is particular, is experiencing. But he is responsible for the cuts in programs to help provide training for inner-city youth and minority business development. He, and the Republican controlled Congress, are responsible for the fact that while minimum wage

African Americans know that this economy is simply not delivering the bacon for them.



Dr. Edward Montgomery

vice, did we really need experts to tell us something was wrong? With an unemployment rate for African-Americans stuck at 10.9 percent, we know that prosperity has not returned. Every time we go to the gas station, the doctor's office or look in our pay packet, we know intuitively that we are not keeping up, even before the Bureau of Labor Statistics confirmed that while wages have increased on average 1.9 percent over the past year prices have risen 3 percent. And while the Congressional Budget Office just documented that under the Bush tax cuts the wealthiest Americans are paying a smaller share of federal taxes while the middle class is paying more, we all

workers can't get a raise, big corporations continue to enjoy tax breaks when they send our jobs overseas. He is responsible for trying to eliminate funds for drop-out prevention programs and cutting funds for the Perkins loan program that makes college affordable to many of our children. And, President Bush is responsible for turning trillion dollar budget surpluses into trillion dollar deficits endangering our ability to preserve Social Security. With a record of economic responsibility like that, the question is not do we want to give him another four years but can we afford to!
Dr. Ed Montgomery is Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the University of Maryland.

Now to be fair, President Bush is

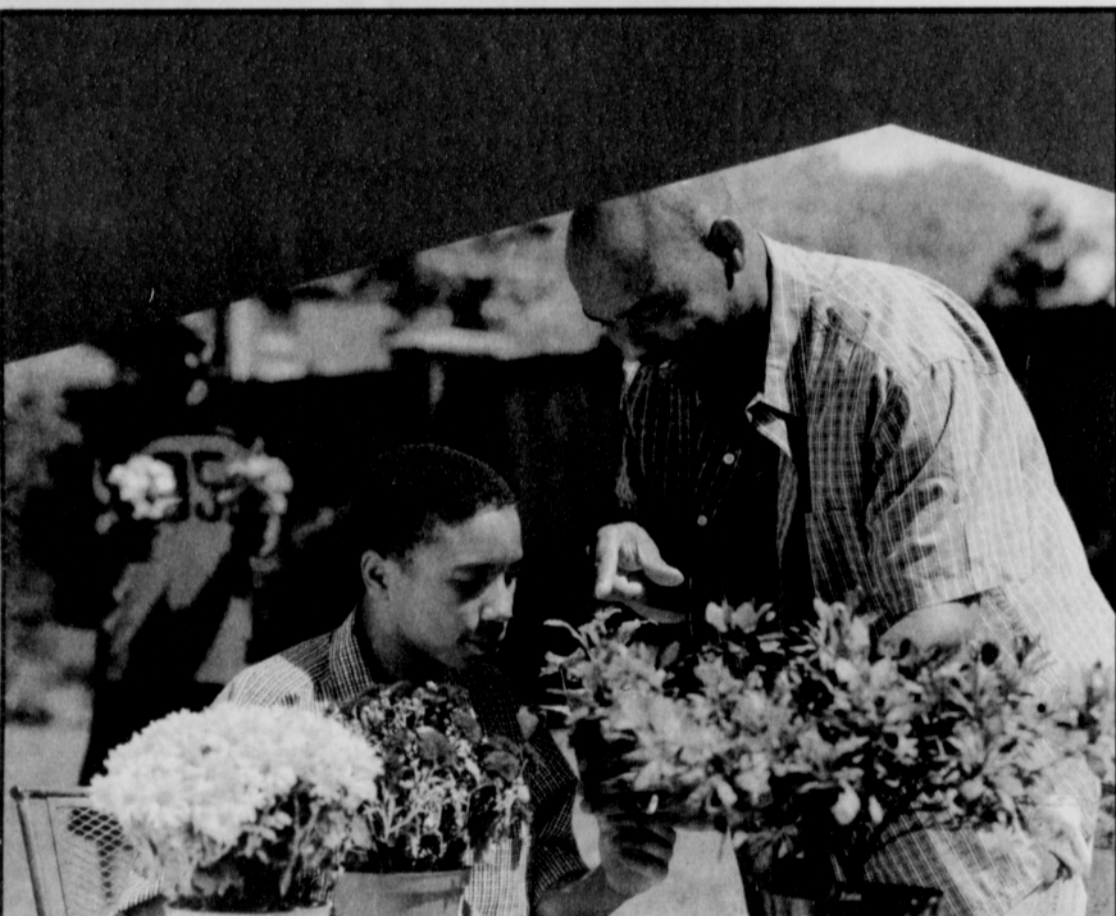
Forgetting From Where They Came

Thomas, Bush tell audiences what they want to hear

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS
Webster's Dictionary defines the word "betray" as a verb meaning, "to be unfaithful or disloyal to." Recent reports note that Clarence Thomas and George W. Bush have been disloyal to the very programs by which they received their lauded Ivy League educations. Bush has joined Thomas, a long time opponent of Affirmative Action programs, in giving lip service to dismantling the programs that helped to launch him into national prominence. Where Thomas lambastes Affirmative Action, Bush, partaking in election year back peddling, has taken to criticizing legacy admissions (a practice of admitting well-connected and/or wealthy students to college based upon who they know or are related to).

conservatives are so quick to call for government action to rid colleges of select admissions procedures. Whereas one can conclude that Thomas is honest, if not grossly out of line, in his zeal to eradicate Affirmative Action programs, George Bush's motivations are a little murkier. The Detroit Free Press reports that President Bush gave his "anti legacy" remarks during a "Unity: Journalists of Color convention." He did not express this sentiment to a largely white and wealthy audience. Rather, he told a gathering of African American, Latino and Native American journalists what he thought they would want to hear. Regardless of the motivation - whether it be conservative self-hate or attempted political gain - the point remains that the highest elected official in the United States and a Supreme Court Justice are closing the door on the admissions systems which benefited them. I was in the courtroom during the attempt on the life of the Affirmative Action program at the Univer-

sity of Michigan. For someone like Clarence Thomas, who owes all of his academic and professional achievements to Affirmative Action, to criticize the program and reject it as a means of lifting up students of color, specifically African-American students (like him) is beyond insincere. George W. Bush, a self-admitted legacy admission to Yale, owes all of his academic and professional life to the power of legacy and connections in and out of the classroom. Had his father not attended Yale, I doubt he would have been admitted. How quickly and easily Thomas and Bush forget from where they come. Without the benefit of their respective programs, neither man would be where they are in life. Their willingness to shut the door they passed through to reach their success goes a long way in defining the type of men they are. If they are so willing to destroy that which benefited them, how can they be trusted to protect that which benefits someone else?



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