

Racism Stupid lawyer tricks

By Julian Sereno

I used to be a racist.

I know that because a hundred or so white liberals said I was because I fit the pattern. I was a white man born in The South and they used the term "racist" like a club. If I questioned anything about low school grades or welfare numbers they would hit me up side the head with that club. My opinion was not valid.

I avoided a lot of headaches by keeping my mouth shut — well, some of the time.

After some years I did not feel like a racist although I did not know how a racist felt. I asked myself how I could I be a racist when four of my most favorite people in the world are four black men.

Michael Jordan is truly a great American, not because he played basketball well but because he has worked so hard getting where he is.

And there is Morgan Freeman, one of the great movie stars of any age. He has portrayed everybody from God to a prison inmate. I would settle for him to be President of the United States for life.

There is Bill Cosby, a warm and wonderful man. Flip Wilson was warm and incredibly funny making fun of himself.

I am comfortable with this new status. Since I am no longer a racist, the white liberals can't hit me up side the head anymore. Therefore I can comment on the plight of a young black man from Durham, a former Durham Southern High football player enrolled at the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

He was kicked out of school and sent to jail for stealing credit cards from his classmates. His excuse was he did not have a father in his home growing up.

Reports show almost 75 per cent of ALL American black children are born out of wedlock. That is where the missing fathers come from. They threaten the family unit, the foundation of family life all over the world. Cosby was booed when he mentioned that during a lecture one night.

And there is the Durham school system, where black activists took control after roasting a white superintendent and white board members for neglecting black students. Unfortunately, school scores in three schools continue to drop.

The young midshipman kicked out of Annapolis had been given a golden treasure of an education and career and threw it away. The next question is when are black leaders going to start digging out of that mess?

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Media Meditations

by R.L. Taylor



North Carolina has witnessed a judicial spectacle of the absurd these past few weeks. First, our elected Supreme Court upheld a lower court decision ordering the release of convicted murders and rapists who had served less than half their sentences.

The early release came about because of the shoddy legal work of North Carolina lawyers — legislators, judges and all their lawyer clerks — a quarter century ago.

Next, a skilled trial lawyer, Johnny Gaskins, was convicted of making cash deposits in small enough increments to escape detection of the IRS, even though he had already paid the IRS all the taxes due on the money. He faces disbarment and possible life behind bars, and for the life of me I can't figure out what crime he was supposed to have committed. I hope it's not because he successfully defended heinous criminals.

What's going on, and what does this tell us about the administration of justice? It proves beyond a reasonable doubt that there are a lot of dumb lawyers out there. They write the best-meaning laws in the world only to have them whipsaw through the ages, loaded with unintended consequences in our excruciatingly complex society.

Consider as evidence the Sexual Harassment law signed by Bill Clinton during his first term. While I hope everyone agrees that workplace predators who exploit subordinates sexually should face prosecution, the way the law is written causes consequences far beyond that. The legal term "hostile work environment" is subject to interpretation. For Human Resources Departments, the definition is most broadly construed, so now telling tasteless jokes is a firing offense.

Worse is the loss of the right to privacy for anyone who might have loved unwisely. If someone is suing someone

else for sexual harassment, the plaintiff has a right to depose anyone that they might believe had been intimately involved with the defendant. That means that if they believe you may have at one time been involved with some sleazy defendant, they have a right to question you about all of it and the rest of your personal life, and what you say can all be discussed in open court and reported in the mass media.

That is how Monica Lewinsky



Who writes this stuff?

made the national spotlight, and why her mother was compelled to discuss her most private conversations with her daughter. Clinton's impeachment started out as a sexual harassment suit, when the Rehnquist Supreme Court ruled that it was OK to depose a sitting president in a civil suit. Talk about dumb lawyers — this is the same group that handed the 2000 Presidential election to Bush. Talk about a sleazy lawyer, Clinton signed into law the very bill that led to his impeachment.

That is but one example. The thing that all these laws and their interpretations create is more employment opportunities for more lawyers. Consider that you have no right to a doctor, at least not yet, but you do have right to a lawyer. In criminal cases, if you cannot afford one, one will be appointed for you. He or she will be a law school graduate, and have passed the bar exam for the state where the trial is taking place. He or she might also be dumb, or if not, do something dumb. In which case if you

are convicted you can demand a retrial because of ineffective counsel.

On the other hand, if somebody is going after you in a civil case, if you cannot afford a lawyer, one will not be appointed for you. If you need one, you'll have to pony up and the hourly rates are high. You can prevail in court but be bankrupted in the process. You win your case and lose your house.

While the legal community continues this minuet, the United States has the highest incarceration rate on earth. There are more than 2 million Americans behind bars. China is second with 1.5 million, followed by Russia with about 900,000. In the U.S. there are 737 prisoners per 100,000 people, more than seven times higher than for other Western industrial countries, where the rate is about 100 per 100,000. Of the 2 million behind bars in the U.S., about one-third are marijuana offenses. The United States has 5 percent of the world's

population and 25 percent of the world's prisoners.

Clearly, our system of justice needs a major overhaul. It's time to break the stranglehold of the legal profession.

There is no good reason laws cannot be written in a way that any literate individual could read and understand them. When laws are so complex and contradictory that people trying to do the right thing run afoul of them, and laws are so all encompassing that almost anyone can be prosecuted for almost anything, then we all will have lost our freedom, not just Johnny Gaskins.

We need to hold our legislators accountable for the stupid laws they pass and judges accountable when they make idiotic rulings. Finally, we the people need to stop demanding such harsh laws and stiff sentences. You never know whom they are going to throw the book at.

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The actual scientific papers followed months later.

The fact that "Nuclear Winter" was largely a publicity/political scheme was reflected in comments from members of the scientific community. Richard Feynman, a Nobel Laureate, stated "I really don't think these guys know what they are talking about," while Freeman Dyson, also a Nobel Prize winner, indicated, "It's an absolutely atrocious piece of science but who wants to be accused of being in favor of nuclear war?" How many other scientists did not speak up for fear of being characterized as being in favor of nuclear war? While nuclear winter has faded into history, how many laws and regulations to mitigate its effects are still on our books?

Following this same pattern, the EPA announced in 1993 that second-hand smoke was "responsible

for approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths each year in nonsmoking adults" and that it "impairs the respiratory health of hundreds of thousand of people." In 1994 the EPA indicated that the 11 studies it had conducted regarding second-hand smoke and cancer were inconclusive. EPA then lowered its standards such that it could declare second hand smoke a Group-A Carcinogen. In 1998 the Christian Science Monitor indicated that "Second-hand smoke is the nation's third-leading preventable cause of death." Later in 1998 a Federal Judge held that the EPA had acted improperly, had "committed to a conclusion before research had begun" and had "disregarded information and made findings on selective information." Later in 1998 a large seven country World Health Organization study found no association between second-hand smoke and health problems. Unfortunately, the damage has been done by government bureau-

crats making their own rules and labeling it "science."

When science and politics mix, unfortunately it is the politics that is the dominant partner and laws have a lifetime well beyond their utility. Even though there is no danger from DDT, where can an American buy it? Even though there is no danger from second-hand smoke, when will public facilities have the authority to make their own rules regarding smoking? What about climate change, nee global warming? What kind of Draconian rules/regulations will be passed by Congress and/or dreamed up by some faceless bureaucrat. The fact that they might be proven scientifically incorrect in the future is irrelevant; the laws will remain the immutable law of the land.

When will they ever learn?

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