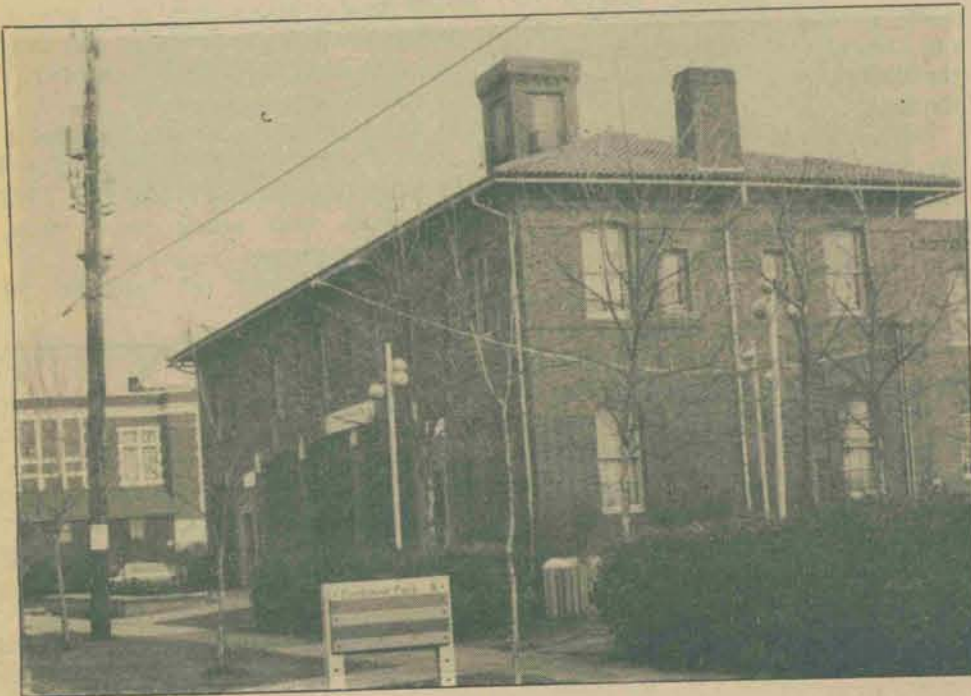


no separate peace

A news-magazine for construction workers.

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CAMP—Victim of Yellow Journalism

by Mary Stone

The dictionary definition of yellow journalism is "the use of cheaply sensational or unscrupulous methods in newspapers, etc. to attract or influence readers." Recently the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP) Eddie Rye, Jr., CAMP director, and the Central Area Citizen's Committee were all victims of yellow journalism in the Seattle Times.

The Times articles center around the "mismanagement" of CAMP by Rye in particular. The allegations are that money from one program was spent in another; purchase orders were signed after goods were received; an account was overspent; Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (Ceta) funds were used to hire employees "illegally"; food for a free food program turned up as hors d'oeuvres at a Central Area nightclub, and more.

While the Times pointed to all of these situations in CAMP, nailing Rye with the responsibility, they also used shaded words and innuendos to paint a villainous picture of Rye. Calling Rye a "dapper executive director" they accused him of modeling at Longacres while CAMP programs failed, using up money to fly to out-of-town conferences and buying a \$60,000 home when winterization money for Central Area homes was almost spent. They also infer that Rye paid the Central Area newspaper *The Medium* "exorbitant" ad prices because Rye won *The Medium's* Community Unsung Hero Award.

CAMP Positive Influence

When the smoke cleared from all the attacks some facts became clear. CAMP is an important agency in Seattle's black and poor community. Some of its programs are The King County Youth Action Council, Operation Talent Search, Headstart, Consumer Action Agency, Black Arts West, and the Black Academy of Music. Almost everyone in the Black Community has on some level been reached by one of these programs.

CAMP is also the only black directed poverty program in the state, one out of 100 in the whole country. Loss of funding for CAMP will have a negative effect on

our community. Therefore, serious accusations by the mass media should be checked for accuracy and motive.

Government Bureaucracies Create Difficulties

Most of CAMP's problems can be attributed to government bureaucracy and the resulting inertia. Federal funds are so notoriously slow that according to Rye agencies often have to use money from one program to prop up another, sometimes causing overspending until new money comes in. Otherwise people go unpaid, momentum is lost, and morale is lowered.

The same type of problems have been found all over the country in all sorts of institutions. The January 8, 1978 New York Times reports that government investigations of universities all over the country uncovered the same kinds of irregularities.

Furthermore it is known and accepted in the government that cities throughout the U.S. use CETA money (earmarked for hiring the unemployed to pay present employees working for projects where funding from other sources has run dry.

The charge that workers were hired illegally on CETA payrolls is one-sided. According to the Times a CETA investigation found 12 CAMP employees hired on CETA after having been on CAMP payrolls, a practice illegal according to federal guidelines. Rye's response was "You send them downtown, they're unqualified, they come up here, they're ineligible."

To hire "legally" CAMP would have had to lay off workers already knowledgeable of CAMP operations to hire workers eligible for CETA, who would have had to be trained. This would have interrupted services to our community, and it would not have lowered unemployment at all. If the government were tuned in to the needs and wishes of the people they'd know that 15 weeks of unemployment, the CETA requirement, or 2 weeks doesn't matter. It's still unemployment, degrading and frustrating.

The government bureaucracy caused problems again for CAMP in the summer

food program issue. The fact is the USDA authorized the P&B Caterer's of Tacoma to prepare lunches for the summer food program managed by CAMP. They also authorized P&B caterers to store the food in a Seattle Central Area nightclub which is owned by P&B. The Times' assertion that hamburger patties served at lunch were later served as hor d'oeuvres at night has not been substantiated. Even so, Rye told NSP that the USDA authorized P&B to serve as many children as showed up and they (P&B) could do whatever with the leftovers. "After all, better to eat them than throw them out."

Now CAMP is stuck with a \$7,000 bill, which Rye says he will not pay. P&B is demanding the amount for which they were contracted. Now the USDA says it only pays for meals served. Rye says he sees no reason why CAMP should be penalized for sound management when they cut the summer program after they saw that there were not enough people coming in for the meals. "They don't penalize business executives when they cut a program," Rye said.

Anderson Attacks

In all of the articles, Rick Anderson, the Times columnist, went no further than CAMP and Rye to place blame for difficulties. Anderson's attack on Rye was exceptionally sensationalistic. Rye's wife's salary and the price of their new house had nothing to do with the situation at CAMP. Anderson failed to say that Rye was modeling at Longacres for the Benefit Guild, a Southern Leadership Council affiliate, a legitimate activity for the black director of a poverty program. Nor did Anderson point out that the community votes, not *The Medium*, decided who was awarded the Unsung Hero Award.

The question then is "Why such an outright attack on CAMP and its director?" The Times could have exposed so-called problems at CAMP in one article. Yet Anderson has written 19 articles about CAMP, 5 of them on the front page. This is especially surprising since there is never this much coverage for anything positive in the black community, especially on the front page.

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Huskies Express Themselves

One of the biggest surprises in college football this year was the University of Washington Huskies winning the tight Pac-8 championship against overwhelming odds. This victory for the Huskies has spotlighted its outstanding players, many of whom are Black, among them Warren Moon, the precisioned Husky quarterback voted "Most Valuable Player" of the Rosebowl, wide receiver "Spider" Gaines, line backer Michael Jackson and defensive tackle Ron Grant.

The Huskies would not have won without the efforts of its black players. However, the history of football of the U. of W. has not always been so triumphant, particularly for minorities.

Jim Owens was coach before Donald James was hired three years ago. In his fifteen years as coach Owens took the Huskies to the Rosebowl twice. His career was marred with allegations of racism which may have been a factor in his resigning. He did not allow many minorities to play and suspended four blacks for what he called attitudinal problems. The general consensus of the players was that "Owens had the talent, but not the ability to pick out the talent and put it in proper perspective."

Black members of the football team, the Black Student Union, the Black Alumni Association and numerous organizations in the Central Area voiced protest against Owens. This prompted an investigation by the Human Rights Commission of the Board of Regents at the U. of W.

Following are excerpts from an interview with 22 year old black defensive tackle, Ron Grant, and 20 year old wide receiver, Robert Wayne "Spider" Gaines. They expressed their opinions on the politics of football, their history, where they are today and their hopes for the future. Both young men hail from California, Ron from Fresno and Spider from Richmond. Ron was recruited two years ago by Coach James from West Hill Junior College and Spider was recruited 2½ years ago from Kennedy High School in California.

Question: What has your sports history been like?

Ron: At Riverdale High School in football, I was for two years all American, all country and all league. I ran track and was fourth in the country in discus throwing. I was all city captain of my high school basketball team. I ran track and threw discus and shot put for U. of W. in football at the U. of W. I made second string and back up for captain and was picked one of the top 90 players last year. Sports is my hobby. My major is art and business. Art is my priority, but I love football.

Spider: I have played sports for as long as I can remember. It started on the streets of Pittsburgh when I was about five years old. When I was eight I played little league baseball. That is when they started calling me Spider, because I reminded my coach of a buddy of his. In high school football, I played every position except lineman and center. I was all league in defensive ball, second team all league as a wide receiver, and all league guard. I ran the hurdles in track and won State and National championships. In my freshman year, I was an Olympic trial finalist in track and placed 7th best. I still run hurdles for U. of W. and will be going into training soon. In my freshman year at the University, I was Pac-8 champion and in my sophomore year I was 6th in NCAA. My major is business, I want to be a CPA. I like to count numbers. Football is my priority. A career in the pros will probably help me get my CPA faster, you know, connections.



Spider Gains in Motion

Question: Any member of your family into sports?

Ron: My father works on a farm in Fresno and my mother is a housewife. They are both real supportive. I have three brothers and three sisters. I'm the 3rd youngest. My brothers were my idols. They pushed me and backed me. My 2 oldest brothers played football and they were both all city and all state. My brother Ulysses Grant Jr. got drafted by Cincinnati, but was cut due to bad knees. That is the risk of football.

Spider: My father is retired now but he was a laborer in construction. My mother works at a cannery in Calif. I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters. I am the youngest and the last one to get out of the house and the only one who played sports. I was encouraged to play sports by watching Willie Mays on the tube when I was little. He is a good and disciplined athlete. Paul Warfield, wide receiver of the Cleveland Browns, is my man.

Question: Now that you both have earned national notoriety your chances for a draft in the pros looks pretty good. Are there any other factors that come to play in drafts?

Ron: I am a senior now and if I had another year my possibility for draft would be better. It takes discipline and hard work. To get drafted it depends on how good you are. The only color that comes into play is green . . . money. Football is a chance, a big chance. You kinda feel like a machine. But I been playing ball for a long time now. I know I can make it.

Spider: Your mental attitude plays an important part. You got to be right mentally to do anything. Some guys don't make it even if they got the talent and the skill. Sometimes some players may have problems with coaches 'cause they are minorities and the coach ain't. Some think we are slaves and some thing we are gods of sport. I enjoyed this season. I have one more year to go and looking forward to another Rosebowl.

Question: I'm sure you heard about the alleged racism of former Husky coach Jim Owens. How does the present Husky Coach Donald James compare?

Ron: Well I don't know how many blacks were on the team before coach James, but now we got 30 out of 105 and 26 traveled to Rosebowl out of 98. In order to play good it takes discipline,

hard work and respect that your coach can carry a team. Coach James works us hard and we all work together. This is his 3rd year and we made it to the Rosebowl with many outstanding black players.

He is an open minded coach. If you got potential you play ball. Check it out, under Owens Sonny Six Killer, a Native American quarterback for the Huskies, wasn't allowed to play like he should have. Under James, black quarterback Warren Moon got a chance to prove that he knows what to do and when to do it. The old myth that blacks can't play quarterback is insane. Even though they booed Moon when we played Mississippi State Moon's going to be alright. He is the best quarterback in the country. We know that the team is his priority.

Spider: Coach James is aggressive and knows how to psych us up. We also have two black assistant coaches who really help us, too. It's gonna be a long time before blacks are easily accepted as quarterbacks. Some folks think we ain't got the smarts. It's gonna be hard for Warren but he'll do it.

Question: There has been some talk by folks like consumer advocate Ralph Nader that sports should be unionized. What's your all's opinion?

Ron: That's pretty live, moving closer to protection of rights. But I doubt if it comes, at least it will take a long time.



Spider Gaines at rest

Spider: Union, that's right on, because when you're All Pro you are just a piece of meat. Each year you have to negotiate for a contract and that can be shaky.

Question: Is there anything that happened in the Rosebowl that you wished you could change?

Ron: We all came out really high on winning and ready to play. Plus for me my parents were watching in the stands. Every teams' defense breaks down sometimes. But the defense was really key in the latter part of the game when Michigan State was trying to gain on us. But mistakes happen.

Spider: Making a touchdown was cool but running into the fence hurt. I got 5 stitches on my elbow, but that's all in football. I made a clipping penalty in the 3 down and we had to go back 15 yds after gaining 8 yds.

Question: What advice would you give young folks interested in football?

Ron: I would encourage them to play. But whatever you like the proof is in your actions.

Spider: Practice hard, be disciplined and don't be scared.

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Anderson told NSP on the phone that the articles speak for themselves. Anderson says he wrote so much about Rye because "he is the executive director. He's the man in charge."

So, What's the Big Deal?

Still, this attack on Rye has all of the earmarkings of similar situations which are happening to black leaders all over the country. People who stand up against big government and big business are usually attacked in return.

In our own case in Seattle, a possible motive for the Times' smearing of CAMP could be that the Times remembers when Rye, as chairman of the Central Seattle Community Federal Housing Committee, was instrumental in the struggle against redlining. This may be especially true since W.J. Remington, president of the Seattle Times, is on the board of directors of the Rainier National Bank. Rainier Bank only lent to investors and speculators before their practice of redlining was exposed.