

Jules Feiffer

Some Civil Rights Related Cartoons, 1960-1966

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SO MOMMA AND I GOT ON THIS BUS TO GO TO THE COUNTRY AND SUDDENLY A BUNCH OF COLORED PEOPLE GOT ON AND WE WERE SURROUNDED BY



POLICEMEN AND WE ALL GOT ARRESTED.

MOMMA TRIED TO TELL THE POLICEMEN WE WERE ONLY GOING TO THE COUNTRY BUT ALL THE COLORED PEOPLE WERE SINGING "WE SHALL



OVERCOME" SO THE POLICEMEN COULDN'T HEAR US.

SO AFTER DADDY GOT US OUT OF JAIL MOMMA AND I WENT TO GET A SANDWICH IN A DRUG-STORE BEFORE WE TRIED AGAIN TO GO TO THE COUNTRY-AND



SUDDENLY A BUNCH OF COLORED PEOPLE WERE SITTING ON STOOLS ALL AROUND US AND WE WERE SURROUNDED BY POLICEMEN AND WE ALL GOT ARRESTED.

MOMMA TRIED TO TELL THE POLICEMEN WE WERE ONLY TRYING TO EAT AND GO TO THE COUNTRY BUT ALL THE COLORED PEOPLE WERE SINGING "WE SHALL



OVERCOME" SO THE POLICEMEN COULDN'T HEAR US.

SO AFTER DADDY GOT US OUT OF JAIL WE RENTED A CAR TO THE COUNTRY AND MOMMA WAS SO RELIEVED THAT BEFORE EVEN UNPACKING SHE TOOK ME DOWN TO THE BEACH TO RELAX AND SUN BATHE AND SUDDENLY A BUNCH OF COLORED PEOPLE WERE SUN BATHING ALL AROUND US AND THE POLICEMEN CAME AND WE ALL GOT ARRESTED.



MOMMA TRIED TO TELL THE POLICEMEN WE WERE ONLY TRYING TO SUNBATHE BUT ALL THE COLORED PEOPLE AND ME WERE SINGING "WE SHALL OVERCOME" SO THEY TOOK US TO JAIL.



I DON'T MIND THE COLORED PEOPLE BUT I WISH THEY'D LEAVE THEIR POLICEMEN HOME.



EVER SINCE HE WAS KNEE HIGH TO A GRASS HOPPER I'D SAY TO LITTLE BEN, "LITTLE BEN, YOU'RE SHIFTLSS AN' LAZY," AN' LITTLE BEN WOULD SHUFFLE A STEP OR TWO AN' SAY, "GUESS I IS, MR. TOM." WE GOT ALONG FINE THAT WAY, LITTLE BEN AN' ME.



I'D KEEP TELLIN' HIM WHAT HE WAS AN' SURE ENOUGH HE COME T'BE THAT WAY.



AN' HE WAS GROWIN' UP JES' FINE TILL THEM OUTSIDERS COME ALONG AN' TOLD LITTLE BEN JES' BECAUSE I TOLD HIM HE WAS SHIFTLSS AN' LAZY DIDN'T MAKE IT SO.

WELL, AFTER THAT LITTLE BEN DIDN'T LISTEN TO ME THE WAY HE USE' TO. I'D SAY, "LITTLE BEN, NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS, YOU'RE SHIFTLSS AN' LAZY AN' TOTALLY DEVOTED T'ME."



AN' HE'D SASS RIGHT BACK WITH, "MR. TOM, NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS, YOU'RE A RACIST, YOU'RE A KILLER AN' YOUR TIME IS COMIN'."



WELL, I BEAT HIM UP PRETTY GOOD FOR THAT AN' ANYTIME I'D SEE MORE AGITATORS AROUND I TOOK A GUN TO THEM. BUT IT DIDN'T DO NO GOOD.

I BEGUN T' WORRY IF I WASN'T LIKE WHAT LITTLE BEN SAID.



SO I KILLED LITTLE BEN.



THAT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR MAKIN' ME BELIEVE HIS DREAM INSTEAD O' HIS BELIEVIN' MINE.



AS PART OF A FACT FINDING, TROUBLE SHOOTING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM SENT OUT TO SEEK WAYS OF RESTORING BI-RACIAL COMMUNICATIONS IN SOUTHERN CITIES, I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT OUR FINDINGS.



NO. 1- IT IS OUR CONCLUSION THAT SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES ARE SEMANTIC. THE NEGRO COMMUNITY HAS DROPPED THE USE OF THE COURTESY WORD "SIR," REPLACING IT WITH A WORD FOUND TO BE FAR LESS APPEALING. IMMEDIATE REINSTATEMENT OF THE WORD "SIR" MIGHT WELL OPEN OTHER AREAS FOR DISCUSSION.



NO. 2- IN TALKS WITH WHITE CIVIC LEADERS IT BECAME CLEAR THAT INCREASED TENSION WAS DUE TO NEGRO LAPSES IN THE TECHNIQUE OF NON-VIOLENCE. SOUTHERN MODERATES FEEL THIS TO BE A BETRAYAL OF THE NEGRO REVOLUTION AND INSIST THAT ONCE THE NEGRO COMMUNITY SURRENDERS ITS ARMS, OTHER AREAS FOR DISCUSSION MIGHT WELL BE OPENED.



NO. 3- SOUTHERN MODERATES DEEM THE CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT OF NEGRO CHILDREN IN SUNDAY SCHOOLS TO BE A DELIBERATE PROVOCATION. RETURN NEGRO RELIGION TO THE HARMLESS PURPOSES IT WAS DESIGNED FOR AND OTHER AREAS FOR DISCUSSION MIGHT WELL BE OPENED.



FINALLY WE FIND THAT WHITE CIVIC LEADERS REMAIN PERTURBED AT OUTSIDE AGITATORS- A PRIME EXAMPLE BEING THEIR ANGER AT OUR FACT FINDING, TROUBLE SHOOTING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM WHEN IT TRIED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE NEGRO COMMUNITY. THE DISSOLUTION OF OUR TEAM MIGHT WELL SERVE TO OPEN OTHER AREAS FOR DISCUSSION.

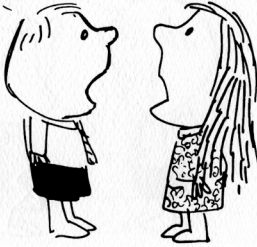


OUR PRESENT ATTITUDE IS THAT THIS MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE SHOULD BE CONTINUED.



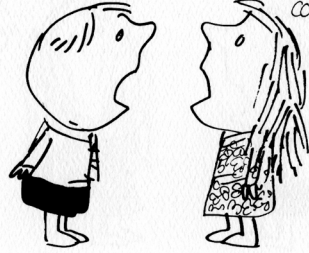
MY FATHER SAYS THAT
"THANK GOD, IT'S A
BLESSING WE DON'T
LIVE IN THE SOUTH
WITH ALL THIS
GOING ON."

ABSOLUTELY.
MY FATHER
AGREES.



MY FATHER SAYS "HA! AND
THEY CALL THIS A **DEMOCRACY!**
DON'T THEY KNOW HOW THIS
LOOKS TO THE UNCOMMITTED
COUNTRIES?"

EXACTLY WHAT MY
FATHER SAYS. MY
FATHER IS VERY
INTERESTED IN
UNCOMMITTED
COUNTRIES.



MY FATHER SAYS,
"I'M ASHAMED TO CALL
MYSELF AN AMERICAN
WITH LITTLE ROCK
AND ALL."

MY FATHER QUITE
DEFINITELY AGREES.
HE'S ALWAYS BEING
ASHAMED OF CALLING
HIMSELF
AN AMERICAN.



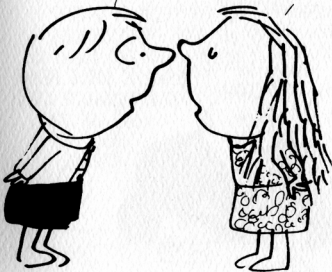
MY FATHER SAYS THAT,
"THANK GOD THERE'S
NONE OF THIS
NONSENSE HERE
IN NEW YORK."

MY FATHER GOES RIGHT
ALONG WITH YOUR
FATHER. THEY CAN
THROW THE REST OF THE
COUNTRY
ALWAY AS
FAR AS
MY
FATHER
IS
CONCERNED.



WHERE
DO THEY
SEND
YOU?

THORSTEIN VEBLÉN
ACADEMY IN
SCARSDALE.
HOW ABOUT
YOU?



THE PANDIT
NEHRU SCHOOL.
IT'S IN RYE.



BILLIE CAME OVER TO ME
IN THE MORNING AND
SAID YOU PROMISED TO
TAKE ME TO THE ZOO
TODAY, DADDY. AND I
SAID I'M SORRY
BILLIE-BOY BUT DADDY
HAS GOT SOMETHING
ELSE HE MUST DO TODAY.



AND BILLIE'S MOMMA SAID NOW
YOU STOP BOTHERING YOUR DADDY,
BILLIE-BOY. AND I SAID DON'T
SCOLD THE BOY, CHARLOTTE. I
KNOW JUST THE WAY HE FEELS
BECAUSE I STILL REMEMBER
WHAT IT WAS LIKE WHEN MY
DADDY DISAPPOINTED ME.



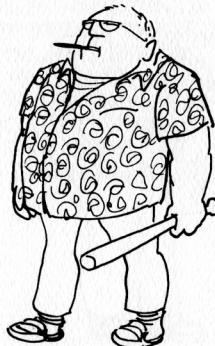
AND CHARLOTTE HUGGED ME
AND CALLED ME HER HONEY-
BEAR AND SAID YOU'RE TOO
GENTLE FOR YOUR OWN
GOOD, DANNY. AND I
SAID IT'S A BAD THING
WHEN A FATHER HAS TO
BREAK A PROMISE TO HIS
SON. THAT'S THE WAY
A CHILD CAN TURN SOUR.



AND CHARLOTTE SAID NO
CHILD OF OURS WILL TURN
SOUR SO LONG AS A MAN
LIKE YOU IS AROUND. AND
I HUGGED HER AND SAID
YOU'RE MY LITTLE GIRL.
THEN I PICKED UP MY
BAT AND I SAID I'D
BEST BE ON MY WAY.
I'M LATE AS IT IS.



HIT ONE FOR ME,
CHARLOTTE YELLED.
AND FOR ME TOO,
DADDY. BILLIE-BOY
YELLED. AND I
YELLED BACK
DONT YOU WORRY
ABOUT ME. I'LL
DO FINE.



AND THEN I
DROVE DOWN-
TOWN TO THE
CIVIL RIGHTS
DEMONSTRATION.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT
HANDKERCHIEF-HEAD
PACIFISM! IT'S TIME
FOR THE AFRO-
AMERICAN TO MEET
VIOLENCE WITH
VIOLENCE!

NONSENSE! NON-VIOLENT
RESISTANCE IS THE MOST
EFFECTIVE WEAPON THE
NEGRO HAS. WHY
SURRENDER IT?



IF MISTER BOSS BUMPS
YOU, YOU BUMP MISTER
BOSS. ANYTHING LESS
IS A **SELL OUT!** AFRO-
AMERICANS HAD BETTER
KNOW IT!

THAT'S THE BLOODY ROAD
TO INTEGRATION. THAT'S
JUST WHAT THE BIGOTS
HOPE FOR!



THE BIGOTS AREN'T OUR
ONLY ENEMY MAN!
SO'S YOUR GO-SLOW
BUDDY THE WHITE
LIBERAL!

THE NEGRO WILL WIN HIS
RIGHTS **PEACEFULLY** OR
NOT AT ALL! WE CAN'T AFFORD
TO LOSE THE FRIENDS WE'VE
MADE!



PEACE MEANS **WHITE** MAN'S PEACE.
YOUR NON-VIOLENCE BETTER
WORK **PRETTY** SOON,
MAN! A LOT OF US
ARE GETTING DAMN
TIRED!

DO YOU
HEAR THAT?

SHHH



WE'D BETTER
INTEGRATE
IMMEDIATELY!

GOD, YES!
BEFORE
THOSE
EXTREMISTS
TAKE OVER!



NICE
WORK,
CHARLIE

THERE'S **ANOTHER** WHITE
BAR DOWN THE BLOCK.
LET'S GO DOWN **THERE**
AND PANIC THEM.

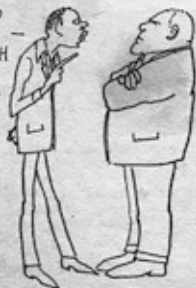


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FEIFFER

I TRIED GOING THROUGH THE COURTS AND THAT DIDN'T WORK.



I TRIED FREEDOM RIDING AND THAT DIDN'T WORK.



I TRIED SITTING IN AND THAT DIDN'T WORK.



I TRIED FREEDOM MARCHING AND THAT DIDN'T WORK.



I'M TRYING RIOTING THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING EITHER.



WHAT IS IT YOU PEOPLE WANT?



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I'M VERY PROUD OF MY LATEST CARTOON, CHIEF.



A VERY STRONG COMMENT, BUT HAVEN'T I SEEN SOMETHING LIKE IT BEFORE?

YOU MEAN THIS ONE - WHEN I WAS CONCERNED THAT EXTREMIST TACTICS WOULD LOSE THE NEGRO HIS MANY WHITE FRIENDS?



POWERFUL! BUT HAVEN'T I SEEN SOMETHING LIKE IT BEFORE?

YOU MEAN THIS ONE - WHEN I WAS FEARFUL THAT IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS WOULD ENDANGER THE PASSAGE OF CORRECTIVE CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION?



BOY, THAT REALLY SAYS IT - BUT HAVEN'T I SEEN SOMETHING LIKE IT BEFORE?

YOU MEAN THIS ONE - WHEN I WONDERED IF TRYING TO MOVE TOO FAST WOULDN'T THREATEN THE GREAT STRIDES THE NEGRO PEOPLE HAD ALREADY MADE?



A BEAUTY! BUT HAVEN'T I SEEN SOMETHING LIKE IT BEFORE?

YOU MEAN THIS ONE - WHEN I JUST COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THESE PEOPLE WANTED?



A CLASSIC! BUT HAVEN'T I SEEN SOMETHING LIKE IT BEFORE?

YOU MEAN THIS OLD ONE?



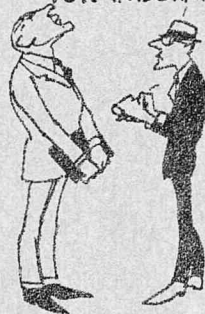
BOY ONE PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS.

IN MY
OPINION
NEGROES
ARE GO-
ING TOO
FAR WITH
THEIR
PROTESTS.



MAY I
QUOTE
YOU, MR.
BACKLASH?

NO.
THIS
IS OFF
THE
RECORD.



THEN, SIR, ON THE
RECORD YOU ARE
FOR INTEGRATION?

ON THE
RECORD
I'M EVEN
FOR DEMO-
CRACY,
SONNY.



THEN OFF THE
RECORD YOU'RE
AGAINST DE-
MOCRACY, MR.
BACK-
LASH?

OFF THE RECORD
I'M ONLY FOR ME,
SONNY. TOO MANY
YEARS SPENT
WORRYING
ABOUT
OTHER
PEOPLE.



CAN YOU
SPECIFY MR.
BACKLASH?



TOO MANY
YEARS BE-
ING A
LIBERAL--
TRYING TO
FIX UP THE
REST OF THE
WORLD. IS
THE REST
OF THE
WORLD
GRATEFUL?
SURE, TELL
ME ANOTHER
ONE, SONNY!



YOU FEEL
UNAPPRECI-
ATED, MR.
BACKLASH?

THEY ALL HATE
US, SONNY!
FOREIGNERS
HATE US. STRAN-
GERS HATE US.
NEGROES
HATE US. AND
WE HATE
THEM. IT'S
EVEN STEVEN
SONNY. DROP
THE BOMB,
SAY I!



ON WHO
EXACTLY,
MR.
BACKLASH?

ON EVERYBODY
BUT ME, SONNY.
A NEW BROOM
SWEEPS
CLEAN!



MAY I
QUOTE
ANY OF
THIS, MR.
BACK-
LASH?

FOR THE RECORD,
SONNY YOU MAY
SAY THAT IN MY
OPINION EXTREMIST
TACTICS ARE
LOSING THE
NEGROES
THEIR MANY
MODERATE
FRIENDS.



THANK
YOU, MR.
WHITEY
BACK-
LASH.



THE BALL SQUARE, 11

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