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OPINION

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MICHIANA POINT OF VIEW/TOM BRADEMAS SR.

Legend of Studebaker still a major tourist attraction here

The fastest growing economic segment of our community is the hospitality industry—restaurants, hotels and motels. The current estimate of expenditures by those visiting our community as tourists is estimated at \$100 million a year. Up from the equivalent of \$10,000 full-time jobs are supported by this industry, with wages and salaries in the \$300 million range.

As a 15-year member of the St. Joseph County Hotel Motel Tax Board of Managers, I and other members of the board, realizing the need for more trained personnel in this field, have been meeting with local school officials, representatives of Ivy Tech State College and the Indiana Hospitality Tourism

Foundation to undertake a comprehensive training program for high school juniors and seniors. As the major assignment of the Hotel Motel Board of Managers is the promotion of conventions and tourism in St. Joseph County, the board has, over the last decade, had a number of studies carried out to help guide us in what actions we should take to continue and expand the hospitality industry.

They showed that the University of Notre Dame and the Studebaker legend are, and with common sense will continue to be, the major attractions in our community. While interest in Notre Dame peaks during the home football games, interest in the Studebaker legend is year-round. It would appear from the reported position

of our elected officials in South Bend that they do not understand or appreciate the historic and continuing role that Studebaker plays in the community. I have over the years had the opportunity to travel to many parts of the world. In Sweden, Finland, France, England, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Israel and Japan, when I tell people I am from South Bend, Michiana, Ind., there is no recognition on their part. But when I say I live in the community where the University of Notre Dame and Studebaker are located, I get universal recognition of where I live.

It is indeed unfortunate that the elected officials in South Bend do not understand the damage they will do to the Studebaker legend if they do not take action to save the Studebaker parts collection. Several months ago, while serving as a member of the St. Joseph County Jail Building Commission, I carried out a detailed study of the former Studebaker Engineering Building. At that time, the city was prepared to give the building to the county at no cost. While I acknowledge that our studies documented the need for roof repair, the basic building is structurally sound.

I applaud Dennis Lambert Sr.'s efforts to establish the Studebaker Auto Parts Sales Corp. and save the historic collection as a \$100,000 profit. If he would consider organizing his operation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, it would add other local firms interested in donating labor and material to renovate the engineering building for the parts storage.

This situation raises a serious question about community priorities and the use of public funds. No one who has any understanding of the history of the community and the continuing impact on tourism by the Studebaker story could object to a reasonable amount of public funds being utilized, if only on a long-term loan basis, to save the Studebaker parts inventory. Why would elected public officials in South Bend bend over backwards, in the face of strong recommendations to the contrary, and saddle local taxpayers with a mounting debt and continuing operating loss for the College Football Hall of Fame, yet refuse to provide a relatively small amount of funds to support the Studebaker legend?

It is interesting to reflect on the recent statement of a city official who stated that there are "economic realities" that prevent the city from taking action to ensure the survival of the Studebaker parts inventory, particularly when a suitable building owned by the city is obviously available.

Racial relations have changed since Dorothy Dandridge's time

By STANLEY CROUCH
New York Daily News

I've been thinking about how race and race relations have changed since the death of singer-actress Dorothy Dandridge almost 40 years ago. This came to mind last week when I attended a preview of an HBO original film titled "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge," starring Halle Berry. The film is well-crafted, with a spark here and there but too much placed-level protest of the racist of those days.

In the '50s, when Dandridge was on the rise, if a black performer got to play Miami or Las Vegas, there was no fraternizing with the guests, no using the bathrooms and, under no circumstances, no dipping your dark ketchup in the pink which would be deemed if you did.

That all seems like myth in this era when white people out in the humdrum are putting themselves into lines wondering if they will be invited to Puff Daddy's annual summer party at his Bad Hombres estate.

Nowadays, media attention and commercial success much down certain types of racism. For those who have them, the flashbulbs, the

ink, the TV interviews, the videos and the fat bank accounts from an imposing pedigree. And a consistently clever, if equally calculated, gift for sending trends doesn't hurt you at all.

Today, Negroes don't necessarily have to be very talented to become very rich, unless they are in sports, where they have to be. The ongoing "coon" business of African comedy and popular music would probably surprise her in its self-congratulatory indignation and its bottomless vulgarity, but Dandridge would surely recognize the minstrel tradition, merely peppered up in its language and its explicit boogie-woogie mores.

For all the indignities she suffered, Dandridge was the first black woman to receive an Academy Award Best Actress nomination. It was for her performance as "Carmen Jones."

The young black actresses, actors, choreographers, publicists, writers and hangers-on at the HBO party following the premiere of "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge" are proof of just how much this country can continue to right itself as traditional wrongs are exposed and fought against. Let us not forget that.

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Don't reward — or protect — unethical businesses

By RALPH ESTES
Scripps Howard News Service

I should major government contracts be awarded to those corporations that refuse to obey the law? Amstrange the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and their cohorts in the strangely named National Alliance Against Blacklisting seem to think that's just fine—and they have obliged by "to whatever is necessary" to block such a policy.

Federal agencies are prohibited under long-standing policy to contract with companies that demonstrate "unsatisfactory record of integrity and business ethics." The White House has proposed a revision to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) that clarifies this policy: It would provide that the contracting officer may use an adverse responsibility determination upon "persuasive evidence of substantial noncompliance with a law or regulation (i.e., not isolated or trivial, but repeated and substantial violations establishing a pattern or practice by a prospective contractor...)"

Now, I may be dumb, but if you're against this, you must think its OK to award major federal contracts to a company that has repeatedly shambled its nose at the law and regulations. The Chamber of Commerce recognizes that attacking this eminently reasonable requirement won't fly with most people, so it's trying to capitalize on what it sees as anti-labor sentiment by characterizing this proposal as "a political ploy" to "hijack."

But what does "big labor" have to do with it? Well, it seems that, according to the proposal published in the Federal Register, contractors have been claiming reimbursement for costs of activities "designed to influence employees with regard to unsatisfactory decisions." Following a policy of neutrality in employer-employee labor disputes, the government is saying that taxpayers shouldn't reimburse companies for such costs. And that is what the Chamber of Commerce calls a payoff to big labor.

Some business executives have no moral or ethical standards. They willingly sell unsafe products to unsuspecting customers who may pay with injuries, illness or death. They will happily condone sweatshop conditions if they can get away with it. They cheat on their taxes, on employee pension

contributions, on environmental emissions and especially on government contracts if they think they won't get caught. These people give ethical business leaders a bad name. When organizations like the Chamber of Commerce condone such behavior, they betray the ethical business people they would claim to represent, and feed a corrupt public procurement that threatens to flourish like a tidal wave over the entire corporate system. Instead of preventing regulation, they provoke it. make it necessary and inevitable. So this is a call to those business leaders who are proud to engage in honorable commerce. Before the blending of ethics and profit—of morals and Mammon, one could say. Join this debate by submitting a persuasive comment on the proposed regulation (cite FAR case 90-100, the comment period ends Nov. 8, 1999, and more information is available from the FAR Secretariat at 202.501-4200).

Stand up for ethical business practices, for profit honesty and for public safety.


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