

Jules Feiffer

Some Civil Rights Related Cartoons, 1960-1966

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EVER SINCE HE WAS KNEE HIGH
TO A GRASS HOPPER I'D SAY
TO LITTLE BEN, "LITTLE
BEN, YOU'RE SHIFTLESS
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 SHIFT-
LESS 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
SHIFTLESS 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 MAK-
IN' 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.

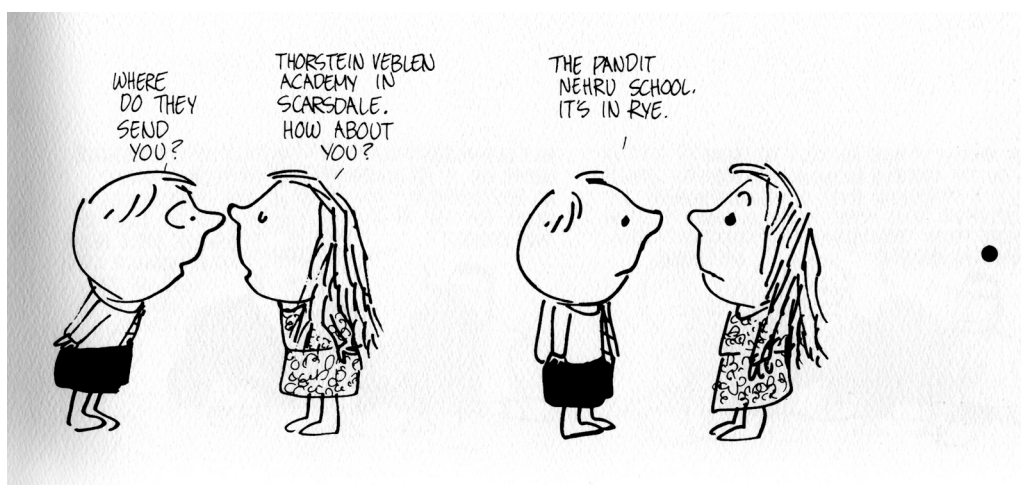
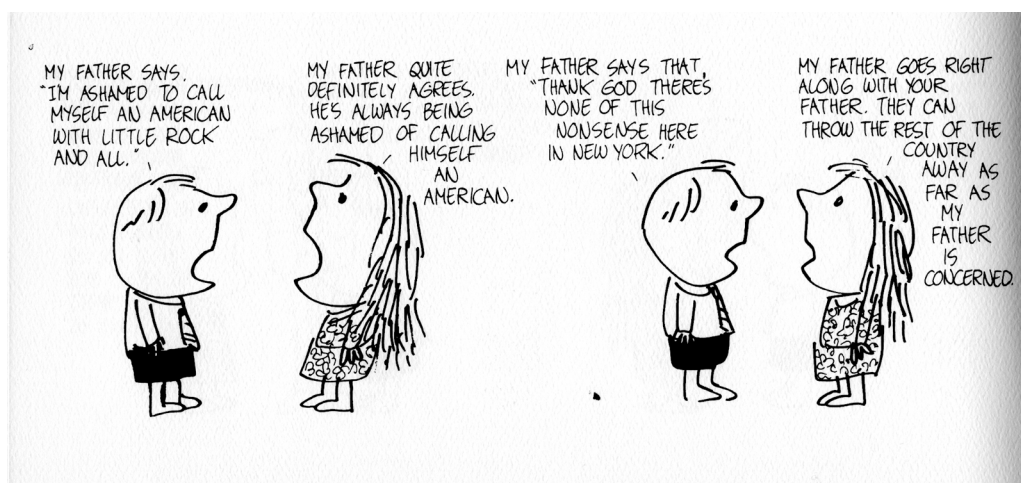
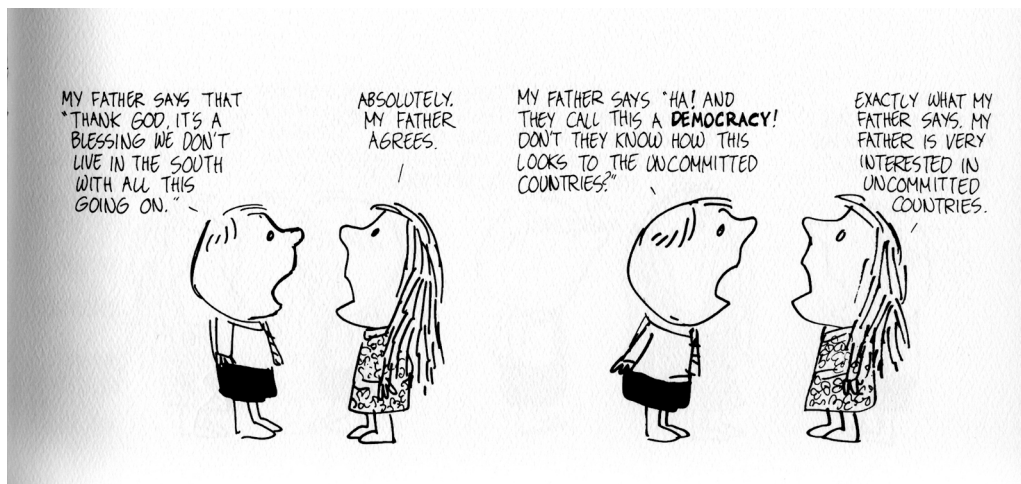


FINALLY WE FIND THAT WHITE CIVIC LEADERS REMAIN PERTURBED AT **OUTSIDE AGITATORS**- A PRIME EXAMPLE BEING THEIR ANGER AT OUR FACT FINDING, TROUBLE SHOOTING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM WHEN IT TRIED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE NEGRO COMMUNITY. THE DISSOLUTION OF OUR TEAM MIGHT WELL SERVE TO OPEN **OTHER** AREAS FOR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



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





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.



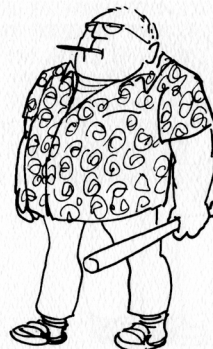
AND CHARLOTTE HUGGED ME
AND CALLED ME HER HONEY-
BEAR AND SAID YOU'RE TOO
GENTLE FOR YOUR OWN
GOOD, DANNY. AND I
SAID IT'S A BAD THING
WHEN A FATHER HAS TO
BREAK A PROMISE TO HIS
SON. THAT'S THE WAY
A CHILD CAN TURN SOUR.



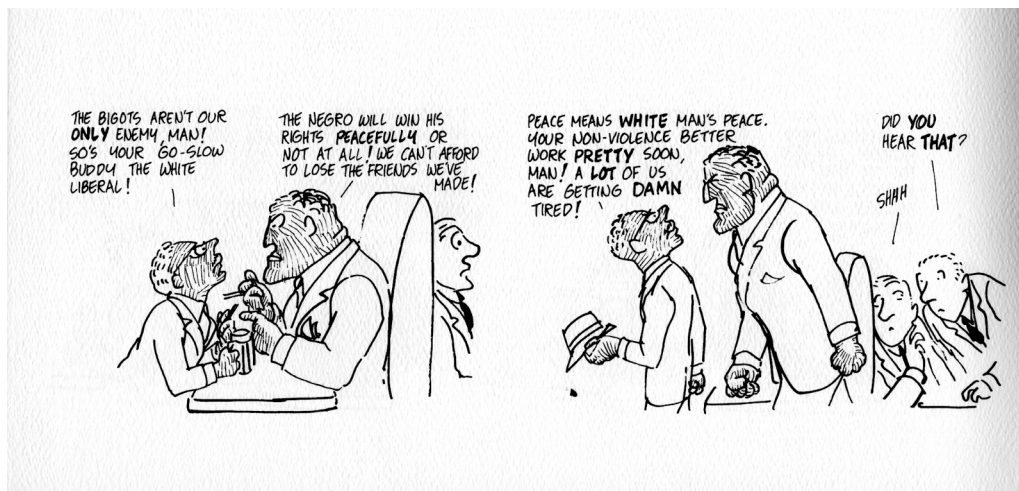
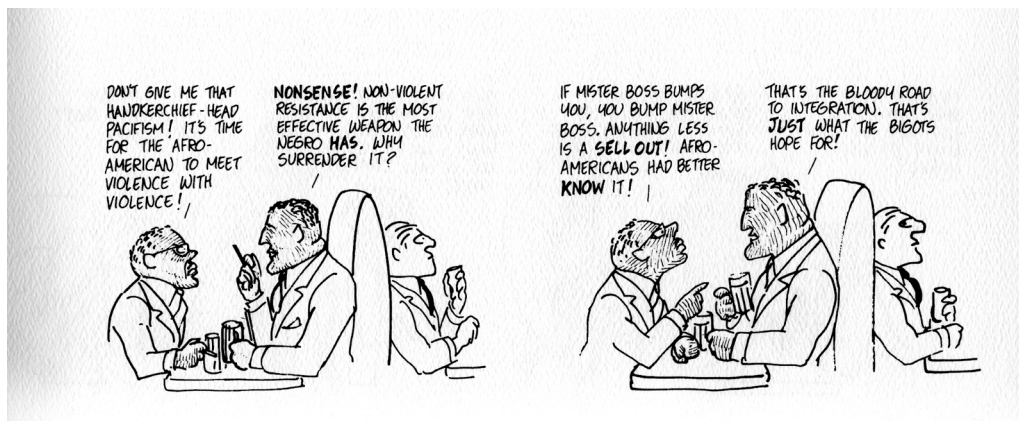
AND CHARLOTTE SAID NO
CHILD OF OURS WILL TURN
SOUR SO LONG AS A MAN
LIKE YOU IS AROUND. AND
I HUGGED HER AND SAID
YOU'RE MY LITTLE GIRL.
THEN I PICKED UP MY
BAT AND I SAID I'D
BEST BE ON MY WAY.
I'M LATE AS IT IS.



HIT ONE FOR ME,
CHARLOTTE YELLED.
AND FOR ME TOO,
DADDY, BILLIE-BOY
YELLED. AND I
YELLED BACK
DON'T YOU WORRY
ABOUT ME. I'LL
DO FINE.



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



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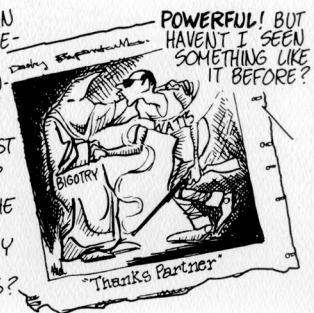


I'M VERY PROUD OF MY LATEST CARTOON, CHIEF.



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 IR-RESPONSIBLE 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 UNDER- STAND 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.