

# COLLECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

## Funeral for “Joe Racism” at Armstrong High School, 1990



### ERA

Late 20th Century

### THEMES

Racism, Education

### CITATION

Funeral for “Joe Racism” at Armstrong High School, 1990, Bruce Parker, V.91.04.1466, Richmond Times-Dispatch Collection, The Valentine

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What do you notice about this image?
- Why would students hold a funeral for racism in 1990?

### CONTEXT

This mock funeral for racism at Armstrong High School was featured in the Richmond Times-Dispatch on February 28, 1990. One of the students played the minister delivering “Joe Racism’s” eulogy after which the casket was put into a hearse and taken to its final resting place.

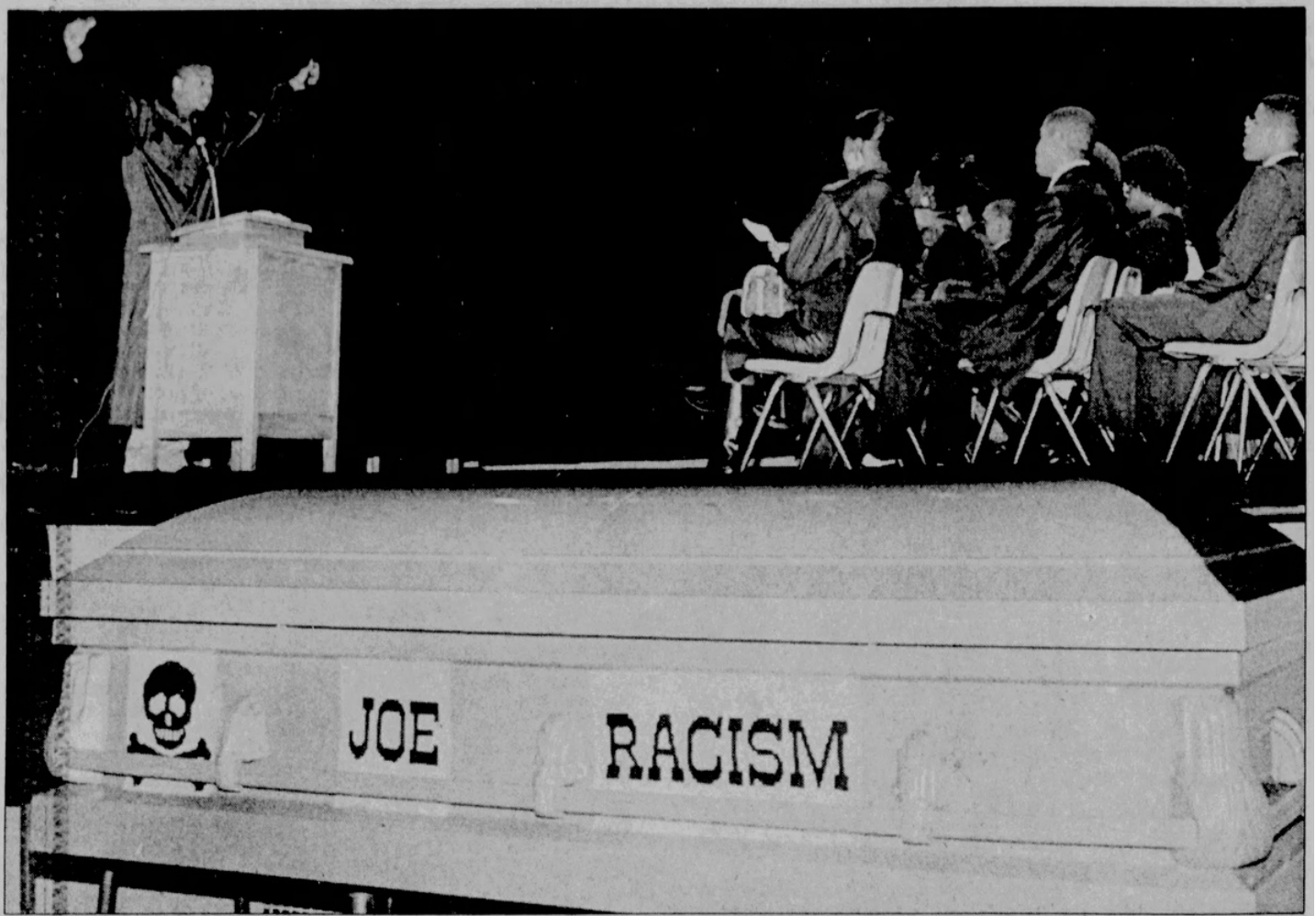
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Staff photo by Bruce Parker

## Bury racism

Lamont Thornton, a senior at Armstrong High School, portrayed the preacher yesterday at the school's mock funeral for racism.

Following the eulogy for Joe Racism, a most unsavory fellow, student pallbearers carried the coffin to a hearse. The hearse

whisked it to a spot behind the school that was designated as Racism's final resting place.

*Bury Racism*, February 28, 1990, Bruce Parker, Richmond Times-Dispatch