

U.S. late with concern

About 20 months ago, we were not mindful of certain happenings in Atlanta. It didn't dawn on us to think of Black children there and their status of health. But about 20 months ago, someone or some persons were thinking about Black children in Atlanta, and the person or persons must have thought that they must be killed.

What a brilliant idea! Kill all the Black children and destroy the Black race in America, the person or persons must have thought.

20 months ago, we probably had no idea that one little missing Black child, who was found dead weeks later, would mean so much to America. Of course, one little Black child didn't. It took the death of over 10 children to get the Atlanta press, then America, interested. Numbers seem to make a difference, at least when it comes to little Black children. Now there are 20 children dead and two missing.

About 20 months ago, Black Americans, and other Americans, across the nation didn't know about what is being called "The Atlanta Killings" because the press failed to tell them. Many people think that if the children were White, the press would have been right on it. But it may be that children don't matter in America. Adults rule the world, children will have their turn, some seem to feel.

But children are important. They are America's future, and America undoubtedly

ly wants to continue surviving. The United States Government must have realized this to some degree. In its usual way, the federal government has tried to make-up for somebody's wrongdoing toward Blacks. Ronald Reagan said his kind words and sent some money down to Atlanta officials. And, as usual, it was not as much as the officials asked for — \$1.5 million came when over twice that amount is needed.

So, Americans have started pitching in. Groups have started sending money to help with expenses involved in searching for missing children and trying to figure out who killed dead ones. One such group is our own Black Student Movement, which sent over \$200 to the officials recently.

Americans are protesting the murders, too. Many are wearing green and orange ribbons and marching down the streets of Atlanta to signify their concern for the whole affair. America is now involved in such a worthy cause.

If the press had been concerned enough about the Black community, they may have put the pieces together a long time ago. Then Americans would not have waited so long to become concerned and the federal government may have acted sooner. This should be a lesson to the press in other cities. The mass murdering of Black children could be happening right under their noses.



Budget Cuts

Blacks hurt by policies

Black Americans have been troubled by the budget cuts President Ronald Reagan has proposed for the 1982 fiscal budget, and rightly so, since the cuts are aimed at social programs, which assisted a huge amount of Blacks.

Before the president's budget cuts take effect, Congress has to approve his proposal. One step was taken toward that goal when the Senate Budget Committee approved \$36.4 billion in federal spending cuts by a 20-0 vote.

The committee did not approve Reagan's cuts as they were, cutting money in some areas and adding in others. Reagan wanted \$48.6 billion cuts, but the committee gave him less.

Welfare, unemployment, food stamp and some Social Security benefits suffered cuts while education, handicapped and nutrition programs for low-income groups, children and pregnant women increased.

This is one of the many steps the 1982 budget must go through to meet the approval of Congress. Considering that the Senate is mostly Republican, it's interesting to see how the senate committee did not take Reagan's budget proposal for face value. But what will happen in the House of Representatives? Will the committee there push for less cuts?

Although Democrats are a majority in the House, the proposed budget will probably come out looking the same or at least similar as the one that came from the senate committee, because the House is conservative. Few liberals are left in congress, but they will not have the pull they need to make the budget cuts decent.

And maybe the liberals are tired of fighting for the poor, unemployed, and handicapped. Did it really do any good?

Black Americans have got to take a long, hard look at where they were, and where they are now. Have we progressed? Are we any better off? This may be the age of reality. Maybe Reagan wants to show us how things really are for Blacks in America.

We need to be wary of sugar-coated deals, positions, and people. We need to question everything, because in these times, we don't really know who our friends are.

Budget cuts harm students

Ronald Reagan has the master plan for America. He simply wants all the lazy bums to go to war and the rich to have more money. Students could be considered members of the former group. After all, many of us do not work.

We eat, sleep and go to class, hoping to learn enough to get a job — someday. But the Republican administration wants students to work now. They must, because they are proposing that federal loans, grants and other monies be cut to provide for only "the truly needy."

State and local governments cannot possibly bear the burden of supporting middle-class students, or even the students who do not fit the label "truly needy." So, we all must grab those jobs that are not out there and get to work.

Many of us have applied for financial aid, but are not sure we will get it. Many of us don't have a place to stay, but we know that it will not be on campus and that we don't have the money for an apartment.

Many of us are financially dependent on the federal government for our survival. So, how will we survive without its help?

We will work. We may have to drop out of school, but we will work to get some money, and then drop back in.

There is another alternative. We can sell our souls to the credit or loan companies, or banks. We can borrow money for our education and spend the rest of our lives paying it back.

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Ancestral voice



To those of my race who depend on bettering their condition in a foreign land or who underestimate the importance of cultivating friendly relations with the Southern white man, who is their next-door neighbor, I would say, "Cast down your bucket where you are" — cast it down in making friends in every

manly way of the people of all races by whom we are surrounded.

Cast it down in agriculture, mechanics, in commerce, in domestic service, and in the professions. And in this connection it is well to bear in mind that whatever other sins the South may be called to bear, when it comes to business, pure and simple, it is in the South that the Negro is given a man's chance in the commercial world, and in nothing is this exposition more eloquent than in emphasizing this chance. Our greatest danger is that in the great leap from

slavery to freedom we may overlook the fact that the masses of us are to live by the productions of our hands, and fail to keep in mind that we shall prosper in proportion as we learn to dignify and glorify common labor and put brains and skill into the common occupations of life. No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem. It is at the bottom of life we must begin, and not at the top. Nor should we permit our grievances to overshadow our opportunities."

Booker T. Washington (1856-1915) was born a slave in Virginia. At the age of seventeen, he enrolled at Hampton Institute for three years. Emphasizing industrial education and the acquisition of manual skills, Washington built Tuskegee into a world famous institution in Alabama. This excerpt is taken from his Atlanta Exposition Address given in Georgia on Sept. 18, 1895 in which he proposed a compromise that would not ask for social or political equality for the Black in return for a pledge that he would be provided with industrial training and the opportunity to take a place in the economic development of the New South. He stressed that the Black must win dignity and respect by self-help and emphasized Black responsibilities rather than rights.

BLACK INK

"The essence of freedom is understanding."

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