

EDITORIALS & COMMENT

Black English In the Classroom Again Rises

That old specter "black English or sub-standard English keeps trying to gather support among some educators as to its value in the classroom by black and white elementary school children and others. Such gimmick merely seeks to cripple children and especially minority children in this affluent scientific and technological society and must be shunned and fought each time it rears its ugly head.

It is most unfortunate that millions of dollars have been spent seeking to make this a viable part of our curriculum while money-hungry and power-hungry editors turn the books into gaudy print for consumption.

Bright young innovators both white and black, establishment, white or black and so-called unestablishment know that good communication skills such as enunciation, pronunciation and other verbal skills written as well as the spoken, help lead one into better paying and higher paying job opportunities as well as numerous other advantages.

Tests are here to stay and will take on even more significance as unemployment rises. With the continuing use of tests and their score implications, all persons, both white or black as well as other minorities, must not only use and speak clear and concise English, but must also become even more skilled in the written word.

Black English is indeed not a valid concept. It can well be put into same category as Chinese English — "no tickle, no washee;" Indian English — "How" or Italian English — "mudder and fodder for mother or father" — or the inability to pronounce

the "W's" or the th's by many other Anglo-Americans or off set English by those from Appalachia. In fact, if one listens closely to Spect Asst. Kissinger, the mother tongue is apparent to a well tuned ear.

Without a doubt, non standard English may certainly impede a student's ability and opportunity to acquire skills that are basic to success.

I would even perhaps equate it with reading capacity. The number of persons who are constantly taking reading skill improvements point up the problem of not improving reading skills while in school in many instances. There are those who may say that even reading is not important, but any person who does not read well can point up to anyone why they are pursuing better reading skills. So it is with your use of English.

As blacks continue to gain more political and economic successes, it will be the well written and well understood interpretations that will mete out successes or failures at the negotiating tables in this affluent age.

Black students, white students, establishment or on establishment or just plain Joe must ever fight the "money hungry and quick buck" few educators, while and black who would continue to cripple children for generations to come.

The time to get it all together is at hand. Look through the shallowness of the arguments that some educators may give and fight to keep black English (so-called) or sub standard language from over taking you and you and you.

Students Citizenship Attitudes

Fine student citizenship attitudes were exhibited by several students after the recent Jordan-Enloe basketball game.

The cooperative efforts by students of Enloe High School and the Raleigh community in helping to seek out those unruly black students, guilty of assaulting cheerleaders from Jordan High School of Durham should be commended. It is the best way to help end such aggressive and uncalled for behavior at sports activities in the schools.

The aggressive behavior by several girls, as well as the spraying of some type of dangerous material that caused eye damage to several cheerleaders and the rolling of their car was uncalled for and quite un-

necessary. Such behavior should yield punishment for those guilty of the disturbances.

One cannot put it down as possibly racially motivated as both black and white cheerleaders were the victims of the treatment. Perhaps it was the hostility that sometimes is created by spectator sports. Nevertheless we commend those students for their efforts in helping to roundup the guilty girls.

Basketball is a well liked and highly participated in sports activity at the junior and senior high school level. Students must learn that the channeling of such aggressive behavior against other team members or cheerleaders cannot be tolerated.

Signs of the Times

Many of the young intellectuals and liberals in the Democratic forefront, known primarily as McGovernites, have now quietly added neckties and jackets in personal appearances. Further they have shaved their beards and stashed their faded Levis and tennis shoes. According to reports, even the Democratic girls have now returned to skirts and bras that they had long put aside. One wonders as to reasons.

The non-conformity in clothing styles have added much to the diversities of modern society and helped to purge out the more traditional ideas about appearances. However, there can be no substitute for clean-

liness, good manners and a gracious attitude.

This sign of the times, perhaps, reminds us of the notion that clothes or appearances often proclaim the man or woman. There are still those who would argue that the sloppy appearances may be accompanied by sloppy logic and fuzzy concepts of the real issues.

With the job market at its current level, this should serve as a word of advice to the wise. Develop good manners, a gracious attitude and clean up the personal appearance and language habits.

It does and will pay off in the long run for most persons.

Spectator Sports and Hostilities

Recent studies by Jeffrey Goldstein, Temple University psychologist, reveal that a spectators post game hostility is greater than his pre-game hostility, irrespective of whether his team won or lost.

Conventional wisdom says that contact sports have a cathartic effect in most viewers, allowing them to channel aggressions and get rid of pent-up hostilities. Further, many questions are raised by competitiveness in such sports as Olympics, Trackmeet and Ping Pong meets which tend to subordinate aggressions that otherwise find outlets in armed conflict.

It would seem to be even more

valuable if it were applied to families, especially during the baseball, football, basketball or what have you sports season when Daddy refuses to bulge from his TV set. To get along, he should be given time to unwind.

Lexicographers or dictionary authors point out that word "fan" derives from "fanatic" and most persons know the meaning of a fanatic.

Nevertheless, the psychologist has proved at last what any long suffering spouse already knew — that even the gentlest mate, caught up in the spirit of a bruising contest, lay be capable of temporarily reverting to primordial nastiness.

THE MOST DANGEROUS

"IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT WE WHO HAVE PREVAILED IN SPITE OF THE BARBARISM OF WHITE PEOPLE SHOULD, IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE 20th CENTURY, STAND AS MUTE SPECTATORS TO OUR OWN DOOM."

ORDE COMBS N.Y. MAGAZINE



21 More Blacks Elected In Nation's State Legislatures

The number of Blacks holding seats in state legislatures rose by 21 with the election of 178 Black candidates in the November 7 election, a survey by the Joint Center for Political Studies has shown.

There are now 227 Black state legislators in 38 states, compared to 206 in 37 states before the election.

Of the 227 legislators, 103 are incumbents re-elected in this month's balloting 49 are incumbents who hold seats which were not up for contest in this election, and the remaining 75 are Black who were not in the previous legislatures.

The figures were compiled by the Joint Center's research division, with the aid of a network of JCPS correspondents throughout the country.

The Joint Center for Political Studies is a private, non-partisan organization which provides research, education and technical assistance to black and other minority group elected officials and to individuals and organizations representing minority group interests.

According to the Center's survey, Blacks were elected in three states — Arkansas, Minnesota and Oregon — where there were none in the previous legislatures. The three state representatives

and one state senator elected in Arkansas are the first Black legislators in that state's history.

Other sizeable gains were achieved in Texas, where there are now nine Black representatives compared to only two representatives and one senator previously, and in Indiana, with five new Black representatives where there were two in the past legislature.

The largest loss of Black legislators occurred in Illinois, where redistricting of multi-member house districts contributed to the defeat of three incumbents, reducing the number of Black representatives from 14 to 11.

The number of Black state senators rose from 37 to 43, an increase of six, or 16 percent. In the lower houses, the number of Black representatives increased by 15, or ten percent, from 169 to 184.

All but five of the Black legislators elected this month are Democrats. Three state representatives and one senator are Republicans, and another senator ran on both Republican and Liberal tickets in New York City. One senator in New York ran on Democratic, Republican and Liberal tickets. There were 51 Republican legislative candidates, 247 Democrats and 13 independents or members of other parties on the November 7 ballot.

● Congressman
● Hawkins'
● Column
● By REP. AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS

Guinea-Bissau To Seek Its Independence

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y.—The leader of one of Africa's most successful liberation fronts has announced his country's intention to proclaim its independence from Portugal.

Amilcar Cabral, leader of the African revolutionaries of Guinea-Bissau on Africa's western coast, made that announcement recently before a session of the General Assembly's Committee of Trust and Non-Self Governing Territories.

Cabral, who is secretary-general of the revolutionary African Party for the Independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Island (PAIGC), told the committee that "we will proclaim the existence of our state" by the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

As such, Guinea-Bissau will become the first of the countries on the continent still under colonial and minority rule to reach such a stage. In Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, Azania (South Africa) and Zimbabwe, armed African guerrillas are also opposing colonial and minority regimes with armed struggle.

Cabral also informed the UN body that in order to legitimize the proclamation, a national assembly has been formed. "We have had universal and secret suffrage in all the liberated areas to set up regional governments. Our first national assembly has 120 representatives, of which 80 are elected from the masses and 40 among the party."

The African revolutionary explained that the move was an inevitable one because "our people are free and sovereign over the greater part of our national territory." He revealed that the forces of PAIGC have liberated about three quarters of Guinea-Bis-

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TO BE EQUAL
"The New Minorities"
Vernon Jordan

Washington is a tough town; the kind of place that quickly forgets men of prominence who leave it. But the coming weeks will see the departure from the Capitol scene of three men whose long-time service in the cause of equal rights can never be forgotten.

Two of these giants of our time retire from the Congress — Emanuel Celler and William M. McCulloch. The other, Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, resigned from the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

Congressman Celler served in the House of Representatives for a half century. When he first went to Washington, Warren Harding was in the White House, the First World War had been over for less than four years, and black people were still being lynched and persecuted throughout the South.

Many of the changes since that time are directly due to Father Hesburgh's support for Manny Celler's work. He helped pass every single civil rights bill passed in this century. As Chairman of the powerful House Judiciary Committee, he used the leverage of his position to get things done for working people and for black people.

Perhaps his finest hour came in 1964, when he vastly strengthened the civil rights bill then before the Congress and helped push it through, although many people including those in the White House felt so strong a bill would not pass. Celler, a Democrat, had plenty of help in that struggle but perhaps no one was more crucial to the bill's passage than his colleague from the republican side of the aisle, William McCulloch.

McCulloch's leadership prevented the civil rights bill from becoming a partisan issue. By providing leadership to Republican House members; he insured not only passage for the bill, but also that civil rights would be above party politics and above narrow political expedience.

Later, when the rights of black people became less fashionable, he stuck to his guns and continually supported progressive legislation. Congressman Celler and McCulloch performed ably, as a

team and also as individuals working separately on specific issues of importance to minorities. They were always on the side of right and justice.

The third great figure leaving Washington, Father Hesburgh, does so because the Administration has asked him to. As Chairman of the Civil Rights Commission, Father Hesburgh has been a principled and vigorous fighter for civil rights. While Presidents and Cabinet officers pointed to the good things the federal government was doing, Father "Ted" was busy putting the spotlight on how far we have yet to go.

Under his leadership the Commission developed a reputation for tough-minded, aggressive independence. While other agencies seemed to be slackening support for civil rights, the Commission's non-partisan and principled stands were bright spots in an otherwise dismal picture.

New accounts say that Father Hesburgh's support for busing as a means of desegregating the schools led to his ouster. This is unfortunate, not only because Washington desperately needs outspoken men like Father Hesburgh, but also because it needs to have men who can stand up to the anti-busing steamroller. Administration policy on busing is wrong, both educationally and morally, and the government cannot stand to be purged of good men who recognize this.

I know that Father Hesburgh will carry on his fight for civil rights and for busing outside of official office, as he did when he was a Commissioner. This country not only tolerates economic poverty but it tolerates poverty in leadership as well, a poverty that can only be increased with the departure from office of Father Hesburgh.

Too often we in the civil rights movement are so caught up in the struggle against our enemies that we forget to honor our friends. As these three giants leave Washington, they should know that they carry with them the thanks and the gratitude of numberless black Americans, on whose behalf they have struggled.

YES, WE ALL TALK
By Marcus H. Southers, Ph.D.

Nasalized Vowels
QUESTION: An English teacher has told me that I nasalized my vowels. What does she mean by this and what can I do about it?—B. L.C.
ANSWER: By nasalizing vowels (A, E, I, O, U) is meant that the speaker is letting too much of the sound go through the nose. Proper vowels are made when the soft palate closes the throat area, so that the emitted air goes out through the mouth. The breath for speech should never go out of the nose on vowels.

TO DO something about this problem, go to a speech teacher. If you cannot, then listen to someone pronounce each vowel correctly, and then with "cul de sac" resonance (the mouth is the sounding cavity), much similar to blowing air over a bottle opening.
Next, imitate this person as nearly as you can; try to hear your difficulty. This is the first step in your progress. Unless you hear what you are saying, you will never improve. Train your ears to listen to the difference between the right and wrong sounding of vowels.
THIRD, relax the mandible (low jaw), keep the tongue from humping in the back unnecessarily, relax the throat muscles, and try pronouncing the following words: rat, matter, crate, five, preach, feet, all, oil, voice, high, seat, hog, loud, meat, neck, sled, toy, nice, etc.
READERS: Fee my booklet, The 25-Words Most Frequently Mispronounced, send one dollar to M. H. Southers, Florida A&M University, Box 183, Tallahassee, Florida 32307.

The Carolina Times
L. E. AUSTIN
Editor-Publisher, 1957-1971.
Published every Saturday at Durham, N. C.
by United Publishers, Inc.
MRS. VIVIAN AUSTIN EDMONDS, Publisher
CLARENCE ROBERTS, Advertising Manager
J. ELWOOD CARTER, Advertising Manager
Second Class Postage Paid at Durham, N. C. ST-70
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
United States and Canada.....1 Year \$4.00
United States and Canada.....2 Years \$7.50
Foreign Countries.....1 Year \$7.50
Single Copy.....20 Cents
Printed Office Located at 498 West Polk Street,
Durham, North Carolina 27708