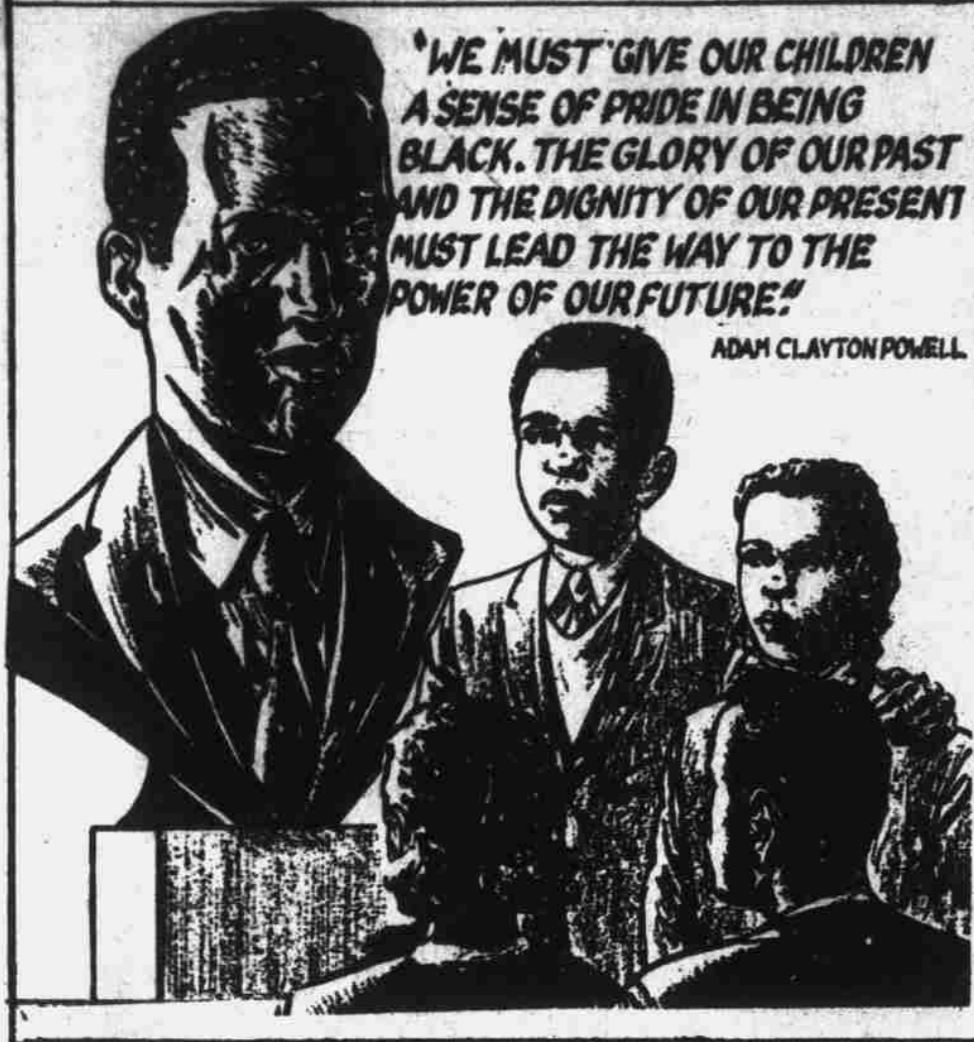


A HERITAGE TO BE PROUD OF

'WE MUST GIVE OUR CHILDREN A SENSE OF PRIDE IN BEING BLACK. THE GLORY OF OUR PAST AND THE DIGNITY OF OUR PRESENT MUST LEAD THE WAY TO THE POWER OF OUR FUTURE.'

ADAM CLAYTON POWELL



"A Little Knowledge Is A Dangerous Thing"

Twice the renowned jazz musician, Dexter Gordon, has played in the St. Joseph's Performing Arts Center in Durham, and at both performances, the audience has consisted mostly of white university students, some from as far away as Greensboro and High Point.

Similarly, when a "Salute to Black Cultural Arts" was held in the McDougald Gymnasium at North Carolina Central University, April 28, only a few black students who did not participate on the program chose to attend.

Many students complained that the \$10 admission price was too high. Yet, if one has had the occasion to attend a Kool and The Gang, Prince or Larry Graham concert at the Dorton Arena in Raleigh, where the door price is \$8, one has witnessed some ten to twelve thousand predominantly black students, clad in new outfits, who have found the money to attend.

The problem, then, is a reflection of the type of cultural breadth that our youngsters get during their formative years. Too many teachers are simply not teaching our black students to appreciate what is fine and brilliant in their own culture because these teachers, too, are unaware of what is considered to be aesthetically superior to black culture.

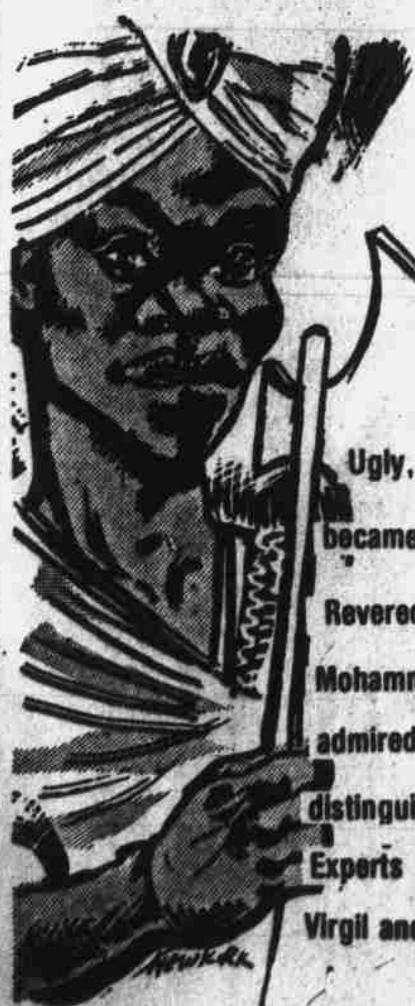
One point of focus would be the coming music program, "Blow Out," to be held next week at Durham High School. What a fine way to expose students to some of the brilliant music created by blacks on this continent. The program instead, will include one spiritual and another selection by a black artist. In what will possibly be a one and one-half hour program, there will be less than five minutes of

black music. What a tragedy! The philosophers and psychologists have been screaming at us for centuries that the first step to learning is to learn one's self. One innovative graduate student in a Texas university has developed a successful reading program using music as a point of interest. He is to be commended, and, until and unless the majority of teachers who teach black students truly learn how and what they should be taught, there will continue to be difficulties in an attempt to teach them to appreciate other fine cultures. The first step then is to teach black students to appreciate the brilliance in their own culture.

In their professional training, many teachers were overly exposed to European culture, and somehow they became narrowly consumed by it. They have convinced themselves since that time that Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Beethoven and Rachmanioff (and the like) are the *raison d'etre* of the musical experience. But how can such a brief encounter with world music render one knowledgeable of all of the brilliant music black Americans have created?

Until all teachers, then, learn to appreciate a breadth of good music, and unless these teachers find the vehicles by which to teach black students to appreciate their music, our black students will continue to carry portable stereo systems down what are reputed to be "our halls of knowledge" popping their fingers and literally blowing their brains out on the top ten tunes of the week. For too many teachers have acquired only a small amount of knowledge on the subject of art, vis-a-vis black music, and a "little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

Things You Should Know



ANTAR

"The FATHER OF HEROES" ... about 600 AD

Ugly, flat-nosed & black, born a slave, he became the greatest soldier and poet the Orient.

Revered by 335,000,000 Mohammedans of whom

Mohammed said, "He is the only Bedouin I ever admired." He became a soldier at age 15, so

distinguishing himself in battle that he was set free.

Experts find his poetry equal to that of Homer, Virgil and Tasso.

Affirmative Action

Racism And Violence

Gerald C. Horne, Esquire

Racism has become — unfortunately — such a common facet of life in the USA that even the most outrageous excesses barely receive attention or merit note.

It is all well and good that national attention has been focused on the Atlanta child slayings, the Mobile lynching, the New York City slayings, the murders in Buffalo and Salt Lake City, etc.

Nevertheless, the attention focused on these incidents should not blind us to the fact that such racist inspired mayhem is no longer an aberration or freak occurrence but has become part of an overall pattern and practice that has few parallels outside of Nazi Germany in the 1930's. Let a few more examples suffice to illustrate this trend:

The Jackson (Miss.) Advocate reported recently the lynching of 32-year-old Roy Washington in rural Holmes County, near Pickens, Mississippi. The young black worker had been shot in the head, his hands bound behind him. He had been weighted down by a scissor jack attached to his body by barbed wire wrapped around his waist and had been beaten badly about the head and face.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which worked zealously in infiltrating and disrupting civil rights groups in Mississippi in the 1960's has been a virtual Rip Van Winkle on this case, investigating briefly and inadequately. Local residents who recall the bad old days when lynchings were as prevalent as blooming magnolias have been paralyzed with fear and have remained rather tight-lipped about the entire situation.

The slaying of Roy Washington — a slaying that cries out for a full-scale, comprehensive investigation — was more bizarre perhaps but not dissimilar from the lot that has befallen other black males of his era. Indeed, homicide is the leading cause of death among black males between the ages of 25 to 44 years, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. The average life expectancy of black males, unlike other groups, is declining. The leading cause of death in this country is heart disease but the black population is at about one-fourth greater risk than whites; for stroke (cerebrovascular diseases), the second leading cause, blacks are at twice the risk of whites; for the third leading cause of death, cancer, the black population is at one-third greater risk than whites.

But homicide presents the most striking statistics. Blacks are six times more likely to die of homicide. During the Vietnam War, a war where blacks were put "at the point," leading the charge, almost 6,000 were killed. Today the war is over but the traumatizing

Effects remain. In fact the Multi-Service Veteran's Center in Philadelphia says that more Vietnam vets have been claimed by suicide than by the actual war. Thus far, over 50,000 Vietnam veterans have taken their own lives, a high percentage of them black. The reasons cited for the suicides range from psychological stress to despair over the inability to obtain and retain jobs.

Yet with all of its problems, the scarred rice paddies of Vietnam may have been safer than the urban areas of the United States. The number of police killings of blacks has shot up so dramatically that black males — especially — are in danger of becoming an "endangered species." As a matter of fact, those ecologists campaigning on behalf of saving the sperm whale or baby seals would do well to devote time and energy to saving "homo sapiens-male-Negroid-United States;" their probable extinction is obviously on the agenda of some.

Things have gotten so bad that one would think that "open season" has been declared on black males. Though this may seem like a bit of morbid humor to some, the fact is that the deputy sheriff of Okaloosa County in Florida — a stone's throw from rebellion torn Miami — circulated a letter within the department recently declaring "open hunting season" on blacks. This racist outrage has brought forth angry demands for his immediate sacking but thus far the only response from the police department has been to dismiss the whole episode as a "joke." This is no "joke" for Florida blacks nor to the late Larry Williams, a 16-year-old black student recently found dead in the Dade County jail with "several bumps on his head, his bottom lip was busted and two front teeth were missing."

Dismissing signs of this 1980 Holocaust as a "joke," not to be taken seriously, is also part of a national trend. Apparently, they feel that blacks will be so busy laughing that they won't know what hit them, at least not until the gas jets of the ovens have been turned on. However, the black community has failed to see any wit in racism and has responded accordingly. Note the latest abomination in Portland, Oregon where policemen, as a "joke," tossed four dead opossums in front of a restaurant in a black neighborhood recently (dead "coons" — get it?). As many as eight white officers were involved in this incident. Norman Monroe, deputy director of the Portland Urban League, has lent support to a number of demonstrations calling for the swift firing of the culprits. Rev. John Jackson, co-chairman of Portland's Black United Front has expressed himself similarly.

But with the Ku Klux Klan and Nazi Party

actively recruiting amongst police forces nationally, it is little wonder that Portland blacks and Miami blacks or the Afro-American community generally see anything funny about genocide. Unfortunately, there are those in the white community who sensibilities have been so numbed by cascading racism that they have lost touch with any glimmer of humanity. Because of complicated historical, psychological and other reasons, their overt violence is disproportionately directed at black males.

But "in-house" it is well not to unduly emphasize this aspect, as some would like to do. Certain males wind up alleging that the reason they can't get jobs is because "the white man" (sic) can "fill two quotas" by hiring a black woman rather than a black male. Yet the fact is that violence in its myriad forms is directed against the Afro-American community generally. The reality of black women heading households being at the bottom of the per capita income ladder engenders and reflects a violence that murder rates cannot subsume.

The powerful Educational Testing Service (ETS) which administers the Scholastic Aptitude Tests for entrance into colleges and medical and law schools (the effect it has on our youth's future is tremendous) has been charged with selling lists containing the names of white students to certain schools requesting them. So averts the journal *Equal Opportunity Forum*. Their Student Search Service (SSS) supplies schools and scholarship agencies with overall information about students; for "11 cents a name" SSS breaks down lists of students by race, as well as by income brackets.

The schools that use this "service" to ignore and pass over qualified, eager black youth for admission into the hallowed halls, are doing untold violence to black males and females deprived of education and inevitably, jobs.

Tommy Quinn, head of the International Woodworkers Union, has stated that in his industry, black workers a dying of lung cancer due to the dust and splinters that they breathe, and that they are going deaf because of the noise level. Black furniture workers in North Carolina inhale lacquer fumes on the job — and often collapse. Black women, who comprise a high percentage of these workers, when pregnant, have to deal with the effects of chemicals and dust on their unborn children.

In sum, the racism and violence that keeps Atlanta awake is something that touches each and every one of us — and each of us will have to push harder if this wave is to be beaten back.

To Be Equal

Budget Victims Are The Poor

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

The Administration's budget proposals, loaded with cuts in social programs, have been roundly condemned as harming poor people. Those charges have been denied by officials pointing to the "safety net" programs left intact, primarily benefiting the non-poor, programs like social security, Medicare, veterans benefits and others.

Now, the Congressional Budget Office, in an analysis of the budget cuts, concludes that the poor will indeed lose out in this budget; and in the most direct possible way — through real reductions in income.

The CBO estimates a minimum of 20 to 25 million people, most of them below the poverty line and the rest barely above it, would have their incomes cut by losing welfare benefits, food stamps, school lunches, and public service jobs.

Those were the only program areas covered by the CBO study. But Medicaid is slated to be capped, and the people knocked off the eligibility list will come from the ranks of the poor. The same holds for cuts in housing aid.

Energy assistance to help poor people cope with escalating home heating costs will be combined in a block grant with other assistance programs. That step too, would deprive many low-income families of important income assistance.

So the CBO figure of 20 to 25 million victims of the budget cuts has to be taken as a rock bottom, minimal estimate. The real body count is far higher.

Again, destroying the myth of that supposed safety net, the study says that the worst hit would be the worst-off — children in families headed by nonwhite women. Also hit hard would be the working poor, people whose earnings are so low they need some welfare or food stamp aid to get by.

The CBO report also says that the majority of the poorest families in the nation would lose some income. Their definition of "poorest" is income fifty per cent of the poverty line. At about \$4,000 a year for a family of four that's not poverty, it's destitution.

Partisans of the Administration's plan like to say that its proposed tax cut will help balance things out. But the tax cut won't affect poor people at all. And most working families will find that the rise in their social security taxes more than offsets any tax cut they get.

Only at the upper levels of income groups will the tax cuts amount to much, part of that strange philosophy that assumes well-off people need incentives to work harder while low and moderate income people do not.

The underlying assumption behind the budget cuts in social programs and the tax cuts that favor the better-off is that lower federal spending and incentives to save and invest will stimulate the economy and result in non-inflationary growth. The payoff would be jobs in the private sector for today's jobless.

That's a neat theory, simple and direct. As an example of wishful thinking it is peerless, but in the real world I fear the outcome will be somewhat different.

By tilting tax breaks to the affluent, leisure rather than more investing would be encouraged. By cutting federal spending, still greater pressures will be placed on state and local governments who will either raise taxes or cut services. By vastly increasing military purchases, inflation will be sparked.

And, most serious of all, by cutting the incomes of the poorest citizens, the policy encourages alienation and bitterness that are likely, in the long run, to prove more dangerous and more expensive than a budget in deficit.

This budget represents the almost perfect matching of bad economic policy with bad social policy.

Spectacles: A Closer Look

Atlanta Mourns

By Ada M. Fisher, M.D.

The number of black children murdered or found dead now exceeds two dozen for Atlanta, Georgia with no end or leading clues in sight. Monthly, Atlanta uncovers the bodies of young pre-teen black children, usually male, found dead over the previous months. Atlanta mourns as the black community suffers in horrifying silence.

Initially a rage seemed to emanate as the bodies were discovered in an atmosphere of racial distrust prompted by the September 1980 killing of four black men within a 36-hour period in Buffalo, N.Y. In October, the deaths of two more black men followed — this time with their hearts cut out. Sniper fire in Oklahoma City, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Salt Lake City, and Johnstown, Pa., has felled 28 black men several of whom were in the presence of white female companions. Vernon Jordan, executive director of the National Urban League, survived an ambush attack. In Greensboro, a "Death to the Klan" rally left black death as well. Newspapers and magazine frequently speak

of the military training being undertaken by Ku Klux Klan and Nazi groups in Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois, North Carolina and Texas. The hostilities continue to mount as our survival is constantly threatened.

Though convinced that racism is at the heart of all of these deaths, Atlanta's children may be somehow different. Everyone has his or her theories about the murders and silently the black community must sense that the murders are by the hands of someone the children knew or trusted — someone who also is most likely black. A neighbor, a public service officer or one posing as such, a man or a woman are all possibilities. However, the real problem is the violence in our society at whose core lies the issue of black-on-black crime.

When it is our neighborhoods the crimes seem to pile up, the criminals weasel their way back on to the streets, and the assault on the black citizenry by blacks continues

(Continued On Page 16)

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