

Editorials

INFLATION AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY

Inflation is an ugly word that evokes in people's mind a picture of high prices. Blacks have always been in inflation situation. Welfare checks can buy but few items needed for the merger lifestyle of many welfare recipients.

The percentage of blacks out of jobs is more than that of the whites and the number of blacks in high income brackets is less than those of white people. If more whites are in higher income brackets, less dependent on paid jobs and have a more steady money flow, then the blacks must feel the impact of inflation more than their white counterpart.

More blacks have no discretionary income, that is money left over after necessary bills have been paid. Since blacks have few dollars chasing more goods, such as gas, sugar, items of clothing, food, and many other necessary bills and since many whites have more money to spend on those items, it makes sense to say that black people understand the adverse meaning of inflation more readily than some whites.

That is why we think that the meeting by some 60 black leaders on inflation is timely and worthwhile. The documented evidence of inflation on blacks before the meeting points to a long period of hardship among many blacks if nothing is done about inflation immediately.

If the spending income of blacks continues to climb down and the cost of goods continue to climb up we may have a situation where the average black family will not only suffer malnutrition but, on the long run, eat nothing but inferior and unbalanced diet. The effect of this kind of situation could be catastrophic.

Any remedy to the ills of inflation in this country will benefit from the views of blacks. Black knew the effects of inflation and will probably suggest one of the many effective ways to combat what the President has called public enemy number one. To exclude the blacks from inflation discussion is like excluding a patient from a doctor's examination of the patient's illness. Inflation cure has not until now responded to the medicine prescribed by many economics. Maybe black voice will suggest a new and possible avenue to the control of inflation -- crises.

WE MUST VOTE

Many Black Americans have become disenchanted with the ballot in recent years. We look at the many civil rights laws that have been passed by those we voted into office. We consider the ineffectiveness of those laws and the men we put into office and quickly discard the notion of voting. What happens, though, if we do not vote?

Are we not, in effect, giving what potential power we have to those who want to take advantage of an apathetic race? The most important march today is to the ballot box. The results of the 1972 elections were a reflection of the extraordinary success voter registration drives throughout the country.

More than 600 blacks, the greatest number ever, were elected to public office in the south. Three new blacks, along with 13 black incumbents, were elected to Congress. Black representation in the state legislatures increased by 12 percent.

In Atlanta, blacks turned out to the polls in greater proportion than did whites because of the efforts of civil rights organizations. As a result Andrew Young became the first Deep South black to win election to Congress since reconstruction ended. In Houston, five blacks were elected to the state legislatures and a black woman, Barbara Jordan, won election to Congress.

It may be a long time before we can know the effect of increased political activity. It may turn out, however, that nothing will ever change but until you can think of something else to do...Vote.

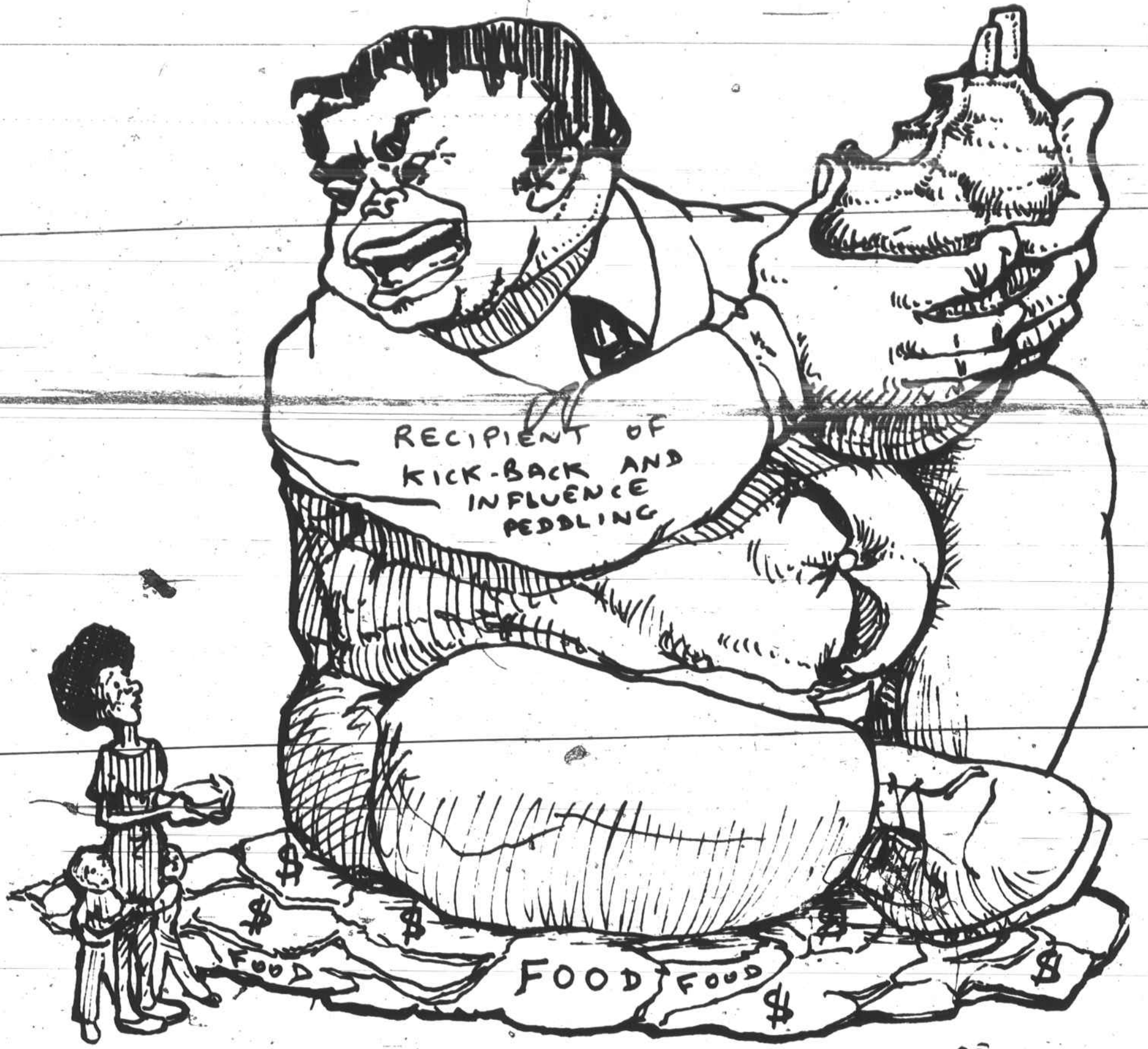


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Opinions expressed by columnist in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the policy of this newspaper.



"I don't believe in welfare and social give-away schemes."

Reader Pleads Chronicle Support

Gentlemen:

Please allow me to express my concern for you as you seek to develop a Newspaper which will provide a communication system in our community.

I am sincerely hoping that our

community will support this endeavor in three major ways:

1. That the Black Businessman will support you by advertising his goods and services...
2. That the community will provide you with news...
3. That our community will sense the importance of reading a

newspaper that speaks to the Black experience...

I pray that God will bless us as you begin this worth while adventure.

Respectfully Yours,
Connell Osborne



Award-winning actress Cicely Tyson appeared in Memorial Hall, UNC, Chapel Hill on Wednesday, September 25 in "An Evening with Cicely Tyson," a program of dramatic and poetic readings. Curtain time was 8 p.m. Miss Tyson is best known for her award-winning roles in "Sounder" and "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman."