



Watching the KKK

The words "Ku Klux Klan" bring to mind the worst of what America has had to offer for black Americans-- the burning, shooting and other atrocities committed on behalf of "white supremacy."

Yet, those atrocities came to an end. When black people pulled themselves together in a massive thrust in the courts and in the streets to make racist behavior not only illegal but unfashionable, groups such as the above-mentioned withered.

In the America of 1978, a small fringe element has attempted to revive those words and bring back the asinine ideals the letters "KKK" represent. Here in Forsyth County, what appears to be no more than several persons have sought to spread their movement into our school system.

First, they sent literature announcing the formation of a "Klan Youth Corps." Then, they announced their intention to rent a school auditorium. To make things worse, they have requested to use a school which has a black principal.

The outcry from the black community has been massive, in terms of phone calls of protest and other signs, and rightfully so, because blacks must never lose

an opportunity to fight racism.

However, the same laws which have brought us protection also apply to those who happen to belong to the Ku Klux Klan. The school board is bound by legal precedents to rent the building to anyone who complies with board regulations.

These latter-day Klansmen have taken advantage of that reality to draw in inordinate amount of attention to themselves. We hardly think they deserve a great deal of concern.

We should be more concerned with coalescing to insure that our communities get, for instance, the kind of education which our children need.

The fact that such groups feel emboldened to crawl onto the limelight should serve as a message that we are deficient in displaying our collective power.

We should, rather than play into the hands of the KKK, build our political and economic strength to the point that we would not feel threatened to invite the KKKers to meet in our homes.

Of course, they'd have to come in through the back door.

How Soon They Forget

There is a chill wind blowing from the North, bearing the news that Carter Administration budget advisors plan to scrap or cut federal programs in the areas of job training and creation, education, health and transportation.

If those portions of the proposed Carter budget leaked to date are indicative, we might also expect cuts in community development and other assistance programs for state and local governments ranging from criminal justice to environmental protection.

The theme of the Carter budget is to be inflation-fighting through a balanced budget. No one can argue that inflation does not demand urgent solutions.

However, we note that the selections for cutbacks almost uniformly will have a negative impact on poor and minority communities. Most serious would be the reduction in the number of slots provided under the various programs falling under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

CETA is just the tip of the iceberg. Minority scholarships to medical schools might be down the drain, and bus riders may wind up paying higher fares if federal transit subsidies fail to keep up with increased costs.

Unfortunately, the Carter Administration, which black voters counted on to provide new approaches toward government bringing service to the people, is reverting to the Nixonian practices of penalizing those who can

least afford it for the nation's economic problems. These cutbacks will have an impact beyond their immediate effects. Keep people jobless, and the federal government will wind up paying more in unemployment benefits and welfare, which are largely uncontrollable.


Make it harder for people to get to work or to receive the training to get good jobs, and you wind up reducing the taxes they might pay.

Our advice to the President is that cutbacks should come in areas which have the least impact on the lives of people. Administrative costs and paperwork should be trimmed instead of benefits or services.

We happen to believe that the federal government can both balance its budget and meet the essential needs of its citizens. If our leaders can't handle a half-trillion dollars, they should entrust it to some of us who perform wonders with half-a-hundred dollars.

The Carter proposals are not the end of the process. They are just the beginning. Eventually, the full details will be open to public scrutiny and to Congressional approval.


Budget making is inevitably a political process. Those who make their feelings known most forcefully most often wind up winning. In a year when most programs will be asked to cut back, it becomes imperative for citizens to begin to understand which programs benefit and to make their wishes known.



Getting Along

Robbery Committed

Under Stress



Dr. James P. Comer
Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint

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Dear Dr. Poussaint: Four months shy of completing a three year tour in the army, I managed to get convicted of possessing three-fourths of a gram of amphetamine crystal. That won me a six month term at a military prison.

After being released from prison, I used marijuana and drank alcoholic beverages.

It was also during the period shortly after my release that I met a young lady whom I agreed to marry. However, the marriage never became a reality. Because of the strong feelings I had acquired for the lady, it was more than I

could bear that she had at the eleventh hour changed her mind about marriage. So I planned what was to be a perfectly disguised suicide; I'd pull a robbery with a toy gun because I lacked courage to do anything to myself.

Well, no shots were fired during the robbery and even though I got away temporarily, not much can be said for me as a robber. I dropped the money bag at the door of the grocery store. It earned me 15 years in prison.

About a year later, after I had given the whole episode every thought possible, it scared me to realize that I'm the same person who was once in that frame of mind.

Now, could it happen again? I wonder about that now and then.

J.R.: Dear J.R.: It sounds like you committed the robbery under extreme mental stress rather than because you were basically of a criminal mind. The emo-

tional state which caused you to act out a robbery for self-destructive reasons is one that frequently goes unrecognized not only in the courts by psychiatrists as well.

Basically, it appears that you were suffering the loss of your girlfriend and experiencing a great deal of grief. Under these circumstances, it is not uncommon to have thoughts of suicide and homicide.

Fortunately, you did not hurt your girlfriend. Instead, you committed a robbery with a toy gun in a situation where it was probable that you could have been killed by the employees or the police. Indeed, your act would have been a form of suicide.

A few social scientists have referred to this type of suicide as "Victim precipitated homicide." One wonders how many blacks who have a staggering rate of black-on-black homicide are involved in such purposeful self-destruction. Although you did not get killed in your attempted

robbery, you made sure that you were caught.

Fifteen years in prison is a high price to pay to punish yourself over the loss of your girlfriend.

Regardless of the psychological reasons, society rules that one's debt is paid in prison. Recognizing your mistake by demonstrating good behavior may perhaps gain you an early parole.

Your crime was a one-time affair which occurred under psychological duress and is therefore unlikely to re-occur if you gain some understanding into your emotional reactions. In turn, this insight may help you to gain better control over your behavior.

Take advantage of any rehabilitation programs in prison. Improve your education and skills so that your adjustment and re-entry into the outside world will be easier for you when you are released.

Dr. Poussaint

Speaking Out

By Perry R. Leazer

On Tuesday, November 7, 1978, newspapers all over the United States reported that over one hundred administrators from predominantly black colleges in the United States met in Washington with Department of Health, Education and Welfare officials to explore ways to increase the flow of federal grants at their institutions.

A number of questions come to mind on the necessity of such a meeting. As reported by the press, the meeting was held in an effort to keep a pledge by President Jimmy Carter to find ways to help these beleaguered institutions. Included among possible questions were, "What happened to public supported institutions?" and "What about church related colleges and universities?"

Hardly a day goes by when the public is not reminded that all higher education is suffering from a lack of funds. Apparently, the preferred treatment by HEW with the predominantly black institutions makes them a unique case.

It is no secret that they are in dire financial straits. For the most part, predominantly black state-assisted institutions continue to be victims of the numbers game when the appropriations are handed out. Simply stated, funds are provided mainly on a "head-count basis". Very little consideration is given for upgrading these institutions that have long been neglected by state author-

ities, while other have contributed to their own undoing with a lack of values in determining the best educational programs for their students. Support from church organizations for private institutions has been on the decline for years.

No one can ignore the fact that a number of the financial problems faced by these institutions were self-inflicted. Apparently very little long range planning was taken into consideration when they borrowed funds to build new facilities, including dormitories, human development centers (Ivory tower names for gymnasiums, health and physical education centers) student centers, and academic buildings.

Students are needed to pay off these loans. The market for students is a tough one. Black students are actively pursued by predominantly white institutions and community colleges, and technical institutes have two-year career-satisfying programs that attract black students also. The sad fact is, in most cases, these predominantly black institutions get the "left overs" and in some cases to meet a projected enrollment, admission policies are ignored to insure that dormitories are filled.

There is very little public sentiment for higher education and even more minute for predominantly black institutions. Some of the advertisements seeking support for these institutions do more harm than good. Without referring

specifically to the advertisements, a case for support could be better stated. Higher education in states where they have predominantly black institutions tend to burden these institutions with "Busy work" so they cannot be creative and develop solutions for their many problems. For example, defense for their continued existence when questioned by state court guidelines, justification for budget requests that have probably been justified until they cannot be justified any more.

Colleges, black and white, need to take a new look at their career counseling programs. The job market is flooded with people with college degrees that are almost as worthless as the ink that states the name of the recipient. Despite the fact that indicators point to the fact that very few teachers, social scientists, political scientists, and psychologists are needed, students are still guided into these dead-end programs. Colleges and universities

are the last to accept new management techniques. Unless it has been researched and reviewed by three professors, plus the cost of consultants, management techniques to improve administration

procedures have not been adopted. Many colleges are still posting student accounts by hand, registration is still a period to dread and line item budgeting still is a mystery to most. Needless to say, if these and other management procedures would be adopted, resources could be redirected into other meaningful programs.

Alumni need to be corralled and their energies directed into activities that will improve the academic programs of the institutions. This is an area that needs immediate attention because of the continued abuse by groups that continue to solicit funds in the name of the institution and the administrative costs to get the funds to the institution often exceeds the need.

Does God Answer Prayers?



Hall

A recent survey of its readers by the U.S. Catholic Magazine found that 90 per cent of its readers believe that God answers prayers. The Chronicle Camera went to Joe's Fine Foods on Bowen Boulevard to ask the shoppers, "Do you believe God answers prayers?"

Herman Hall- Yes. I've been sick a lot lately. If it wasn't for him I don't think I would have made it.

Anthony Jones-Occasionally he answers prayers. I do believe there is a God. No doubt about it, there is a God at least that's what I feel.



Jones

Blonnie Dennis- Yes he does. I'm a believer. I don't believe that anything is impossible. Without him I couldn't do nothing. He's a good God. If someone doesn't believe in the Almighty, I feel for them.

Wayne James- Sure I do. Everything I got in this world, God gave it to me, not man. God answers prayers. No one else did it for me. I get on my knees and pray for what I need and I get it.

Edith Cox- Yes. I just came home from surgery. I've been very sick. God answered my prayers.



Dennis



James



Cox

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