VIEWPOINTS

editorials • columns



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 frings 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 masssive, 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

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

How Soon They Forget

plan to scrap or cut federal programs in the areas of job training and creation, education, health and transporta-

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 pooor 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

There is a chill wind blowing from the North, bearing least afford it for the nation's economic problems. the news that Carter Administration budget advisors 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. A. ninistrative 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

Budget making is inevitably a politcal 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. Alvin F. Poussain

[Alvin F. Poussaint and could bear that she had at tional state which caused robbery, you made sure James P. Comer are psy- the eleventh hour changed you to act out a robbery for chiatrists and the authors of her mind about marriage. self-destructive reasons is

Dr. James P. Comer

associate professor of psy- suicide; I'd pull a robbery the courts chiatry and associate dean with a toy gun because I chiatrists as well. for student affairs at Har- lacked courage to do any- Basically, it appears that vard Medical School. Dr. thing to myself. Comer is professor of child psychiatry and associate during the robbery and periencing a great deal of dean for student affairs at even though I got away grief. Under these cir-Yale University School of temporarily, not much can cumstances, it is not un-

months shy of completing a the door of the grocery Fortunately, you did not, three year tour in the army, store. It earned me 15 hurt your girlfriend. In-I managed to get convicted years in prison. of possessing three-fourths About a year later, after I robbery with a toy gun in a crystal. That won me a six sode every thought pos- bable that you could have month term at a military sible, it scared me to realize been killed by the employ-

prison, I used marijuana of mind. and drank alcoholic bever- Now, could it happen ages.

It was also during the now and then. period shortly after my release that I met a young

Dear Dr. Poussaint: Four I dropped the money bag at of suicide and homicide.

again? I wonder about that have referred to this type of

ity. Because of the strong stress rather than because poseful self-destruction. feelings I had acquired for you were basically of a Although you did not get you are released. the lady, it was more than I criminal mind. The emo-killed in your attempted

the book "Black Child So I planned what was to one that frequently goes Care." Dr. Poussaint is be a perfectly disguised unrecognized not only in

> you were suffering the loss Well, no shots were fired of your girlfriend and ex be said for me as a robber. common to have thoughts

stead, you committed a form of suicide.

A few social scientists your behavior. suicide as "Victim precip-J.R. itated homicide."

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

Your crime was a one-time affair which occurred under psychological duress and is of a gram of amphetamine had given the whole epi- situation where it was pro- therefore unlikely to reoccur if you gain some understanding into your ethat I'm the same person ees or the police. Indeed, motional reactions. In turn, After being released from who was once in that frame your act would have been a this insight may help you to gain better control over

Take advantage of any re-One habilitation programs in wonders how many blacks prison. Improve your edulady whom I agreed to Dear J.R.: It sounds like who have a staggering rate cation and skills so that marry. However, the mar- you committed the robbery of black-on-black homicide your adjustment and reriage never became a real- under extreme mental are involved in such pur- entry into the outside world will be easier for you when

Dr. Poussaint TO A CONTROLL AS LICE SECRETARISM SERVICE SERV

Speaking Out

stitutions.

the United States reported doing with a lack of values port could be better stated. Unless it has been reington with Department of for private institutions has utions with "Busy work" so improve administration Health, Education and Welfare officials to explore years.

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. questions were, "What happened to public suppor-

ted institutions?" and "What about church related colleges and universities?"

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.

in dire financial straits. For the most part, predomgame 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- good. Without referring

On Tuesday, November 7, ities, while other have con- specifically to the adver- are the last to accept new 1978, newspapers all over tributed to their own untisements, a case for supmanagement techniques.

cial problems faced by tinued existance when tration is still a period to A number of questions these institutions were self- questioned by state court dread and line item budinflicted. Apparently very guidelines, justification for geting still is a mystery to little long range planning budget requests that have most. Needless to say, if was taken into consider- probably been justified un- these and other manageation when they borrowed til they cannot be justified ment procedures would be funds to build new facil- any more. ities, including dormitories, Colleges, black and white, be redirected into other human development cen- need to take a new look at meaningful programs. ters (ivory tower names for their career counseling pro- Alumni need to be corral-Included among possible gymnasiums, health and grams. The job market is led and their energies diphysical education centers) flooded with people with rected into activities that student centers, and aca- college degrees that are will improve the academic demic buildings.

Students are needed to ink that states the name of tions. This is an area that pay off these loans. The the recipient. Despite the needs immediate attention market for students is a fact that indicators point to because of the continued Hardly a day goes by tough one. Black students, the fact that very few abuse by groups that conare actively pursued by teachers, social scientists, tinue to solicit funds in the predominantly white instit- political scientists, and psy- name of the institution tutions and community col- chologists are needed, stu- and the administrative leges, and technical instit- dents are still guided into costs to get the funds to the utes have two-year career- these dead-end programs. institution often exceeds satisfying programs that Colleges and universities the need. attract black students also. The sad fact is, in most cases, these predominantly It is no secret that they are black institutions get the "left overs" and in some cases to meet a projected inantly black state-assisted enrollment, admission poliinstitutions continue to be cies are ignored to insure victims of the numbers 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

that over one hundred ad- in determining the best Higher education in states searched and reviewed by ministrators from predom- educational programs for where they have predomin- three professors, plus the inantly black colleges in the their students. Support antly black institutions cost of consultants, man-United States met in Wash- from church organizations tend to burden these instit- agement techniques to been on the decline for they cannot be creative and procedures have not been develop solutions for their adopted. Many colleges ways to increase the flow of No one can ignore the fact many problems. For exam- are still posting student federal grants at their in- that a number of the finan- ple, defense for their con- accounts by hand, regisadopted, resources could

almost as worthless as the programs of the institu-

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Hall

to ask the shoppers, "Do

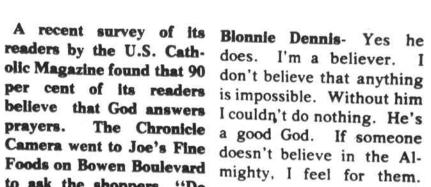
you believe God answers

do believe there is a God.

ally he answers prayers. I and I get it.

prayers?"

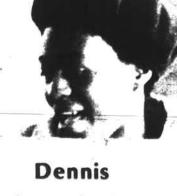




lones

Wayne James - Sure I do. Everything I got in this Herman Hall- Yes. I've world, God gave it to me, been sick a lot lately. If it not man. God answers wasn't for him I don't think prayers. No one else did it for me. I get on my knees Anthony Jones-Occassion- and pray for what I need

Edith Cox- Yes. I just came No doubt about it, there is a home from surgery. I've God at least that's what I been very sick. God answered my prayers.







James