



Scarborough



Tolliver



McIlwain



Tate

Chronicle Camera

Blacks say death penalty won't stop killing

By DAVID R. RANKIN
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Chronicle recently polled area residents and asked them if they believe in the death penalty and if they think the death penalty will cut down on the number of crimes in which people get killed.

James Dillard, city employee: "I don't believe in the death penalty, and I don't necessarily think that it will stop people from killing anyone."

John Tate, IMC Fertilizer Co. employee: "I believe in the death penalty. They call it justice. That (the death penalty) is not going to

stop anyone. People will do what they want."

Fanny McIlwain, housewife: "No. I don't believe in the death penalty. Some people (who kill) don't know any better. They just do it for the devil."

Mary Moore, housewife: "Yes, I believe in it. But it's not going to stop people from killing. They will keep right on doing it anyway."

Sharon Martin, Burlington Socks Co. employee: "No and no, because if somebody wants to

kill somebody, they're going to kill them. And if they want to be smart about it, they'll kill them in a way where they won't get caught."

Ruden Smith, Thomasville Furniture Co. employee: "I do not believe in the death penalty. I don't believe that the death penalty will stop people from killing someone if the person mistreats you."

Ivan Miller, technical writer in Greensboro: "Yes. I believe in the death penalty. No, I don't think the death penalty will stop people from committing

dangerous crimes."

Wilhelmina Tolliver, Temporary Resources employee: "No, I don't believe in the death penalty. I don't think innocent people should get the death penalty."

Vicky Holland, unemployed: "No, I don't believe in the death penalty. I don't think the death penalty will stop people from killing."

Alex Scarborough, self-employed: "Yes. I believe in the death penalty. It will stop people from committing crimes."

White middle-class not as ritzy as it looks

By DR. CHARLES FAULKNER
Syndicated Columnist

I enjoyed this conversation with my friend Steve and would like to share it with you. Indeed, this was a learning experience, with my wise and brilliant friend as my tutor. Here is what Steve told me:

One of my most pleasurable pastimes is just watching the faces of people whom I pass on the streets, who sit on buses or who simply have a cup of coffee at a coffee shop. I study people's faces and find an amazing difference between the expressions on the faces of blacks as opposed to whites.

The difference is astounding. Most whites seem to have not a care in the world. Their faces mirror contentment. Their behavior indicates an objective; a place to go. With blacks, it's an entirely different picture. Their faces mirror tension, turmoil, anxiety and unhappiness. Their behavior indicates combativeness. It's almost as if they are angry at everyone in society and ready to fight at the drop of a hat.

This is probably why statistics reveal that the average black male has a 50/50 chance of being killed by someone else in a fight, mugging or murder. The hostility in blacks is tremendous. It's as if most black males hate themselves and anyone who resembles them (this means other blacks). They are bursting with stress and this stress can, apparently, be released only in physical confrontation -- usually with another black.

I believe that many black males have great misconceptions about

whites and that guides their behavior. This might be the reason that blacks seldom take out their frustrations on whites. Whites, especially middle-class whites, are perceived as gentle, peaceful folks who wouldn't hurt a flea. They are pictured as sophisticates.

But, let me tell you something. I know an owner of a very popular large discotheque who is white and has run it for 25 years. The disco survived the transition of the neighborhood from white to black. When the surrounding neighborhood was white, the disco catered almost exclusively to rough, tough middle-class white clientele. Ten years ago, the whites moved out and blacks moved in. The orientation switched from rock and roll/hillbilly music to soul music. Whites stopped coming but blacks now come in droves.

The owner gave me a sociology lesson last week. He said that the black and white lower classes were essentially the same -- rowdy and addicted to cheap drugs. On the other hand, the differences between the white middle-class disco-dance crowd and the black dance crowd were like night and day. Whites spent an average of \$40 each visit on hard liquor.

Their objective was to get drunk.

Blacks, obviously unaware of this negative characteristic of the middle-class white dance crowd, seem to think that all middle-class whites are suave and sophisticated. Therefore, blacks act cool, suave and sophisticated. Although they spend only \$4.60 per person, they are extremely well-behaved.

Ask any disco owner who

caters to both the black and white middle-class crowds; you will find that they are entirely different. But they do not like to mingle with each other. It's really strange -- whites think middle-class blacks are drunks and addicts; blacks think middle-class whites are sophisticates. But the

reality is that the reverse is true -- at least at many discos.

This behavior does not reveal, however, the deep, consuming anger and self-hatred that torments most blacks and is mirrored on their faces as they leave the discos and go out into the real world.

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Brown From Page A4

75 to 90 percent of all black babies will be born out of wedlock.

At this rate, blacks in America as a community will be annihilated -- no matter how many blacks graduate from college or become millionaires.

We are in the shape we are in because we lost faith in ourselves; we will improve our condition when we regain that faith.

God and economics, faith and money, are an unbeatable combination. Blacks must go back to what works.

Tony Brown is a syndicated columnist and the host of Public

Television's "Tony Brown's Journal," which can be seen Sundays at 6:30 p.m. on Channel 4.

Edelman

From Page A4

That may just be because this place makes them feel good. There should be more like it.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for children.