

## The importance of 'thinking family'

Rhonda Covington is a psychologist and a member of the Family Awareness Task Force, which will hold its annual conference Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Winston Lake Family YMCA from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The conference is free and open to the public.

**THE GUEST COLUMN**  
By RHONDA COVINGTON

In need of some tender loving attention. In fact, all that we should be about as a people should focus in some way on factors that either strengthen or stress our family units.

Why? Because we must begin to accept the reality that societal

forces and strategies that stunt or steal the spirit, if not lives, of ourselves and our progeny. If we are reasonably alive and well, we know them quite well. Hence, the quintessential questions are: "How do we help ourselves, and

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forces have sought historically and continuously to destroy our family units. These units are the very foundations of our lives and set the stage for us to achieve excellence and mastery over our destiny (Thank you, Minister Farrakhan).

where do we start?" (Now, aren't you sick and tired of these questions, too?)

Fortunately, there are organizations like the Family Awareness Task Force, a group of caring people who try to address these questions on a small



Aren't you sick and tired of hearing us talk about us and how "Black people are like this ..." or "don't do that ..." or "can't do such and such," or "will never get 'it' (whatever 'it' is) together?"

Who are these black people who seem only to make the rest of "us" look bad?

Perhaps, somehow, we've failed to remember -- or have successfully managed to forget -- that they are somebody's mother or aunt or grandfather or children.

Perhaps we've forgotten that whether singled, extended or blended, our family networks are

scale. Quite simply, the Task Force tries to remind people that there still exists untapped strength in the family. The strength has always been there, but as we all have become more worldly, we have sacrificed "feeling family" in our outlook toward people. It doesn't matter if we've become selfish or have become overwhelmed by the times. The evidence is pretty conclusive that we seem to only have enough energy to care about

ourselves.

At one time our community was our family and we made concerted efforts to take care of our own.

Whether the Task Force is regarded as a bunch of dogooders or buppies or long-sighted, selfish baby-boomers, the group painfully recognizes that our socio-cultural, political and economic legacies are being left hanging by threads.

The Task Force recognizes that

a whole generation of child-parents whose chances for achieving excellence in some form or another is being seriously limited by parenthood at too early an age and by a government that is increasingly insensitive to the have-nots. This increasing mass of have-nots will lack basic education, two-parent homes, working mothers and/or fathers; basic health care and hope for a better life.

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## The Roundtable's last leg -- and other campaign notes

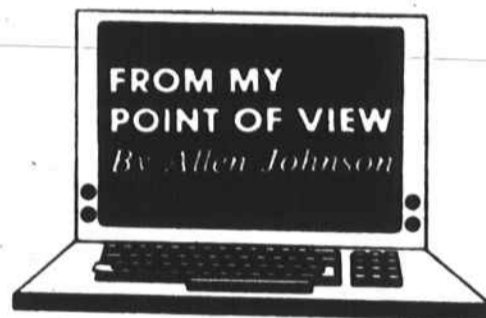
More election notes:

The Black Leadership Roundtable is fast becoming a name without an organization.

First, the Roundtable said it wouldn't endorse in the aldermanic races. Then it said it would. Then it said it wouldn't.

Both the organization's credibility and its influence are waning with its inactivity and indecisiveness.

Acting Convener Bill Tatum said the Roundtable would not endorse -- at least that was the latest word -- because so many of



the candidates are Roundtable members.

According to our count, three candidates -- Patrick Hairston, Ghuneem Furqan and Larry Womble -- were Roundtable members.

According also to our count, there are at least 20 Roundtable members.

That seems to be more than the quorum needed to vote on political choices -- and to provide the direction the organization

was born to provide.

The real reason the Roundtable has abdicated its role as a political sounding board is because it has become a fragmented, disorganized remnant of its former self.

Fret not, Tatum has said, the Roundtable may yet endorse in the general election. Not, I hope, unless it has gotten its act together by then.

The Roundtable's death now wouldn't be murder; it'd be a mercy killing.

### A candidate

How ironic that the word "candidate" contains the shorter word "candid."

Many office-seekers in the

primaries simply say that they are for more housing and jobs and less crime, which no one in his right mind can argue with.

How they plan to go about achieving those ends is another matter, and an easy way to separate the political cream from the BS.

There is, in my estimation, a lot of the latter and not nearly enough of the former floating around these days.

North Ward candidate Ghuneem Furqan doesn't BS when it comes to appraising incumbent Larry D. Little's last term in office.

Furqan said in an interview before Tuesday's election that Little "lost contact with the people" in his ward.

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