AGE A5

Winston Salem Chronicle **JANUARY 14, 1993** 

Forum

## How To Become The Education President

Bill Clinton's commitment to education eform suggests that he will want to earn the itle "the education president."

He can win that title by targeting disadvantaged students with policies and resources that help them to academic excellence.

His Administration should expend federal education funding, and shift-priorities so that a the children at greater risk of failure get whatever assistance they need to excel in school.

But one of the most important things the new President can to for education won't cost a dime.

The presidency has often been called a intelligence to develop and to "get smart." "bully pulpit" for focusing people's attention on issues. That bully pulpit now can be a vehi cle to help change people's thinking about education.

Instead of peddling bromides like "choice," as his

predecessors did, the President should use the prestige of his office to change the underlying concepts that doom American education to failure.

We are locked

into a traditional - and wrong - way of thinking that says some children are born smart, some dumb, and the rest between, and nothing can change that.

But in fact every normal child has the can't be, as it sometimes is, a "feelgood" mental capacity to learn and to excel academically.

- As Dr. Jeff Howard, of the influential Efficacy Institute, has consistently pointed out -most recently in the Urban League's publication, "State of Black America, 1993 - the belief in the false ideal of innate ability has been a deterrent to educating all of our children.

Dr. Howard challenges the myth that intelligence is innate and controls people's development.

He shows how it leads to assessing intelligence in yery young children and then using those assessments to determine how much education they are capable of absorbing.

Then we track those youngsters throughdevelop further and faster, and others are survive in this new Information Age.

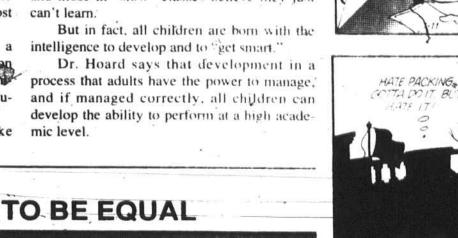
dumped in "slow" classes, where their supposed lack of ability becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

In a society where racial discrimination is an every-day fact of life, it's not too hard to figure out who gets onto the accelerated track and who gets dumped.

Since children are led to believe in the same intelligence myth as their elders, those in "gifted": classes come to think they are smart and those in "slow" classes believe they just can't learn.

But in fact, all children are born with the

Dr. Hoard says that development in a process that adults have the power to manage," and if managed correctly, all children can develop the ability to perform at a high academic level.

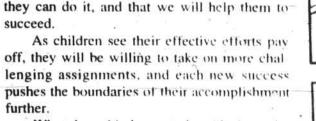


A AGAN



He says that if children think they can learn, they will work hard at it and will learn, or, as he says, "get smart." Helping children believe in themselves process of pumping up their self-esteem. Rather, it is communicating to them the idea

DC

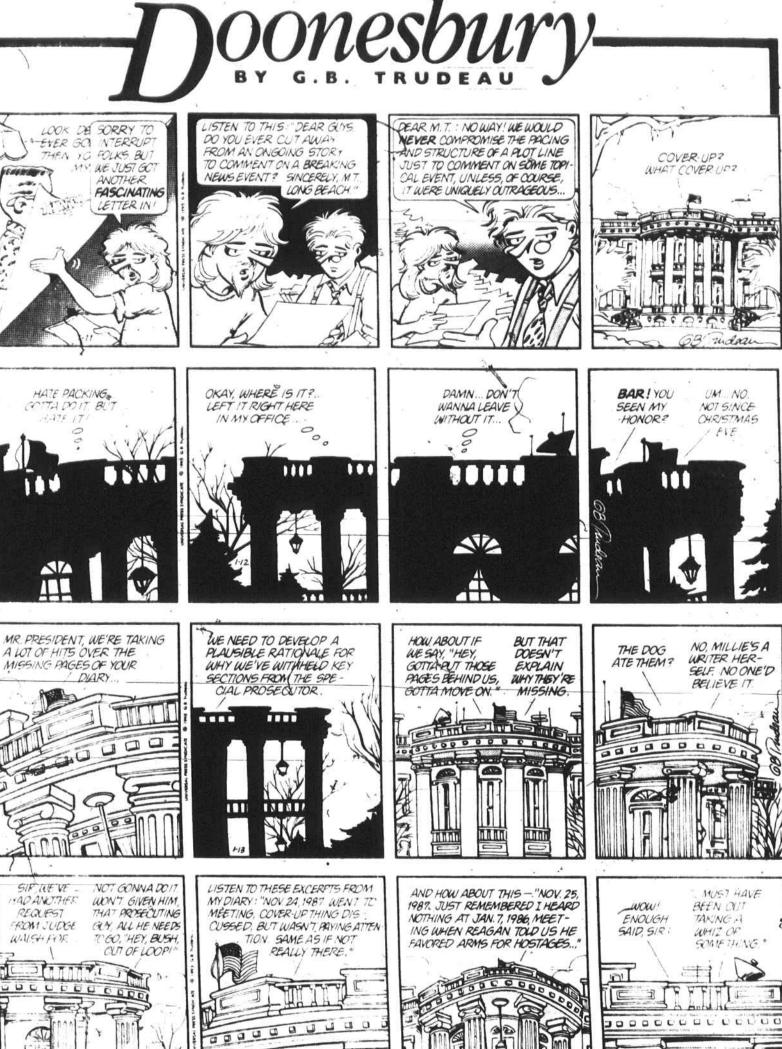


What does this have to do with the "education president?"

that schoolwork is important, that we know

'Mr. Clinton should use the White House as a bully pulpit to destroy the myth of innate intelligence and to get Americans to believe that all of our children can learn.

By doing that, he can change the damag out their school careers. Some are placed in fing thinking that prevents so many of our peo-"gifted" classes where they are challenged to \_ple from mastering what they need to know to



UM. NO.

NOT SINCE

FIE

MUST HAVE

## African-American Economic Empowerment

One of the highest priorities now facing reflection and strategic planning by all commu the African-American community is the necessity to define explicitly long-term economic empowerment goals and to develop and implement a strategic plan to effectively reach those goals. One matter that has caused great concern had been a lack of a concerted national effort to really deal responsively to the economic injustices of American racism.

There is no magic formula to economic development. During the last thirty years therehave been numerous efforts by civil rights and other organizations to launch various economic development projects and programs at the local and regional levels. But the truth is that most if not all of those efforts have been too limited in scope and with too short of a time line. The reality is that there has not been an effective tong-term economic development strategy that has involved massive numbers of African-Americans since the time of Marcus Garvey.

of many organizations that are presently structure of the African-American has to be lit-

attempting to make a contribution toward the economic uplift of the African-American community. The point here is to simply state the obvious: "All of the present efforts

within and external to the African-American community to enhance overall economic empowerment appear to be insufficient to meet the economic needs of the African-American community." While there are increasing examples of tremendous individual economic success or in some cases the success of African-American owned companies, there is still a the economy." But what those who would ecogrowing economic disparity between the majority of African, Americans and other Americans who have not had to endure the vestiges of abject racial discrimination and economic exploitation. To be sure, we are not advancing a justification for "hand-outs from the table of the wealthy." To the contrary, we are emphasizing what we believe will be a major responsibility for the future of the Civil **Rights Movement**.

Economic justice must be demanded, yet, we must do more than just make a rhetorical demand for economic progress. Institutionalized poverty is a moral insult amidst a society where economic opportunity is mitigated by race and class. 1993 needs to be a year of sober

nities seeking a greater sense of economic jus tice. In particular, the African American community and all those national and local organizations working to enhance the condition of the people most marginalized and exploited must band together like before.

As more and more predictions are being made concerning an early upswing in the economy of the United States, will the economic lot of the African-American community also improve? History has shown that the socioeconomic conditions/of the African American community have not always improved at the pace of economic growth for the nation as a whole. The frickle down theory has not worked to the benefit of the majority of thirty million African Americans.

First, African-Americans must invest in the uplift of the community not for the short term but for the long term development goals Again, this is not to belittle the good work of the entire community. The economic infra-

**CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL** 

By BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.



erally reconstructed to meet the new demands of the present historical moment

Some of those who are advising Presidentelect Clinton on economic matters have routinely referred to investment as "clearing some thing that will add to the economy's ability to produce later on," rather than " contributing to nomically discriminate against the African American community do not fully understand is that the spending of the African American community is more than a 300 billion dollar a year economic force in the nation's economy.

The problem in "spending" is not the same thing as "investing." We must invest not just in banks and other financial institutions. Our highest priority ought to be to invest all that we can in our youth: financially, educationally and spiritually. What are our long term economic goals and how are we going to achieve these goals? These are the providence of the answered if we are to be sentence and a set ing the dream of true African American economic empowerment



A graduate of Adelphi University. Delores Smith served as president of the Warren-Trumbull Urban League in Ohio before coming to Winston-Salem in 1989. She also heads her own onsulting firm, Helistic Gultural

Pay Tribute o MAR' .. LUTHER KING JR. WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY January 14, 1993

> 7:00 p.m. Unity March

7:30 p.m. Commemoration & Candlelight Service K.R. Williams Auditorium featuring Delores "D" Smith Fresident (CEO, W-S Urban League