

editorials

US

The Politics Of Killing

On May 31, 1979, a distraught female teenager telephoned the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department seeking help. She said her father was drunk and had beaten her. The seemingly routine domestic or family disturbance erupted into the shooting death of two sheriff's deputies responding to the girl's call and the death of a state trooper who tried to apprehend the fleeing suspect, James Hutchins.

Mr. Hutchins was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death for two of the killings. Just 40 minutes before a scheduled Friday (January 13), 6 a.m. execution, the N.C. Supreme Court delayed the execution for at least 60 days. The legal maneuvering involved to save Hutchins' life involved 17 courts, included actions by the U.S. Supreme Court, the N.C. Supreme Court, a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, a state Superior Court, and two U.S. District Courts, numerous lawyers, and the Governor's office, plus demonstrations by anti-capital punishment activists and black civil righters concerned that Hutchins' execution will open a flood gate of executions against blacks.

These efforts further confirm our presumed high values placed on individual human life. Nevertheless, as represented by the federal government, we appear as a nation to be not so concerned about individual human life when the subject turns to possible nuclear war. While it is a known scientific fact not disputed by anyone, that any

Keeper Of The Dream

As the keynote speaker at the ecumenical worship service celebrating the 55th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. last Sunday, Mayor Harvey Gantt said it is clear to him that the "spirit of Charlotte" that enabled him to be elected mayor can be traced back to the trust developed between black and white community leaders struggling against racism in the 1960's and 1970's.

While these noble and courageous efforts have led to substantially improved race relations and economic advancement for blacks, Mayor Gantt reminded the 1,200 plus people at the First United Methodist Church "we still have much work to do. Many of our white

level of nuclear war will kill us all or at the very least destroy human civilization as we now know it. In spite of this fact, our national government continues to stock pile nuclear weapons based on the assumption that this will serve as a deterrent to war with Russia and will preserve the peace.

President Reagan confirmed this is an election year speech from the White House on Monday, January 16, when he said his matching of a Soviet weapons build-up had made the world safer. "The fact that neither of us likes the other's system is no reason to refuse to talk. Living in this nuclear age makes it imperative that we talk."

Unfortunately, Mr. Reagan's conciliatory message to Russia has been viewed by most experts as more political rhetoric brought on by pressures from our European allies and polls that show anxiety among American voters concerned over deteriorating relations between the United States and Russia. It is just such eroding relations that could trigger a nuclear war.

If we, the American people, truly value human life, and the worth of the individual, we must send a clear message to the government in Washington, be it Republic or Democratic, that it must take the moral and political leadership to begin a serious de-escalation of the nuclear build up and movement toward a lasting and permanent peace.

We cannot afford to do any less.

friends are lulled into a sense of security and righteousness when they look around and see how far black folks have come."

The lingering high levels of joblessness, unequal pay, poverty and questionable educational opportunities for far too many black Americans is a clear reminder that we still have much work to do."

The central point in Mr. Gantt's address was that as keepers of the King dream "we must continue to fight for change or risk retreat."

Placency and apathy are the allies of a retreat from social and economic justice, therefore, let us aggressively seek justice.

Needed Now ... United Community Leadership

We Must Prevent
Our Own Children
From Turning Into
Junkies Who Prey
On Their Own People.
We Can ...
Prevent That.



Letters To: The Editor

Devil Threatening Families!

Dear Editor:
The devil is threatening families because he knows if he destroys them and church members, he can take over the world.

It is a mark of communism and nazism to discredit and discriminate against religions, poor, blacks and weak people of our nation. Disrespect for honesty is encouraged and corrupt justice is upheld.

I have faced plain hell with the courts because of my being a black missionary with an outreach ministry. Plainly saying, I have been singled out, now that I am still facing persecution. It has seemed that not only myself but other black female missionaries have suffered the work of the devil in efforts to uphold and sustain God's work. However, we do know that curses are turned into blessings, causing the devil to flee from thee.

I have contributed untiring and unselfish services to the community,

city, state and world to bring about peace and harmony to my fellow man whether or not he be rich, poor, black, white, learned, etc. My mission is to create and develop a religious freedom for all, a freedom now!

I am asking those caring people out there to join me in raising \$20,000 which is needed at once to aid in my legal defense to secure an honest and Christian attorney. I've had three attorneys already who were out for selfish gain and they did not have my best interest in mind whatsoever.

We need 20,000 people to send \$1 toward this effort. We call upon all people to come to the aid of not only me, but ourselves. Liberty is a seamless garment whose unraveling endangers everyone.

Therefore, we call upon President Reagan, the courts, Congress, and the Senate to restrain agencies of government from continuing encroachment and defiance of God-given rights

as human beings and as people who have come to rely on the fundamental principles of freedom of this great nation.

"Without love, we are nothing," 1 Cor. 13.

Mrs. Estell M. Thompson
P. O. Box 2882
Charlotte, NC 28220

Quality Education

Dear Editor:
Has it occurred to anyone that the primary goal of the power structure might not be quality education for all? The assumption has always been that this is the goal. If a solution is found, what would be the result? Better educated electorate? That's one of the results. More competent competition in the job market? True.

When people know more, they expect more. They become less gullible. A thinking man can be a dangerous man.

Argentine Delgh

From Capitol Hill

Commission Protects White Folks

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
"People aren't crazy," was a statement made when White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes stated that President Reagan insists that the Civil Rights Commission is an independent agency. When Clarence Pendleton, Commission Chairman, appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee for confirmation he said he would carry out the wishes of the President. In a telephone conversation to this reporter, President Reagan said, "The Civil Rights Commission serves at the pleasure of the President, and believe me I was not getting any pleasure out of it. They are sniping at me at every instance and much of it is not true." White House Counselor Ed Meese evidenced that the commission is a public relations agency for the President.

Civil Rights organizations insist that the agreed on compromise, specifically called for retention of the Commissioners Mary Louise Smith and Jill Ruckelshaus. Yet, after the Administration accepted the compromise, it fired Smith and Ruckelshaus because they were for busing, affirmative action and it was felt they would vote against Pendleton for Commission chairman. These actions of the Administration



Alfreda

remove all doubt about independence, and it surrenders the Commission to the control of the President. It reflects President Reagan's all-out assault on civil rights for blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, women and the handicapped.

Linda Chavez, the newly appointed Commission staff director, has issued a memo which civil rights leaders say show that she has no understanding of the purpose of the commission. Ms. Chavez is recommending that affirmative action measures which have been upheld by the Courts, be reassessed. She feels that Court ordered affirmative action, discriminates against whites. Chavez stated that the Detroit case, which had not been decided by the Supreme Court at the issuance of her memo, discriminates against qualified white policemen. The Supreme Court upheld the

lower Court's decision, which states that the Detroit police should be promoted - one white and one black until black police promotions reach 50 percent. Chavez ignores the fact that blacks are also equally qualified for promotions as whites.

The memo suggests that alternatives to court ordered busing for achieving school desegregation should be found. Chavez recommends that the previous commission's work of employment discrimination of women be discontinued. She challenges the concept of equal pay for equal work.

Ms. Chavez is against bilingual education for Hispanics. She calls for reassessment of student aid for Hispanic and black students who attend, traditionally, black and Hispanic colleges.

The memo calls for change in the previous commission's monograph of redistricting effects of the Voting Rights Act.

The new director considers differences in income, education and housing between races not necessarily proof of discrimination in renting and selling houses to minorities in white neighborhoods and white opposition to having minorities located in public housing projects in their communities. Her memo and interview evidence the fact that she

feels affirmative action adversely affects academic standards in higher education. Chavez should consider the discriminating dispersment of federal funds in institutions of higher learning in the North Carolina school case, with particular emphasis on the differences in the nursing schools at the

University of North Carolina and the nursing school at Agriculture and Technical University, the traditionally all black North Carolina University.

What Linda Chavez is really saying is that there is really no discrimination against blacks, Hispanics, women and native Americans. She is seeking to change the whole purpose for creation of the commission from investigating and monitoring and making recommendations for discriminating against minorities to protection of whites.

Chavez is asking for abandonment of previous commission studies, and substituting a few hours of consultation. She has indicated that businesses are against affirmative action.

It was big business that asked the government for guidelines for utilizing fair employment methods. Chavez advocates voluntary compliance of civil rights for minorities.

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON



Sabrina

Editor's Note: Sabrina's column will resume next week.

Biggest Teen Killer

The nation's fourth leading killer claims about 50,000 lives each year and the risk is greater for teenagers than for any other age group.

The killer is motor vehicle accidents. The drivers most likely to be involved in fatal crashes - and the ones most likely responsible - are teenaged drivers, according to a study done for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

According to a 1978 study involving one- and two-vehicle fatal accidents, the very young drivers were most likely to be responsible for fatal crashes. The 16 year-olds ranked number one as drivers in responsibility for fatal accidents.

"The high probability of teenagers causing fatal wrecks can be due to many factors," says Ralph Jones, a spokesman for the North Carolina Insurance News Service. "But a prime reason is their inexperience behind the wheel."

"Many times they aren't defensive drivers because they haven't been on the roads long enough to know how to react to threatening situations."

The study also found that male drivers in all age groups were responsible for more highway deaths than female drivers. But teenaged male drivers by far continue to have the highest rate of involvement in fatal crashes.

"Per license holder, teenaged male drivers kill more than four times as many people as their female counterparts," says Jones, Charlotte-based general manager of the St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Company. "Although it's difficult to pinpoint why the young men are involved in so many fatal crashes, several explanations have been offered."

Jones cited a study conducted by a research team from the Traffic Injury Research Foundation of Canada that discovered three reasons for the higher crash involvement of teenagers.

First, the teens drive more, especially at night. Secondly, teenaged drivers are not as likely to drink as older drivers, but when they do drink and drive, the effects of alcohol are much greater. As a result, the rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes is highest among the young.

But according to the study, the higher amount of driving time and the drinking while driving factors do not completely account for the likelihood of teenaged drivers being involved in fatal wrecks.

Young, non-drinking drivers were also at a higher risk of fatal crashes than any other age group, excluding the elderly. Inexperience, again, seems to be a major culprit in the disturbing number of teenaged drivers involved in fatal accidents.

"We have to begin re-emphasizing the importance of obeying all the rules young drivers learn in driver education courses," Jones says.

"They - and all drivers - must understand how serious the consequences can be if they don't follow even the simplest traffic safety laws. The stakes are just too high to ignore."

Time To Tell Students:

Social Promotion Days Are Over!

By Mary H. Furell
(President of the National Education Association)

Four years of English, Three years of math, science and social studies. A half-year of instruction in computer science.

Does that curriculum sound too rigorous or demanding for high school students? Of course not. But the National Center for Education Statistics says that less than two percent of today's graduating students now meet these minimums.

It's time to get tough and firm up high school graduation requirements. Let us prepare our students for life in a vastly more complex society than any of us could ever have imagined. And if we expect our students to thrive - not just survive - we need to give them skills to cope with the relentless demands that will be placed on them as adults.

Reduced to its simplest terms, we must teach our

students how to think, communicate and understand their world.

What kinds of skills will that take? Our students today need to learn both kinds of literacy skills - English and computer - as well as how to think critically and analytically. They also need both more science and math, which are crucial to a high tech economy, and more instruction in the arts and humanities that are basic to any well-rounded education.

Along with more rigorous coursework, it's time to put out students on notice that the days of social promotion are over.

We teachers know parents never like to hear that their children haven't learned the skills necessary to move on to the next grade. But we must face the damage that results from promoting students who are academically unprepared for a higher grade. The only way to prevent only students up to the task from entering

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