

EDITORIALS

Guys Aren't Always To Blame

Rewritten From
The Carolina Times

One of the most persistent myths about this epidemic of teenage parenthood this country suffers from is an assumption that sex-crazed teenage men tricked these tender young girls into sexual activity.

Poppycock!
In most instances, the guy is not to blame, particularly if we are talking about teenage fathers.

Far too many young girls have become enamored with the idea of sexual activity, equating it, somehow, with romance. They have become turned on by the fantasy-like idea of motherhood, making it, somehow, in their young minds the same as playing with dolls. Only this time it's a live doll that grows up and becomes a daily nuisance and headache.

We must take the blinders off our eyes. Far too many men are blinded by the male ego trip of sexual conquest, believing the lie that their rap and their sexual prowess convinced the woman to be sexually active.

Poppycock again!
Most women decide long before a man makes an initial move what will happen, if anything, when it will happen, and under what circumstances, based upon her own vision of romance and so-called love.

The rap, the dining and dancing, the partying are all part of an elaborate sex ritual that women force men to play out because women sort of like the attention and the antics.

Here's what we must realize. Not only must we teach young men to be sexually responsible, that is, to desire sex less, and to control that desire as often as possible when it crops up, we must teach young women the same thing.

We must teach our young girls that sex is neither a reward, nor withholding it, a punishment. We must teach them that sexual activity is distasteful and counter-productive, both for the young unmarried woman and the young unmarried man.

We must teach them that sex does not prove love. In fact, sex has almost nothing to do with love, unless love precedes sex, then sex enhances and intensifies the love, for the briefest of moments.

Bottom line? We need a program for young women very similar to the one Ted Parrish is running for young men at NCCU.

We need to teach our young girls that life is more than sex. That sexual activity is not the panacea of popularity. We need to show them, too, the consequences of rampant and promiscuous sexual activity.

After all, the guys aren't always to blame.

Wealth Unlocks Doors Of Opportunity

Rewritten From
The Michigan Chronicle

The recent surge of interest in black economic development has been most encouraging and it is hoped that progress in this area moves beyond the state of exciting rhetoric that now exists.

The NAACP's Benjamin Hooks addresses the matter of economic development in the most recent issue of Crisis magazine, the official voice of the organization.

"Wealth," Hooks contends, "is an essential element in the ability of any group of people in a capitalistic society to advance socially, politically, and economically."

"(The) hurdle presented by a lack of wealth accumulation in the black community remains the final frontier before we can reach the expansive plateau of economic parity with white America. Wealth is one of the keys that unlocks the doors of opportunity."

The concerns of the NAACP in economic development is not a new idea as far as the organization is concerned. Under Hooks, the national association has shown increased interest in its "Fair Share" program, developed much along the lines of the more widely publicized "Operation PUSH" program under the aggressive leadership of the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Hooks, in his recent Crisis article, put his finger on the problem when he, along with other writers, suggested that there must be a major concentration of the development of black businesses and the accumulation of black wealth. This is a problem that has

confounded black leadership since the days of Booker T. Washington who, at the turn of the century, was a missionary in advocating the development of black business.

On the other hand, look at the inability of blacks to establish meaningful businesses in a community where they represent close to 70 percent of the population and apparently control virtually every segment of the city's governmental systems.

The same is true in virtually every other area of commercial enterprises. The grocery business alone is indicative of the inability of blacks to gain a foothold in an area where there are tremendous opportunities for economic development. The same is true in the matter of automobile purchases, clothing and appliances. Only in the area of automobile dealerships have blacks made an indentation on economic advancement and this has been at a minimum in spite of the excellent performances of those blacks involved.

The potential is there. Hooks contends that the dilemma that black Americans face today is not in having access to public accommodations, but not having the economic resources necessary to close the income and the wealth gaps. And yet, when it is realized that black Americans have an income in excess of \$200 billion, there is no question that the potential exists.

The problem that must be answered is how this potential can be tapped effectively to bring about accumulation of that black wealth which is unquestionably the next phase in the quest for freedom.

BE A PART OF THE NEW AWARENESS

BLACK BUSINESS MEN AND POLITICIANS SHOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF LONG-RANGE PLANNING FOR IT IS ONLY THROUGH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLOUT THAT ETHNIC GROUPS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE UP THROUGH SOCIETY.

MICHIGAN CHRONICLE

SUBURBIA

THE FLIGHT OF CAPITAL FROM BLACK COMMUNITIES

Malingering

Hanging Out In Malls After School?

Malingering - America's new name for something teenagers are doing more and more: Hanging out in the mall after school day after day. The idea is not unusual. In fact, it is quite common for a majority of American youth; most likely they have been going to the mall all of their lives.

Many of life's experiences have taken place within the walls of this closed environment called a mall. Everything from the first run, seeing a fountain, buying a toy or reading a book has taken place in a mall. Teenagers may have been exposed to smoking a cigarette or joint or turned it down. A first kiss was begotten there. American teenagers spend more time in the mall than anywhere else - with the exception of home and school.

Most often it is by choice. However, due to two paycheck and single parent homes, it has become the "other" viable alternative to hanging out on the street, that the malls have become "clubhouses" for teens. The



Sabrina Johnson

big question is how is this affecting teens?

Being a popular teen hangout is something mall developers never thought of. It is a surprise. Kids become acquainted with the mall early in life, says the International Council of Shopping Centers - which has found it necessary to publish a guide for mall managers on how to handle teens.

The Council has found that teens are bored and seek the shopping centers as entertainment or a place to go, especially since many malls

have game arcades. The Council suggests that mall managers tolerate and encourage teens because it preprograms the kids. Many of them support the same values as mall managers. The values being the kids are programmed to be consumers. Teenagers find little that challenges the conclusion that the primary goal in life is to make money and buy products.

Growing up and being exposed to such ideas of high consumption from the society puts an enormous amount of pressure on the youth and their lifestyles. Clothes consciousness has taken over elementary and middle schools. Acceptance equals stylish or popular dress. Reading material is affected by style - Nancy Drew was never concerned but today's fiction heroine worries about how she looks. Shopping is a survival skill and the best place to learn that skill is in the mall: A place where the importance of the skill is reinforced and not questioned.

The university of suburban materialism - that's what a mall is. Girls and boys enroll to educate themselves on consumption. Other departments are the change in family life, sexual mores and their economic and social ramifications. Super abundance of products and goods, and the pressure to buy contribute greatly to malingering.

Why do kids spend so much time in malls? Partly because their parents allow them to and sometimes encourage it. To a parent the mall is safe, does not offer noticeable unsavory elements and there is adult supervision. In essence, the mall becomes an invisible babysitter. It is a controlled environment. On the flip side, mall rats (people who spend day after day in malls), lack in their fundamental sense of home life. Many companies are attempting to take advantage of that fact by offering products warm and cuddly, or just like mom used to make. The new advertising gimmick of malls is to be "just like home."

One problem. While families encourage children and teens to be responsible and to rely on the bosom of the family and grow from that, malls encourage the opposite - passivity and consumption. Thus meaning that kids equate adulthood with how to act and how to consume.

From Capitol Hill

Reagan Fighting For Closer South African Ties

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The "Free South Africa Movement," which began in November with daily picketing and jailing by a cross section of Americans in front of the South African embassy and consulates around the country, has President Reagan putting the full force of the Administration behind maintenance of its constructive engagement policy.

There is a growing mood in Congress and throughout the country for placing economic sanctions against South Africa. The Anti-Apartheid Act has been introduced in both Houses of Congress with around 150 bipartisan co-sponsors, and the African Affairs Committee in both the House and Senate which are holding hearings on the bill.

Secretary of State George Shultz, speaking at the National Press Club, appealed for support of the President's constructive engagement policy, stating that the Reagan policy has produced progress in South Africa. The Secretary denounced the Anti-Apartheid Act.

Representative Bill Gray, testifying before the House Subcommittee on African Affairs, criticized Mr. Shultz's press club speech. Concerning the Secretary's statement about American influence in South Africa, he asked does the Secretary call wide spread boycotts of classes by South African students, daily violence, and more than 400 deaths in the past year, the largest black labor strike in South Africa's history, a ban on all meetings by those seeking the right to vote, February's round up, imprisonment, and treason charges against the leadership of the largest non-violent anti-apartheid coalition - does the Administration call these progress?



Alfreda L. Madison

The Anti-Apartheid Act and accompanying amendments call for prohibition of new investments in South Africa, ban on the sale of gold coins minted in South Africa, reinstate a ban on dual use exports of cattle prods, require American firms doing business in South Africa to follow fair labor standards, ban the sale of computers and a ban on South African consulates in this country.

Chester Crocker, assistant secretary of state for African Affairs, defended the constructive engagement policy. He stated that debate is not about apartheid, but what we can do to support change toward a just society whose system is based on the consent of the governed. He spoke of the American protests as an expression of indignation, but said it is not foreign policy. Crocker stated that the American people vote for leaders in Congress and the Executive Branch to shape our foreign policies without regard to the practical results of those policies. He criticized sanctions against South Africa as sending signals to black South Africans that their voices are

heard and that the signal to whites that time has come for a basic change. Crocker said stopping new investments will hurt employment of blacks. The secretary seems ignorant of the fact that only less than one percent of the black population is employed by these big corporations, while 99 percent are either unemployed or are at the unlivable wage category. Crocker said that placing sanctions against trade with South Africa will not hurt, because they will get electrical equipment and computers from other countries.

South Africa's exports are confined to a few countries. Fifteen percent comes from the U.S. These countries consume 28 percent of South African exports, which comprise 25 percent of the South Africa's gross national product. The United States bought \$450 million worth of krugerrands last year, which is 50 percent of the total sale. Representative Ron Dellums recommended prohibition of landing rights of South African aircraft and prohibition of U.S. tax credits and deductions from money paid to the South African government. He recommended total sanctions against South Africa because it is the only nation in the world that constitutionally provides that the overwhelming majority of the population shall not be eligible to participate in the affairs of state, solely on the basis of race. Dellums closed with a quote from Martin Luther King: "South Africa's national policy and practice are the incarnation of the doctrine of white supremacy in the midst of a population that is overwhelmingly black. But the tragedy of South Africa is not simply in its own policy; it is in the fact that the racist

government of South Africa is virtually made possible by the economic policies of the United States and Great Britain, two countries which profess to be the moral bastions of the world."

The witnesses stated that the President's policy has given comfort and aid to the apartheid by only recently verbalizing the horrors of apartheid, but by refusing to take any actions against it. Representative Solarx questioned the Administration's witnesses on the difference in placing sanctions against Iran and South Africa. The witnesses seemed lost for an answer.

Solarx responded that one was Islamic and the other was black.

It was noted that the freedom struggle cannot be held back because when people are backed against a wall, there is no stopping until they are freed of poverty and rights. The U.S. was warned that it should not be on the right side for its own benefit. The question was asked why is it that this country has sanctions against 20 countries but will not place them against South Africa.

Representative Don Bonkers stated that if the Administration does not take action against South Africa, then it is incumbent upon Congress to take steps against inhumane South Africa's apartheid government.

It was strongly emphasized that democratic principles are the American way - that the black South African zest for freedom can be easily understood, because of our country's freedom desire which was won by the Revolutionary War.

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