

EDITORIALS & COMMENT

*NOTE (The Editorial this week is in the form of "a Letter to Johnny" on the observance of American Education Week)

Dear Johnny:

To be young today is not only to enjoy many advantages and many comforts unknown to former generations, but it is also to suffer many trials and to cope with many problems which did not plague our foreparents. Most young people are genuinely puzzled by the many frictions and the deficiencies in our society. Example—while many are hungry and ill-housed, with no employment or jobs, we are sending men to the moon or building unnecessary defense weapons. Yet, we must never forget that to do anything today, my young friends, you must continue in school to be able to cope with the many problems that each child or individual must resolve. And of course, you the students of now, are the ones who will look ever onward to a viable way of solving some of these problems by building up the best possible brain power you can absorb. In other words, you must let continuing education become your top goal as well as your personal priority as a seventh grader now and as you go on towards the top of the ladder to further success in high school and beyond.

I say to you, young friends—"What time is it?" It is EDUCATION TIME for you, and you and all our youth today. Are you then one of the students in our classes these days who are sitting and waiting for something great to happen—you know, the game they call, playing the school games? If perchance you are, then it is past time for you to look to the values that an education will provide if you are willing to work hard and apply yourselves to become truly skilled in the art of communications.

When I say communications, I use it in the broadest sense, for I do not mean idle talk or chatter which does not require any effort, but I mean the ability or capacity to think clearly as you express yourself by speech patterns which include enunciation, pronunciation and good grammatical expression. Ex—Singular subjects, verbs, etc. And along with this will go the written word. Did you know or do you realize that this is one of the reasons that so many items are required to be written? Such repetition within your classwork will help you develop your exposition skills, the ability to write clearly after such thoughts have been formulated within your mind.

I recognize that impatience comes naturally to the young. Often you may resent the many bureaucratic time lapses between pressing the button and getting an answer to your many questions or actions. But again that too, takes clear rational thought to come up with the best and most logical answer. Your education will attempt to teach you how to formulate such logic and assist you in coming to grips with these much needed choices.

A good education will help you to formulate what decision may be needed—what to look at as you make up your minds—to quit straddling the fence—in other words, education will help you to do what is best in the situation and not allow you to become one of those individuals that just ape their friends, no matter what the cost.

Another value of continuing your education will help you to choose between the wise and the foolish, between the safe and the unsafe, and many times between the good

and the bad, yes, even the virtues and the vulgarities of life. This again is education helping you in your choices and assisting you to make good, sound and even better decisions as you climb the ladder of success. You and I both know that we must make choices every minute and hour of the day, no matter where one may be.

Did you know that millions of persons are being destroyed and ruined for lack of basic education and job skills? They lack the skills and know how which are necessary to enable them to compete in this highly scientific and technological age. Millions of other Americans are unemployed or under employed. Many are poor, illiterate or what one calls functionally illiterate. A great percentage of North Carolinians alone fall in this category. You must continue on and get all the education possible for future security. I sometimes wonder if this may not be the reason that many turn to drug addiction, petty crimes, then major crimes. You must not let your motivation become filled with despair.

I say to you—education increases our ability to enjoy more things more and better, to live more richly, more creatively and in greater harmony with ourselves, our environment and our fellowmen. Education produces better parents, better neighbors, better citizens. It will give the nation wise, informed leadership and as constituents, we can make our choices and not allow others to make all the choices for us.

Yes, everyone in society benefits from education. It increases your productivity in human effort and helps you to formulate and plan according to your ability. Yes, we even benefit from the education of other persons. The sharing of knowledge by students like you, the interchange between teachers and students, community efforts and other regional, state, national and international efforts make all of us more aware of the needs of others and the value of educational enrichment by all.

Remember we are indeed living in an age of change. This is a "head" age, not a hand age. People are needed who can think, write, program compute, build and repair machines as well as how to be creative and flexible. Machines have created new jobs, but learning new skills requires a trained mind. Education is the prerequisite for most of these jobs. The undereducated and uneducated are being crushed to the bottom and many are dependent upon social welfare.

Not only must you continue your education, but even in instances, you must help other adults to look to retraining and recycling of their job skills. Just as our cars, clothes and foods rechange, so must you take in your educational training. Do not let this opportunity to acquire and continue your education fall by the wayside. Keep your hunger for learning and even more learning always alive, alert and able to cope with the many changes that now face you.

What time is it my young friends? It is EDUCATION TIME for you and all other youths. What time is it? It is a time for developing your brain power and God given talents. The time is NOW. For your education can and will lead you from the blight of poverty, to a hunger for a better life for you and your posterity. WHAT TIME IS IT? IT IS EDUCATION TIME, my young friends and that is NOW.

HALLOWEEN CAN BE SAFE

Traditionally, Halloween has been a time for evening family fun among neighborhood children and their elders within their communities. Many schools and community centers also plan activities.

It is important that efforts be continued to preserve Halloween as "family fun time." We know that the usual run of hoax stories will continue to pop up here and there.

However, if certain rules are observed all children can continue to share in these traditional evenings of family fun with their elders. It can also be a safe time as well with attention to simple rules.

Youngsters are urged to travel only within their immediate neighborhoods for the tricks or treats. Further, if possible, parents should accompany their small ones within their neighborhood. Children should be counseled to take only treats that are wrapped. This is a health factor and should be carefully followed. Goodies should be eaten only after inspection at home.

It also seems best to go out in the early evening since darkness falls much earlier. Motorists as well as the little "ghosts and goblins" should pay careful attention as they dart back and forth across the streets.

There is no necessity for roving gangs of teenagers to go about the city, especially if they feel inclined towards the destruction of property. This is a time for the "small fry" to enjoy the pleasurable activities that will continue to remain in their thoughts for all time.

So let us try to observe Halloween as a time for "family fun" among the neighborhood children and their elders as well as keep it safe for all persons.

Remember that many persons will donate funds to UNICEF to help provide services to children across the world. Let us continue to look to Halloween as a safe time when all persons can get delight from it as they watch "small fry" engaging in such activities.

APATHY IS A LUXURY THAT BLACKS CANNOT AFFORD



JOB'S ARE NEEDED NOW

The Federal government must act now to put the millions of Americans to work in vital public services in education, health, sanitation, environmental control and crime prevention.

With more than 6 million persons currently unemployed and some 13.7 millions of Americans working at sub-standard wages, the problem grows more acute each day.

The seriousness of our unemployment problems will be lessened only if the Federal government accepts and takes its moral responsibility to plan and implement full employment machinery for all persons able and willing to work. This means that our priorities must be

reorganized to provide jobs for Americans first.

Even though unemployment and poverty continue to rise, manpower programs nationally are suffering drastic cutbacks. Community action Programs, employers of many previously unemployed minorities and low income persons are being threatened with extinction.

The cutbacks of such programs and jobs places more people on welfare and lessons the incentive or motivation to help themselves. People tend to become more frustrated and bitter.

Jobs and training programs must be increased if all Americans are to share in this great democracy of ours.

N.A.A.C.P. In Action For 1972

FREEDOM FUND DINNER HONOR ROLL

By JEREMIAH CAMERON

The approaching Freedom Fund Dinner, to be held at the Hotel Muehlebach on Saturday, Oct. 28, provides us with another opportunity to relate to the public one of the main functions of the N.A.A.C.P. nationally and locally: to employ a variety of means, all non-violent and legal, to bring about the freedom of black folks.

Nobody is free in this country until he has the equal protection of the law, until he has the social and economic securities that abound for so many other citizens of the United States. Black people, despite a pitifully little more economic "cream at the top," will not be free until the same opportunities, privileges and responsibilities are shared by all.

Democracy has to be made to work; justice has to be made to work. The notion that power concedes nothing implies that black people must draw upon what resources they have, and we do have some money, and use those resources as a stimulant to force right to be done.

Monies received from Freedom Fund dinners have been and will continue to be used to force a greater measure of right to be done. For example, the Senate's rejection of the Nixon-supported antibussing bill, already passed by the House of Representatives, did not just happen. The effective N.A.A.C.P. lobby in Washington, D. C., headed by Clarence Mitchell, made its influence felt in the Senate—precisely as it did in the rejection of two of the President's appointments to the Supreme Court.

We therefore salute the following persons and organizations who constitute the N.A.A.C.P. Freedom Fund Honor Roll: early-bird purchasers of tickets from Oct. 1 to Oct. 14:

GOLD CIRCLE TICKETS (Life Members or Suscribing Life Members): Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Wurst, \$50; Dr. and Mrs. T. T. Lowrey, \$50; Dr. Jeremiah Cameron, \$25; Miss Dorothy Gallagher, \$25; National Postal Alliance, \$50; Dr. Albert R. Maddox of Sedalia, Mo., \$25; Mayor and Mrs. Charles B. Wheeler Jr., \$50.

REGULAR TICKETS: Dr. and Mrs. G. T. Bryant, \$50; Laundry and Dry Cleaning International Union Local No. 2, \$50; American Oil Company, \$50; William F. Kem-

per, \$25; W. R. Tillmon, \$25; Robert P. Lyons, \$25; McNeill Insurance agency, \$25; Arthur Anderson company, \$200 (one table); W. H. Johnson, \$50.

Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, \$50; Coca Cola U.S.A., Fountain department, \$25; KMBC-TV, channel 9, \$50; Hon. Richard Bolling, \$50; Ermon Dixon, \$25; School Service Employees Local No. 12, \$100; Jones Store company, \$200 (one table); Dazey Products company, \$50; Sarca, D-B-A Associated Developers, \$50; United Parcel service, \$200 (one table); J.

L. Marain, \$25; Townsend Newspaper, \$100. Mrs. Christine McGee, \$25; J. E. Dunn Construction company, \$100; Western Union, \$50; Parking Enterprises, \$25; Western Electric, \$100; Robert MacNeven, \$25; Mr. and Mrs. Louis T. Hurt, \$50; Truman Holman, \$50; J. I. Case company, \$25; Kroger company, \$50; Merchants Produce bank, \$25; Merchants Delivery company, \$50.

DONATIONS: J. Harold Hamill, \$25; J. A. Clancey, \$25; Joseph H. Bruening, \$50; Black and Veatch Consulting Engineers, \$100; Mrs. Jacqueline B. Walker, \$5; R. C. Clyde, \$25; Sealright company, Inc., \$100.

Tickets to the Freedom Fund dinner, at which M. Carl Holman, president of the National Urban Coalition, will speak, are available at the N.A.A.C.P. office at 4115 E. 43rd St., 861-0113.

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just 60 percent of that of "normal" white families. But if white society has failed to keep its promises, black society has also failed to take full advantage of opportunities that do exist. For example, there were 68,000 blacks in U.S. colleges in 1971—a 200 percent increase from a decade earlier. Yet for thousands of these students, college means self-imposed segregation and intellectual copping but in "sop courses about black history," write Mazie and Rowan.

Such withdrawals are understandable; a black youth moving from the ghetto to the campus is insecure about many things, and his natural inclination is to avoid gatherings where the risk of embarrassment is high. But black students who demand Jim Crow dory facilities and other "black only" barriers, and white college administrators who give in quickly to these demands, are tragically wrong.

To Be Equal
BLACKS AND THE ARMY (II)
By VERNON E. JORDAN, JR.

One key area that remains a trouble spot for racial tensions in the Army is the system of military justice. On my recent swing through U.S. Army bases in Germany, I found that major reforms are needed.

In general, black GIs are convinced they can't get justice in military courts. Some of the prisoners I spoke to at the stockade in Mannheim were certain that the court would try to set an example of them by giving them heavier sentences because they were black.

Another prisoner, awaiting trial in a German court for a civilian crime, was just as positive that the German jury would not give him justice. Charged with robbery, the case against him hinges on the word of his former girlfriend who is German. He feels that when the jury hears of their affair, they'll rush to convict him.

What matters in these cases is less the factual situation than the way the black prisoners perceive their state. Unlike others accused of violations, they know they may not get fair treatment because of racial bigotry and discriminatory practices.

They were relieved just to have someone to talk to, someone to listen to their grievances, someone to care. In this instance that someone was me, a visitor from the States, but the Army ought to build into its military justice system a way to fulfill the need for humane concern and support.

At the very least, equal opportunity officers ought to take off their uniforms, and in civilian clothes that remove the barrier of rank, talk informally with prisoners and other soldiers and lend an ear and a helping hand.

The system of justice ought to be taken out of the command system to liberate it from suspicion of being a tool of the military and thus convert it into a truly impartial judiciary system. There's also a crying need for more black judges-advocates and for expanded legal services for enlisted men.

A far brighter spot of my

Army's Officer Corps, they now make up 10.8 percent of the total enrollment in ROTC, which is the Army's main source of newly commissioned officers.

Both authors say that if the poisonous polarization is to be halted, both blacks and whites

trio was the unique experience of seeing so many black officers, some commanding key combat units. I was very impressed with the calibre of these men, who were exceptional in their bearing, their competence, their skill and their grasp of essentials. To be briefed by these officers was an enjoyable lesson in professionalism.

It was especially gratifying to me that so many product of the black colleges. It is a tribute to these schools that they can train such men, and another indication that the black colleges are an important national resource.

Perhaps the basic feeling one comes away with from an extended tour of Army bases is the extent to which the Army is a haven for whites and blacks who would otherwise be mired in poverty here at home. Many of the GIs met in Germany told me that the Army was the first place they got three square meals a day, hot running water, an opportunity for training, and a feeling of importance and satisfaction.

In effect, our country says

to poor young men that there is no place for them here and that they'll have to put on a uniform and train to fight and perhaps die, if they want the barest essentials of a decent life.

This is a terrible commentary on our society. It tells us that our country has neglected the productive capacities of hundreds of thousands of young men. It tells us that our nation has failed to order its domestic affairs so that the poorest among us has an opportunity to be well-fed, well-housed and to fulfill his needs and aspirations.

What I saw in Germany was a U. S. Army groping toward remaking itself into an institution that brings together members of all ethnic groups in an atmosphere of mutual respect to work toward a common goal. It has a long way to go but it is at least conscious of the problem, which is more than can be said about many people here at home.

White society must work harder to offer "the training, the promotions, the status that will permit minority youths to believe that they are not just "in" this society, but "part of it."

Do's And Don'ts



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