

SPARE THE ROD

By Trillie L. Jeffers

Dr. Cleveland Hammonds, superintendent of Durham City Schools, explained a new policy on spanking at the school board meeting, Monday night, October 22. Mrs. Josephine D. Clement, school board chairman, stated that this policy will strengthen the existing North Carolina law on spanking and it will protect both the students and the teacher from abuse.

The new spanking policy, as prompted by an incident at E.K. Powe Elementary School on Oct. 1, when the parent of a sixth grader who was spanked brought charges of assault against the teacher. The teacher was later cleared in district court of all charges.

Spanking, a euphemism for hitting with a strap, paddle, or ruler, is probably one of the greatest controversies in today's disciplinary methods. Although it is considered outmoded by more modern disciplinarians, it continues to be adversely used by parents and teachers alike to control undesirable behavior in children both young and old.

Those who support spanking argue that it is not possible to get children to behave without the persuasion of the paddle. The anti-spanking forces argue that spanking creates child abuse, wife and husband beating, assaults and battery or at best, defers undesirable behavior until the moment in life when the strap or paddle is no longer a threatening phenomenon. They further argue that once spanking begins, the strap or paddle must continually be wielded over the head lest the obnoxious behavior finds its way to the surface and explodes.

But spanking is a North Carolina law. It is one way, joked a legislator during a House debate on spanking a few years ago, "to get to the seat of the problem." Does it really get to the "seat of the problem" or is it a method used to stifle

undesirable behavior that has at its root some deep and more profound cause. Why does a child constantly misbehave. Does he/she lack self-discipline? Is he/she suffering from an emotional or psychological problem or is he/she a little mischievous brat who demands a few good whacks to set him/her straight? How does one determine when a spanking is really what is required in the situation?

Dr. Cleveland Hammonds hopes that he has the answer. The new spanking policy requires that spanking be used as a disciplinary measure only when all other forms of discipline have failed. The new policy stipulates that parents will get a list of the types of behavior problems that merit spanking at the beginning of the school year. Once all other disciplinary methods have failed and the teacher feels compelled to spank, he/she must do it only in the presence of the principal, or the teacher may take the child to the office and have the principal spank him/her but only in the presence of the teacher. Once the spanking is completed, the child must then take a note home to the parent(s) explaining the conduct that merited the spanking. Records of all spankings must be kept in the principal's office.

The Durham City School policy on spanking probably does not alter any views on spanking, but the fact remains that those who believe that it is possible to have discipline without spanking will have well-ordered classrooms and disciplined homes with the use of reasoning and mutual understanding, and those teachers who feel that spanking is the only way to achieve discipline are now compelled by this new policy to resort to some of this reasoning and mutual understanding that the anti-spanking forces have been shouting about all along.

Next Week: A look at some of Durham's educators' views on spanking.

North Carolina Piano Trio To Give Concert

On Sunday, November 11 at 4 p.m., the North Carolina Piano Trio, assisted by Dr. Ann Woodward, violinist, will present its fall program in the Music Building Auditorium, NCCU, located on Lawson Street, near the intersection with Fayetteville Street. Admission is free, and the public is invited to attend.

The program will consist of works by Mozart, Turina, and Schumann. Since its inception in 1967, the N.C. Piano Trio has performed in the Triangle area, and is made up of NCCU Music Department Faculty members.

Dr. Lilian Pruett, piano, received her training in Austria at the Mozarteum and at UNC-CH, where she received her Ph.D. She teaches course in theory, cello, piano and guitar.

Dr. Ann Woodward, guest artist, received her training at Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and her DMA from Yale. She is chairman of the string program at UNC-CH and violinist of the North Carolina String Quartet.

Middle East

Continued From Front page meeting, and to consider the Middle East issues in particular.

The NAACP Board met on September 10 and adopted the four statements in total. The NAACP Board went further, calling for a homeland for the Palestinian people, and questioned the wisdom of a no-talk policy with the PLO. The Board specifically called upon President Carter to reexamine the Kissinger agreement and its ramifications upon U.S. Mideast policy.

The NAACP Board also reaffirmed its support for the permanent existence of the State of Israel "with secure and safe borders."

These posi-

tions—reports in the press notwithstanding—remain the policy of the NAACP. Hooks reaffirmed these policy positions at a press conference in Cincinnati, Ohio on October 15, in response to questions concerning a trip to Israel by a number of black Americans, including a representative of the NAACP. That trip was planned weeks in advance of the aftermath of Ambassador Young's resignation as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. The sole and specific purpose of the trip was to permit some black Americans an opportunity to view the structure and operation of the Israeli labor movement. No efforts at "peacemaking" were ever intended. No political statements were ever intended. No criticism of the positions of other civil rights leaders or groups were ever contemplated.

"The NAACP's decision to participate was based on our historic close working relationships with the American Jewish community. These relationships are still intact, and we intend to maintain and strengthen them" says the NAACP spokesman.

To the extent that any participant in this mid-east trip has suggested that the visit's purpose is other than herein described, said suggestion is inaccurate. To the extent that

any participant in this mid-east trip purports to represent or speak for the NAACP, as repudiating or condemning the efforts of others, is a breach of faith and is deceptive. The National Association for the Advancement of Col-

ored People speaks for itself. Finally, on the issue of the PLO, Hooks said at his October 15 press conference. "To the extent that the PLO is prepared to work for peace in the Middle

East in the context of the continued existence of Israel—and to the extent that they are prepared to commit themselves to negotiations toward this end and a cessation of the terrorist violence—we believe the PLO's ex-

istence must be acknowledged and its participation in the peace efforts must be sought. We do not condone terrorist violence anywhere in the world, but support all feasible measures toward peace."



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National Black Coalition Launches Operation Big Vote: Crusade '80

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Representatives of some sixty national organizations announced today a goal of increasing black voter registration by at least twenty per cent in selected areas before the upcoming 1980 congressional and presidential elections.

This goal was set by the National Coalition on Black Voter Participation at a Washington, D.C. press conference called the kick off Operation Big Vote: Crusade '80, a black voter registration and voter education drive. The National Coalition on Black Voter Participation includes major civil rights, labor, business, women's, religious, civic and public interest groups. Operation Big Vote began in May of 1976 and is credited with doing more to get black registered and to the polls, on a non-partisan basis, than any other factor in the last presidential election.

Black leaders representing Operation Big Vote at the press conference included: Vernon Jordan, president of NUL; Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary Ind.; Mrs. Coretta Scott King, president, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center; Carl Holman, president, National Urban Coalition; Bayard Rustin, president, A. Philip Randolph Institute; and Eddie N. Williams, president, Joint Center for Political Studies.

Blacks represent approximately ten per cent of the electorate. The U.S. Census Bureau has projected that roughly sixteen million blacks will be of voting age by November 1980. In 1976, nine million blacks were registered to vote and only six million voted.

"We know that the decade of the eighties will not be an easy time for

motivating and mobilizing those who feel that their needs were not met in the past and will probably not be met in the future," said Eddie N. Williams, chairman of the OBV Steering Committee. "However", continued Williams, "it is clear that we ourselves have not done enough to maximize our political potential. We must continue to increase our rates of political participation, especially at a time characterized by widespread economic troubles and call for belittling."

In 1980, this nationwide non-partisan Crusade will not only seek to increase black registration by at least twenty per cent in identified major areas in key states, but will also seek to achieve a turnout rate of at least 75 per cent of registered voters in the target areas. Target areas identified to date number 41 in the following fifteen states: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia.

"Through Operation Big Vote: Crusade '80," Williams commented, "we hope to supplement existing national and local voter participation programs as well as to encourage the development of new ones, so that we can pull in the same direction at the same time." Williams further noted that the NAACP, National Urban League, A. Philip Randolph Institute and PUSH are among a handful of organizations whose programs include voter participation components.

The NAACP's Voter Education Department is placing special emphasis on registering black youth. Benjamin L.

Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, has stated "as urgent as the need is to increase black voter registration in this country, there is an even greater need to put emphasis on black youth registration. Plagued by high unemployment and declining expectations in this country, black youth clearly have the most to gain from aggressive participation in the political arena. We literally want them to grasp their future in their hands."

Vernon Jordan, president of the National Urban League, stated, "It is the responsibility of the black community to maximize black registration and voter turnout. We don't have the wealth. We don't have the power. But we do have the numbers. Those numbers won't count unless we register and vote. The black agenda for the 1980's, with its emphasis on such vital issues as full employment and affirmative action, depends on that."

Williams concluded that Operation Big Vote: Crusade '80 will be particularly intense in those target areas that could swing a total of 304 electoral votes in a presidential election.

IT'S THE MOST!



A couple from India hold the honors for the longest recorded marriage—86 years. Sir Temulji Bhicaji Nariman and Lady Nariman entered the bonds of matrimony in 1853 when they were both only five years old.