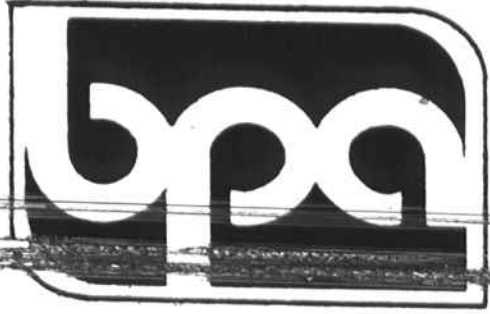



# VIEWPOINTS editorials ● columns


Member North Carolina Black Publisher's Association





## Getting Along

Race or Economics



Dr. James P. Comer

Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint

## Reap What You Sow

The intransigence of the University of North Carolina in coming up with a truly-equitable desegregation plan has brought about consequences which could have been avoided long ago.

Just as the state dragged its feet following the U.S. Supreme Court order to desegregate public schools in 1954, the university leadership, with the support of the governor, is engaged in seeing how far it can push the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The victims in this childish exercise can only be the students of the university system, particularly those in the five historically-black institutions.

Currently, HEW has been forced to begin cutting off federal aid to the university in order to comply with a court order that it enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The facts are clear that the current university budget utilizes more resources to build expensive new programs at schools which have traditionally benefited from segregation than to upgrade the program offering at the

five black institutions. The issue at hand is not control of the university; it is one of equity.

Playing a large role in the misguided strategy of the state to the desegregation dispute is the lack of black input in the formulation of policy.

When the University of North Carolina was first created, seven blacks sat on the Board of Governors.

Following the recent elections in the General Assembly, only four will sit on the panel. There is reason to believe, as stated in a letter from former member J. J. Sansom on the next page, that a deliberate effort was made to leave blacks off the board who might raise a protest.

The recent turns of events leave us with little hope that the state will see the wisdom of changing its policy. The whole affair is likely to end up with the state actually losing control over the system, just because of a failure to face reality.

## Best Face Possible

One of the rites associated with spring is the desire to put the best face possible on one's home.

Whether one lives in an apartment or a mansion, there are things that one can do to clean up and fix up yards and houses.

Many will choose to do their own work, putting long hours into re-seeding a lawn or painting a porch. For that industrious group, a few tips are in order.

Don't overwork yourself; be sure tools are in good working order and use the proper lawn or home care products.

A little careful planning can save one from injury or waste of money.

Others will contract out the work on their homes, such as roofing, paneling, painting, plumbing or additions. That can be a time saver and a money saver, but there is potential for serious loss in such an arrangement.

Fly-by-night operators are prone to offer their services for home improvements. They can leave you without your money and without the improvements you desired.

For home repairs, you should depend only on a reputable firm which you can check out through friends

or other sources. The Better Business Bureau can give you reliable information on whether you should do business with a firm.

Another problem to face is that of financing. Sources for money include banks, finance companies and savings and loans.

However, the differences in their costs can mean hundreds in extra expense to you.

As you should for repair work, you should shop around for the financing which costs you the least in the long run. Check interest rates and how often they're compounded.

If you feel as though you've been unfairly denied financing at the rate you desire, you can file complaints with several federal agencies which regulate financial institutions.

Fixing up one's home is one of the best investments one can make. It not only enhances your property value, but also improves the look of your neighborhood.

And it certainly does feel nice to have your home the way you want it.

(James P. Comer and Alvin F. Poussaint are psychiatrists and the authors of the book "Black Child Care." Dr. Comer is professor of child psychiatry and associate dean for student affairs at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Poussaint is associate professor of psychiatry and associate dean for student affairs at Harvard Medical School.)

Dear Dr. Poussaint: This is in response to your column of February 11 in which L.M.J. stated that he was "ostracized and resented" by black students because of his white friendships. You suggested he "mingle with blacks who have to suffer the experiences of poverty and segregation."

I am a white, female high school student who attends a successfully integrated high school in an affluent community. I have as many black friends as white friends and rarely notice a color difference. If any of my black friends would do as you suggest, they would never be accepted. My friends wouldn't last a day on the streets just as I wouldn't last a day in the hills of Appalachia.

Race is not the difficulty. Socio-economic background is. A young black coming from an affluent society would have more difficulty adapting to Harlem than a young black from Harlem would to a predominantly white prep school. All I'm saying is it appears to me that you're alienating young blacks from whites by telling L.M.J. to relate to his brothers in the streets.

As for your comment about his white friends' liberalism disappearing later in life, I could use some advice. How can I prevent it if in fact it is inevitable?

A.M.S., Cleveland  
Dear A.M.S.: Your letter is quite thoughtful and perceptive. However difficult it may be, it is important for people to know and understand others across class lines, particularly if they attend the same school or college. Blacks especially should have some knowledge of the conditions and life experiences of their less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Perhaps it would do you some good if you did travel and work in Appalachia to see how those at the economic bottom live, survive and make a contribution to America. I doubt that blacks and whites in the middle class will alienate themselves from one another by mingling with their respective poverty groups.

As for your final question regarding a white friends' liberalism fading later in life, I don't think that such an

outcome is inevitable unless the white's liberalism was shallow in the first place. If you stick by your principles even under pressure, you will stand the test. We need strong people like you to bring about a better racial and class atmosphere in America.

Dear Dr. Poussaint: My 17 year old brother is on the high school football team. He and other team members take "pick-up" pills just before a game. He says the pills give him more stamina and help them to win. Is there any danger in taking these drugs?

B.L., Baltimore  
Dear B.L.: The "pick-up" drugs you mentioned are probably amphetamines, commonly referred to as "speed". They are stimulants that supposedly increase an athlete's strength and endurance. These drugs are allegedly used widely in professional football and to a lesser extent, in college football.

Some investigators report that amphetamine usage before a sports contest may improve one's performance because they aid in increasing alertness, reinforcing aggressiveness and diminishing one's reaction time. However, some scientists feel that these drugs are dangerous and should not be used to aid one's performance in sports events.

In large doses, amphetamines can produce over-stimulation, restlessness, tension, anxiety and tremulousness which may diminish one's performance. Stimulant drugs can also produce paranoid reactions, hallucinations, insomnia, irritability and even impotence. Some players may develop a physiologic dependence on amphetamines. Thus, frequent intake of amphetamines means considerably risking one's good health.

It is unfortunate that drugs have invaded the sports world. Sports used to be mostly clean fun. Today, however, the urge to win at any cost has led many athletes to turn to drugs which they feel will enhance their performance. Remember, we're talking about big money and people's careers when we speak of professional sports.

Surprisingly enough, there are not very many regulations barring the use of drugs in ordinary sporting events. Persons in authority should emphasize the prevention of drug abuse since it interferes with the basic morality of good sportsmanship.

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## Speaking Out

By Vondal S. Gravlee  
President

National Association of  
Home Builders

Contrary to popular belief, 1979 promises to be a good year for buying a house. Starts will be down from the past two years when builders broke ground on some four million units, including a record of almost three million single-family homes. But there should be no repeat of the 1974-75 recession when housing starts plummeted to an annual rate of 940,000 units. We can expect about 1.6 million starts in 1979.

As a builder, I am not particularly overjoyed about the housing outlook or the tight monetary policies imposed by the federal government that have made mortgage money more expensive and harder to come by. But a slower market does bring some benefits for builders and buyers alike.

Buyers in 1979 won't for instance, face as many inconveniences and delays as buyers have during the past two boom years. The slower pace will take the pressure off many building product manufacturers, who have been bumping production ceilings for two years. It will also eliminate scattered shortages of building materials such as dry-wall, concrete and insulation, which have delayed production schedules for months.

Subcontractors, many of whom had more contracts than they could handle in the past year, will also find it easier to complete their jobs on time as construction tapers off gradually.

Of course, interest rates are higher than ever before. Although rates can be expected to fluctuate throughout the year, no substantial decline is in sight and rates will remain between 9 and 11.5 percent for the next several years, depending on local economic conditions as well as the demand for mortgage loans in your particular town.

If you can afford it, the best time to buy a home is still now. Waiting can be a costly mistake. The house that costs you \$64,000 today could cost \$71,680 next year if construction costs continue to go up about 12 percent a year.

Keep in mind, too, that housing is the only investment available to the average family that is increasing in value faster than inflation. And there is still plenty of mortgage money available, although it may be harder to find today than a year ago.

Many builders will still have mortgage money available at lower rates because of previous commitments. They are also a

good source of information on which lenders have mortgage programs. These funds available and on what terms.

You may find mortgages taking a slightly different shape next year. First time homebuyers may be able to get a helping hand from the

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## The Klan and Human Relations



Grier



Scippio



Hilton



Daniels

This week the Chronicle Camera visited Winston Lake Park, and asked park visitors if they believed that the Ku Klux Klan should be allowed to have a representative on the Human Relations Commission.

Here are the responses:

**Anthony Marshall:** No. Because I think everybody knows what the Klan stands for. Even a little child knows what the KKK is.

**Maurice Grier:** No. Because I think it would cause a major problem here in Winston-Salem. Because there are a lot of black people here who

Klan here at all.

**Robert Scippio:** No. I don't think they should be allowed on the board. Because I think that any organization with a history such as the Klan has, shouldn't be allowed to participate in any government activity. And that goes for the American Nazi Party, too.

**Bonnie Hilton:** I don't see why not. Not that I approve of such organizations, but they have just as much right to be represented as anybody else.

**Richard Daniels:** No. Because I don't think it's right to have the Klan. People will just get all mixed up. It's bad enough as it is now.



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