

U.S. Senate holds hearings on problems of young black males

With thousands of black soldiers returning from war in the Persian Gulf, a U.S. Senate Committee shifted national focus to the "tragic plight and alarming crisis facing young

approaches for solving the complex problems affecting young black males in this country.

Committee Chairman Senator Donald W. Riegle Jr. (D-Mich.) said,

As the lead-off witness, Gov. L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia said, "It is ironic that a great many of the same men and women who served this nation so valiantly in our efforts

timizing and killing one another." Wilder said, "It is imperative that we redouble our efforts to provide our young people with the knowledge and the access to opportunities that they so desperately need to break free from the vicious cycle of drugs, drop-outs, unemployment, teen pregnancy, and violent crime."

Wilder announced the establishment of a bipartisan 21st Century Commission on African-American Males, of which he is a co-chairperson, along with Mayor David Dinkins, of New York City; Dr. Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women; John Jacob, president of the National Urban League; Arthur Fletcher, chairman, U.S. Civil Rights Commission; and Sen. Terry Sanford (D-N.C.).

The Commission will host a National Conference on the Status of African-American Males May 22-24 in Washington, D.C. at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

Jacob said, "Through research, as well as national and community based initiatives, the National Urban League has for years provided leadership on issues pertaining to the devel-

opment and well-being of our young African-American males."

In her testimony at the hearing, Dr. Height said the issue of black males cannot be separate from the issue of the black family. She said, "The black family is the foundation that nourishes achievement, provides support, enhances self-esteem, shapes our ideals and goals, and tempers behavior."

Dr. Spencer emphasized that teachers must be trained to deal with young black males and that job training for black males should be expanded.

Senator Sanford, who was instrumental in organizing the bipartisan Commission on the Status of Black Males, said, "It is time for the nation to turn its concern to the disadvantages born with each black male child."

Those interested in obtaining information on the 21st Century

Commission on African-American Males can contact the Washington, D.C. office of the Commission at 3704 Huntington St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20015 or call (202) 686-2891.



Key participants in the Senate hearing were (l-r): Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder; Sen. Donald W. Riegle (D-Mich.); Dr. Dorothy Height, president, National Council of Negro Women; and Sen. Terry Sanford (D-N.C.).

black males in American urban cities. The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee invited a number of black policy makers to participate in a unique hearing to consider new policy initiatives and

in convening the roundtable hearing. "Young black men today face problems that stack the odds against them. We cannot stand by while so many Americans fall behind. Our challenge is to work together to find solutions."

to free Kuwait. . . will be returning to this country only to be caught in the cross-fire of another war, one which rages even as I speak, in streets across this nation. It's a war in which all too often black Americans are vic-

Peace Corps Continued from page A4

Twi language, the Peace Corps has established an impressive record of meeting very human needs. Volunteers work on health and nutrition programs in communities; food production and fishery pond maintenance on farms; math, science, and English skills in the schools; and energy and conservation projects under trees.

To the 123,000 Americans who have served in the Peace Corps over the past 30 years, the Washington, D.C. Recruiting Office honors you and your work overseas.

Sincerely,
Rachel Maleh
Public Affairs Specialist
Peace Corp of the
United States

The in-car/classroom on wheels phase of driver education sometimes becomes a one-on-one, meaning one teacher with one student because of an unpredicted absence of a classmate.

Driver education, like other courses, needs the cooperation and support systems which public schools have available. The support systems include personnel and facilities. One example, some fifteen year old girls are terrified in the early stages of learning to drive a car - the counselor is a valuable professional to assist the child in overcoming fear. Microscopes, video tape players, psychophysical testing devices and the various school laboratories are essential in preparation of tomorrow's society to cope in a high-tech world. When driver education is administered from an academic perspective, it also becomes a catalyst for achievement in other subject areas.

Commercial schools will not be able to provide the aforementioned facilities for students' educational development nor are their teachers qualified to utilize them. Remember, the bottom line for commercial schools is profit; the bottom line for our public schools is education.

Dr. Isaac Barnett,
Professor (Ret.)
Safety and Driver Education
N.C. A&T State University

A wish

To the Editor:

If I Had A Wish

If I had a wish my wish would be for there to be more love in the world. The word itself is not hard to relate to.

I have parents and a family that I love, and they love me.

It is so many people who seem to have forgotten what the word means.

If it were more love in the world, the world would be a better place to live.

You can have money, clothes, shoes, jewelry, or a big house, but without love your life is empty.

Some people show love in different ways, but others don't show it at all.

Just because some people don't show love it doesn't mean that they don't love someone.

Sometimes when you are down and out just say to yourself I know someone loves me and maybe you'll feel better.

God put us here to love each other not to kill each other every time we get the chance.

It takes the same amount of time to love someone as it does to hate someone.

If it were more love, maybe there wouldn't be so much crime, and people would think about what they do before they do it.

If you love yourself you will see to it that no harm is done to you or around you.

If you see your friends doing something wrong you should love them enough to tell them that what they're doing is wrong and don't follow right behind them.

Love a friend enough to talk to them about selling or doing drugs,

drinking and driving, and staying in school.

It doesn't matter whether you're old or young just love a person enough to talk to them or even help them.

We are only on earth for a while, so while you're here make the best of it.

Love is what you make of it!
Tracy S. Foote
Northwest Middle School
7th grade



Tracy S. Foote

Driver's Ed?

To the Editor:

During the current General Assembly Session (1991) our legislators in Raleigh are debating a critical issue which is vital to all youth and parents of our state. The issue in question is who should teach our youth driver education, the commercial schools or the public schools. Even in terms of dollars and cents, this is a debatable question. However, it is crystal clear that if driver education is relegated to commercial schools, the quality of the program would be greatly reduced.

For the sake of brevity, let's compare teachers and support facilities of the two respective schools (commercial and public). The commercial schools will draw their teachers from a populace of retired truck drivers and retired taxi drivers. Commercial teachers are not required to go through the rigorous education preparation and state certification evaluations which are basic requirements for public school teachers. Also, public school teachers are evaluated for their emotional and ethical stability which are added safeguards for the students.

Violence Continued from page A5

registration was about to expire.

That's not a misprint. It hadn't expired. It was about to expire.

And local minorities have a fund of stories about police abuses, some of which have been translated into lawsuits that have cost the city millions of dollars.

The obvious conclusion is that racists in uniform routinely harass minority citizens, seize on stereotypes to justify their actions, and use force more readily against blacks and Hispanics.

In the King case, a citizen captured it all on videotape. But what would have happened is he hadn't been there with his camera?

Most likely, the same thing that happens all the time: the violators would get off scot free, their false reports would be accepted without question, and the victim would be just another statistic.

But let's not make the mistake of thinking this is just a local incident. Nationwide, incidents of questionable force by police officers

have risen sharply in recent years.

Those incidents often cut across racial lines, but the typical pattern is white officers beating blacks.

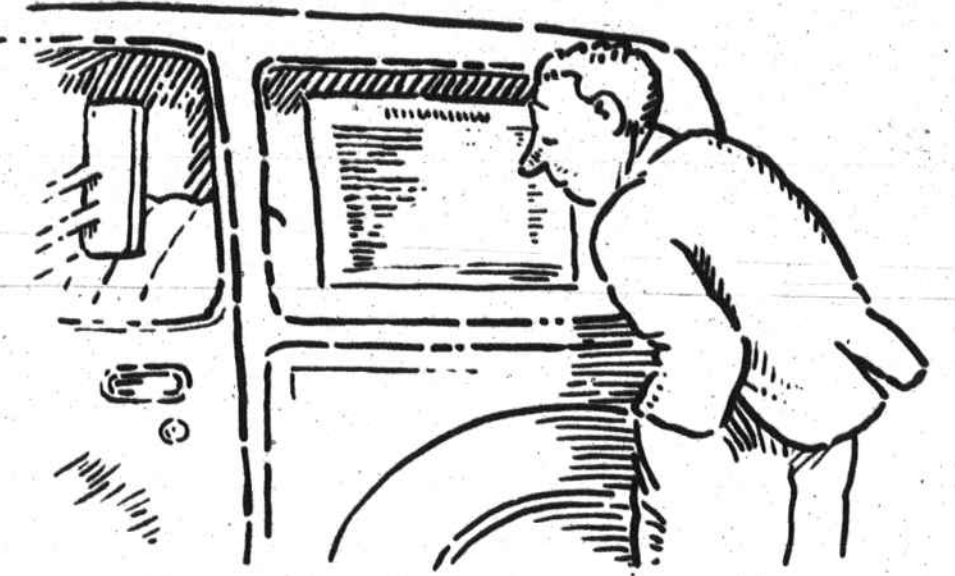
The usual explanation is that the victim was resisting arrest or otherwise provoking force, but the reality is that very often officers allow racial feelings to overcome their professional responsibilities.

Black communities around the country are being denied adequate police protection and citizens are afraid of the people who are paid to protect them.

Decent, hardworking law enforcement officers are smeared by the acts of fellow officers who think their badges give them the right to harass citizens and translate racist feelings into violence.

Some police departments have strict rules on the use of force, train officers to recognize and overcome racial prejudices and stereotyping, and stress respect for citizens. All should.

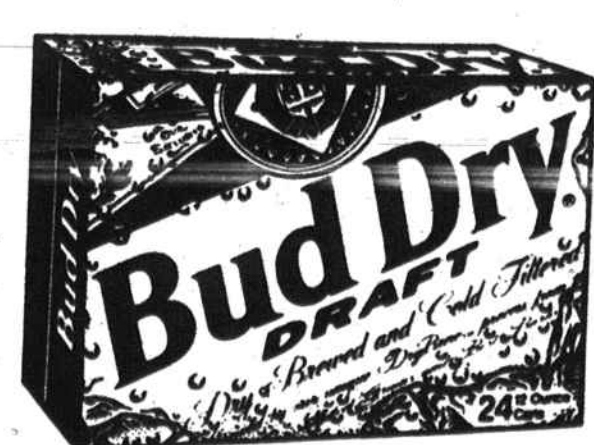
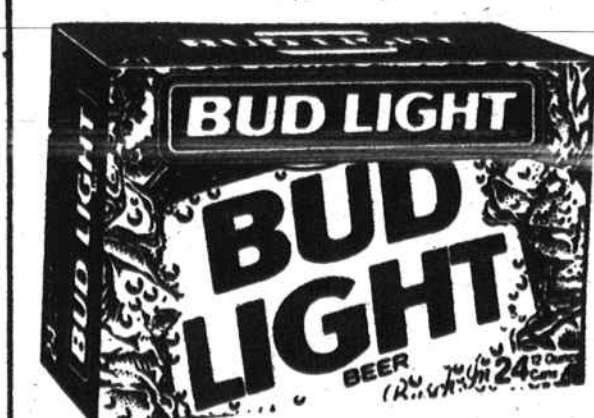
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