

Opinion

Better Sensitivity Training Could Assist Police

To the Editor:

Former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall once stated that the Ku Klux Klan no longer wears white robes — instead they wear blue uniforms and black robes to justify the killing of our black youth. Along with issuing long prison sentences, the system is practicing black genocide and annihilation.

Presently, the Winston-Salem Police Department is in grave need of positive reform. Because of the lack of cultural knowledge white policemen are void of the black experience that renders them psychologically insensitive to the black community at large. It is for these reasons that I suggest that black police officers be assigned to the black community. In major cities across the nation, police officers have a point system that dispenses department promotions, transfers and preferred days off to officers with the most arrest points. Statistics show that black males are primarily the ones who get arrested.

Melvin Bines

Working Together

To the Editor:

As the furor rises over yet another incident involving the Winston-Salem Police Department, where a man was fatally wounded in a struggle with an officer, let's take just a few minutes to reflect on the situation we find ourselves in.

The police cannot go into many neighborhoods in this city and carry out the duties of their jobs without large groups of people gathering around to make an already tense situation even worse.

As the pressure increases, mistakes are going to be made. We are

probably lucky that more incidents of this kind have not taken place before.

One may never know the reason that Lamont Bines took it upon himself to interfere with Officer Piscitelli on that fateful afternoon, but interfere he did. And consequently, he paid for that interference with his life.

rather than face up to the real, and not imagined, problems that plague our communities in every major city in this country.

It is always going to be convenient to place the blame for our problems on someone else, where in truth we are losing a whole generation of people to a lack of education, drugs, teen-age pregnancy, single-

them remember that the people that they need to reach are not within ear shot. The church has got to reestablish itself as the mainstay of the community and realize that the community they have to reach is not limited to just their members.

The people who are so-called "doing well" have to remember those who are not as fortunate as

CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

Sadly, we have become callous and indifferent in our dealing with the police, and no one in our community who can hold an audience is willing to acknowledge the reasons.

Our society is largely dominated by a generation of people who know no respect for any one, not only the police. Their respect is measured in the amount of gold around their necks and the systems in their cars. They laugh, ridicule and try to intimidate the young people who go to school, work part-time jobs or in some cases full-time jobs for minimum wages.

The people who work those jobs are earning a lot more than money in those jobs; they are learning at an early age about work ethic and responsibility. They learn that if you perform a service that you will be compensated and acquire a wealth of experience that can't be measured in terms of money. The money will come because those qualities are what every major employer in the area are looking for in their prospective employees.

Far too many of our youths are inclined to listen to the likes of Alderman Larry Womble, Nelson Malloy and the Rev. John Mendez

family households, and a growing disregard for human life.

The kids on the streets in many cases have better and more powerful guns than the police. Let's quit worrying about the way that they got them and concentrate on the fact that they have them and show no hesitation in using them on each other or anyone else.

While there are a lot of people who live in the city's public housing projects who live in constant fear and are in a sense of being held hostage in their communities by the drugs and nightly gun shots, none of us can rest easy because it can happen in any neighborhood in this city.

We have to quit looking the other way when we see people breaking the laws of the land and help our police do their jobs. Our criminal justice system needs an immediate and absolute overhaul. At the present time there is no chance for rehabilitation because the criminals are released far too early due to prison cap restrictions.

The black church, long the most stable part of our communities, has let us down. As they close each service with the phrase "the doors of the church are open," please let

they. A lot of people are stuck in situations that are beyond their control. We have to understand that it is more beneficial to give of our time than to give from our wallets. Everyone of our young people who are stuck in the cycle of poverty and despair deserve to see and be shown that there is something else available to them.

Money that is given will soon be spent but the time that is spent with a person who has been heretofore disenfranchised and neglected will never be forgotten. It doesn't have to be a whole lot of time because in a lot of cases just a little is a lot more than they have ever gotten.

As I close, I want to offer my sympathy to Mrs. Bines over the death of her son. I share her grief and her sorrow, although I don't know her son and I have never lost a child.

Unfortunately, as our moral structure rapidly crumbles every day, I feel that this scene will be repeated many more times.

Steven A. Floyd,
secretary/treasurer
Winston Sports Travel Club

Minority Americans on Par with Third World Countries

The United Nations just issued a study, Human Development Report 1993, that ought to shock Americans who complacently think our high living standards make us No. 1 in the world.

The report ranks the nations of the world as calculated by a Human Development Index, which factors in such basic indicators of the quality of life as income, education and life expectancy.

The United States ranks sixth in the world in that Human Development Index, behind Japan, Canada, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden.

But the report also calculated rankings for white Americans and for minorities, and that changes the picture considerably.

White America ranks No. 1. But black Americans, measured by the index as if they constituted a separate country, ranked 31; Hispanic America came in 35th.

The report points out that black

disadvantage starts at birth, with infant mortality rates over double those for whites. It continues with lower educational attainment levels. And it is capped by income disparities that leave black per capita income at only 60 percent that for whites.

But more important, government and business leaders looking at the U.N. results may wonder how this nation can compete in the 21st century if, in effect, it is divided into two countries — a White America with world leadership living standards, and a huge and growing minority America living on Third World levels.

With the industrial nations of the world engaged in tough economic competition, the winners will be those countries that educate and train all of their people to be productive and to share fully in their societies.

Those that don't will fail —

and the U.S. is a prime candidate for failure unless it moves fast to bring its minorities up to the standards

administration's modest stimulus package, Congress ought to be considering the Urban League's Mar-



TO BE EQUAL

JOHN E. JACOBS

enjoyed by the majority.

Seen in that light, the conflict in Washington over spending an extra billion or so to create jobs or to beef up training programs looks unrealistic.

In a six-trillion dollar economy and a trillion-plus federal budget, such sums are peanuts, nowhere near enough to do the job that needs to be done as quickly as it can be done.

Instead of picking apart the

shall Plan for America, which would invest in developing all of our people to become productive.

If we continue to ignore the development needs of our minorities, the U.S. will sink lower on the scale of nations.

But if we invest in the education, training and job creation that put minorities on par with the white population, then all Americans will be No. 1.

Under the Guise of Students

In the two years that she has been head of Salem Academy and College, Dr. Julianne Still Thrift has shown a concern for all of her students, including African Americans. That was never more evident than the swift action taken when racism reared its ugly head on the pristine, all-women's liberal arts campus in Old Salem. The day that four students — three black and one white — found racist notes attached to their dormitory doors, Thrift immediately met with the students to show her concern and support and to express that racist activity of any kind would not be tolerated.

Clearly, these cowardly acts of bigotry were conceived in the mind of an unbalanced individual who belongs in an institution of higher learning about as much as a fox in a hen house. The individual, or individuals, who perpetrated these acts operate under the guise of students. Lacking in self-confidence, they find comfort in the hurt they can inflict on others. They cherish the smug assumptions of superiority held by some whites, since it is their belief as well.

At the same time, they undermine everything that Salem has fought to achieve since 1783 when it educated its first African Americans. Today, Salem is continuing its efforts to diversity, with a third of its new faculty for next year being African Americans. This year, almost one-fifth of its freshman class is black, compared with 5 percent of the upperclassmen.

Salem Academy and College should continue its mission of providing a quality education for all its students, despite what is clearly a minority of arrogant hatemongers in its midst.

Credo of the Black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from antagonisms when it accords to every person — regardless of race or creed — full human and legal rights. Having no person, the Black Press strives to help every person, in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

HOW TO REACH US

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Jamilla Fowler, 18
Forsyth Tech student:

"They [the police] think just because they have a little bit of authority, they can do anything — just because they have a badge. I have a feeling there's going to be a riot. They need to screen the police."



Henry Karshaw, 28
unemployed:

"To shoot a man without a gun is wrong. They should give (Piscitelli) the electric chair — show everyone justice. Even if he confesses, he should still get a life sentence."



John Wall, 33
construction worker:

"They [the police] are real quick to use (pepper spray). Years ago they wouldn't do that. I haven't had any problems with them."



Williams "Doc" Martin, 43
cook/maintenance worker:

"When police arrest or question someone, they're all a little racist. The police department is in the process of starting a major riot. There is a battle between the policeman and the citizen."



Towanda Alston, 19
Forsyth Tech student:

"In a way sometimes they do and in a way they don't (overreact). They do their job to protect the community, but sometimes they harass people."