

Editorials & Comments

A Challenge To College Graduates

Black college graduates today have the unique distinction of being among some of the best educated young people of our times. It would appear that you are indeed challenged to be responsible first to the Black community and through that community become responsible to the rest of society as a whole.

For if the academic degrees you have earned after serious and diligent study mean anything if what you have indeed become means anything at all-it should mean that you are now dedicated to the service of the Black community and through that community to the rest of the world.

You cannot afford to accept the platitudes by Wattenberg and Scammon as reported in the Commentary Magazine and many others who may think that the great majority of Black Americans have put poverty behind them and have become middleclass Americans. Even now the traditional patterns of two blacks being unemployed for every one white has returned to haunt the economy. There is also the continual exclusion of blacks from an equitable share of managerial positions just to mention a few.

So, no Black college graduate can afford to ever forget that your training represents tremendous investment-Black investment-for the future.

We submit that the great majority of Black Americans are not in the "so called" middleclass; but if being a college graduate makes this a reality, then you must accept middleclass responsibilities with a

deeper and more pervasive sense of responsibility, not only for your own selfish and personal aggrandizement, but that true responsibility by which all we do must be marked.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

When we speak of such responsibility we mean responsibility to the Black parents who have sacrificed so that you could be where you are today and the responsibility to those other Black youths who, instead of receiving degrees or "sheepskins" today, now languish behind prison bars in greater number perhaps than many Blacks who are in educational institutions today and even the expellees who could go no place, become college pushouts.

Remember always the revolutionary-spirit of the far-reaching 60's which truly aroused the conscience of the nation with their cry of "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around"; and remembering always the wisdom of that great leader, Dr. King that "We Shall Overcome Someday."

That day can become a reality if you, the Black College graduate of today's turbulent times will become truly responsible, first to the Black community with your services and know how and through that community responsible to the rest of the greater society.

The greatest test of this challenge will be how well you and you and you Black college graduates accept your responsibility to the black community first and to the greater society at large.

The Optional School Controversy

The controversy involving our schools has been switched from integration to the Optional school concept. We have been told that the projected enrollments for the five open schools fell short of the 20-25 percent racial ration requirements approved by the courts.

The Charlotte Post is concerned about the lack of interest shown by Black parents. This, of course, raises some key questions.

First of all, why all of a sudden so much emphasis has been placed on Black recruitment at this late date? We would also like to know why were Black parents not adequately informed before now?

It is our feelings that the city school board and the officials of our schools should make a genuine effort to make Blacks feel more officials of our schools should make a genuine

It is our feelings that the city school board and the officials of our schools should make a genuine effort to make Blacks feel more welcomed in the system. It seems to us that this should be done before they come face-to-face with court approved assignment plans and deadlines for compliance with court orders.

We also believe the lack of genuine aggressive leadership in our school system has made the Black community leary of real intent. Are our city school officials asking Blacks to save the optional school

program just to make it possible for more whites to attend or are they genuinely interested in a new concept to really help meet the educational needs of all children?

Optional educational opportunities do have merits. The traditional school has advantages, too. We must consider the fact that most Blacks are traditionally inclined.

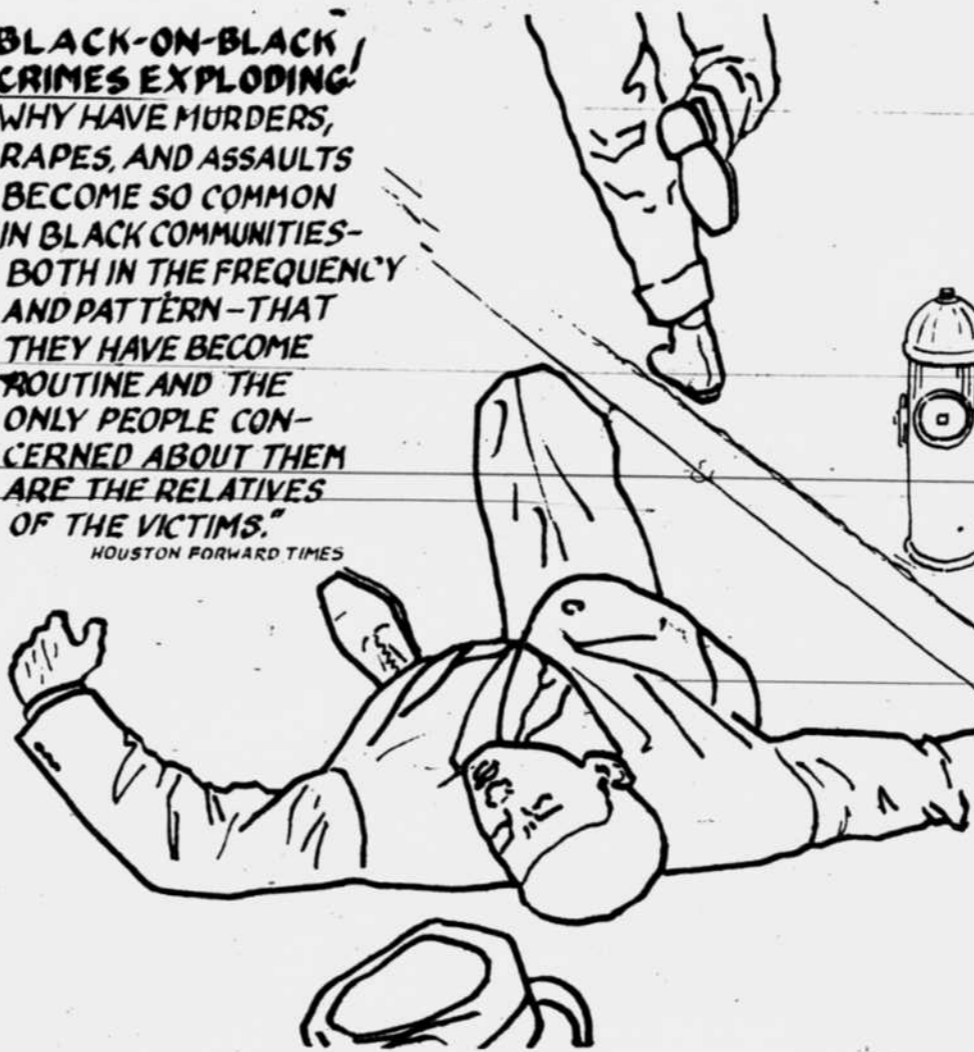
The basis difference between the two concepts is that the open classroom is student centered whereas the traditional is teacher centered. The child is free to work at his own pace in the open school. The teacher sets the pace in the traditional.

We believe the school officials ought to make an extra effort to better inform Blacks of all their programs. Most Charlotteans Black and White have no conception of what is going on in our schools. We believe these parents would give greater support of the city schools and all of their programs if they were better informed.

There is a crying need for the school officials to recognize the fact that the great majority of Black parents with school age children do not have the time to get actively involved in the school program. They are either confined with jobs or they are bogged with transportation problems. When a person is not actively involved with himself he tends to be less interested in involving his children.

BLACK-ON-BLACK CRIMES EXPLODING!
WHY HAVE MURDERS, RAPES, AND ASSAULTS BECOME SO COMMON IN BLACK COMMUNITIES— BOTH IN THE FREQUENCY AND PATTERN— THAT THEY HAVE BECOME ROUTINE AND THE ONLY PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT THEM ARE THE RELATIVES OF THE VICTIMS.

HOUSTON FORWARD TIMES



Crime Must Be Curbed

Down To Business

Black Business

- Fighting For Survival

Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell
President, National Business

According to a recent study prepared for the Department of Commerce's Office of Minority Business Enterprise, an estimated four out of every ten Black businesses operating in 1972 have gone out of business, which represents a forty per cent (40 percent) failure rate. The major blame for this failure rate among Black businesses should not be cast upon the businesses themselves, but rather upon the community structure in which they operate.

A business cannot survive without a healthy economic environment - that is, an environment with an adequate supply of capital for the purchase of goods and services, the investment in business enterprises and the expansion of manpower and plant capacity. A minority business is not different. It, too, needs a healthy economic atmosphere. Unfortunately, the Black community does not currently provide such an environment.

Traditionally, Black-owned businesses have concentrated in the Black community and have been forced to limit their enterprises to the areas of retail trade and selected services. Such businesses were primarily small-scale, and actually thrived on the racial segregation which characterized our communities. Black businesses satisfied the commercial needs of the Black community and, in turn, got their share of the total Black income. But in so doing, Black business captured control of only a small fraction of the nation's total business activity.

Retail trade and selected services

have declined in recent years, and the increase in integration has introduced an element of competition for which Black businesses have had little experience. These businesses can no longer depend upon the monopoly of the Black market as a means of survival. They must now compete with white businesses that have the money and managerial expertise to threaten their very survival.

But there are other, more important reasons, why Black business must enlarge their market base. As a group, Blacks represent only 13 percent of the total population in this country. And in 1970, we collectively accounted for a meager 6.5 per cent of the total money income. This means that a business sector that concentrates solely on the Black market is effectively ignoring more than 93 percent of the total dollar income in America. With such a limited financial market, a business entity must remain small in order to make a profit, since it can ill-afford to build up inventories larger than their marketability.

Further, our current problems of inflation and recession place tremendous pressures on the small, unstable income areas. As a result, the Black market is seriously depleted. High unemployment, poor housing conditions and inadequate training and experience in the labor field combine to disintegrate their already decaying financial base.

Since the majority of Black-owned businesses are sole proprietorships - one man operations - the source of capital needed to sustain these firms usually come from the owners personal savings.



TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

Vietnam's Refugees

It is estimated that over 125,000 Vietnamese refugees have come to the United States, setting off a national debate about how they should be treated.

The President speaks for a sizable sector of national opinion when he urges that the refugees be welcomed to these shores and provided with federal assistance in building new lives.

America has always been a haven for people fleeing other lands, supporters of this position argue, and it cannot turn away political refugees now. This is especially relevant in regard to the Vietnamese for we encouraged their ties with Americans, prolonged a war that destroyed their country, and so have an obligation to assist those who fled.

On the other side are those who argue against any special treatment for the refugees. They maintain that the U. S. cannot absorb them into the work force at a time of economic Depression, and stigmatize many of the refugees as being part of the elite that stole their country blind, or tiger cage guards and other undesirables.

The answer to these points make the opponents of the refugees look mean-spirited indeed. It is estimated that only about 30,000 of the refugees will join the work force, an insignificant number in an economy that has over 80 million jobs even in a Depression. And while some of the refugees may have undesirable backgrounds, the overwhelming majority are innocent persons who may have been in danger because they worked for Americans during the war.

The debate goes back and forth, but some of the issues just below the surface are more important for the country to consider. After all, the refugees are here, no one is about to ship them back, and there is an obligation on our part to act in a humane fashion that was so noticeably absent from our actions during the war.

I have misgivings about the way the refugee problem has leaped to the top of our skewed national priorities, about the racist feelings unleashed by their presence here, and about our national double-vision that treats anti-communist refugees with greater consideration than others in our society.

The influx of brown-skinned refugees has reawakened racist attitudes. From California, which has a long history of anti-oriental persecutions, have come cries of anger against the refugees and demands that they be "dispersed" throughout the country. It seems that the racial feelings that helped us to bomb their country with impunity are now surfacing in the form of nativist rage against colored outsiders.

But another consideration refers to the special priorities given the refugees. Like the Hungarian refugees in the '50s and the Cubans in the '60s, they are slated for aid that has been denied our own citizens fleeing economic and racial oppression within our own borders. And previous European immigrants who came over in steerage had to fend for themselves.

The President is asking for half a billion dollars to get the refugees settled here. In the context of their needs and the already swollen size of the budget that does not sound unreasonable.

But this is the same President who wanted to slice a half billion dollars out of food stamp aid to the poor, and out of old people's social security checks and medical payments. It is the same President who wanted to cut proposed GI benefits for veterans of the Vietnam war, many of whom are black, jobless and in need of better veterans' benefits.

as i see it

Blacks Need History

By Gerald Johnson

Suppose one morning you awoke to find that you couldn't remember anything. You had forgotten your name, your past, everything. Can you imagine the dilemma you'd be faced with.

Because you can't recollect the events that actually brought you to this point in time you are completely lost. Hence, you don't know what you've done which consequently clouds what you are doing which destroys plans for what you hope to do. Without knowing your past there can be no hope for the future.

Such is the case with the black race.

We as a race seem to be wandering relentlessly to no where. With



only fragments of our past to rely on we borrow the history of the white race to try to help mold our future.

We have adopted his religions, his education, and basically his entire lifestyle. This is a primary reason for our oppression.

Well, there is nothing that can be done about all that now. The black lifestyle can only be found by those who can't afford any other kind. The feelings, desires, and aspirations of the black people living in Hyde Park is practically identical to those white people living in Foxcroft.

The only problem, with this is that as black people we can't afford this luxury.

Because as a race we have no concrete direction, no unifying goal, no significant objective we have become a diverse and divided people.

We don't know where we are going

because we don't know where we've been.

The strength of other races of people lies in their history. The Jewish people's strength is not in their wealth but in their history. The same is true with the Chinese.

As a first step toward unification as a race it is of the utmost urgency that steps be taken to consolidate our past. Much time and money should be spent on researching our beginning, preparing documents from the findings, and dispersing these documents to the people.

A divided people is only a luxury the oppressor can afford.

We need to get started immediately you know, the future is as close as tomorrow.

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