

Editorials & Comments

NAACP Needs Your Support

The realization that these are indeed difficult times should make you even more aware that there are organizations in our midst that deserve our financial assistance.

And, at a time when it has been reported that the NAACP is deep in debt, it would be most appropriate that you consider this great organization when you begin compiling your Christmas gift list in the coming weeks.

According to Gloster Current, director of branches and field administration, the NAACP is appealing for 500,000 new members in 1975. This would bring the total enrollment up to almost a million. Considering that there are some 25 million Blacks in this country, the figure is far too low.

The nation's oldest and one of its most effective civil rights groups should not have to suffer with this indignity. One must realize that if less than five percent of our Black population would give their friends NAACP Memberships for Christmas, it would bring the total membership up to well over a million and a minimum of six dollars per member would provide the organization more than 7 million dollars to work with.

You ought to think about it! Remember through the years, about 400,000 Black and White NAACP members have carried the responsibility for enfranchisement, school integration, the desegregation of places of public accommodation, and the expansion of job opportunities as part of the long NAACP legal battle for freedom and equality of opportunity for all. It's time for the freeloaders, who have talked civil rights and shamelessly shared in all the benefits, to dig deeper in their pocketbooks and come forward with a worthwhile donation to the NAACP.

This is also to remind you that each of us is deeply indebted to the NAACP for gains we have made. However, once again, those gains which were so painfully won are under siege. Bigotry rears its ugly head in Boston and other places. The barbarians who stoned the buses and beat Black men, while shouting racial epithets are the descendants of refugees who fled tyranny and famine to seek freedom in a new land. There was a hidden issue of racism in the campaign to bar certain textbooks and library books from West Virginia schools. Despite the laws already enacted, both the government and the private sector persist in finding ways to circumvent them in the areas of housing and employment.

The administration of equal justice under law continues to be thwarted. Blacks and other minorities are still being short changed and frustrated in the blessings of democracy.

Too many of us have been lulled into a false sense of security, Sleepers awake! The time is now to join the NAACP. Freedom is more

than a word. It is more than a token contribution. And it is more than just a dream.

Your membership is an investment in the future. Let's make that goal a million and a half by the end of 1975.

The life membership is \$500 a year, but the memberships are only four and six dollars per year.

You should remember that no fuss was raised about busing as long as it was used for keeping the races segregated. It came evil only after it was used to desegregate the schools.

So don't be a freeloader. Join yourself and give a membership to one or more friends for Christmas.

Can you think of a better gift to give?

A Serious Problem

By Kenyon C. Burke
Special To The Post

A report just crossed my desk indicating that by the age of 17, one in every 16 girls has become a mother. Furthermore, adolescent mothers now comprise almost 20 percent of all mothers compared to 12 percent in 1950.

These two startling statements carry with them alarming and grave implications for our community and its people. Given the ordinary adjustments a mature self-sufficient adult must make to attain responsible parenthood, one wonders how these young people can cope in our complex industrial and skills demanding society.

Consequently, with the increase in early parenthood have come many serious emotional and financial problems resulting in a divorce rate twice as likely for early marriages. Add to this the fact that 9 percent of adolescent mothers attempt suicide -- seven times the rate for adolescent who are not parents.

Too often, it's a person's age, rather than the responsible desire to avoid the tragedy of unwanted pregnancy, which determines whether or not he or she will be able to obtain birth control information and services. The result: an epidemic of some three-quarters of a million pregnancies among single teenagers in 1974.

With it come all the health and human tragedies of parenthood-too soon for the young parents and for their infant: greatly increased risks of maternal death, premature birth, broken marriage (or out-of-wedlock birth), welfare dependency, dropping out of school, abandoned hopes for a meaningful career. Indeed, half of all out-of-wedlock births in 1974, and one-third of all abortions, were to teen-agers.

Of course, there are those who would keep our young people ignorant, or as the old folks used to say, "dumb and happy" by denying them information and services because of their own sexual hang-ups, religious beliefs, mythology, superstition and fear of some master plot to wipe us all out.

A SUPREME COURT WITHOUT WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

N.Y. TIMES



He Cared.....

REPORT FROM



Washington



CIA Destruction

By Congressman Jim Martin
9th District, North Carolina

For months, Members of Congress have engaged in a complete dismantling of the Central Intelligence Agency. Now the Senate Intelligence Committee has crippled the nation's intelligence gathering operations even further with the announcement of the committee's prospective release of the names of 12 CIA foreign agents.

No purpose is served by naming these individuals except to jeopardize their lives and cause harm to their families.

If American laws have been broken those responsible should be punished through our judicial system. Beyond that I don't see how our national interest would be served by exposing everything. The interests of anti-American nations would be served by exposing everything. The interests of anti-American nations would be served simply because foreign sympathizers will avoid our intelligence operations for fear of having their names made public by a House or Senate Committee. A Senate Committee decision on release of the names was rather moot, since it is usually just a matter of time before secret intelligence information is leaked to the media from Congressional Committee. This has already happened in the case of one individual whose name was printed in various publications learned from "informed sources". If we must know names, why don't we have the

name of the "informed source" to learn a little more about their background. Would it be in the public interest? Does the public really want to know? Does the public really care? Has the public interest been served by the CIA disclosures?

As I have said before, it is vital to our national security to have an effective intelligence gathering operation and it must not be destroyed by exposing its network of operations.

It is not in our national interest to promote assassinations. If applicable criminal laws are violated and can be proven the CIA's effectiveness need not be weakened. (Using it for a political stepping stone is detrimental to its strength)

CIA Director William Colby told Members of the Senate foreign operatives were acting under orders and should not be exposed to hostile action. I think he's right. These people were working for us, after all, not for the Communists!

The Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee (he's running for President) says his Committee has acted "judiciously and properly". I submit they have been self-righteous and irresponsible.

Metric Conversion Act
Congress recently ended 150 years of debate over the issue of converting to the metric system by passing the Metric Conversion Act of 1975. Thus, the United States becomes the last major industrialized nation to set up a governmental body to coordinate changeover to the metric system.

TO BE EQUAL



VERNON E. JORDAN JR.

War On The Hungry

The food stamp program, perhaps the fastest growing federal social welfare program, has been under heavy attack for months now, culminating with the Administration's new proposal to cut the program back sharply, reducing the number of recipients and slashing benefits.

That such a proposal should come at a time of increasing unemployment and rising food prices is an illustration of the hard-hearted cynicism which the survival problems of the poor receive today.

Instead of a war on hunger, we're getting a war on the hungry.

And the reason for the attack on the food stamp program is simply that it has proved successful. Its purpose, as stated in the Food Stamp Act, is "to safeguard the health and well being of the nation's population and raise levels of nutrition among low-income families."

And that's what it has done. In fact, if it can be faulted it's because so many poor people eligible for food stamps don't get them, in part due to the government's failure to publicize it adequately and to stimulate applications from eligible families.

Sky-rocketing unemployment and lowered real income among people still on the job led many people to swallow their pride, subject themselves to the program's means test, and apply.

As a result the numbers of recipients jumped from 14 million to 19 million and it's predicted that well over 20 million people will be in the program by next year.

Those are the kinds of figures that bring worry to the brows of officials who think nothing of putting the same amounts of money into big military budgets and into subsidies for the well-off. But keeping food on the tables of low-income families is more important and the budget-slashers ought to keep hands off the food stamp program. They didn't complain when it served as a disguised subsidy for big farm interests seeking an expanded market for their foodstuffs, so they shouldn't complain now that the program has reverted back to its principles of helping low-income people eat better.

The Administration's cutback proposals were preceded by a heavy campaign of rhetoric against the program, culminating in the Secretary of the Treasury's blast that the program is a "haven for chiselers and rip-off artists." And everyone has his share of folk tales about college kids or middle class people buying steaks for their dogs with food stamps.

Those are the kinds of stories that circulate about almost any program aimed at poor people and have no basis in fact. The willingness of so many people to believe such stories is an indication of the revulsion so many feel at programs designed to help others, but that's no excuse for knowledgeable federal officials to distort the truth.

The facts tell a different story: The typical family receiving food stamps makes about \$3,000 a year.

Three out of four make less than \$5,000 a year and almost nine out of ten make under \$6,000. For all the "middle class" talk, virtually everyone in the program makes under \$10,000 and those at the higher end only qualify because of large family size.

Less than half of those below the poverty line are getting food stamps.

as I see it

Black People Have Endured A State Of Rape For Hundreds Of Years

By Sidney Moore Jr.
Post Staff Writer

Ever notice how most writers seem to do their best when they write about another writer?

A writer's tool is the word. With it he must paint pictures on the readers mind. He must use words that color every detail of the images he pictures. In this way, the reader can see exactly what the writer is trying to say.

The words not only give the reader a chance to see what the writer is saying. He lets his reader hear, as well.

It is like looking at television. As every important scene is viewed, music plays in the background to suit the mood of the drama being acted out.

This vivid detail can be delivered by a writer most easily when his subject is from his own experience or when a writer writes about another writer.

The once strident Black

Panther information director Eldridge Cleaver, authored a book several years ago entitled *Soul On Ice*. The book revealed the inter-most thoughts of a young oppressed black man.

In that publication, Cleaver described the rape of a white woman by a black man as an act of political liberation. He wrote descriptively and eloquently of this exalted act.

As a student in a traditionally southern white state university, this writer was struck by the frequency of black male-white female contact on the campus. It was as if a number of students were motivated to act out this forbidden fantasy.

Perhaps Cleaver had observed and attempted to explain something about human nature that most people refused to see. It did seem that the timing of the release of his book was somehow related to something I had observed for myself. I have wondered since



Sidney Moore Jr.

then what Cleaver really intended to say.

Seven years later, Cleaver, 39, returns to the United States, after having played the role of an exile political prisoner and living among communists. Cleaver declares that the "American political system is the freest and most democratic in the world."

This must be the end of an

era. The Cleaver return signifies that white men have become increasingly powerless to enslave non-white men for one reason. Non-white men have become determined that he will no longer act out the emotion and low self-esteem, but that he will act out of reasoned intelligence and self-pride.

The fantasy of rape is the lowest point of pride and self-esteem that a man can reach. It is a point at which a man fools himself into believing that he can deny the humanity of another human being.

To rape someone is to enslave that person.

You require the enslaved persons to perform at your command. You force the person to submit to your wishes regardless to his own wishes.

Black people have endured a state of rape for hundreds of years. They have been forced to accept slavery at the hands of white men.

Other non-white men have

suffered the same fate.

In the course of time, non-white men have learned many ways in which to avoid the power of white men. Chiefly, non-white men have learned that the power of white men is not based on their physical strength, but in the manner in which they use their minds.

Cleaver, in "Soul On Ice," tried to answer the question, "How do I get the power I need to keep the white man from raping me." He answered himself, "Rape white women."

He thought the power of the white man was based on "the barrel of a gun," "the police state," "the atom bomb."

He thought the way to overthrow white ruled governments was to create anarchy and destruction.

The new Cleaver seems to have a different analysis of power. There is a definite acceptance of more conventional thought. He now says, "changes must be conducted

through our established institutions and people with grievances must find political methods for obtaining redress."

White commentators have rushed forward to say, "I told you so," in bloated and self-righteous tones. They want to point to Cleaver as proof of their better judgment.

They are missing the point, however. For the facets of Cleaver's personality have been etched in the pictures of his writings. He has been and is now seeking to fulfill for himself the reason of his own existence.

If my guess is right, Cleaver wants to make some contribution to the ongoing struggle of non-white men against their enslavement by white men. The only difference between Cleaver-then and Cleaver-now is that he wants to use his brain instead of his back.

From this writer, there is only one admonishment for Eldridge Cleaver. It is, "welcome home!"

THE CHARLOTTE POST

"THE PEOPLES NEWSPAPER"
Established 1918
By A. M. Houston
Published Every Thursday
By The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.
9139 Trinity Road - Charlotte, N. C. 28216
Telephones (704) 392-1306 - 392-1307
Circulation 11,000

57 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE

Bill Johnson Editor - Publisher
Gerald O. Johnson Business Manager
Robert L. Johnson Circulation Manager

Second Class Postage Paid at
Charlotte, N. C. under the Act of March 3, 1878

Member National Newspaper Publishers
Association

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

45 W. 5th, Suite 1403 2400 S. Michigan Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10036 Chicago, Ill. 60616
489-1220 Calumet 5-0200