

# Editorials & Comments

## Economics Determines Goal Choices

By Hoyle H. Martin, Sr.  
Post Editorial Editor

A report released earlier this month by the Dimensions For Charlotte-Mecklenburg offers some new insights into people's attitudes toward 105 community goals.

Specifically, the report represents the opinions and viewpoints of 11,818 Charlotte-Mecklenburg residents - nearly 5 per cent of the adult population - who listed in priority order 12

categories of community goals such as health, communication, economy, transportation, government and social service. Approximately 8,780 whites and 2,207 blacks responded to the survey.

While it has been noted that blacks and whites differ on a number of goals in terms of which are considered the most important, no mention has been made of the fact that economic forces largely influenced those differences.

A review of the proposed goals reflects the influence of economics:

-Blacks gave expanding and strengthening programs of historical preservation a 6th priority while whites gave it a second.

-Blacks gave a second ranking to a commitment to a system of opening housing, whites gave it a seventh ranking.

-Blacks gave a second priority to providing career opportunities to meet all skill and educational levels, whites gave it a 5th priority.

-The promoting of early detection and treatment of such diseases as glaucoma, diabetes and sickle cell anemia was ranked second by blacks and seventh by whites.

-Whites indicated that increased financial support for education and training programs deserved only 7th ranking while blacks gave it a second ranking.

-Finally, blacks gave a three ranking to creating a publicly controlled community bus system while whites ranked it only sixth.

These ranking or priorities as viewed by blacks and whites were consciously or unconsciously a re-

lection of the financial strength of the two groups.

Blacks, for example, have been struggling for years to gain access to adequate decent housing in neighborhoods of their own choosing. This is evident in part in the recent 8-0 decision by the U. S. Supreme Court

to allow the building of low-income housing in predominantly white suburbs. A second and equally important aspect of the need for "open housing" is that many industries holding jobs that blacks desire are re-locating in the suburbs. Therefore, blacks have little time for concern with the luxury of historical preservation.

Secondly, since blacks have always been discriminated against in educational and job opportunities it is only natural that they would give a high priority rating to providing career opportunities to meet all skill and education levels as well as favor quite strongly greater financial support of education and training.

Thirdly, since the majority of blacks have less income and therefore less health insurance, it is clearly understandable as to why they would favor the promoting of early detection and treatment of certain diseases, especially diseases that affect them largely as an ethnic group such as sickle cell anemia.

Lastly, and again because of limited income, blacks strongly favor a publicly controlled bus system because they make up the vast majority of the more than 29,000 people who ride the bus daily and believe that a public system will be more responsive to their needs.

With an understanding of these few facts there should be no surprise in why blacks and whites differ rather significantly on at least 10 per cent of the 105 proposed community goals.

It would be wise too for our elected officials to consider the influence of economic forces when studying issues of community-wide concern and thus be better able to understand that many issues that appear to divide the races are not for racial reasons as such but rather for economic reasons.



Blacks' Have To Become More Responsible

## Letters to the Editor

### Outcome Of Miss CMBP Questionable

The outcome of the "Miss Charlotte-Mecklenburg Bicentennial Pageant" that was held on March 26 at Queen's College Dana Auditorium, was questionable for many spectators and even more disappointing for the four black contestants. Many unanswered questions are still lingering in our minds.

From the outset I had my doubts about any decisions coming from the chosen panel of judges. Who was responsible for the selection of the judges? Why were there no black judges since nearly one-third of the contestants were black or were the black participants only used to portray a colorful picture on the stage with no meaningful representation?

Who is qualified to say that a judge is capable of rating one talent over another? What appears to be talent to the judges may not necessarily be talent. If fifty percent of a contestant's chances of winning are being determined by her talent, ten to fourteen years of training in dancing, piano or ballet don't necessarily indicate natural talent. Does it? It only says that one contestant was fortunate or wealthy enough to afford lessons most of her life. Should an individual be awarded the title of queen or second runner-up

because of their economic status? And should others be made to suffer for their misfortunes? Some contestants couldn't afford the luxury of ballet lessons, but were just as talented. Some couldn't afford three elaborate gowns, but were just as appealing in their swimsuits. There is some discrepancy in what standards the judges were actually using, because they were apparently more impressed by material (value) things and products of the affluent society.

A line from one contestant's song seems appropriate, "They're writing songs of love..."

The meeting places, social functions, and even the pageant did not indicate much fairness to all participants. Why couldn't the event have been held in a more centralized location such as the Civic Center or the Sheraton.

It will be sometime before such a pageant will truly be for black people and the less fortunate unless some changes are realized.

I also feel that there could be some changes in the awarding of gifts. If an award can be given for Miss Congeniality then one should also be given to the most deserving contestant.

I am not saying that the four

black contestants wished to walk away with the top awards, but I am certain that they wanted their time and efforts represented in some way in the final analysis.

The recent trip of UNCC's Basketball team to the NIT should have shown the people of Charlotte that black people can bring glory to this area if they were just given a chance to participate outside this area.

To the four black contestants, this experience should be a stepping stone instead of a stumbling block. We hope that this won't discourage any of you, but inspire you to greater heights, because you are truly talented and with the desire, determination and talent displayed on Friday the 26th of March you'll be the real winners in the future. Continue Elaine Asbury, Rosaline Cook, Elmira Houston, and Ouida Byrd, we the black populous of Charlotte are behind you one hundred percent.

To the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Jaycees, we leave you with this thought:

WHY NOT GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE? BLACKS HELPED BUILD AMERICA, TOO!!!

---Black, William, student of MIT

---White, Algia, Student of UNCC

# ...DOWN TO BUSINESS

## Black Bicentennial????

We live at a very special moment in history as living participants in the commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of this nation. Yet I earnestly wonder, how many of us who are celebrating this occasion are also paying tribute to those Black Americans who have distinguished themselves in service to both their people and their country.

In this year of bicentennial festivity, Americans of various races and of all persuasions are becoming intoxicated with the philosophical dream of justice and liberty. Lost in the euphoria is the tragic fact that for large segments of the American populace, the bi-centennial dream of 1776 is still only a dream today.

I am reminded of the very gifted Frederick Douglas who once said: "Above your national, tumultuous joy, I hear the mournful wail of millions, whose chains, heavy and grievous yesterday, are today rendered more intolerable by the jubilee shouts that reach them." He shared that insightful wisdom when asked to deliver an address marking the 76th Anniversary of America's birth. Today, though many of the chains and shackles which so characterized the lives of Douglass' contemporaries and our forefathers are no longer visible, the progress is indeed suspect.

When the founders of this Republic were called upon to frame the Declaration of Independence, they drafted ordinances declaring their independence, guaranteeing protection, equal privileges, equal opportunity and equal rights to all citizens--except blacks. It was clear at that time that no other premise could secure freedom and independence for the American people, the question was whether they would include all Americans in realizing the fruits of liberty.

If nothing else, the history of the past two hundred years has proven that to deny those principles is to endanger the very foundation of government. It seems very clear to me that whenever a government fails to secure for all its citizens that which it guaranteed, then that government is nearing dangerous grounds. When those guarantees are denied to some--a fundamental principle of government is abused, distorted, and abandoned. And like a cancer, it will continue to grow and spread until finally it gnaws at the nation's most critical organs.

In my opinion, the character and conduct of this nation toward Black Americans has moved from open hostility to quiet indifference. Whether we turn to the declarations of the past, or to the professions of the present, the conduct of this nation seems equally revolting.

The celebration of this country's independence primarily reveals the immeasurable distance, the great disparity, between Black and white America.

## as i see it

### School Desegregation In Retrospect

By Gerald O. Johnson  
Post Staff Writer

In a recent Press Release by the Southern Regional Council Statistics were used to refute the widely held belief that desegregation is a failure.

The report entitled, "School Desegregation: A report card from the South," examines in detail the school desegregation experience in five southern cities and looks briefly at what has happened in six others. Mr. John Egerton was the principal author of the report.

The school systems examined in detail were the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, North Carolina; Williamsburg County, South Carolina; Clark County (Athens), Georgia; Little Rock, Arkansas; Hillsborough County (Tampa), Florida; and Anniston, Alabama.

The brief reports came from reporters in Anniston, Alabama; Austin, Texas; Bogalusa, Louisiana; Nashville (Davidson County), Tennessee; Norfolk, Virginia; and Meridan, Mississippi.

The report emphasizes that the South still has problems related to school desegregation, but it has made vast progress. Moreover, since heavy opposition has risen against the implementation of school desegregation in the North, the South's progress is threatened.

Included in the report are preliminary results of opinion surveys conducted by the Institute For Social Research at Florida State University and the Southern Regional Council.

The survey was to determine school principals and superintendents opinions on how desegregation has worked in their districts.

Following are some of the results of the survey. When asked "How, if at all, desegregation had interrupted the educational process?" the officials answered: (1) Superintendents; 36 percent said no interruptions, 54 percent said minimum interruptions, and 10 percent said very disruptive. (2) Principals; 30 percent said no interruptions, 61 percent said minimum inter-



ruptions, and 9 percent said very disruptive. When asked "Had desegregation affected white enrollment?" the officials answered: (1) Superintendents; 22 percent said large numbers had left the school system, 74 percent said there was no noticeable difference, and 4 percent said it resulted in white flight. (2) Principals; 13 percent said desegregation brought withdrawals of large numbers of whites 82 percent said there was no noticeable difference

and 5 percent said it resulted in white flight.

When asked "How has the quality of education been affected by school desegregation?" the officials answered: (1) Superintendents; 54 percent said the quality is better, 36 percent said it was the same, and 10 percent said it was worse, since desegregation. (2) Principals; 42 percent said it was better 34 percent said it was the same, and 24 percent said it was worse since desegregation.

Finally, when asked about the long term effects of school desegregation in the communities served by the schools, the officials answered: (1) Superintendents; 45 percent said it had had a positive effect, 45 percent said it had had no effect either way and 10 percent said it had had a negative effect. (2) Principals; 46 percent said it had had a positive effect, 44 percent said it had had no effect either way, and 10 percent said it had had a negative effect.

Similar attitudes were concluded from a similar survey

administered to more than 500 individuals in the region including teachers, students, and elected officials.

An interesting part of this survey revealed that 73 percent of those surveyed felt that busing had been a positive experience and only 19 percent felt it to be a negative experience.

In the report, Mr. Egerton, in referring to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, writes, "After years of turmoil, Charlotte today seems to be 'At least resigned to and at most comfortable with a state of affairs that few cities have fully experienced: STABILITY, PROGRESS, Busing, AND RACIAL BALANCE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS'."

Well, as I see it the report is a clear indication that by all people working together for a common goal school desegregation can and does work. Of course there will be problems but currently anti-busing foes are blowing the problems out of proportion.

Politicians are using this issue as a campaign item cau-

sing another conflict. It is ironic that in a world where the only thing constant is change people constantly resist change. Even when the change could be for the better.

There is no fear in my mind that the anti-desegregation movement will get enough momentum to overturn the achievements made by those communities working diligently to do what is right for all people.

There is disgust in my heart, however, that the forces of anti-desegregation will delay strides of progress that could be already taking place.

I do feel fortunate, though, that I happen to live in a rather progressive City... Charlotte.

Ten years ago the nation turned against the South's segregation policies and forced them to be where they are today. It is now time for the South to turn against the nation's segregation policies in hopes of forcing them into realization of where they could be tomorrow.

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