

Editorials & Comments

"New Discrimination"-Another View

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Executive Editor

of minority students had high failure rates.

The report also said a student's family income, teacher qualifications and absentee rates were apparently not as reliable indicators of failure rates. The POST takes exception to this view on the grounds that the level of family income is often a fact in the student's values toward education - and thus his motivation to learn. Furthermore, family income is an indicator of the availability of general educational materials in the home - newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias and the like. In addition, the POST finds it difficult to understand the downgrading of the significance of the student's absentee rate and teacher qualifications as factors in student failures. Poor teaching, racially biased teachers - often due to ignorance - and/or teachers who assume that youth from low income families can't learn certainly contribute to student absentee rates and student motivation. An equally important factor in the minority students' level of desire or aspiration is the nearly 40 percent unemployment rate among black youth (20 percent for white youth) even with high school diplomas.

It appears to us too that the report's assumption that in addition to family income, teacher qualifications and absentee rates, the public funds spent per student and student-teacher ratios "made no difference" in failure rates is to disallow the impact of environmental factors on student achievement levels. Furthermore, the report's assumption clearly implies that minority students are inherently inferior or biologically less able to learn than whites. There is certainly no scientific evidence to support such an assumption.

Rate Of Failure

The report's statement that minority student enrollment is "the key, almost the sole characteristic" for predicting the rate of failures in North Carolina public schools is a part of the new discrimination or phase two in our nation's so-called attempt to create an integrated racially and sexually equal society. Phase two - the new discrimination - involves the entire range of physical, social, psychological, institutional and economic processes involved in changing values, behavior, beliefs and attitudes. It involves - often painfully - the use of "reverse discrimination," black tokenism, partial resegregation, stronger civil rights enforcement and the struggle of blacks to retain and strengthen their own identity and a consciousness of community.

Yes, there is a "new discrimination" but as usual blacks carry the burden of its impact whether good or bad.

In an article titled, "Teaching Kids the New Discrimination," Meg Greenfield described in Newsweek magazine recently a conversation that took place between her 9-year old niece and 7-year old nephew as she inquired about their schooling. As the children exchanged points of view, one of them mentioned a special popular art class that they could not attend at their school because they are white. However, the little girl quickly noted that one of their friends had been accepted for the class. Puzzled by his acceptance, the little boy said, "But he's not black." The little girl made it quite clear she knew that and noted that their friend was "part minority" so "He can go (to the class) because he's half-Indian."

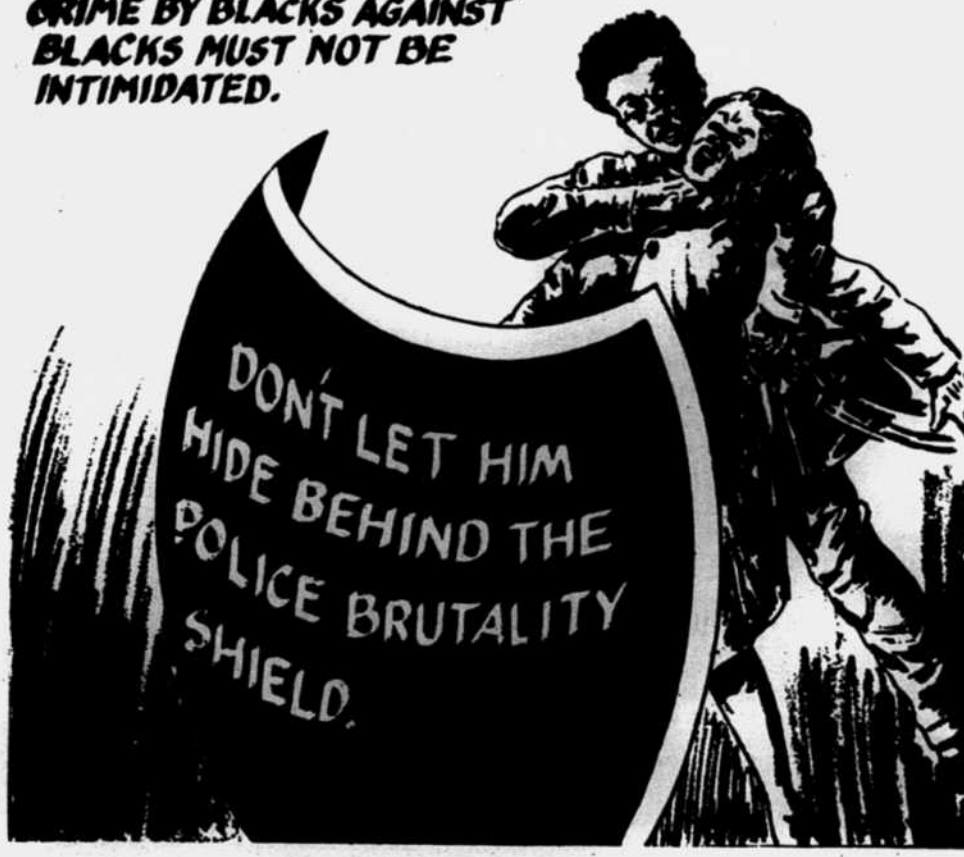
Ms. Greenfield referred to her young relatives conversation as "the weird and alarming side effect of our drive to achieve racial fairness...a preoccupation with bloodiness and race and an acceptance of the idea that these are proper standards for deciding who will be treated how by the state." After conceding that the special art class is part of the "redemptive efforts to eliminate the effect of years of discrimination against blacks and other racial and ethnic groups," Ms. Greenfield says "the real issue is what we are doing to the values and perspectives of small children throughout the country."

Racial Distinctions

It appears strange to us that Meg Greenfield would become alarmed over the impact of children making conversation over racial distinctions when the real matters of "values and perspectives" come from state-run public housing that economic discrimination forces many black to live in. Equally important to values is the broader question of the quantity and quality of education being made available to blacks in North Carolina and elsewhere. It is interesting to note too that Ms. Greenfield and few other whites expressed concern about the "side effect" of racial distinction during the many years blacks were being raped of their birth right and denied their manhood. What our distinguished lady writer is saying is that she does not agree with a recent U.S. Supreme Court unanimous decision that said federal judges may order remedial education programs for minority students who have experienced the past effects of discrimination.

The evidence and significance of the Court's decision can be seen in a recent North Carolina report that says race is a major factor in predicting how many students will fail in school each year. The report said schools with a high percentage

BLACKS WHO WANT TO FIGHT CRIME BY BLACKS AGAINST BLACKS MUST NOT BE INTIMIDATED.



We Must Not Become Spectators To Our Own Doom

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Carolina Jam II

Unreasonable
July 12, 1977

The Charlotte Post Publishing Inc. P.O. Box 16071
Charlotte, N.C. 28216

To the Editor:
Recently, while at an outing and with high hopes of having a fantastic time, my aspirations along with many others were dwindled to almost nil as a result of an incident which occurred. This incident and my feelings are what I'll relay to you and your readers.

I am speaking of "The Carolina Jam II" concert which was held on July 4th. Basically, I to myself rarely do I create waves. Yet, when confronted face to face with intimidation from the employees and promoters of this concert, it's impossible for me to sidestep.

To begin, there was an entrance fee charged which was unreasonable. Then, to put icing on the cake, an additional dollar was charged to re-enter the grounds of a twelve hour concert. There was no advance notice or announcement to prepare you for the shock. This, I declare, is a good example of gouging the public. It was not so much the dollar, but the principal.

The facilities were as follows - concrete bleachers, a dusty race track of a field and to put it lightly - used port-a-johns. After conversing with many people, including the promoter for approximately two hours, my party and I were granted (so called special privileges) permission to enter and exit the grounds at no charge and even given special parking privileges. All of this was done out of goodness of the promoter's heart.

I am a fan of good concerts when produced on a first class basis. Yet, if we, the general public, accept second class anything and first class rip-offs, then what should we expect from future concerts? If these promoters continue to conduct concerts in this manner, I personally will not attend one and will encourage everyone else to do likewise. I realize I am only one and my voice is small in this matter. However, if more small voices speak up, then rip-offs of the general public would screech to a halt.

Sincerely,
Charles E. Mackey

Post Plays Vital

Role In Home
July 10, 1977

Dear Mr. Johnson:
During my time of residency (2 1/2 years) in the city of Charlotte, I have come to respect THE CHARLOTTE POST as one of the staples in my home.

First, let me say that establishing a reading and informative policy of local concern, is and always has been, ROUTINE whenever my family and I relocated in new cities and communities. To us, this matter is as important as establishing a home church or credit. Therefore, we have, to some degree, a working knowledge of communities and their printed publications...especially the Black press.

When we previously had discovered a Black newspaper in our city of residency, we immediately subscribed to that publication. Likewise, we did so when we moved to Charlotte. THE CHARLOTTE POST is now as much a part of our reading material as our furniture is to our comfort and relaxation.

Understanding the vital role

Black newspapers play in their respective communities and aware of the limitations and OBSTACLES placed upon them from other forces, remarkable strides have and continue to be made by the Black press. Even though, many people are not aware of the Black press and many others fail to respect it, Black newspapers cannot be ignored by the reading and concerned citizen, nor the advertising merchants - be they Black or whatever. The influence of the Black press (editorially or advertising) strikes a profound impact to its readers. The Black press is the one community vehicle that proudly places its reputation before the public-inprint and does so for the records to forever reflect.

THE CHARLOTTE POST fits well in these and many other categories. Your readership must be large and honored - for my family and I view YOU large and honorably. Thanks for being in Charlotte. Yours truly,
The Taylor family

Interest Appreciated
July 9, 1977

Mr. Bill Johnson
Editor-Publisher
The Charlotte Post
2606-B West Blvd.
Charlotte, N.C. 28208

Dear Mr. Johnson:
I appreciate your interest and support of our semi-pro baseball tournaments in Lenoir.

I'm enclosing state tournament pairings and a news release. Please feel free to add to the news release.

The pictures of Morris Field players arrived in today's mail. Thanks for providing these.

I hope you can make it up to the tournament and I look forward to meeting you.

Best Regards,
Ken Sipes

TO BE EQUAL



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

Welfare Debate Sharpened

The manner in which the Administration is going about the process of coming up with a major welfare reform package is almost a model demonstration of its approach to basic issues.

First came a statement of principles, then an announcement that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare would proceed to refine a plan based on the principles, with a target time set in the fall.

The next, typical, step for this Administration was to have the plan get wide circulation. Key points of the plan have been in the press, summaries of HEW's proposals have been circulated to major interest groups, and opinions have been sought. Whatever one may think of the substance of the proposal, there can be no doubt that in the welfare reform process, as in other policy aspects, the Administration pursues a refreshing openness long missing from Washington.

But - and it's a big but - the Administration's fiscal conservatism is also displayed in this process. The basic starting assumption for HEW's planners was that no new welfare reform proposal could cost more than the present cost of welfare and the cash value of related programs like food stamps.

Starting from the assumption, there's no way the ultimate welfare reform program can be the instrument of significant improvement in poor people's lives.

The only way that mandate to keep costs down can be implemented is by cutting benefits or eligibility or both. And that's not reform - it's a shuffling of cost categories that takes money from some poor people and gives it to others.

A second problem with the HEW package, as it's shaping up, is its emphasis on work. By splitting the potential welfare population into two groups - those deemed capable of work and those who cannot work - the plan perpetuates the present system's categorization of groups of poor people, one of the basic flaws of the welfare program.

Aside from opening up the hornet's nest of defining who can work, for example, what age should dependent children be for their mother to qualify as "employable," the emphasis on a work requirement contradicts HEW's own eloquent campaign to inform the public that most poor people do work full-time, and that very few people on welfare are capable of taking jobs.

In addition, it ignores the failures of previous welfare-related work programs. Work must be provided through a national full employment program, but trying work to welfare is a proven dead end that confuses the public and plays into the hands of those who believe a welfare system should be punitive rather than helpful to the poor.

One of the basic problems with the present welfare system is its entanglement in bureaucratic red tape and the impenetrable complexity of its often conflicting regulations.

In framing its welfare reform proposals, as in its economic recovery program and other domestic initiatives, the Administration has coupled openness and good intentions with tight-fisted fiscal concerns and premature compromises designed to mollify conservative opinion, thus defeating its stated goals.

as i see it

Dr. King Statue Drive Bad Idea?

By Gerald O. Johnson

The Martin Luther King Memorial Committee has fallen \$37,000 short of reaching its goal of \$50,000 to have a statue of Martin Luther King constructed in Marshall Park. Why the project failed is not important to me, but the fact that the project was started in first place is important to me. It shouldn't have started at all.

It is without a doubt that Martin Luther King Jr. was a great man. His greatness is being commemorated daily throughout the world. He will not be forgotten.

However, in a time when the community is facing critical problems, \$50,000 to commemorate anything or anybody is a waste of resources. \$50,000 could send 8 under privileged youngsters to college. \$50,000 could help clothe and feed several underprivileged families for quite a while.

\$50,000 could go a long way in necessitating the living instead of commemorating the dead. Somehow I feel that Martin Luther King Jr. would

prefer using resources on the living and not the dead.

Thus, to the Memorial Committee and to Rev. Barnett I would like to say that, before you blame the black community for failing to come to the support of a project that you believe in, you should try and find out what projects the Black community believes in.

In my opinion the failure of this project is not the fault of the black community but rather the fault of the project's organizers. They took on a job without understanding all the repercussions. I am going to give some free advice, here, to help those of you intending to do this sort of thing in the future. There are two major points that must be considered before you even attempt a project of any magnitude. The points are:

- 1) Is the project salable?
- 2) Is the project wanted by a substantial enough portion of the populace?

The first point is based on a good idea that you use to convince people that they want the project. The second point is based on public sur-



Gerald O. Johnson

veys to find out what the public wants and then simply give it to them.

Note that statues commemorating anybody fails on both points.

BLACK PRIORITIES
Even though I don't think the black community is at fault on this particular issue, I do think the black community needs a rude awakening to their off beat priorities.

Any dance in this area is packed with the brothers and

sisters dressed to kill, liquor by the gallons, bags by the pounds. Moreover, most dances cost \$5 to \$10 just to attend.

If you ask the same brothers and sisters for a donation to a worthy cause and they can't cut it. It seems that we are working just to party. As long as we continue to operate in this mode, we will be working for a long time to come for the man instead of for ourselves.

What is even more disgusting than the individuals attending these affairs is the organizations giving the affairs. They raise money by giving affairs.

Why?
So they can give more affairs; a vicious cycle that never ends.

We are partying our lives away. The reason that this is so disgusting is that everytime a project comes up that is black sponsored, we have to go to the white people for financial support. If I were white I wouldn't give you a damn dime. I would let you party your a---'s right to hell.

Black organizations in conjunction with black's supporting their affairs is a multi-million dollar enterprise. This is a resource that must be brought together for the betterment of the black community.

Black churches is another resource that is being wasted. Why? No organization to bring all of these resources together.

Black universities are going to pot because of the lack of financial support. (Well, this isn't the only reason they are going to pot but the other reasons are different articles). Who is benefiting from black institutions? Black folks. Who pays for the operation of the school? White folks.

White folks are dumb but they will soon awaken to the fact that they need not help black folk, if black folk can't help themselves.

In closing we have two choices! (1) We can start getting it together before we are forced to or (2) We can wait until we are forced to and then it will be too late.

Let's start getting it together.

GONE FOR A WHILE

Writing an article every week for anybody is a very trying task and it requires me to take a leave of absence every once in a while. The writing is not as difficult as coming up with ideas to write about. You can aid me in this respect by sending me some of your ideas or just drop me a line and let me know what's on your mind.

Presentation Set For

Local Water,

Sewer Study

A recently completed water and sewer cost of service and rate structure study will be presented to the Charlotte City Council on Monday, July 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall. The public is invited to attend the presentation.

The study has been conducted by the Community Facilities Committee (CFC) of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility Department.

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