

Editorials & Comments

JCSU - A Rebirth Of History

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Executive Editor

Professor Robert V. Daniels has written, "history is the study of a unique sequence of unique individuals, events, situations, ideas, and institutions, occurring in the one-dimensional and irreversible stream of time." Dr. Daniels' statement reached a new height of realism last week when a unique individual - Mrs. Inez Moore Parker - saw her ideas about a unique institution - Johnson C. Smith - molded into "an organized and functional reservoir of historical materials..."

The unique event to which we refer was the dedication on Friday of the new Inez Moore Parker Archives and Research Center located in the James B. Duke Memorial Library on the JCSU campus. The dedication, attended by nearly 200 students, faculty members, staffers, alumni and friends of the 110-year old predominantly black university, was the highlight of a four-day homecoming celebration.

While doing research in 1975 for her book, "The Biddle-Johnson C. Smith Story," Mrs. Parker gave birth to the ideas of establishing the center. With the encouragement of the University's president, Dr. Wilbert Greenfield, Mrs. Parker began

the process of collecting artifacts, papers, school and Presbyterian church documents, books and other materials from older graduates and friends of the institution.

In a statement appropriate for the occasion, Mrs. Parker said in her humble and warm manner, "The purpose of the center is to put in an organized fashion historical data that would keep the various generations aware of the history and sacrifices that brought the school to where it is."

Another purpose of the Center, as stated in a brochure, is to "preserve something of the heritage of Blacks in their pursuit of education and worthy citizenship, for interested researchers and posterity."

The POST wishes to commend Mrs. Parker for her untiring efforts and contribution to the history of black Americans. It is after all, only by looking at our past that we can have some hope and confidence as we look to the future.

Mrs. Parker's endeavors extend far beyond the 75 acres of the Smith campus into my life and yours, and into what makes black Americans what they are today. May our Maker bless us with more Inez Moore Parkers.

Crime, Let's Meet The Challenge

The editorial cartoon on this page tells a tragic story, however, as depressing as it is, it's not the whole story. That story reveals that increasing violent crime is making a human jungle out of our cities, suburbs and even the rural areas. That story reveals also that black people are four times as likely as white people to be victims of violent crimes other than murder. In the latter case, the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (1975) notes that 47 1/2 percent of all murder victims are black. This is even more tragic when we realize that blacks comprise only 11 percent of the nation's population. Furthermore, the story of crime tells us that 85 percent of all crimes are committed by people against people of the same race and two-thirds of all arrests for major crimes are among youngsters 21 years of age and younger.

These excerpts from the story of crime in America were drawn from Harry Fleishman's article, "The Challenge of Crime," however, there are numerous other accounts of this internal decay that is eroding the very fabric and foundation that has made America what it is.

The question that arises to us is why don't the American people do something about these deplorable conditions other than just report their tragic consequences? The question takes an added meaning when surveys indicate that men and women, the rich and the poor, and

urban and rural inhabitants all strongly favor increased penalties and rehabilitation programs to curb crime.

The fact is, while many people are concerned about and fearful of crime, and while our prisons are overcrowded and law enforcement officials are underpaid, too many law makers at both state and national levels give law enforcement a low priority, at budget time each year. We must hastily add that all the problems are not with law makers, since nearly 25 percent of the nations adults have no opinion at all - total apathy - to the crime problem.

Finally then, do we care enough about crime to want to do something about it? We should, because each of us and-or our loved ones may be crime's next victim.

If you love your daughter, your son, your wife, your neighborhood, yourself, its time to act to end our nation's senseless crime. Take a positive stand and get involved in positive action now so that we might begin to roll back our nation's major social problem.

Something On Your Mind?

"Something on your mind" is the name of a column devoted to you - the young at heart readers of this newspaper - as long as it relates in some way to young people, regardless of age.

Or any other subject you want to write about let us hear from you.



Crime In The Black Community Is Everybody's Business

BLACK BUSINESS IS SUFFERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF CRIME ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE. IT IS STRUGGLING TO MEET THE HIGH COST OF THEFT INSURANCE. VANDALISM, SHOP-LIFTING, ROBBERY AND BAD CHECKS. THE PROBLEM CENTERS AROUND NARCOTICS AND DRUG RELATED CRIMES.

MICHIGAN CHRONICLE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public Opinion "Bugs" Davis

Mr. Bill Johnson
Editor, Charlotte Post
P.O. Box 97
Charlotte, N.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am an avid reader of the Post and I look forward to receiving it on Friday.

In your recent edition, it "bugs" me greatly to see and hear the public opinion that's been thrown at Coach Eddie McGirt, his staff and players about their poor performance this season. As a former player under Coach McGirt and having been a member of his staff, I feel that I am in a position to come to his defense.

When Coach was winning championships at Smith, they went un-**NOTICED**. The student-athletes that he has developed over the years have gone un-**NOTICED** and many more good things that have happened to him and the people he has been associated with. As an assistant coach for a number of years, the talk of "arm chair coaches" can really get under one's skin. It takes a great deal of money to operate an athletic program and oral coaching will not recruit one football player or pay anyone's salary.

If you were to run a survey of all the "arm chair coaches" that are coaching after the ball game and around the bars in town, they probably did not pay to get in the game or they don't give enough to the athletic program to buy a mouthpiece. When a team is having a bad season, positive action is what is needed and not talk.

If anybody hates to lose, it's Coach McGirt, because as he used to say, "it takes a little something from me each time we (Johnson C. Smith) and

the young men I work with come up short."

I wish that some way, the fans could coach a college football team one day out of a season and see firsthand some of the problems coaches are faced with.

The enjoyment that comes from coaching is not one of money, but seeing an individual develop a student athlete and later make a meaningful contribution to society.

I would like to close by saying, Coach McGirt gets my vote for "Coach of the Year" any year and the hell with a record.

Sincerely yours,
Bill Davis
Class of '65
Assistant Football Coach
South Carolina State College

Succession Is

No Panacea

Dear Editor,
"Succession is no panacea." We agree with several of the major media organizations in the state that - He who misleads the concerned and working people will himself fall into his own pit.

It is agreed, "The future of the state will depend on the quality of candidates who run for office, and THE ABILITY OF THE VOTERS TO CHOOSE AMONG THEM."

There has been enough manipulation, intimidation, and marginal activity in the last ten months to suggest that "machine politics" are here. **SUCCESSION MAY REMOVE OUR ABILITY TO CHOOSE FROM AMONG THEM.** North Carolina does not need politicians for politics. Let us have politicians for statesmanship.

We urge a vote AGAINST

Succession, a vote FOR Road Bonds, and FOR Water-Sewer Bonds.

Ours is a great state, a great people, a state of action. North Carolina is recognized nationally for its sound fiscal government. North Carolina is recognized nationally as a progressive government. North Carolina, the true vacation land of the Nation, should sustain these qualities. North Carolina, through the involvement of diversified peoples with continued fresh, new ideas, has developed and maintained excellent programs, nationally recognized. Let's keep a great state!

Vote AGAINST Succession!
Barry J. Miller

Statewide

Conference

Dear Mr. Johnson:

We, along with several other organizations are in the process of pulling together a Statewide Conference on "Blacks and the Criminal Justice System."

It is the intent of the organizers of the Conference to provide leadership to Blacks around the State who are victims of the criminal justice process, legislators who are responsible for laws governing this process, members of the judicial bodies who are responsible for effectuating these laws, and certainly black people who are expressing an ever growing concern over the inadequacies of this process. Therefore, we are soliciting your support in writing favorable editorials in your newspaper speaking to the need of people to become more informed and action oriented on what is taking place within the criminal justice system.

Irving L. Joyner

TO BE EQUAL



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

Measuring Quality Of Life

We're known as a nation that worships the gross national product. The bigger the better, is our hallmark. Somehow people really believe that the GNP is a true measure of improvement in our lives.

Well, the GNP keeps going up and up, but it is very arguable whether the quality of our lives is improving. In fact, the GNP includes a lot that is positively bad.

The GNP is the sum total of the value of goods and services produced. So it includes the dollar value of bombs and guns along with hospitals and schools. It's a total flop as a useful measurement of well-being.

Experts at the Overseas Development Council sought to provide just such a measure. By combining statistics for infant mortality, life expectancy, and literacy, they came up with something they call the PQLI - Physical Quality of Life Index.

It is a very rough measurement since it doesn't include housing quality, work opportunities or other standards. But since the ODC is primarily interested in improving life in the world's poorer countries, it decided not to use elements that are culture-bound.

The shocker is that the PQLI, which might be seen as a narrow development economist's tool or as an academic exercise, reveals major weaknesses in our own society. The United States, with its enormous GNP, might be expected to lead the world in such basic areas as infant mortality, life expectancy, and literacy.

It doesn't. The United States lags behind Sweden, the Netherlands, and several other European countries, including some that have lower per capita incomes. And while the nation is a whole has a fairly high PQLI rating compared with most countries, there is considerable variation among the states.

As might be expected, there's also a big difference between whites and blacks in the Index. White Americans have an Index score of 96 (on a scale of 100) while black Americans only score 89, well below a country like Poland, which has a 93 score, and not far above impoverished Sri Lanka, which has an 83 Index rating.

The Index score is not determined by income, either. Washington, D.C., which has an average income of over \$7,000 actually has a lower life expectancy rate than Sri Lanka, where the average income is only \$130 per year.

Part of this is due to high infant mortality rates in the District, affecting both whites and blacks. Nationally, black infant mortality rates are double those for whites.

What the PQLI shows us when we compare America's vast wealth with the quality of life, is that in key areas America resembles an underdeveloped country.

The fact that the Index is so limited - measuring only three core items that are absolutely basic to well-being - makes this result even more troubling. As a nation we have been so concerned with out-producing and out-buying everyone else that we've neglected the rudimentary elements of a decent life.

It is simply unacceptable for residents of the capital of the world's richest country to have lower life expectancy than the residents of one of the world's poorest countries.

as i see it

Jim Black's Endorsement Quite Distressing ?

By Gerald O. Johnson

By the time this article is read the mayoral race will be over even though the article is being written prior to the race.

Personally, I have found this entire campaign, like the mayor candidates, to be quite boring. For this reason I have written nothing on the campaign. But now on the eve of the election day I find several distressing things have taken place.

Most notable of the things that has happened during this campaign was Jim Black's endorsement of Jim Whittington. Several of Mr. Black's key followers found this quite distressing. It seems like Mr. Black during the primary had stressed Jim Whittington's insensitivity and conservatism on issues concerning black people in Charlotte. Many black people felt Mr. Black sold them out in the name of the Democratic Party.

I agree. Mr. Black surprised the Charlotte Community in the primaries by making a clean sweep of all the black precincts. He did this by campaigning on people issues. His victory was an indication that the black people of Charlotte

are not party oriented, but issue oriented. The black communities went against major endorsements of Mr. Whittington to support Mr. Black.

With this type of confidence shown, Mr. Black had the responsibility to act reasonably and intelligently in endorsing a candidate. The most politically sound thing he could have done was to endorse no one. By endorsing Whittington he has lost the confidence the people had placed in him.

What I find disturbing about this mayoral race is a lot of black people responsible for Jim Whittington's endorsements in the black community admit that he is a poor choice for mayor. They only worked with his campaign they say because he was the democratic candidate. Hence, they support the party and not the man.

Consequently, the black community is sold down the tubes because people believe in a party and not in people. This is asinine. Your support of an individual should be based on the confidence and the trust you have in that individual and on the ability of that individual to clearly define issues and to develop

to the monetary problems facing school systems have been written in this article before, but at different times.

Let me recap them all right now.

First, the problem with teacher's unions puts on unfair burden on the financial obligation of the school system. In Philadelphia where a very strong teacher's union exists, the teachers ask for and get unreasonable compensation for their work. If they don't get their demands they strike. This guarantees that most of their demands, if not all, will be met. In 1970 when I lived in the area, the teachers stayed on strike for more than a month until the board guaranteed a six percent cost of living raise per annum, plus increased fringe benefits. The list went on and on. Finally they won, at least in the short range of time. Unfortunately, the money was not forthcoming and the school board ended up taking out a loan. The union, in effect, forced the school system to become financially bankrupt. What most people can not see is the 5 percent raise is a meager sum to an individual's paycheck. But this is a tremendous a-

School Crisis

If busing, quality education, and large classes were not enough to plague school systems then monetary problems should cap it. With the recent crisis facing the public school systems in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Toledo, Ohio it appears that a major flaw exists in public education. All of the problems leading

mount if you consider that the payer has to pay 5 percent of 10,000 or more paychecks.

It might mean a \$500 dollar increase per year for you, but it will mean \$5 million or more for the school system. Consequently, uniform pay hikes is an unsound approach for managing a system.

Secondly, public school systems are funded by tax dollars. A high percentage of the funds comes from local taxes. Individuals as well as businesses foot the bill for local taxes. Philadelphia is faced with a crisis in this respect.

Due to rising taxes businesses as well as individuals are running to the suburbs. By moving to the suburbs neither individuals or businesses has to pay taxes to Philadelphia. This leaves only the poorer people, usually blacks, left in the city. Since they own little, they pay little or no taxes. Consequently, the city makes little or no money. Hence, there is no money to meet the forever increasing demands of the teachers.

Thirdly, public officials are usually poor managers of funds. Couple this with the forever present corruption that exists in public affairs

and you have a catastrophic problem.

Then there are the emotional aspects that increase cost dramatically. Busing is an example of a costly emotional issue that financially corrodes a school system. It is far cheaper to run a school on a neighborhood basis. The legal costs of insuring a proper racial quota, the administrative costs of planning bus routes, the transportation costs of using and upkeeping busses all add to the skyrocketing costs of running a school system.

Last, but not least, is the unwillingness of tax payers to accept tax increases to run school systems. With the quality of the education proving to be far from good, tax payers are unwilling to support school systems that need more money to do a poor job.

All of these problems have caused the two aforementioned school systems to collapse. But the problems are not unique to those two areas. It can happen to any school system. We must be alert to these symptoms so that we can continuously apply preventive methods because a cure is not known.



By Gerald O. Johnson

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