

# Editorials & Comments

## Without Discipline There's No Learning

by Hoyle H. Martin, Sr.  
Post Editorial Writer

Much has been written about the plight of many schools where the business of learning or transmitting knowledge has fallen in second or third place to rowdiness, letting students "do their own thing," outright violence, the maiming of teachers and the intimidation of school administrators. Undoubtedly, parental indifference, teacher apathy and student uncertainty are all contributing factors to the spreading abandonment of the learning process.

It is for these reasons that we are shocked to read published reports alleging that teachers of the Street Academy have publicly criticized the administrative leadership of Bob Davis because he is a disciplinarian, who, among other things, requires male students to remove their hats when in a classroom and not wear their hair in plaits.

Davis, in his first year as principal of the 160-student Street Academy, says, "Our major concern is to rehabilitate youngsters to the point they'd stay out of prison and make something of their lives." Yet, Davis' critics contend his policies and programs are too strict.

It appears difficult enough for Mr. Davis to have 160 students who can't adjust to a regular classroom sett-

ing, but to have a faculty that has forgotten a basic management rule, can't adjust to change, and are apparently opposed to accepting the true challenge of the students, then problems will exist.

We believe, first, when you work under a man you should be loyal to him. Disagree with him in private but in the public be supportive or get transferred or quit. Secondly, teachers or any other employee, need to be aware of the fact that new leadership means new ways of doing things. Subordinates worthy of their hire should accept such changes gracefully and perform the tasks required cheerfully. Thirdly, the teachers at the Street Academy should stop attacking the administrator and focus on the real problem

— the maladjustments of their students. If their energies move in this direction their students might begin becoming the citizens they need to be.

Teachers, let's stop being crybabies and get on with the business of helping to educate our youth. To truly do this however, you'll need to support your Principal, Bob Davis, so he can fully support you. Without this team effort another generation of American youth will be lost. This we cannot afford. You can help to avoid it - won't you?

## Was "Scared Straight" Prematurely Judged?

"Scared Straight," the Academy Award-winning documentary Juvenile Awareness Program that was shown on WSOC-TV (Channel 9) last week after some hesitation, has belatedly come under criticism and created controversy.

The controversy has arisen from what appears to be the rather simplistic end to the T.V. show when the youth involved seemed to be suddenly, and without a doubt, convinced that they'd go "straight" after the Rahway experience. Only one of 14 in the group was alleged to have run afoul of the law 90 days after their involvement in the program. However, a Rutgers University study shows that when 35 youthful offenders not in the Rahway program were compared with 46 who participated six months earlier, the participants reportedly had committed four times as many crimes as did the non-participating group.

"Scared Straight" shows a real-life situation in which juvenile offenders are taken into Rahway Prison to be told by inmates in the most vicious, descriptive, candid, raw language way of the horrors — homosexual abuse, beatings, stabbings, killings — of a maximum security prison facility. The program, conducted by the 80-member "Lifers Group" of inmates, uses terror and intimidation to scare youth offenders away from crime. Those in N.C. who favor the

"scared straight" approach to helping solve the youthful offender problems, including Gov. Jim Hunt, contend it's a quick solution; it's a cost-free program; shock treatment will undoubtedly save some youth; and convicted criminals in a position trying to help others may also contribute to their own rehabilitation.

Those who oppose the "scared straight" method, including Amos Reed, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Corrections, argue that it's the latest in a long line of instant solutions to a complex social problem, it's an untested theory, it's cruel to expose youth to such abusive coarse language and, in the words of one T.V. viewer, "was a distorted and hyperbolic portrait of prison life."

While both viewpoints have some merit, they each reflect a premature judgment because the problem is complex and one T.V. showing of a controversial issue presented in a historically controversial way (brutal language) hardly sets a climate in which objective opinions can be offered. In that context, it

was in poor taste for both Gov. Hunt and Secretary of Corrections Reed to have expressed such clear-cut opinions so soon after the T.V. program even if they'd had prior knowledge because most T.V. viewers were totally unfamiliar with the "Scared" program.

## ARE WE GOING TO SIT ON OUR HANDS AND LET BLACK COMMUNITIES CRUMBLE AROUND US? GRASS ROOTS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS MUST EMERGE TO FORGE A UNITED EFFORT AGAINST CRIME, NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, BLIGHT, AND DECAY.



The Black Community Can And Must Do The Job

## New Job Initiative

### Lacks Real Partnership

Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell  
Special to the Post

White unemployment is on the rise again. Black unemployment continues its double-digit status. So official Washington is again looking for new ways to create jobs. Unfortunately, when most people talk about creating jobs, minority institutions are not involved in the discussion. This is evident in government's new private sector jobs program. The thrust of this program is to find jobs for the disadvantaged in the private sector. To make it work, government is prepared to provide \$400 million to "encourage" the business community to hire more people.

The program is another wrinkle in the CETA program (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act). It would establish private industry councils, made up mainly of local business and labor leaders, to secure more private sector jobs for the unemployed poor and to ensure greater private sector involvement in all aspects of local employment and training activities.

As a condition for funding, the councils must review and approve all funding plans and proposals. They will have broad responsibility and great flexibility in the implementation of this program. The theory behind this initiative is the bureaucratic red tape has crippled previous job programs and discouraged private sector participation. Currently, the government estimates that 4 out of every 5 jobs in the labor market are created through the private sector.

The general aim of this program is sound. Just how it will be implemented is a



source of great concern. We are told that the success of this program requires a "partnership" with the private sector. But that could be a code word. In the past, private sector has meant the white folks. There is no explicit language concerning the minority private sector. Yet, since the target group of unemployed is basically Black and other minority citizens, special attention must be given to minority firms and other minority institutions who can increase their employment potential through active participation. On the job training activities are specifically covered under this new program.

If the partnership concept is to work, maximum participation by the minority private sector is essential. Otherwise, white people will get the jobs and the money to provide them. This is unacceptable. We are tired of having people take the legitimate interests of Black America and transform them into a funding rationale for white organizations. And that could very easily happen with the private sector job program.

The National Alliance of Business (NAB), not just a white business group, but one tied primarily to big business,

is trying to position itself as the primary organization to put Blacks and other minorities back to work. In effect, NAB becomes the proxy for Black organizations and Black institutions. That's the last thing we need!

The minority private sector can produce jobs. It produces jobs today; and it can produce more with additional resources. The question is not whether additional resources are available. The question is will the existing resources be shared with us? If they are not, the rhetoric of partnership will continue to be hollow, phony and contradictory. Most minority firms are located in areas where the program is most likely to be established. Thus minority business participation provides credibility to the program. Not too incidentally, such participation would strengthen minority firms and provide the impetus for expansion. This is not to suggest that NAB has no role to play in the jobs program. It is to suggest, however, that NAB should not have a unilateral role to the exclusion of other existing structures.

Minority institutions must become full partners in any new partnership arrangement with government. In the private sector jobs program, the minority private sector must play a visible and constructive role in creating jobs. And it must get its equitable share of the resources. Otherwise, we will be frozen out of yet another opportunity to expand institutional capacity in the minority community. Capacity building is the key. If partnership is the answer, we had better get down to the business of making sure that the minority private sector is a full and equal partner.

## TO BE EQUAL



### How Many Doctors Do We Need?

One of the most curious concepts to come along in quite a while is the growing notion that America has too many doctors. Just try telling that to minorities and the poor, who frequently live in rural areas or urban neighborhoods that have no doctors at all.

It's the old story of looking at gross figures. The annual output of new doctors has doubled in the past two decades. But that doesn't mean they practice where the people who need their skills live. Nor does it mean they are in specialties most needed by the average health consumer.

Still, the so-called doctor shortage is an excuse for support for cutting federal aid to medical schools. It's even being used as a rationale for opposing a national health insurance plan.

It is argued that the more doctors there are, the more people will use them, and the more inflationary will health costs become.

Strange. At the same time, we're told that the law of supply and demand has not been repealed. The more there is available of a good or service, the lower its price is likely to become.

But that doesn't hold true for health care. Why? The answer is that organized medicine operates like an internal OPEC monopoly, freed from the normal constraints of the marketplace. Fee-for-service medicine keeps health care costs high, as does the cost-plus insurance system.

It's hard to understand the argument that it's bad if people use physician's services more often. If more people use more doctors, that obviously means they need those doctors and the health care they provide.

Whenever sales of some consumer item increase we never say that's bad. We recognize that people want more of that item and business takes steps to supply it. But why then do we say that items in human services, like health care, should be carefully rationed and kept limited?

Those limits are today imposed by excessive costs. If you can afford to pay a doctor you use his services, if you can't, you don't. Poor people covered by Medicare and Medicaid programs have some access to health care since the government will pay for it. And there's been a rise in health services utilization since those programs were started.

That's good, it means more people are getting better health care. But millions of others are not. They don't have access to doctors. The financial structure of medical professions is such that esoteric specialties drain off many who in former years might have been general practitioners and family physicians.

The result is that some areas and people are not served at all, some are underserved, and relatively few have full access to the health care they need. So long as the nation's ghettos and barrios are virtually without health practitioners, so long as many public hospitals would stop dead in their tracks without foreign trained physicians, and so long as medical professionals are maldistributed, America doesn't have too many doctors.

It's troubling that calls for limiting the numbers of doctors come just as blacks and other minorities are gaining a tenuous foothold in medical schools.

Even with the rise in minority medical school enrollments, blacks are only about two percent of America's doctors. And while the total number of places in medical schools is increasing, the number of blacks admitted is shrinking.

## Integration And Education: 25 Years After Brown

by Bayard Rustin  
Special to the Post

As we mark the 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in Brown vs. Board of Education, it is important to remember the revolutionary quality of the Court's judgment. By decisively repudiating the archaic "separate but equal" doctrine, Brown shook the legal and moral foundations of the entire racial caste system in America. Moreover, it initiated a creative and long overdue discussion about the very concept of quality, most importantly the concept of equality of educational opportunity.

Today, after twenty-five years of sometimes bitter debate, the concept of equal educational opportunity still remains controversial and confusing as school boards and communities continue to wrestle with the slippery problem of racial imbalances; despite good intentions and many valiant desegregation plans, think it is quite fair to conclude that educational inequality has not yet disappeared, and that American society has not even settled on a clear, widely-accepted, workable definition of what equality of educational oppor-



Bayard Rustin

tunity really means. These two conclusions, however, do not warrant undue pessimism or charges of ill will and total failure. They are, I think, candid and simple statements of fact.

To illustrate the persistence of educational inequality, I think it is worth noting some recent developments in several of the school districts originally involved in the Brown case. In Topeka, for instance, arbitrary racial segregation has disappeared, yet racial imbalances still exist, and charges of racial discrimination frequently arise. Developments in two other Brown districts — New

Castle County, Delaware and Clarendon County, South Carolina — are also cause for serious concern, since they serve as graphic examples of two relatively new and inter-related problems: the dramatic reemergence of de facto segregation as the result of urban-suburban population shifts, and the vexing phenomenon known as "white flight."

While desegregation experiences in the Brown districts have been rather disappointing, overall trends in school integration and black educational advancement are generally more encouraging. The following points, I think, deserve special note: white opposition to integrated schools has dropped considerably; the black-white gap in achievement shows hopeful signs of disappearing; black drop-out rates, once enormously higher than white rates, have fallen; and the proportion of black youngsters attending college has risen tremendously.

Taken together, these contradictory indications remind us again that desegregation is a complex process that must adapt to changing economic and political circumstances. Consequently, our efforts

toward full desegregation need a broader focus. As I see it, we need this new focus for two reasons: first, unless we begin to think of educational quality in a more socially comprehensive and class-oriented manner, we will be continually distracted by an on-going racial "numbers game" which will divert us from our real goal, quality education for all. And second,

if the drive toward educational equality continues to be mistakenly perceived as a racial matter, we risk losing the political and community support which are absolutely essential for the success of any desegregation program, and for the continued survival of any integrated public school system.

In concrete terms, then, I

am suggesting that we begin to look more closely at proposals and ideas like a major equality-oriented restructuring of school finances, a more rational and regionalized approach to drawing school district lines, greater use of magnet schools, and a more careful and more future-oriented approach to educational planning.

## Strikers Fan Through Streets

Continued from page 1  
Washington, D.C. upheld earlier rulings finding the company guilty of "serious and pervasive unfair labor practices."

The ruling upheld the union's unfair labor practice strike from November 17, 1976 to February 22, 1977, and ordered the company to rehire all 130 strikers to their previous jobs with pay from the end of the strike to the date of their reinstatement.

According to Coutlakis, the new ruling orders 5 more days of back pay to the workers because "the company had no intention of rehiring them." While most of the strikers were eventually rehired, not all returned to their same jobs. The union estimates the

company owes its workers \$500,000, and that is why they are striking again.

Company spokesman Godfrey Bennett, Vice President of Harris Teeter, said the supermarket chain will appeal the NLRB decision to a higher court.

"We feel the decision was wrong," said Bennett. "So far all rulings have been from the NLRB, but taking it to a higher court will put it in another environment."

Unfair labor practice charges were also filed last week against Harris Teeter by the N.C. State Building and Construction Trades Council. President Charles Dover claims union contractors are being denied the opportunity to bid on Harris Teeter's new

warehouse in Indian Trail. "They are denying people the right to work and make a living for their families just because they belong to a union," said Dover, whose organization represents 35,000 skilled trade workers across the state.



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