

Editorials & Comments

Pope Brings Hope

In one of the most remarkable personal triumphs of a foreign dignitary, Pope John Paul II walked across America for seven days spreading good will and offering blessings to thousands. He was revered as a spiritual leader and accepted his super-celebrity status imposed by others with humility and gratitude.

In spite of the warm way most Americans received the Pope, he was criticized by some in his own church for continued opposition to women priests, by others for opposing artificial birth control and by others for presumably giving moral aid and comfort to the arms lobby and the leaders of the agribusiness conglomerates. In the latter cases some leveled such charges because the Pope praised the United States for its significant role in the quest for "greater security in the world," and praised the farmers for feeding the world's hungry. The implication of these allegations was that the Pope had not recognized the fallacy in more and more arms for the assumed purpose of maintaining the peace and that he had failed to recognize what agribusiness is doing to the small farmer.

We find it difficult to accept these allegations because the Pope, for example, identified closely with the plight of minorities and the poor during his brief visit to America. Pope John Paul made it a point to tell the nation's rich and powerful that the downtrodden and oppressed

are "your brothers and sisters in Christ" and should not be cast aside and left only "the crumbs from the feast."

In Boston, the Pope led thousands in singing a song written by the gospel singer Andrae Crouch. In New York City the Pope visited Harlem's black ghetto. He said, "I come because I know of the difficult conditions of your existence, because I know that your lives are marked by pain."

Disregarding the warnings of the cautious concerned with his safety, the Pope rode in full view unprotected by bullet-proof glass through Harlem and the South Bronx. He visited a black church in Harlem - The St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church - and offered mass to its members. Thus, the Pope's inclusion of these black and poor areas in his itinerary was not symbolism but a true commitment to the poor and an awareness of their needs.

Furthermore, in responding to a letter from a farmer in a small mid-western town, the Pope spent a half day there too.

Thus, whether you are a Catholic, a Jew, a Protestant or otherwise, it should have been easy to see that Pope John Paul II's visit to America served to strengthen the interest in justice, racial equality and fair-play for all. May the memory of the Pope's visit live on as a reminder that our struggle for equality is never ending and never final.

PEOPLE CREATE NEIGHBORHOODS OF POLLUTION.

"THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST RATS, IS A GARBAGE CAN WITH THE LID ON TIGHT."

And Only You Can Prevent It.....

as i see it

Future Of Black Institutions

By Gerald O. Johnson
Special to Post

The article "The Future of Black Institutions" that appeared in this column on October 5, 1979 brought a tremendous amount of response from some of our readers. Most of the comments were in complete disagreement with what I had said. One gutless responder (He didn't sign his name) said "Black colleges will still be needed for the next 1,000 years for people like you. Anyone who makes this many errors using the wrong personal pronoun needs a good course in elementary or junior high school grammar and composition. You have tons of criticism for black colleges, athletic teams, doctors, politicians, etc. Let us see you get elected dog catcher."

Whew! Heavy! The errors this reader was referring to was my usage of the word "that" instead of "who." I stand corrected! Most of the other criticisms were personal attacks on me, also, and not on what I had said.

The truth is the article may have been syntactically imperfect, but semantically it was sound. It may have insulted some people, but the truth is the predominantly black institutions have been skidding since 1973. This trend will undoubtedly continue without a force to change it.



Gerald O. Johnson

The response I expected to hear which would have been reasonable was that these institutions help educate people who otherwise would not receive a college education. I will address this argument next week.

Most critics of the article immediately assumed I was using JCSU as the basis for my argument. Well, believe it or not most black institutions, especially the private ones suffer from the same problems. JCSU is not unique. The recent financial traumas of Fisk University and Tennessee State are case in points. My old alma mater, Lincoln University, has had serious academic and financial problems over the past two years. If not for the state of Pennsylvania subsidizing Lincoln then it might be closed today. But for demonstration purposes we will use JCSU for the

following test.

- (1) Which school in the Charlotte area is the oldest?
a) JCSU, b) UNCC, c) CPCC
- (2) Which school has the smallest enrollment?
a) JCSU, b) UNCC, c) CPCC
- (3) Which school offers the least in terms of curriculum variety?
a) JCSU, b) UNCC, c) CPCC
- (4) Which school required the least in minimum entry requirements?
a) JCSU, b) UNCC, c) CPCC
- (5) Which school has the highest attrition rate?
a) JCSU, b) UNCC, c) CPCC
- (6) Which school costs the most to attend?
a) JCSU, b) UNCC, c) CPCC

If your answer to all of the above is JCSU then you have passed this test.

The obvious question that must come to mind is who would pay more money for less results. No one. That's exactly what's happening. No one is paying more for less. I would guess that nearly 95% of JCSU students are on financial aid. If the subsidy program is cutoff for any reason and it will be cutoff, then this school will be forced to close. Couple this with the mishandling of procedures (See FUTURE On Page 4)

From Capitol Hill

Does Israel Plan Takeover, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria?

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

Representative Fauntroy gave members of the press, at a luncheon, a comprehensive report of Southern Christian Leadership Conference's recent trip to the Mid-East. This trip was made after the August 20, meeting with U.N. Representative of the PLO, Mr. Terzi. In response to an invitation from Mr. Yasser Arafat, SCLC visited the Mid-East in its traditional non-violent and brotherhood spirit. The eleven member group felt that it did plant the seed of non-violence through this face to face and faith to faith meeting with many of the involved principles.

The Congressman stated that through their talks with Lebanese leaders it was revealed an enthusiasm there for peace through non-violence, a picture of the little recognized impact the war has had on the misery and suffering of the Lebanese people and their strong support for human rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and a homeland.

In their fact findings, they learned that Palestinians, having no homeland, are citizens of no country, hav-

ing no national identity and no rights in their host country. Because of this they are not able to prove their parentage, when they are born, their marriages are not documented, neither can they be buried in their own plots. The groups learned that Israelis were not just bombing Palestinian military installations, but both Lebanese and Palestinian refugee camps and villages. They found that many of these raids were carried out with United States' made weapons.

Mr. Fauntroy said that the first two and a half hours meeting with Mr. Arafat, seemed to have been filled with the leader's headline of continuing its Israeli attacks, through letting them know there will be constant violent harassment anywhere, anytime. Mr. Arafat related to them the historic cause of the Mid-East conflict, his need to defend his people against the forcible occupation of Palestinian land, his disappointment over U.S. economic and military Israeli support, his opposition to the Camp David formula which excluded Palestinian self-determination and that his



Alfreda L. Madison
1978 cease fire declaration and Israel's violation of the declaration.

The Palestinians believe Israel is not only unwilling to give up the 1967 occupied territory but that its aim is to, eventually, take over Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. Mr. Fauntroy stated that before concluding their meeting with Yasser Arafat, they perceived a softening in his attitude. However, he realizes that the PLO leader faces difficulties in trying to convince some of the more hardlined Palestinians to change. SCLC feels that the media has painted Yasser Arafat in the wrong light; as a hard-hearted inconsiderate

person. The group found him gentle and willing to talk. It was disappointed over Israeli leaders for failing to meet with them, even though they clearly stated that they are for the continued State of Israel, but that they wanted both sides to cease fire and seek peaceful solutions through communications with each other. With Israel's tactics, it is spending 30 percent of its national gross income on warfare with a 100 percent inflation.

Representative Fauntroy feels that SCLC and other black leaders have set the climate for America to realize that it must change its course of action in the Mid-East. It doesn't have a timetable beyond 1982 because Russia will be in the market for oil. The U.S. is thinking the unthinkable of going to war over the 20 mile strait for oil, and if a war does break out, it will be catastrophic. Everyone must come to realize that PLO must have a homeland, even Moshe Dyan has come to recognize the fact that there must be talks with the PLO. It is felt that Jordan is a strong key in the Mid-East solution because of its link to

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

TO BE EQUAL

Black Women Face High Barriers

The drive for women's equality appears to have slowed in recent years, as have all moves to expand rights and to increase equal opportunities in our society.

But while discussions of women's rights generally center around the equal rights amendment or the aspirations of a relatively small segment of women, the plight of black women has largely been ignored.

Whatever figures you use, you find black women are the most disadvantaged group in America. Expanding their employment and income opportunities would go a long way toward slashing poverty in America.

That's because a majority of poor black families are headed by women. It's hard to see how black poverty can be successfully attacked without an all-out effort to equalize employment opportunities for black women.

Despite unequal opportunities, black women are more likely than white women to be working or looking for work. It's become commonplace to talk about the rise in the numbers of working women, but it is as important to know who works when.

For example, white women have their greatest labor force participation in the below-24 age group. Then many marry or have children and leave work. But the highest rates for black women are in the prime working years of 25-44.

That would lead you to expect black women to have higher earnings. Not true. Black women earn less than white women, less than black men, and far less than white men — about half.

Black women are also the prime victims of unemployment. Their jobless rates are double those for white women.

Black women are also locked into the worst-paying jobs. They are over three times as likely as white women to be in private household service and almost twice as likely to be service workers.

But even those figures understate their plight, since the service category is so broad and doesn't distinguish between such low paying jobs as laundry workers and higher paying service jobs.

Climb the occupational ladder and you find black women again at a disadvantage. Men and white women are far more likely to hold managerial, administrative and even sales jobs.

Black women workers aren't in the labor force out of boredom or because they want to buy luxuries. Black women are more likely to be in the labor force than their white counterparts for an obvious reason — it takes more than one income in a black family to reach even a minimal standard of living.

And given the disproportionate number of black families dependent on female heads of households, it is clear that the elimination of discrimination based on both race and sex is absolutely essential.

More white families than black are headed by women. But black female-headed families are far more likely to be poor.

And among families headed by women who work full-time, black families are four times as likely to be poor as whites. That's a serious indictment of the way our society devalues black labor and black women.

Their poverty is deeper, too. The artificially low poverty level is set at \$6,700 for an urban family of four. But the median income for black families headed by women is about \$5,900 — well below the poverty level.

Combine those figures with the fact that about 55 percent of all black children live in female-headed families and you have a crisis that will affect blacks far into the future.

Discrimination based on race and sex operate to keep those families poor and out of the economic mainstream. Immediate and vigorous action is needed to overcome the barriers that keep black women and their families locked into desperate battle for survival.

THE CHARLOTTE POST
Second Class Postage No. 965500

"THE PEOPLES NEWSPAPER"
Established 1918
Published Every Thursday
By The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.
1524 West Blvd., Charlotte, N.C. 28208
Telephones (704) 376-0496-376-0497
Circulation, 9,915

60 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE

BILL JOHNSON...Editor Publisher
BERNARD REEVES...General Manager

Second Class Postage No. 965500 Paid At
Charlotte, N.C. under the Act of March 3, 1878

Member National Newspaper Publishers
Association

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

Deadline for all news copy and photos is 5 p.m.
Monday. All photos and copy submitted become
the property of the POST, and will not be returned.

National Advertising
Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
45 W. 5th Suite 1403 2400 S. Michigan Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10036 Chicago, Ill 60616
(212) 405-1220 Calumet 5-0200

Santa's Bag Slates Opening

The annual "Santa's Bag" gift shop sponsored by Act I, the fund-raising auxiliary of the Charlotte Children's Theater, will be held again this year on November 29, 30 and December 1 from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and on December 2 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. The mini-shopping center for children under 12 will be held at the Children's Theater, 1017 East Morehead Street.

"Santa's Bag" is an annual event held to raise funds for the operation of the Children's Theater and

is designed to offer children the opportunity of purchasing inexpensive Christmas gifts for their parents, other family members and friends. All items for sale have been handmade by members of Act I and range in price from 25 cents to \$2.50. The average cost is \$1.00.