

# Editorials & Comments

## David A. Burkhalter

Since 1971 the city of Charlotte has grown from 250,000 to more than 330,000 people. Its land mass has expanded to over 140 square miles and is overseen by some 30 city departments and divisions with a work force of 3,900 and an annual operating and capital budget of \$200 million.

Furthermore, the city has maintained an AAA credit rating, and gained public approval of more than \$150 million in general obligation bonds used for numerous public improvement projects including uptown revitalization, airport expansion, community centers, parks, streets, sidewalks and others.

During these nine years of such great accomplishments, David A. Burkhalter has served as City Manager. Therefore, when "Mr. B." as his staff often affectionately calls him, announced on Monday that he's retiring on December 1, Betty Chafin said, "This city has been fortunate to have had David A. Burkhalter's leadership. He is truly one of... if not the... outstanding city manager in the country."

These are not just empty words but rather comments that echo the sentiments of many

Charlotteans who have witnessed the growth and positive changes in the city that Burkhalter has called "a beautiful city with a long record" of good government.

A servant of the City Council but not its door mat, a true professional and competent administrator, Burkhalter guided city government with a firm but gentle hand by accepting his responsibilities yet granting his able assistants ample opportunity to perform their work and develop professionally themselves.

A manager's manager and active in professional groups, Burkhalter, who is a past president of the International City Management Association (ICMA), will be presented with the organization's highest award later this month at the annual meeting.

In his characteristic manner, Burkhalter said, "the house is in order." Indeed it is and, therefore, a challenge to the Mayor, City Council and staff he leaves behind to keep it in order.

Best wishes, Mr. David A. Burkhalter for a job well done and we are truly a better city because you cared enough to serve us and be one of us.

## Decline Of The Black Family

While serving as an assistant U.S. Secretary of Labor in 1965 and now a U.S. Senator, Daniel P. Moynihan attracted the rage and anger of black Americans and some liberal whites, when his research concluded that single-parent black female-headed households were a main cause of many of problems facing black people.

Moynihan reported that nearly one-fourth of all black families in 1965 were headed by women, one-third of all black children were living without both parents and 25 percent of all black babies were born out of wedlock. He asserted that the black family structure was falling apart and that this was the primary reason for perpetual cycles of poverty and deprivation.

In spite of the anger blacks felt toward Moynihan and his supporters for blaming the victims of discrimination for possessing the characteristics arising from such imposed treatment, reports indicate that now the factors Moynihan identified have actually worsened. As the new decade begins, research points out that black women head 40 percent of all their families, over half the black children under 18 live with only one parent and over half of the black babies are born out of wedlock.

This tragic fact has led Robert Hill, research director for the National Urban League to conclude that the black female-headed household, without the presence of a husband and

father, "has reached the stage where we can no longer truly identify the husband-wife family as typical among blacks. What we have now is a two-model pattern with the husband-wife model unfortunately declining.

Hill and other researchers are in agreement that the basic issues plaguing the black family structure are continuing racial discrimination and near never-ending recession that has disproportionately put blacks on the unemployment roles. Hill notes, "marital breakups were up among whites as well during the 70s, but blacks are at the bottom economically, so we were hit hardest." Thus it is not a matter so much of a female-headed household as it is the continuing problems of racial and sex discrimination; greater competition for jobs by white women, new immigrants and illegal aliens; more limited hours of work opportunity; and a welfare system with built-in disincentives. Thus since economic recession is a permanent feature in most black communities for all these reasons, it is imperative that equal opportunity-affirmative action programs be strengthened, job training programs be expanded and a more innovative welfare system with incentives to help people renew their own self-reliance must be set into motion. Lacking these minimum essentials, the cycle of poverty and deprivation and black family breakup will not diminish.

"You Must Register-You Must Vote— You Must Learn— Congress Acted Swiftly In Passing This Act, Intend To Act With Equal Dispatch In Order To Force It."

PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON



Something Blacks Can Do Now—For Themselves... Register-Vote.

## As I See It

### Decentralization Of Black Leadership

By Gerald O. Johnson  
Post Columnist

I have recently written in this article on Alvin Toffler's THIRD WAVE. I expressed my opinions on some of the ideas that I felt from reading the book. Interestingly enough signs of the third wave are showing up all over the country. One important sign is occurring in the Black community.

The institutionalized procedure for relying on national Black leaders is rapidly dissipating. Black communities are beginning to realize that the local problems facing Black communities are turning to grassroot leadership. This can be seen in recent developments in large cities like Miami, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and others. Black people in Miami refused to listen to Black leaders flown in from other areas of the country. Why should they? These people are more aware of their problems than the so-called national Black leaders. The national Black leaders in my opinion do more harm than good. They fly in, stay for a couple of days and leave. The people of the community must live with the problems continuously; hence, they should be the ones to solve those problems.

Blacks in Philadelphia have gone even further by re-developing ghettos without governmental aid. Again, this Black community refuses to solicit help from nationally known Black leaders. They, too, realize the ineffectiveness of the Jesse Jacksons and Vernon Jordans to resolve local problems.

These Black communities are indicative of a trend which will become prevalent in the years to



Gerald O. Johnson

come. We are beginning to de-centralize our lifestyles. We are beginning to see people take their destinies into their own hands. Centralization of services (governmental, private, or others) is no longer working. People are beginning to realize this and are acting accordingly. I am glad to see it happening.

Success in marriage is not so much a matter of finding the right person as it is being the right person.

People who oft time complain about their salary situation are usually in the wrong jobs. A person happy in a position seldom complains about the monetary rewards. A person whose happy with his position performs beyond the call of duty. The person who is unhappy will do just enough to get by. Getting more money for the unhappy will not solve the problem. Getting another job might.

A young lady discussing her marriage decision between two young men was explaining why she chose Bill over John.

"Why didn't you marry him?" asked a friend. "Because when I'm with Bill I think I'm the clever-

est person in the whole world."

A young composer once asked Mozart for advice on how to develop creatively.

"Begin writing simple things first," Mozart told him. "songs for example."

"Yeah, but you composed symphonies when you were only a child," the man exclaimed.

"Yes," said Mozart, "but I didn't have to go to anybody to find out how to become a composer!"

Excerpts: Bits & Pieces

### NAACP To

### Conduct Voter

### Mobilization Project

continued from Page 1  
Mecklenburg Co. Commission and the Mecklenburg State House Delegation will be.

On November 4, come snow, rain or flood, black voters must go to the polls in large numbers.

Kelly M. Alexander Jr. Vice President of the Charlotte Branch, will be overall project supervisor. You may contact him at 333-1167 (Alexander Funeral Home); 786-5171, ext. 425 (Barber-Scotia College); or 376-6909 (NAACP).

### Alcohol Workshop

If your business sells mixed beverages, beer or wine you are requested to attend a special workshop Wednesday, September 17, from 2-4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 3815 N. Tryon Street.

Call agent Cynthia Cole at 568-0961 to assure space at the workshop.

## From The White House

# President Carter's Economic Plan Offers Little Hope

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

President Carter's new economic plan really offers scarcely any hope to the middle, low income and unemployed people. It is heavily tilted to big business with its 40 percent business depreciation tax and tax credit for reinvestments and research. The plan calls for almost a half million new jobs in 1981. Since overall black unemployment increased by 200,000 already in 1980 and the rise continues to go higher for all people, the 1981 picture is very bleak, with no immediate relief in sight. When questioned about the July statistics which showed that overall unemployment was 7.8 percent, white unemployment 6.9 and black unemployment 15.2 percent, Charles Schultz stated that black unemployment had been reduced by the Carter Administration, but because the country is now in a recession, all unemployment has increased. However, the statistics are as



Alfreda L. Madison

follows: when President Carter came into office: in 1977, overall unemployment was 7.4 percent, black unemployment was 13.6 percent, white unemployment 6.7 percent, so the July statistics show that overall unemployment increased by .4 percent, white unemployment by .2 percent and black unemployment by 1.6 percent. The greatest reduction was in November 1979. Overall unemployment was 5.8 percent, white unemployment

5.1 percent and black unemployment 11.6 percent. So taking the greatest period of unemployment reduction, compared with July, 1980 shows that overall differential is 1.9 percent, white 1.4 percent and black 3.6 percent. So without safeguards targeting jobs to blacks, the unemployment gap continues to widen, and the black plight worsens.

The President's long-awaited economic plan does not give immediate aid to suffering individuals and communities. Congressman Augustus Hawkins terms the plan as a do-nothing-until-after-the-election policy. He stated that an immediate change is needed in failed policies that have produced 10 million unemployed people, double-digit inflation, high taxes and a budget deficit of \$60 billion. Mr. Hawkins said that some of the President's individual programs do not present viable solutions to economic problems. The Congressman emphasized that while the laid-off au-

tomobile workers are an important problem, they only comprise 3 percent of the total unemployed, so it is economically unsound to target programs for only one portion of the unemployed population while cutting already authorized programs for others.

Representative Hawkins says that the national economic policies must be overhauled, because a comprehensive recovery program is immediately needed which will give jobs and will stop inflation rises. This overhaul program must be targeted to expansion of housing, health care, transportation and energy areas. These can provide increased jobs by private sectors.

Job opportunities must go to those who need them the most; those who have been unemployed for a long period of time, and are in need of training and upgrading. Hawkins believes that job expansion must be accompanied by appropriate tax incentives. If there is to be a tax cut, it should reduce individual,

## Affirmative Action

### To Be Poor, Black, Old And A Woman!

By Gerald C. Horne, Esq.  
Special To The Post

Poets, eg. Langston Hughes, have sung the praises and rhapsodized melodically about the virtues of Black women. This is fine and needed; however, more voices need to speak out about the economic plight of Black women - especially elderly Black women - who are disproportionately represented among this nation's poor. Poor, Black, old and a woman are adjectives that all too frequently can be employed to describe the distaff side of the Black community.

For the fact is that 60 percent of minority women age 45-54 and 44 percent age 55-64 are in the workforce. This percentage, needless to say, is higher than that of similarly situated white women.

In any event, these women work because of the cruel lash of economic necessity. Nearly 42 percent of all women who work are single, widowed or divorced. In addition 58 percent of married couples have both husband and wife working - most of the time this is to bring family income above \$10,000.

The fact that Black women often as not have much choice about working only makes them more prey to the none too benevolent mercies of rapacious employers. Generally, only 13 percent of women over 35 hold managerial or administrative jobs. The figure for Black women is substantially less. They are concentrated overwhelmingly in low-paying, dead-end posts. More specifically, whereas older white women are likely to be found in clerical positions, older Black women hold more than their share of domestic and service jobs. The days when suburban housewives examined the knees of an elderly Black woman applying for a job - to insure that they're properly scarred, hence, signifying past, vigorous labor - are not yet behind us. The scenes of elderly Black women lined up at the bus stop with shopping bags, on their way to the suburbs to tend the homes of more affluent matrons, too are not yet behind us.

In any case, the long years of service of Black women are not rewarded. Women over 40, who work, as a general proposition, earn less than women age 25-40.

Unfortunately, there are some brothers and others who claim that affirmative action has led to the rampant hiring of Black women, as employers fall over themselves to fill two quotas. This may have a surface validity and fall true in isolated instances but it is certainly not a discernible trend and smacks of something that is all too prevalent nowadays - blaming the victims.

Because the fact is that there is still a substantial wage gap between men and women's salaries generally and Black men and Black women's salaries in particular. And as time passes, this gap becomes a yawning chasm, as Black women - who are less represented in the higher paying, benefit laden unionized positions - fall steadily behind.

But it is the years of retirement - what used to be called euphemistically the "golden years" - when the wheel of oppression grinds down to the nub. Older women are 70 percent of all poor people over 65.

## Charlotte Girl Finalist

### In Ebony Beauty Contest

continued from Page 1  
style and grace characteristic of models. She has in fact modeled in Charlotte and made a few commercials for the Jan Thompson Agency. She was trained in the Troyanne Ross Institute c. Modeling.

As for modeling, Ms. Blackwell wants to do that "...as long as it lasts. It's not going to last forever, that's why I'm in school."

Following graduation Ms. Blackwell would like to work in Charlotte or Atlanta, Ga. in a managerial position. Eventually she would like to own a business dealing with fashion.

lifts weights. At Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church she sings on the choir.

In high school Ms. Blackwell was in West Charlotte's open and conventional schools. She was inducted into the honorary Order of the Lion for scholastic achievement as well as community involvement.

"Take each day as it comes," is Ms. Blackwell's view of life. "Try to live so that you can always have something to fall back on."

Presently school takes much of her time. At UNCC she is an Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Miss. She also swims, plays the piano and

<b>THE CHARLOTTE POST</b>	
Second Class Postage No. 965500 "THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER" Established 1918 Published Every Thursday by The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.	
1524 West Blvd., Charlotte, N.C. 28208 Telephone (704)376-0496 Circulation 9,200	
62 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.	
2400 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60616 Calumet 5-0200	45 W. 45th St., Suite 1493 New York, N.Y. 10036 (212) 489-1220

