

# Editorials & Comments

## UNCF: A Worthy Cause

Last Saturday night Charlotte area television viewers had an opportunity to see the "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" on WBTB. The three-hour Las Vegas-based show including such personalities as Lola Falana, Bill Cosby, Charlie Pride and Muhammad Ali, was a fund raising special for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and its 41 private, predominantly black colleges and universities.

There are at least three reasons for giving your support to UNCF institutions of higher learning. These are economic, historic and psychological.

Over 50,000 black students benefit from the support given to UNCF member schools. In fact, over half of the students enrolled at UNCF schools come from families with less than \$9,000 in annual income. Therefore, 90 percent are in need of financial aid.

Secondly, the historic foundation or cultural heritage of black Americans is partly rooted in our black colleges and universities. Darwin T. Turner reminds us that these institutions "were established originally to provide for the minimal educational needs of free and newly freed black people. Administered and staffed primarily by white professors, they helped train Negro teachers and administrators, who eventually as-

sumed leadership of most of these colleges." Turner adds, "Many of the ablest leaders of the 'older' generation of Afro-Americans were educated at Negro institutions."

Thirdly, there is a psychological need for the private black college. This is twofold. First, white-oriented institutions that teach from a white perspective too often cannot respond to the relevant needs of black youth. This is reflected in the fact that about 70 percent of the blacks who attend white colleges never graduate. Secondly, Tony Brown tells us that the implementation desegregation plan of the federal Department of Education and its Office of Civil Rights is a "racist version...which has turned black colleges (public) into white colleges and let white colleges remain white. Suddenly, West Virginia State, Bluefield State, Lincoln University in Missouri were desegregated or predominantly white" just to name a few. Thus, we have fewer institutions of higher learning teaching from a black perspective.

If black culture, history and self-awareness are to survive, and continue to make an impact upon America, UNCF colleges and universities must survive. Give to UNCF...It's good for you, good for your children and good for America.

Remember the UNCF motto: "A Mind Is A Terrible Thing To Waste."

## West Trade Street - Then And Now!

On two nights last weekend Charlotte police, aided by two female officers posing as prostitutes, arrested over 15 men on West Trade Street for soliciting sex, including crimes against nature. It has been because of similar police efforts to break up the cycle of prostitution on West Trade that "the street," as one writer has said, "is an express lane for prostitutes and a sitting room for vagrants and winos." Contributing to the encouragement of prostitution, crime, drug use and an assortment of other illegal actions on West Trade Street has been the encroaching physical decay that has been allowed to occur - decaying and boarded-up housing units, vacant lots, abandoned commercial sites and little business activity.

Ironically, West Trade Street was once a prestigious roadway of large elegant hotels, cuisine restaurants, small commercial establishments, the Southern Railway Station and the center of Charlotte's high society. However, government-stimulated events under the guise of planning set in motion changes that led to West Trade's eventual decline starting about 25 years ago.

With the relocation of the Southern Railway Station and Harding High School went many white residents and neighbor-

hood businesses. Then, with encouragement from city government, federal people relocated the main post office. The combined effect of these actions, along with the suburban shopping center boom, has led to the decline of West Trade Street and its trafficking in prostitution.

Local government, which is now frantically trying to revive the grandeur that was once West Trade Street, needs to carefully assess its own role in creating the environment that now exists on West Trade. If planners, developers and public officials cannot foresee more clearly in the future the consequences of their planning decisions, Charlotte will be in serious trouble and never achieve the greatness of its potential.

Part of that consequence is to realize that prostitution, the world's oldest profession, will not leave the city just because West Trade Street is revived, or should we say, if it is revived.

Thus, as public officials and today's planners begin a revival of West Trade, let them not forget that part of their planning must include an awareness, if not an actual plan, for the possible relocation of prostitutes, winos and vagrants. To simply ignore these groups without a social engineering plan would be to recreate a West Trade Street somewhere else.

## BLACK HISTORY

"A Race Is Like A Man-Until It Uses Its Own Talents, Takes pride In Its Own History. And Loves Its Own Memories, It Can Never Fulfill Itself Completely."



### Letters To The Editor

## Are Reagan's Goals Attainable?

To The Editor:

The question now being asked in private and group discussion is: "What will Reagan do as President?" It may be premature to try to answer this question, considering that (1) campaign promises are often loaded with political rhetoric and sometimes difficult to fulfill, and (2) the Reagan cabinet has yet to "hit the ground and be off and running." There are, of course, certain observations that can be made based on what we now know.

Reagan's economic program, which will aim to strengthen the economy by unleashing the forces of the free market, is the focus of intense interest. Reagan will take a conservative path, trying to control government spending, reduce taxes, diminish the role of government in the economy and stimulate savings, production and investment. The issues are the scope and vigor of Reagan's economic policies. Some advisors want radical action - a massive tax cut to accelerate growth and an immediate return to the principles of unconstrained capitalism. Others favor a more moderate course - sizable tax cuts across the board, with business getting special attention, and substantial reductions in government spending. I feel that Reagan will incline toward moderation, away from radicalism.

In energy policy, Reagan may push to end all federal price controls on oil and natural gas (due to expire in December 1984). He may encourage the use of coal and nuclear power as well. He has criticized the public corporation that promotes

synthetic fuels, but my guess is that he will accept it eventually. I would also expect Reagan to try to ease the burden of government by eliminating regulations. He might combine a general moratorium on new regulations with an "offset" policy to allow new ones only if old regulations are retired. I feel certain he will force agencies to balance the costs and benefits of regulations more carefully, and he may agree that Congress should have the power to veto any new regulations it dislikes.

On national security, Reagan's primary goal will be to reestablish America's military superiority - he will propose a new strategic bomber, more Navy ships, increased pay for military personnel and greater numbers of land-based strategic missiles. The immediate emphasis will be on accelerated production of current weapons systems, not the development of new systems that will not be available for years. He will try to counter the growing strategic power of the USSR as soon as possible. Success in doing so will enable him to deal from a stronger position in negotiating a new limitation on strategic arms. Reagan has made it clear that he will withdraw SALT II from the Senate and seek new talks on limiting American and Soviet nuclear weapons. Also, he has said he believes in "linkage," which implies that disagreements with Moscow in Africa or the Middle East may have adverse effects on new talks. Although Reagan opposed the partial grain embargo against the USSR, it is not yet apparent whether he will act to remove it

early in his administration. I feel that Reagan will probably drop his insistence of "official relations" with Taiwan as he comes to recognize China as an important potential partner in the three-cornered strategic game. It is almost certain that Reagan will not press friendly nations on internal political arrangements or violations of human rights. Over all, my feeling is that the new president will preside over foreign policy more cautiously than his campaign rhetoric would suggest.

Reagan will advocate several major changes in federal programs. He wants to remove the earnings limit for Social Security beneficiaries, transfer welfare back to the states, give broad block grants for urban renewal and create "enterprise zones" to attract business to blighted neighborhoods in inner cities.

Many of Reagan's objectives are worthy.

My own view is that the Reagan administration will be flexible and pragmatic, not as titled to the right as some expect. It is far harder to run the country than it is to criticize those who run it. Political leaders will begin to sprinkle their remarks with such words as "realistic," "practical," and "compromise." Reagan knows that he became president with only 27 percent of Americans supporting him. He, of course, will try to keep his coalition together. He will recognize that the country is so big and so diverse that he will be able to move it only gradually, but, we hope, sufficiently to give us reason to believe that things are getting better.

-Andrew DiAntonio

By Gerald C. Horne, ESQ

## Affirmative

## Action

## Save The Children!

Special To The Post

It is now recognized increasingly that Black youth are at the heart of uncounted significant political issues. Busing, the sub-minimum wage, the draft, unemployment, etc. all involve to a greater or lesser extent the question of Black youth.

And despite the International Year of the Child, despite Operation PUSH and the Congressional Black Caucus focusing on the "Black Family" and "save the children," it remains true that Black youth are subjected constantly to a drumbeat of attack.

Making national headlines recently and confirming what to some was obvious was a recent study issued by the United States Surgeon General Julius B. Richmond. He noted that while the overall death rate in this country was dropping by 20 percent from 1960-1978, it grew by 11 percent for young people from 15-24 years old; the chief causes of death for this age group were motor vehicle accidents, other kinds of accidents, suicides, ec. But for Black youth murder was by far the chief cause of death. Correspondingly, a newborn Black is nearly twice as likely to die in infancy as a white child.

And those Black children who manage to survive infancy, what happens to them? Well, for starters, like so many others in this society, they'll find it difficult to obtain any kind of health care. In 29 states Medicaid cannot be used to pay for health care of children in two parent families. In other states, families cannot receive Medicaid because their annual incomes were considered above the poverty levels; but the catch is that in these states the poverty level income is set at absurdly low levels, e.g., Tennessee's \$2,400 per year. In other words, any family of four making \$2,401 per year or more is deemed not to be poverty stricken and are denied Medicaid benefits. But the threshold issue is that 19 states have denied medical funds for prenatal care, thus contributing to the unusually high infant mortality rates of Blacks, who are forced by economic circumstances to rely disproportionately on Medicaid.

This same economic circumstance and social pressure detailed in numerous studies has led to many women-led families in the Black community. Yet this only reflects the general national trend, as the number of United States families led by women with no husbands increased 51 percent from 5.6 million to 8.5 million, between 1970 and 1979. If there was an adequate system of child care centers, the question of women-led families

would not be a major social question. There are approximately six million preschool age children with working mothers; yet there are only an estimated one million group child care slots available, leaving at least 5 million kids out in the cold - a disproportionate number of whom are Black.

The right wing Reaganites who chirp incessantly about Black "welfare mothers" not working, at the same time block federally funded child care, the lack of which often prevents mothers from working in this unemployment plagued economy.

The Black youth that is able to survive infancy and the pre-school years, then has to enter under-equipped, crowded public schools, where drugs are often more available than books. One does not have to be a prude about marijuana smoking to be concerned about a situation where one out of nine high school seniors is a daily user or where eight percent of 12-13 year olds have tried the herb with half of this group still using it. The impact on thinking processes, reading comprehension, verbal and arithmetic skills, etc. is incalculable. Alcohol abuse, another "drug" problem that does not receive adequate attention, is probably worse in the schools.

The Black community should also be concerned about our youth's undue watching of television. Wilson Riles, a Black who is California's School Superintendent, in a recently released study indicated that the more a student watches television, the worse he does in school. After surveying 500,000 sixth-twelfth graders, he concluded that the boob tube "is not an asset and it ought to be turned off...the dialogue that goes on in many of those programs is of very low quality and the educational value (is) nil."

But a Black parent without child care will use the tube as a babysitter, a Black parent with a poverty level income who cannot afford to pay for intellectual pursuits will use the tube as a substitute - and our entire community suffers.

But the price for society goes far beyond this. The Black youth who is deprived of education, health care, recreation and employment is likely to be found in a Miami-style rebellion. A survey conducted by the Behavioral Science Research Institute and the Miami Herald in Dade County shows that the typical person involved in the rebellion was 27.8 years old, a single man who dropped out of high school and a blue-collar worker earning less than \$10,000 a year. He was dissatisfied with his run-down neighborhood, poor working conditions, and salary.

### From Capitol Hill

## Reagan's Inauguration Was Marked By Pomp And Glory

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

The four-day inauguration of Ronald Reagan was marked by pomp and glory that only the rich could afford. The entire occasion had Washington seething with mink coats, long black limousines, private planes, black ties and tails - all carried out at an astronomical individual cost ranging up to \$2,000. Even the dance given for the young people cost \$40 per person, and bleacher seats along the parade route were from \$15 and \$25 with some seats running as high as \$100. It is said that the entire inauguration cost around \$10 million. The complete milieu was seemingly planned with only the very rich in mind who represent a very small percentage of the nation's population. It was quite evident that the average citizen was again saddled with the leftovers - standing room only to see the parade and to get a glimpse of their congress persons, a president who got their votes, with their families and friends



could attend. Ben Vereen, a marvelous black entertainer was featured as a ragged, tacky black-face comedian. One wonders why? Then Charlie Pride, the black western singer, said during his performance that it was wonderful for a black boy from Mississippi to be singing at this

affair. He said that Nancy Reagan invited him. So he turned around and said, "Thank you, Miss Nancy." Had it not been for the operatic singing of Grace Bumbry, one would have thought that jacks were just beginning to emerge from the early reconstruction days.

This was the most expensive inauguration in the history of the United States.

In commenting on Mr. Reagan's inaugural address, Representative Wm Pat of Guam, said that the emphasis was on the economy without any specifics. Julian Dixon of California stated that Mr. Reagan emphasized as he did in his campaign, a return to states' rights. He said the President spoke of equalizing opportunities for groups that have been too long neglected, yet, he has no government programs for accomplishing this.

Representative Cardiss Collins said that Mr. Reagan's emphasis on returning government to the local

governments gives the states a signal for a return to the pre-civil rights days and that he placed great stress on budgetary matters rather than humanitarian concerns.

Congress woman Shirley Chisolm said the inauguration speech was just a reiteration of the things Mr. Reagan has said all along during his campaign. She stated that the entire inaugural panorama represented people in the upper bracket. She sees a conflict in the President's talk of concern for the farmers and factory workers and getting the federal government out of their lives.

Mrs. Chisolm stated that the Reagan cabinet appointments all come from a monolithic group. They are primarily white male big corporate officials, the majority of whom do not have to depend on salaries. Women, minorities and the middle and lower income people are left out of the cabinet positions. She says it's impossible for the President to get a multiplicity of views. Since this country

is made up of various ethnic groups, and people in different economic strata, these make up the majority of the citizens. However, good as Mr. Reagan's intentions are, these groups have no cabinet member who really understands and shares their concerns and plight.

Generally, the Black

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Why He Opposes Busing?

To The Editor:  
Whereas I don't believe that color has anything to do with the quality of education in this country, I must state that I am a Black who is and has always been thoroughly opposed to busing for racial mix of the schools.

Busing is an expensive, time consuming and dangerous way to:

-Dodge school administration accountability;

-Cram Blacks down the throats of whites and vice versa and slow the natural process of integration;

-Conceals the fact that quality education is being

denied all U.S. citizens, young and old, rich and poor.

About 1968 (the last time I read of such an event) the best U.S. students were in competition with the best of 12 or 13 other countries.

The U.S. students came in last. Since 1966, the scholastic average in the U.S. has been on the decline. Hezekiah Nickleson



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