

Editorials & Comments

Crime Is A Community Problem

Like city dwellers everywhere, Charlotteans are concerned about their personal safety and the protection of their property. Therefore, crime and its causes - poverty, unemployment, racial discrimination, alienation and a psychology of entitlement - rank high among the issues that worry Americans.

These issues and their related socio-psychological problems have caused many people, but not enough, to recognize that the problems of crime and more specifically crime prevention are too big for law enforcement personnel to resolve alone. Too few people are aware of our need to improve the courts and our so-called correctional institutions.

Equally, if not more significant, too few people appear to recognize that crime prevention is a community, not a police problem. This means that it will take the combined efforts of ordinary citizens and the police to reduce the incidents of crime and to apprehend the perpetrators of criminal acts.

These concerns were jolted into stark reality last week when three North Carolina law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty. Among these untimely deaths was that of Charlotte police officer Edmond Cannon, 26, shot to death by robbers of an eastside convenience store on November 23.

While we don't need to wait for such tragedies before reminding our readers that crime prevention is everyone's concern, policemen and citizens, it does serve to make us pause and give thanks for the personnel sacrifices that policemen make daily to protect our personal welfare and property.

Let's renew our commitment to understand, to act and to assist law enforcement officers in their never ending war on crime and criminals.

To the extent that citizens recognize the public service and protective peace-keeping role of policemen and assist them in enforcing the law the death of officer Cannon and others like him will have not been in vain.

Problems Facing Black Leaders

"Black America, if it is to deal effectively with the problems of the 1980s, will have to disencumber itself of 'black leadership'." These are the words of Clake R. Watson, a mid-Western black energy consultant writing in Newsweek (Nov. 30).

Mr. Watson notes that the phrase "black leaders" does not refer to particular men or women but rather to the unfortunate notion that a single individual, or small group of individuals "is capable of reflecting the views, the interests and the priorities of a whole race on a whole range of issues."

He illustrates his point by saying that Oral Roberts is referred to by whites as "religious leader," never as a "white leader." On the other hand, "blacks are all lumped into one context: civil rights," and the media and others only seek black opinion on civil rights issues. The intent here, according to Mr. Watson, is for whites to assume that while blacks may have expertise in non-civil rights area, white America is not willing to concede blacks as intellectual equals on current issues generally.

Watson's blunt analysis should cause blacks to ask themselves, is there an outdated, lingering "black leader" syndrome designed by the white media to ignore black opinion? Is this a part of the new racism designed to accommodate self-proclaimed "black leader" while leaving blacks without a real voice on issues affecting their needs and concerns?

As blacks think about how they are viewed by the white media and when blacks are interviewed on vital issues, it becomes quite

clear that Mr. Watson has stated a truth, not a put-down of legitimate black leaders. Where blacks make a mistake and contribute to the white media's racism is in not identifying and recognizing black intellectuals, in a wide range of professional areas. They have become too dependent on the black church leadership to be all things to all people on all issues. While the black church as an institution and, therefore, black ministers will continue to be a major force in our lives, it is nevertheless important for blacks to recognize their "leader" in many areas and therefore force the white media to give due respect to black economists, scientists, engineers, and others for their knowledge and contribution. Such recognition will lead to a shift away from the black leader syndrome to leaders in various areas who happen to be black.

Let Us Hear From You

"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.

It will be written by you and about whatever is on your mind! So, if you have something to say...WRITE ON!

Some subjects that may be of special interest to you are: Drugs, Generation Gap, Welfare, Gangs, Schools, Going Steady, Police, Revolution, Whites, Blacks, Integration, Busing, Draft, God, Negro Churches, etc. Your article should be at least 250 words, type-written and double spaced preferred.

For A Safe Community...Team Work



Tony Brown's

Journal

Nationally Syndicated Commercial

Television Series

A Tradition Has Been Saved?

"Tony, have you ever seen anything like it?"

"I have not," I admitted.

My confession was made to Dr. Joseph B. Johnson, President of Grambling University. It was made in response to the Bayou Classic, the annual football game between the two black educational powerhouses - Grambling and the nation's largest black college, Southern University.

A football game it was, but - to me - the emotional depths reached could not be stirred by the rivalries of Ohio State and the University of Michigan or the Rose Bowl or the Sugar Bowl. Frankly, they mean very little to me.

In fact, they represent little more than paid black gladiators defending white tradition. The Longhorns of Texas are black, the Razorbacks of Arkansas are black, the Sooners of Oklahoma are black and - are you ready for this - the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame are black. Inner city and rural blacks breaking their legs and arms for a tradition they don't understand or care about. It is nothing more than a ritual of mutual exploitation.

But the 1981 Bayou Classic - 80,000 cheerful, exuberant, fantastically beautiful black people (all of the rumors you have heard about how beautiful Louisiana black women are are absolutely true) breathing soul into the Superdome in New Orleans - not only stands for a people's resistance to oppression, but projects their commitment to survive by self-help and

self-determination.

I felt I would burst with pride, a pride that America rarely provides for my true identity. From the unreal marching bands of Southern and Grambling, the bands' dance team at half-time, to the singing majestic woman who soloed free-of-charge in the bleachers, everything that black people have been, are or ever will be was in New Orleans' Superdome on Saturday, November 21, 1981.

Grambling's President Johnson and his wife were honored by a duet of "Endless Love" for 26 years of marriage and football great Willie Davis, a Grambling alumnus, and I were honored during the halftime blowout between the two great marching bands. It was all - almost - too much for my nervous system.

I also knew that this annual football game hosted by Grambling gave its president a welcomed diversion from the last few years of fighting the forces which advocated the elimination of both Louisiana's black colleges. It was Dr. Joseph Johnson's common sense and resistance to the so-called "integrationists" that helped save higher education for future generations of Afro-Americans in Louisiana and America. Only a few months ago did the Louisiana Coalition for Black Colleges and Dr. Johnson succeed in stopping the court action aimed at making both of the state's black colleges extinct.

There at the Superdome,

I could visually see what I viscerally understood that we would have lost. It was a celebration of life, not a football contest.

On the field, however, it was all the Southern Jaguars clawing the Grambling Tigers for their second win in 10 years and two out of the last three. At the end of the first half, Grambling went ahead 20-16, striking for two quick touchdowns within 30 seconds.

But the second half was all Southern and when the final gun sounded and the dust settled, the scoreboard read: Southern 50, Grambling 20. There were some happy Southern alumni, students and fans in Bayou Country that day. Grambling fans retorted: "Wait until next year."

I can't wait. But it will be my consolation that Grambling and Southern will be their next year and the Bayou Classic tradition will be there with black people with names like DeJoie, DeBois and Rousseau.

The long-stemmed dance teams - Grambling's "Orchids" and the "Dancing Dolls" of Southern - and old friends passing the cup of love and strangers becoming friends because of THE common bond - will also be there.

I wish every black American could be there next November and see exactly how beautiful we are.

"Tony Brown's Journal" - the television series, is shown every Sunday, on WBTB-TV, Channel 3, at 11:30 p.m.



Tony Brown

By Rev. John Perkins

Walk Your Talk



Rev. Perkins

Hour Of Leadership!

As I look around today, I see a coming disaster. I see crime and deterioration, but even in the midst of all this I see this as a wonderful opportunity for the Church of Jesus Christ.

This is a wonderful hour for leadership in a day when there are so few leaders. It is an opportunity for Christians who can see through the situation and who are able to take charge to become diligent, effective leaders.

I'm praying to God and I am asking Him to help me to be the kind of servant, a shepherd-leader, that He wants me to be in these days. As I meditate upon this, I begin to look for some help. And I want to share with you one help that I've found in Psalms 125:1. It says, "Those who trust in the Lord are as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever."

The 125th Psalm speaks of the confidence and security that we have in God. The following verse goes on to say that as the mountains surround Jerusalem, so does the Lord surround His people.

When I began to meditate in the richness of that psalm, a hymn came to mind. "The Solid Rock," and old hymn of the faith carries the same idea of the 125th Psalms. One stanza says, "On Christ the Solid Rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand." And like the psalm, the rest of the hymn tells of Christ's power to give us the security and confidence to live and work in this world.

Christ is the Rock. He is the reason we organize cooperatives, give seminars, renovate housing, develop health centers and lead Good News Clubs. I want to see all people, but especially black people, in Mississippi and throughout America turn to that Rock.

Now as a leader in the black community, I know the myths about Christianity supposedly being a "white man's religion," and I denounce those myths. People who desire to believe those myths, may do so to their own destruction, but I have my life united in Christ.

I remember over 20 years ago, my oldest son was instrumental in directing me into the way of eternal life through Jesus Christ. I was a sinner, a child born in a bootlegging family. But once I realized the truth about God and myself, that He was pure and I was not, I could become a Christian. I asked the Lord of the universe to run the tiny world of my life. He's been doing that ever since.

God, however, did not "save, sanctify, and fill me with the Holy Ghost" simply to warm a pew every Sunday morning. I soon began to study God's Word and then I began to teach Bible classes. From there I spoke in evangelistic services. But I began to look around and I saw people who were hurting physically. Realizing that my faith did not go far enough, I extended myself in the power of God to meet social needs of the people. I began to follow Christ's example of feeding the hungry and healing the sick when I helped initiate food coops and health centers.

Christ is the life-changing Rock if we believe in Him. The Church is the world-changing force if we work in Him. Christ said, "Upon this Rock will I build my Church..." and He is the foundation. We are the building that is made without hands.

Responses to this column may be sent to "Walk Your Talk," 1655 St. Charles Street, Jackson, MS 39029.

From Capitol Hill

It Was Said First By Congressional Black Caucus?

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post Rank and file American citizens should laud the gray-haired bespectacled whiz kid from Michigan, whose early priest hood qualities caused him to cry out against a policy he was espousing for political reasons instead of the sincere and compassionate good of the less affluent citizens. David Stockman, the Director of Office and Management and Budget revealed his deep concerns to a Washington Post reporter.

Stockman told how, as a congressman, he was against the nuclear reactor at Clinch River, Tennessee, but because he knew Majority Senate Leader Howard Baker was strongly for it, so he says, he just went out of the way and let it pass. He stated that other pet projects were saved in similar fashion. The OMB Director said congress was already thinking about 1982 elections, and that politics of winning overwhelm the philosophical premises.

In speaking of the House Democratic budget which was not very different from the Reagan budget, Stock-



Alfreda L. Madison

man said that Representative Gramm was his spy in the House Budget Committee. Gramm and Latta were the sponsors of a bill to include \$6 million additional cuts to the Reagan budget. The Congressional Black Caucus fought hard for defeat of Gramm-Latta as well as defeat of the entire Reagan package.

Stockman admits that they put together very rapidly a budget without any serious analytical process, that they really gave numbers which were only political. He stated that the defense numbers got out of control. It was only a bunch of numbers on a piece of paper. He emphasized strongly that the Reagan

policy-makers knew their plan was wrong, but that the President went ahead and conveyed the opposite impression to the American people. "He went on television, displaying his cool experienced actor ability to rally the people to his budget support, promising a new era of fiscal control and a balanced budget," said Stockman. He says the supply-side economics is only a trickle down theory that is making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

The Congressional Black Caucus can utter loudly, "I told you so." All that David Stockman revealed in the interview is what the Black Caucus has been saying all along. No white press gave any consideration to the Caucus arguments, press conferences when they said all along the exact same things that Stockman, recently, revealed in the Atlantic Monthly. Now, all the leading white papers are carrying the story, the complete Atlantic Monthly article was printed in the Congressional Record, and President Reagan was asked about it at his recent press conference.

The Congressional Black

Caucus came out with an alternative constructive budget based on careful analysis, and with a plan for more fairly equalization of both burden and profits of our company. That budget gave numbers based on careful study. It presented ways for lowering inflation, increasing employment, and increasing economic growth. Even Senator Dominic, Chairman of the Senate Budget committee, admitted that the Caucus had done a wonderful job. Having based their budget upon careful study, they showed how waste could be cut in defense spending, closing tax loopholes, and saving school lunches by placing a fifty percent cap on the three martini lunch - just to mention a few of all of the budgetary considerations. Recently, Senator Gary Hart has introduced a bill calling for a 70 percent three martini cap.

Representative Augustus Hawkins, the author of the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill, which really contributed a lot to the Black Caucus' Alternative Construction Budget has been criticizing for more than

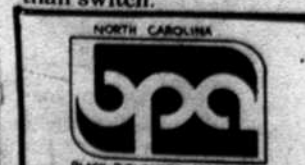
two years, the country's "trickle down" theory. Mr. Hawkins has consistently taken a strong stand against the "trade off" policy of raising unemployment in order to reduce inflation. He paints a grim picture of where the Reagan domestic program is headed. Considering the Administration's prediction that unemployment will rise Hawkins says that white males are rapidly losing their jobs and that there will be one million more unemployed people. This really can't mean minorities, because it won't be that many left above this present joblessness, among them. He sees no possible recovery before late summer, and even then it will only be in a technical sense, because many people are already witnessing foreclosure, bankruptcy, loss of health benefits and school dropouts. These will prove catastrophic, because these people will have to start at the bottom again, which will render them forever to the poverty level.

Mr. Hawkins said giving big profits to big corpora-

tions, only enables them to consolidate and instead of producing more goods and jobs here they are investing in foreign countries; providing foreigners with jobs. He stated that the great waste in defense spending should be investigated - all defense contracts run over prospect cost. Representative Hawkins feels that change in the direction of our economy will only come when unemployment gets around nine percent and the people demonstrate and take to the streets.

Since both of President Reagan's budgets and the House bill are known by all members of both Houses and the Administration, the only real wise and sensible thing to do is to take a good look at the Congressional Black Caucus' Alternative budget.

All of this just proves that American leaders, instead of using black ability would rather suffer than switch.



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