

## EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

### Herschel Walker Made Right Decision

Athletes, especially football players, have been stereotyped for years as being muscular jocks with limited intelligence and unfit to be productive following their collegiate or professional playing careers.

Maybe once in a decade a football player comes along who shatters that stereotype. There is now one who graduated from high school as Valedictorian of his class the same year he led his teammates to his state's football championship and the state track championship and the state track titles. In the latter case, he earned 34½ of the school's 35 points to win the 100-yard dash and shot put.

As a freshman college student, our hero continued his practice of studying his school work diligently and maintaining good grades while limiting his social life. His coach said, "The kid is as close to perfect as I've seen," as a student and an athlete.

In the 1980 Sugar Bowl game against none other than the formidable Notre Dame, our hero rushed for two touchdowns and 150 yards, not spectacular for a superstar, until it is noted that the rest of the team accounted for a minus 30 yards rushing a seven yards passing. In two subsequent Sugar Bowl games our hero rushed for three more touchdowns and nearly 200 yards. Excluding these accomplishments, our hero rushed for 5,259 yards in his three-year college football career.

Our hero, of course, is Herschel Walker. The hero status from our perspective is deserving even more so when it is also noted that during a three year athletic career at the University of Georgia, Walker maintained good grades while responding to the greater pressure of leading his team to a 33-3 record, including a national championship. Furthermore, ticket sales were so good during these years that the football stadium was increased by 20,000 seats to over 80,000. In addition, and not usually reported in the press, is how a Herschel Walker type player, especially in football or basketball, creates greater job security for the coaching staff, aids in recruiting other athletes as well as generally attracting more non-athletic students. In the latter case, it is quite common for a school winning the national championship to see their freshmen applications more than triple in the following year.

### God-Given Talent

What this all has meant and will mean to the University of

Georgia for years to come is mega-dollars in the millions. For Herschel Walker it has meant an opportunity to use his God-given talents and a meager \$5,000 a year scholarship under strict NCAA rules. Yet, one broken bone, one twisted knee, or one separated shoulder could have rendered Walker handicapped, destroying his career and marketability.

For all of these reasons we find it hard to understand the columns of stupid copy written by sports writers across the country criticizing Walker, his agent and the U.S. Football League for his having signed a multi-million dollar contract to play professional football. We are equally concerned with the attitude of football coaches and athletic administrators who now plan to present USFL coaches and officials from visiting their college campuses.

### Personal Worth

In addition, we are totally opposed to the NCAA rules and its general understanding with the NFL to not recruit non-seniors. Such rules and policies will surely be overruled when a court case arises. More significantly, such rules are designed to deny potential employment opportunities to collegiate athletes at a time when their marketable worth is highest. This is done for the benefit of collegiate programs and NFL management salary considerations, not out of any real concern for the athletes' education.

This is best illustrated by reports on the number of collegiate athletes who are dropped out of school because of academic problems created in part by demands of their athletic program which must succeed in order for the coaches and athletic administrators to have job security and big budget from gate receipts off the efforts of 18 to 20 year old youngsters.

Finally, as we have said before, it is past time competitive collegiate sports regained its sanity. By this we mean that the order of priority in sports should be character building, physical and mental development and a competitive winning spirit and in this order. If winning and the personal worth and self-esteem of the individual athlete are held in high priority then true victory will have been achieved by all. Herschel Walker achieved most of this largely on his own and for this some have tried to discredit him. We applaud him and wish him well in the USFL.

## BLACK BOOT-STRAPS

79,000,000,000.00.  
(SEVENTY NINE BILLION DOLLARS  
INCOME OF BLACK AMERICA 1979).

**'BLACK RETICENCE  
TO SEIZE INITIATIVE  
TO ORGANIZE THEIR  
COMMUNITIES IS A MAJOR  
FACTOR AND AN IMPORTANT  
FACTOR CONTRIBUTING  
TO OUR COMMUNITIES UNDER  
DEVELOPMENT'**

DEAN DOUGLAS C. GLASSON  
DEAN - HOWARD UNIVERSITY



### Letters To The Editor:



### Proud of SCLC Organization

Dear Sir:

I have nothing but praise for all those people involved in the establishment of a Charlotte Chapter Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

I know all about the political, social and economic justice that SCLC organizations in cities throughout the country have achieved. Charlotte is a good city and has been improved already by organizations like the NAACP, the Black Democratic Party and the Mecklenburg County Urban League.

Now with the addition of the SCLC and a combined effort of all these organizations, blacks perhaps will progress even more. In fact, all Charlotte will progress.

I am looking forward to attending the official presentation of the SCLC charter and the installation of the Charlotte chapter officers. This will be a milestone in Charlotte's history and I hope the entire community will be present to witness the affair, Saturday, at Amay James Presbyterian Church.

Not only will this organization serve well in its endeavors to increase voter registration, community development, political education, etc.; but it will also be a continuance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, when he organized the Southern

Christian Leadership Conference in 1957.

Thank you,  
Nell Curtis

### Congratulations

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Congratulations on your expansion and move to your new office spaces.

I have not had an opportunity to come out to visit yet, but just wanted to let you know that I was really pleased to hear of the progress you are making. I was also very pleased to hear your interview on WFAX. You handled the interview very well. The information that you provided during the interview was very informative and from a perspective not expressed

very often in the media.

The Charlotte Post also provides news on the black community that is not found in any other media outlet in the city. This is a valuable service to the black community that would go lacking without The Charlotte Post.

On behalf of Johnson C. Smith University and the black community in general, I'd like to say thank you and wish you continued success.

Sincerely,  
Linda Florence,  
Dir. University Relations  
JCSU

### Epilepsy Seminar

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Epilepsy Association of North Carolina is sponsoring a seminar for parents of children with epilepsy. We would like to reach as many people as possible with information about this free program. I have enclosed an information sheet describing the workshop and would appreciate any publicity you can give this event.

If you need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 704-377-3619.

On behalf of the 50,000 people with epilepsy in North Carolina, thank you for this valuable service.

Sincerely,

Mary G. Niebur, MSW  
Assistant Director  
Field Representative

### Something

#### On Your Mind?

Do you have something to say? Then do so for everyone to read. The Charlotte Post, the only other voice in town, welcomes all letters on various subjects.

Letters to the editor must include your signature and address, both of which may or may not be used per request. For purpose of identification only, writers should include their telephone numbers.

To The Editor: P. O. Box 39144, Charlotte, N.C. 28230.

## Building A Black Practice Plan

The hard times of the bitter Reagan years raise the hard question, "What went wrong for Blacks in the period after the brief illusion of progress in the 60s?"

--Maulana Karenga

Rewritten from  
The Michigan Chronicle  
By Elizabeth F. Hood  
Special To The Post

The hard time of the bitter Reagan years raise the hard question, "What went wrong for blacks in the period after the brief illusion of progress in the 60s?"

Maulana Karenga, associate professor of Black Studies at the University of California offers some insightful answers to the black failure to achieve and hold economic and social gains in the U.S. He identifies the lack of values, visions and structural capacity as primary weaknesses in the black population. Mr. Karenga blames the black middle class for their shortcomings ("The Crisis of Black Middle Class Leadership," The Black Scholar, Fall, 1982).

Agree or disagree, the author provokes the reader to consider some of the results of different strategies used by those blacks entrusted with leadership in terms of gains actually made and retained. He targets the black middle class because it represents "achievers," those usually chosen to screen events for their effects upon blacks and to suggest appropriate responses to these events.

On the concern for values and visions, Mr. Karenga charges that black leaders

often do not think about what will happen to their effectiveness when they can no longer deliver on the basis of patronage. That is, how can they explain to the people loss of support from political candidates whose favor they courted or the removal of social programs they promoted? Both of these strategies for economic and social survival and development depend upon a "loving mother" philosophy, rewarding the child for being good and taking back the gift when the child does not live up to expectations or the family income drops.

Because the child (in this case, blacks) has neither the power to punish nor the influence associated with prestige and wealth, the mother's decision stands. The error here is blind faith in perceived goodness.

Another terrible blow to

black leadership and its followers is the refusal of a friend (in this instance, the President), the Congress and the courts) to side with blacks in demands for equality and justice. Spokespersons and the crowd sit back and watch affirmative action, racial quotas and enforced desegregation in public education slip away.

Failure here is the lack of vision about the possible actions of economically threatened power-wielders bent upon saving themselves. The quality of the friendship, after all, depends upon the "situation" of the would-be givers. Under certain pressures from critics (in this instance, the Moral Majority, new waves of conservatism, etc.) fickleness triumphs.

Tossing words around loosely without defining and clarifying their mean-

ings, according to Mr. Karenga, continues to be a grievous fault with black leaders. Case in point: the difference between "alliance" and "coalition." Alliance, he says, is a "long-term ongoing unity based on common interests and common basic principles." Coalition, on the other hand, is a "short-term working association based on specific short-term goals." Hence, when black leaders talk about the importance of white "allies" among Jewish and Gentile groups, they tend to confuse themselves and black masses into thinking that the partnership is forever.

The truth, he argues, is that it is a fantasy to believe a black-Jewish protest against the neo-Nazis or the Ku Klux Klan will turn into a united front to eliminate racism in employment and education. The two groups are too unequal. Jewish people, as a group, define themselves as white, wield great economic power, enjoy high prestige and exercise strong control over the media in the U.S. The loss of black affection is no threat. Blacks, a powerless group, are in no position to penalize their economically or socially.

Mr. Karenga speaks clearly on the issue of coalitions versus alliances.

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON



Sabrina

### Illiteracy Among People

In this world of high technology, television, cheap cinema and video games are taking the place of conversation and reading. Producers realize that to capture the public's attention, sensationalism is required. How has this affected the citizens? By reducing the literacy rate. There are millions of people who cannot read or write their name nor for that fact recognize it.

Illiteracy has reached epidemic proportions in the United States. Approximately eight million adults are considered functional illiterates: meaning they cannot read or write but do hold productive jobs and function within the community. These people have structured their lives in such a way that their illiteracy will not be recognized. However there is a noticeable discomfort and annoyance when the person is confronted with a reading situation. Oftentimes the knowledge of a functional illiterate member of a family is kept a secret-causing each member to feel ashamed and protective of the individual.

Functionally illiteracy among the "senior" members of the society occurred under different circumstances. Many times the persons involved had to leave school at an early age or were not able to attend school at all. Because of the need for them to work. In some cases there were no schools in the rural communities and if it did exist, many miles had to be traveled back and forth-causing the interest in learning to subside.

On the flip side of the coin, the "junior" illiterate society members are that way for an entirely different set of reasons. The main culprits focusing around pushing students through school and/or giving the, the privilege or power to quit school at the age of 16.

The idea of pushing pupils through school without their showing proficiency in the grade is a disgrace to the school system and the parents. The parents insist that their child be promoted to the next grade level with no regard to the proficiency factor. For some strange reason, the child's parents feel that because the teacher recommends holding little Johnny back a year means the teacher dislikes the child and is out to get him; it does not. The main purpose of holding a child back is because of his lack of ability to master the present workload - teachers are trained to see this. However, the teachers are caught in a catch 22 type situation. The school board demands that a certain percentage of students be promoted and graduate; the parents demand that their child is promoted or graduated and there is the teacher in the middle seeing those students get through with nothing to travel with.

Along the same lines, the option to drop out of school is causing students to bide their time until the age of 16, so they can leave school. How do students bide their time? By showing up to school on occasion or by going to school and not doing any work required. Generally speaking, these people are trouble makers. Some students do drop out of school simply because they cannot cope with school or with the people.

Personally, the writer feels that one remedy to the drop out problem may be to implement a counseling session(s) with the student to discuss the real reason(s) why he has chosen to leave school. Also during this counseling some testing of literacy should take place to measure the student's ability to find a job and function. And to cut down on the drop out rate each child should be made to understand from day one that school is not a place for six hours of entertainment - but an institution that has trained individuals who are to teach them the basics one needs to survive and relay interesting facts about important events under all subjects. Honor and respect are clearly the key words here.

For all the reasons stated and more illiteracy exists, but it can be remedied. There is a national crusade of volunteers who want to teach individual how to read, write and better function in the world. The program is not demanding; it opens up a world of opportunities for the one learning. Everything about him changes - he feels better about himself, his family, and work; the world does not seem so dark and cold, even his speech pattern changes.

Readers, if you feel you know someone who will benefit from learning to read, approach him with care and sensitivity, not pity. Tell him there are places that can help.

Read  
The  
Post



**THE CHARLOTTE POST**

**"THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER"**

Established 1918

Published Every Thursday

by The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.

Subscription Rate \$17.66 Per Year

Second Class Postage No. 965500

Postmaster Send 3579's To:

1531 Camden Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28203

Telephone: 704-376-0496

Circulation 10,433

104 Years of Continuous Service

Bill Johnson  
Bernard Reeves  
Fran Farrer  
Dannette Gaither

Editor, Publisher  
General Manager  
Advertising Director  
Office Manager

Second Class Postage No. 965500 Paid at  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
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  
Columet 5-0200

45 W. 45th St., Suite 1403  
New York, New York 10036  
212-489-1226