

# EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

## Black Political Power

Recently, much has appeared in the news media about political activity involving black Americans. Political activists in North Carolina are launching new efforts to change the state's primary system. The Black Elected Municipal Organization, organized by Charlotte City Council member Ron Leeper from among delegates to the National League of Cities two years ago, recently developed an agenda that includes development of minority business and a talent bank to foster more jobs for black people in local government.

Some black people are now said to be studying the possibility of running for the presidency of the United States. Leading the pack at this point is Operation PUSH's head man, Jesse Jackson.

Undoubtedly, a springboard for some of these political actions has been the recent actions of Chicago mayoral primary winner Harold Washington. With overwhelming black voter support, U.S. Rep. Washington upset incumbent Jane Byrne in the Democratic primary on February 22 to move closer to becoming Chicago's first black mayor.

The 60-year-old Washington, a two-term Congressman, defeated Byrne by a narrow margin of about 32,300 votes out of a record 1.14 million votes. Not too surprisingly, Mrs. Byrne and Cook County State Attorney Richard M. Daley split about 94 percent of the white vote with the remaining six percent going to Washington. Significantly, the six percent white vote was combined with the 84 percent black vote to give Washington his primary vote win, according to an Associated Press-WMAQ-TV poll.

## Political Funds

Significantly, too, is the fact that Mrs. Byrne used a \$10 million political fund largely from alleged cronies doing business with the City and Daley's name was a test in the primary built during the 21 years Richard J. Daley, the candidate's father, was mayor and head of the Democratic Party machine. Richard M. Daley spent nearly \$11.5 million in his losing bid.

Thus, Washington's margin of victory was based on a relatively small (less than a half million dollar) political campaign, an aggressive voter registration drive over the past year that led to his capturing 94 percent of the black vote and six percent of the white vote to win.

Ironically, and somewhat surprisingly, some black political

personalities and some would-be politicians are naively assuming that Washington's primary win is a signal that America is ready and willing to elect a black person as president of the nation.

It is in fact naively premature to jump to such conclusion for a variety of reasons. First, Washington has not yet been elected mayor of Chicago. Secondly, let us not forget that highly successful, likeable and favored Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, lost in his bid to become governor of California by a slim voter margin. While no one can state factually that racism was the reason for Bradley's loss, if black people choose to use the success or failure of other black candidates as a measure for other possible political success, Bradley's loss has considerably more meaning than the as-yet not elected Chicago mayoral candidate Harold Washington.

## Hidden Agenda

This appears to be particularly significant when news reports reveal that Rep. Washington's upset victory in the Chicago Democratic mayoral primary has become the catalyst for heightened interest in black Americans seeking to become a presidential candidate on the age-old and partly true argument that the Democratic Party continues to take the black vote for granted. Secondly, many are arguing that they are unimpressed with the current field of Democratic Party presidential candidates.

However, the real hidden agenda is that some prominent black political figures are upset because national Democratic Party leaders, including presidential candidates did not support Washington or stay neutral in the Chicago primary.

The strategy black Americans are exploring is twofold. One would be for a black candidate to enter the Democratic presidential race. The other would be to run a favorite-son candidate in several states. The goal in either case would be to capture enough delegate votes to the 1984 Democratic National Convention to give black people leverage enough to demand that the needs of black and Hispanic people; small business, small farmers; and white middle-income Americans, devastated by Republican Regan's policies, be adequately responded to.

While we see merit in the strategy, we have to question how many, if any, black people have the knowledge, general support and financial backing to be considered even as a favorite-son candidate.

## UNITED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP...NEEDED NOW!

**ARE WE GOING TO SIT ON OUR HANDS AND LET BLACK COMMUNITIES CRUMBLE AROUND US? GRASS ROOTS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS MUST EMERGE TO FORGE A UNITED EFFORT AGAINST CRIME, NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, BLIGHT, AND DECAY.**



## Recognize Stress Symptoms And Relax To Stay Healthy

By Dorea Akers  
Duke University  
Medical Center  
Special To The Post

If you look up the word stress in the dictionary, you will find that it comes from the French word for distress.

"This implies that it's bad," Dr. John Rhoads says. "Another definition is that it's a constraining force, which implies a bodily or mental tension resulting from factors that alter equilibrium."

Rhoads, a psychiatrist at Duke University Medical Center, said most events we think of as stressful change our lifestyle or life situation in some way.

"What's stressful for one person is not stressful for another. Everyone has his or her stress threshold," Rhoads said.

Rhoads noted that life events that cause stress include the death of a spouse, divorce or separation, personal injury or illness and retirement. Also on the list are vacations and Christmas.

"We have what we call the 'Christmas rush,'" Rhoads said. "From Thanksgiving until about two days before Christmas, there's a growing waiting list of people who get depressed over the prospect."

Some people have chronic stress, Rhoads said, and one group might be what are called the Type A individuals.

"Type A people are more prone to develop coronary artery disease. They're described as demanding of themselves and others, competitive, ambitious and impatient," he said. "A' people are very busy, very efficient, get things done, get them done on time -

and that's who gets the rewards in our society."

Social factors are another type of stress. Rhoads said research has concluded that to develop psychosomatic illnesses - headache, indigestion, increased blood pressure, diarrhea, asthma and others - you should be older, black, female, previously married and poor.

"Of all the factors, poverty led to greatest stress," he said. "Certain ages are stressful. Retired people and adolescents can speak to that. There are mid-life crises as well."

Rhoads pointed out that

everybody will have stress, some people will become ill from its effects, but he said there are ways to stay healthy.

"You have to recognize the symptoms of stress, the early ones being trouble concentrating, tension, irritability, a feeling of tiredness and loss of zest for what you are doing."

"It's important to take a vacation. It's important to have recreational and exercise outlets. Optimism and a sense of humor help. And the ability to appreciate your own accomplishments helps a great deal."

## Taxpayers' Mistakes Delay Refund Checks

Greensboro - In a year when more North Carolinians than ever before are filing Federal tax returns early to get an early refund they are making mistakes on the return that causes the check to be delayed, the Internal Revenue Service says.

Glenn Jones, IRS Public Affairs Officer, stated, "More than a million returns have been received from North Carolina, which is almost 100,000 more than at this point last year. However, at least 12 of every 100 returns are incorrect, which slows down the processing by several days. If the taxpayer has a refund coming, then the whole intent of filing early is lost."

Jones said, "We are seeing simple arithmetic as the major cause of mistakes. If the taxpayer would just take a little more time to doublecheck the math, it could help

lot." He said that in addition to simple arithmetic, many taxpayers place dollar amounts on the wrong line. When the return goes through the processing cycle, any error causes it to be kicked out, and special attention must be placed on getting the error corrected. Many times this involves the IRS having to contact the taxpayer.

Listed among the chronic errors taxpayers are making are the use of the wrong tax table and incorrect computation of the Earned Income Credit, Jones stated. Figuring the medical expense exclusion on Schedule A is proving to be a nemesis for 15 of over 100 taxpayers who file the 1040 Form and itemize deductions, Jones observed. However, the "Two-Earner Tax Deduction," a new provision this year which allows a tax break for two-salary families, is of little trouble for those claiming the deduction.



## The Green Monster

What do resentfully envious and apprehensive of rivalry have in common? Both are ways to define jealousy. This green monster can strike anybody, anywhere at anytime. It can not be eliminated but it can be controlled. Obviously, the major question is why do civilized human beings allow such a destructive monster to move into their lives and possibly take it over?

Jealousy is usually a product of personal ambition - achieving one's personal best professionally, materialistically and socially - and recognizing one's shortcomings. Man feels jealous towards others because he sees things in others that he would like to be or have. He feels a kind of emptiness within himself, resents having this feeling and displaces this upon the "haver" of his wants - reaction formation.

Getting ahead professionally requires ambition, assertion and politicking. Seeing another do this when one may not have the confidence in himself to do the same results in professional jealousy. The non-achiever has a tendency to orally speculate as to why Mr. and Ms. X got the job that "I," Mr. or Ms. Y" was clearly more qualified for. The jealous one is usually the big talker or sinister, rarely the doer. He can find something wrong with everyone and thing at work but he does everything right. Professional jealousy is as ridiculous as the sinister's talk. One should try to find his job niche that is comfortable, enjoyable and easily handled. Everyone wants to achieve however, everyone is not capable of handling the responsibility that comes with climbing the professional ladder.

Materialistic jealousy is commonly referred to as "keeping up with the Joneses." The problem with this is that one does not know what the Joneses are doing when he is sleep! Just because the Joneses live next door does not mean that your priorities and/or salaries are equal. Mr. Jones may put more emphasis on his clothing and car and you on your home. Priorities should rule not envies.

Playing golf on a certain course with certain individuals, being a member of the museum society or attending special social gatherings can and will cause social jealousy. People do envy others when they believe the other's social life is somehow better or special. Incomes dictate what a person does when he plays - the more money available, the more facilities available. Obviously a man making \$100,000 a year will do more socially than a man making \$25,000 a year. As one's station in life increases he meets new people under different circumstances with new or different interests. And association does at times bring on assimilation...you take it from there.

All of the above kinds of jealousy can be eliminated if men come to understand their strengths and weaknesses: and realize that one man's weaknesses are another's strengths. The green monster grows out of these insecurities in the self and envies of others.

## From Capitol Hill

# Justice Department Must Prove It Has Nothing To Hide

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

Action of Attorney General William French Smith in refusing to apply for the appointment of a Special Prosecutor outside the Justice Department to investigate the 1979 authorized Greensboro, N.C. peaceful demonstration which left five demonstrators allegedly killed by Ku Klux Klan and Nazis members, appears another facet in this Administration's efforts to thwart civil rights. The Attorney General's motion to dismiss the petitioners' Special Prosecutor's request has the odor of Watergate. This case is being brought by the survivors of the 1979 rally and relatives of the five slain victims.

In September, 1982, a request was made to Judge Gesell to issue a federal court order compelling Attorney General William French Smith to apply for appointment of a Special Prosecutor to investigate the case as is required by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978. More than 16 different organizations have joined in the request. Many of them have filed "friend of the court" briefs with Judge Gesell.

On February 11, 1983, the case for the petitioners' Special Prosecutor's ap-

pointment argued in the U.S. District Court before Judge Gesell by Daniel P. Sheehan. The Justice Department's position was defended by Judith Ledbetter.

Daniel Sheehan argued that petitioners have presented the Attorney General with evidence that shows a conspiracy exists. Greensboro police, FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), all conspired in planning, supervising and covering up evidence in the Greensboro Klan-Nazi killing.

The petitioners claim that Carter Administration, Attorney General Griffin Bess, Assistant Attorney General Civiletti and later Attorney General William French Smith, actively participated in the criminal anti-civil rights conspiracy by, personally, directing inferior agents of the Justice Department to conceal information. In the petition Attorney Smith is charged with causing three of his agents to present perjured testimony to the grand jury, and "causing the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department to refrain from presenting to the grand jury investigating the November 3, 1979 assault, the body of information demonstrating the history



Alfreda L. Madison

of the FBI investigation and the Federal Executive Department's participation in criminal Anti-civil rights conspiracy activists."

The petition for issuance of Writ of Mandamus states that the Justice Department appointed Thomas Brereton to supervise the Grand Jury investigation. Brereton was appointed with the full knowledge that he was actively paying Edward Dawson, who was under the direct supervision and instruction of William Webster, FBI Director, during the time he was coordinating the Greensboro assault.

In the petition it states that Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds, Chief of Civil Rights Division, Daniel Renzel, Chief of Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division and Attorney Michael

Johnson are accused of actually concealing evidence from the Federal Grand Jury.

Judith Ledbetter, in arguing the case before Judge Gesell for the Attorney General, stated that under the Ethics in Government Act, that prosecutorial power rests solely within the executive branch. She said private individuals have no rights of a Special Prosecutor. "If Congress had intended that private individuals had the right to sue, it would have clearly established it," Ledbetter further stated that the Act does not require the Attorney General to report its investigation findings. She claimed that giving private citizens the right to seek a Special Prosecutor would be granting them oversight over the Justice Department. Judge Gesell seemed to have disagreed with Ledbetter's argument.

Daniel Sheehan said this was not a political decision, but a statutory one. He argued that the Ethics of Government Act, as interpreted, by Attorney General Smith renders the courts completely powerless to require the Attorney General to prosecute anyone. Sheehan said Congress passed the Act to strip the Attorney General of the un-

bridled authority to refuse to prosecute the criminal acts of federal government officials.

Mr. Sheehan stated that a wealth of documented evidence which shows government officials involvement in what appears a conspiracy by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Justice Department in planning and participation in the assault on November 3, 1979 demonstrators. He disagreed with the Attorney General's assertion that the Act had no enforceable duty to require

## Students To Rebuild Log House

Students in Central Piedmont Community College's spring log house building classes will reconstruct a slave house that once stood at Latta Plantation.

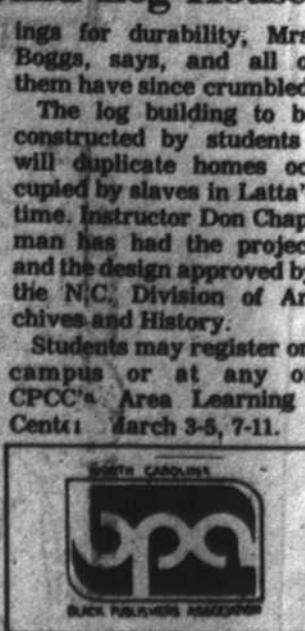
"We are very excited about this," said Jean Boggs, president of the board of directors of Latta Place, Inc. "It will help us show how life really was in James Latta's day."

In the early 1800s, the merchant planter from Ireland had numerous outbuildings on his property, now a 52-acre historic site within a Mecklenburg County Park near Huntersville. In those days, no great pains were taken to construct auxiliary build-

ings for durability, Mrs. Boggs, says, and all of them have since crumbled.

The log building to be constructed by students will duplicate homes occupied by slaves in Latta's time. Instructor Don Chapman has had the project and the design approved by the N.C. Division of Archives and History.

Students may register on campus or at any of CPCC's Area Learning Centers: March 3-5, 7-11.



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