

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Weakness Gives Rise To Racism

We have recently read with some dismay "The Negro Almanac" which describes itself as "A Reference Work on the Afro-American," yet it virtually ignores the black journalist. We are referring specifically to the Almanac's references to blacks currently serving on "major media staffs" and including the names of many relative new comers to the field of journalism. These pathetic developments led one writer of the Black Press to comment appropriately, "It should be of concern to historians that a number of the major contributors to black achievement are being written out of our history."

While we could, as we have done in the past, rewrite extensively about the meaningful contributions of the Black Press, there are other equally relevant events of the day that point out the losses to black Americans when we function in the society from a position of weakness because of our own refusal to recognize black contributions and achievements.

For example, last Sunday a hostile crowd of more than 150 white demonstrators shouted racial epithets at former vice president Walter Mondale and U.S. Rep. Harold Washington, the Democratic mayoral candidate of Chicago, and the first black to seek the office. The incident abruptly cut short a Palm Sunday church service they were attending in a largely white neighborhood.

Omission Of Justice

The significance of this is that the demonstrators chose to ignore and deny Washington's right to be a mayoral candidate just because he is black. This is no less an omission of justice than the Almanac's ignoring of the contributions of blacks. Furthermore, awareness of the contributions of black people, especially by black people is undoubtedly the most effective way to get white people, and some black people, too, to accept blacks like anyone else in positions of leadership, residing in residential communities of their choosing, and not being in a position of being judged and self evaluated solely on the basis of race.

It was also the recent incident of Liberty Hill A.M.E. Zion Church, at Lake Wylie where white vandals damaged the church and painted racial slurs and the letters KKK on the walls. One painted sign sent a message to the all-black church, "We will burn this place down April 1. KKK. Thank you." Again, it is

because we don't recognize the role of the black church in the larger community that leads to such incidents.

These incidents parallel the attitude of too many white people, and tragically too many black people, who won't patronize a business simply because it is black-owned and operated in part because there are yet many black people who subconsciously consider themselves to be inferior to white people, white-owned businesses, white values and white culture. Thus, the Almanac's editors' attitude is that if a black journalist works for a "major media staff" he is somebody; if he works elsewhere he's a nobody.

It is long past time for black people to put this kind of attitude of "I'm a nobody" behind them and adapt a philosophy that "I am somebody," first in the eyes of God, secondly I'm somebody to myself, and thirdly I'm somebody in the eyes of other black people.

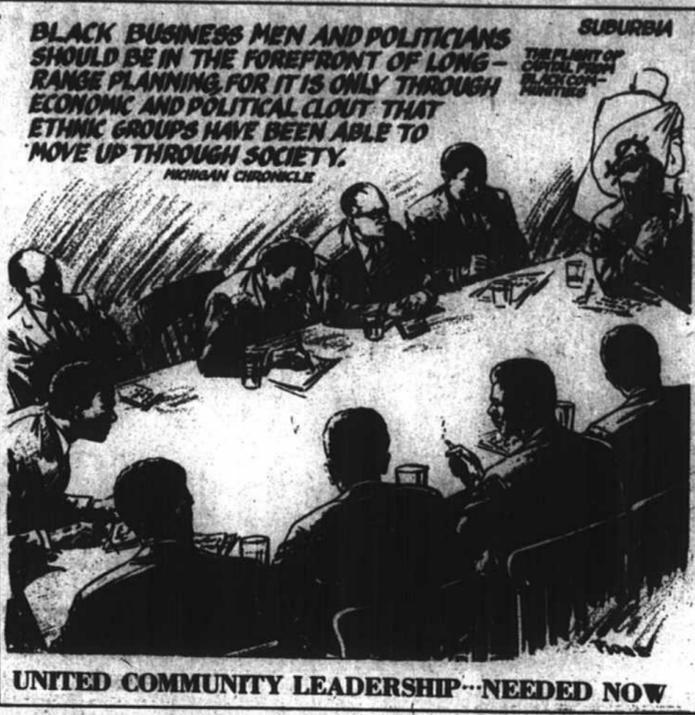
Choose To Ignore

April is Fair Housing Month and therefore a time to pause and reflect on what "fair housing" means and to renew our understanding of why it's necessary and how we can make it work effectively for all people.

Historically, landlords, realtors and builders have practiced and encouraged discrimination and segregation in our City housing planning and location practices. Basically, black citizens as renters or home buyers have been given no freedom of choice in terms of what part or parts of the city they might live in. They have too often been charged higher rents and higher prices for comparable housing. They have shared with white people the burden and cost of blockbusting and they have often faced "redlining" by banks and other lending institutions when seeking loans.

However, we are pleased to note that through the efforts of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee and staff, both the City and County have fair housing ordinances which prohibit any type of discriminatory practices. We are equally proud that the local Board of Realtors, the Charlotte Apartment Association, the Condominium Council and the Home Builders Association will all participate in the local observance of National Fair Housing Month.

As individuals, we too can participate in this observance year round by accepting nothing less than full and fair treatment in our housing quests.



UNITED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP...NEEDED NOW



Prayer March To Raleigh

Dear Brothers and Sisters: On Monday of this week a few of us began a "Prayer March" to Raleigh, N.C. for the purpose of asking God's intervention to rid us of the PCB Dump in Warren County.

The PCB Dump is a terrible monster placed in the Afton Community by the State of North Carolina under police force. That PCB Monster has not only threatened the health and safety of our community, but also infected the minds, spirit and souls of our people. It has caused division in our ranks and retarded the social and economic growth of our community. It is most unfortunate that the very year that sons and daughters of former slaves were elected to public office thereby providing Warren County with a government representative of the people, a hazardous waste dump was forced into Afton, a predominantly black and economically poor community.

For the last five years, the citizens of Warren County have used every nonviolent method at our disposal without success. God inspired me to have a "Prayer March" to Raleigh because, brothers and sisters, he knew that if we were ever going to be victorious, a spiritual awakening was needed. A five minute prayer vigil is held every hour while we march. Monday,

we prayed for Brother Ken Ferruccio who remains in jail today on trumped-up charges fasting. Tuesday, we prayed for the citizens of Warren County, including elected officials, merchants, community leaders and most of all for our children, both born and unborn, whose lives and futures are being destroyed. Wednesday, we prayed for peace and justice for the earth. Today we will pray for State and EPA officials. Friday, we will pray for the health and safety of our citizens and Warren County and the removal of

the PCB Dump. Finally, I make a special appeal for all justice-loving people who know the power of prayer, to unite and pray with us at the legislative building in Raleigh, or wherever you are, school, home, work, play or riding along the road, for one hour at noon. I believe prayer changes things.

Rev. Leon White, pastor Oak Level United Church of Christ, Manson, NC Dir. Comm. for Racial Justice-N.C.-Virginia Field Office

Blacks Shown As Criminals

Dear Sir: Is it not sad that you, Mr. Jake Jacobs, in your announcement of the death of Mr. Herbert Monahan, had to include and recall one and only one of the many cases he handled? That being the case involving my late husband, the Bishop George J. Leake III. Will my children and I have to always be reminded of this case through the eyes of the news media. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned his convictions. This article left the reader to believe that my husband died a convicted criminal, which is not true. A second trial was never held for Bishop George J. Leake III, died June 15, 1981. At his death

he was not a convicted criminal. Must black people only be remembered by the media or shown only as criminals and even discredited? My late husband is here no more and I'm asking you to please allow my children and I the right to remember him as a Christian, loving father, loving husband and most of all a humanitarian. The late Bishop George J. Leake III, who ran for mayor of this great city, tried to make Charlotte, N.C. and the nation a better place for all people, black or white, to live. Thank you, Mrs. George J. Leake III

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From Capitol Hill

Evaluation Of The Interview With Edwin Meese

Alfreda L. Madison
 Special To The Post

Since I'm the only member of both the White House and Congressional correspondents who represents any black newspapers-my articles appear in 131 papers. Besides being just a journalist, I have to carry out the black newspapers' mission, which is to advocate. The black press is a very important vehicle in pressing for justice and equality of black people.

The Reagan Administration is perceived by just about the total black community as being an enemy of civil rights. Blacks see it as anti-black, anti-minority and anti-poor. They speak of the present Justice Department as the injustice department. This Administration is attempting to overturn the civil rights gains for which blacks were jailed, tortured and murdered. Blacks' strong determination is to maintain these gains and to become an equal and just and viable American force has caused a galvanizing of strategies.

The black voter registration drive is gaining momentum in every area of the country. Their goal is to

turn out the Reagan forces in 1984.

The black press is called upon to carry the goals, strategies and issues to the people. There is hardly any communication between the black press and the White House. As the White House correspondent for black papers, I tried, in vain to get an interview with Chief of Staff James Baker, and Communications Director David Gergen, but I received no response at all. On December 16, at the press party, I asked White House Counsel, Edwin Meese for an appointment. He told me to contact his secretary. Because of no response from other White House secretaries, I asked him to arrange the interview and call me. On March 11, the interview took place. I found Mr. Meese very affable and charming. I informed him that I had to ask questions about issues that concerned black people. He said he understood that and he appeared to have no qualms, at all, about responding to them. The only other person in the room was Mr. Meese's assistant, James Jenkins, whose only contribution was a laugh, when I spoke of the little press as

While the White House Counsel tried to defend the President's constant utterance that he is for civil rights, he only substantiated black people's belief that the opposite is true. There is an attempt to change and select leaders for black people. This was highly evident through Mr. Meese's involvement in the two or three black people who were unknown before this Administration's effort to set up a group to counteract all long-time traditional organizations that even got those little black Reaganites off the "back of the bus," in all phases of American life. Meese found himself in hot water when he explained that Mr. Reagan shared the group's eco-



"White House Niggers."

nomie growth and expansion views, but the ways of reaching that goal, he had to reject.

Dismantling school busing is evidently being done to please conservatives, since Meese had to admit that some school balance has been achieved through busing. All will agree that it has not accomplished all the educational values that it could, because people like many in this Administration find it hard to abandon their old separate, and unequal intentions.

Tuition tax credit, evidently, was proposed for private school support, with the President emphasizing the facade that low income children are being given a chance at a better education. Meese admitted, after an analysis, that only the affluent will have the opportunity to make a choice between public and private schools.

The hiring and appointment practices of Mr. Reagan are abysmal. Mr. Meese could name only three black people and he mentioned that three others have been hired or are being considered. While he stated that this Administration is for affirmative action, it has not

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON

SCOPE

Sabrina

Take Stock And Rejuvenate

The coming of spring brings with it many images. Some of blooming dogwoods, greening of the grass, sunshine, clear skies and the smell of roses. It is a time of rejuvenation for the earth and symbolic of life's new beginning. Spring, like the New Year, makes man feel a sense of accomplishment - the feeling of making it through the past and the promise of hope. However, during times such as the present, this promise of hope appears to be the fallacy of hope. Economic woes tend to make the masses feel that neither hope nor blessing exist or can come about. Horse feathers! You, as a citizen of the United States, have plenty to hope for and feel blessed.

People are looking through the high unemployment rate, decreased American production and inflation for the hope and blessings: which ironically exist within the program. But forget the problems for now and focus on the other important things in this nation.

What do the citizens have to feel blessed and hope for? Life, family, friends and this bountiful land called the United States of America. Life being blessed for its freedom to do what its possessor chooses. Article one of the Bill of Rights guarantees the basic freedoms of religion, speech, press right to assemble and to petition the government. This is truly the blessing of life put into a document to protect life from tyrants and dictators. The 26 articles that follow the basic freedoms further define and protect the blessing of free living in the United States. It is by divine power that this country had men who realized that power corrupts and poorer men must be protected from this corruption who set down on paper what is inherit to all people on this earth.

The family is composed of those supportive individuals often taken for granted. It is too an institution that is fading. The American ideal of success seems not to include anyone or thing except one's individuality: a product of the "I-Me" philosophy (spoken of here in the past). However, without the families coming together in the community the foundation would not have been laid for the I-Me philosophy. Without family support one's individuality may never be congealed.

Friends are in many ways as important as the family. Friendship provided the opportunity to explore other lifestyles and philosophies. It provides a social outlet. Friendship also reestablished one's faith in people, and that people are basically good and kind - hope.

This nation is one of the richest nations in the free world. It is blessed with natural and human resources and a fairly stable government. The land is good and rich, it has mountains and hills to mine and ski upon, wooded areas for hunting and camping, plains to grow crops and livestock, beaches for picnics and oceans to fish and mine. There is a free education system for all who can and want to attend.

stand, actions prove the converse.

The value judgment drawn from this interview is that Mr. Reagan is looking for black people who speak his civil rights gains set back language, and that the Administration is setting up methods to accomplish these goals, void of any serious thinking. What is really needed in the Reagan racial program is the sound thinking of black people who were active in breaking up legalized discrimination. Those are the ones who represent the black people - all of whom are vowed never to lose any gains, but to make justice and quality a reality.

While Mr. Meese and I had many different views, the entire interview was one of delight and I feel it ended with a genuine friendship note.

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While Mr. Meese denied that the President is placating any conservative group, in his civil rights