

## EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

### Education And Priorities

Last week we joined the choir of publications responding to an commenting on the latest report on the presumed crisis in American education. We said the report was not unlike others prepared over the past 20 years and we discussed some of the broader and possible less visible issues that affect the quality of education such as the level of parental apathy, misplaced priorities such as the role and place of school athletics, the relatively low priority that public education is given by legislative bodies and many taxpayers.

One further specific example will help to illustrate our point about misplaced priorities. Because of alleged recruiting violations in the competitive struggle to maintain a strong nationally ranked football team, Clemson University president Bill Acherly has begun taking steps to reorganize the institution's athletic department and to have more direct control over its affairs. Instead of being encouraged in his efforts, the university board of trustees has reportedly been so critical of the president's plans that he has begun to seek employment elsewhere.

Yet, it is without question long past time to have begun to take some positive and meaningful steps to reverse the downward trend in the quality of our public school secondary education.

What we are saying is that there are some corrective things that school systems can begin to do now beyond talking to abate the educational crisis. First and foremost our public schools should reverse the trend that shows that the percentage of classroom time devoted to sci-

ence, math and English has been less and less over the past two decades when compared to driver education, the fine arts, physical education and home economics.

Secondly, we strongly support and applaud a policy in the Los Angeles school system that has required over 6,000 high school students to discontinue participating in school sports and other activities because they have failed a class or do not have at least a "C" average in their academic studies. Reportedly, nearly 20 percent of the students participating in extracurricular activities had to drop them for academic reasons. We think this is a positive step forward getting our educational priorities in order.

Yet there is much more to do, higher pay for better teachers, curriculums to meet today's labor market demands, increased responsibility by parents who should be required to visit their children's schools more frequently, and a renewed national commitment to the values of education from the nation's president down to the custodians in the small schools scattered throughout our many rural communities.

Finally, black people-elected officials, ministers, civil rights and community leaders, parents and students must maintain a growing awareness that in the final analysis education is the primary solution to the problems involved in better job opportunities, housing and political and social justice, and for overcoming most of the denials black citizens are confronted with. We must never forget that a "mind is a terrible thing to waste."

### Symbols And Traditions

One of the reasons for the crisis in American Education referred to above is the frequency with which issues arise that affect policies and attitudes in the educational community without directly involving academic programs except that they detract from the concentration necessary for the pursuit of academic excellence.

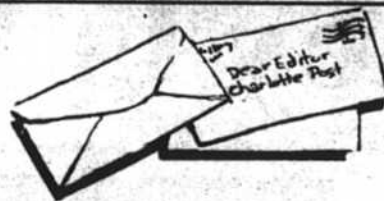
For example, two of the nation's universities are in the midst of somewhat controversial issues that are a part of the more negative aspect of human history. The "Swastika," has been the name and symbol of the New Mexico State University yearbook since chosen by the student body in 1907. Gov. Toney

Anaya has recommended that the university students discard this symbol and name because Adolph Hitler made the swastika the symbol of the Third Reich under which over six million Jewish people were killed during World War II.

At the University of Mississippi, black cheerleaders have announced that they will never wave the rebel flag, and along with other demands, have asked the school president to discontinue the use of the rebel flag in any official activities involving the university. Obviously, the black students view the rebel flag as a symbol of the oppression and slavery that black Americans endured in the 19th century.

**BLACK BUSINESS MEN AND POLITICIANS SHOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF LONG-RANGE PLANNING FOR IT IS ONLY THROUGH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLOUT THAT ETHNIC GROUPS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE UP THROUGH SOCIETY.**

MICHIGAN CHRONICLE



### Letters To The Editor:

#### Do Blacks Possess power To Unite?

Dear Sir:

Does the black community possess the power to unite, or is this power eternally divisive?

There is potential for unity in our community, but it lacks the necessary channeling and is largely dormant. The responsibility for arousing this sleeping giant rests, to a great extent, with our black ministers. The church reaches more people on a weekly basis than any other black organization in our community. Instead of isolated pockets of individualism, we need to understand that the power of unity is in numbers. Our forefathers fought the evils of bondage and racism through the black church. The enemy has changed its mask, but the evil conditions basically remain the same. The power and strength of several churches waging separate battles are incomparable to the strength and power of several churches united solidly together. United we stand; divided we fall!

It is time that the black ministers in our community realize the full extent of their power, which is measured by the breadth of their influence. Forming a cohesive unit has historically been a failing of the black community, a situation that is not necessarily inherent. However, the recent Chicago mayoral election illustrated that black citizens can pull together, and that the war is not over! It is a must that we



Homer W. Fennell Jr.

remember this as we approach the upcoming local, state and national elections.

Now, it is imperative that our churches unite, along with all other organizations comprised of black membership. It is outrageous that the black community is not supporting a viable and necessary organization such as the NAACP. How quickly we have forgotten that the NAACP has been responsible for winning many of the battles in our continuous struggle for freedom. It is still fighting valiantly. Yet, the organization has been struggling locally to acquire 2,000 new members during the past three months, without much success. We are thankful for those of you, who hold NAACP memberships, and especially the two to six ministers who are in attendance at monthly branch meetings. You are demonstrating the beginnings of unity, which we so desperately need to

achieve. Is your minister an active member of the NAACP? In fact, are you an active member of the NAACP? You may send your membership to the NAACP, 112 North Irwin Avenue, Charlotte, N.C. 28208. The next branch meeting will be held May 29, 1983 at Walls Memorial AME Zion Church, 2722 Bancroft Street, Charlotte, N.C. We, as black citizens, are living in very difficult times, and we must unite in order to maximize our strength and positively effect our future.

Who can better unify black people than our own ministers. However, black ministers in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area are not as effective a force in the community as we need them to be. The time has come for us to demand the type of leadership we so desperately need and seek at this juncture.

A day of unity is proposed, where hand in hand, we stand together in our community, with participation by ministers and their congregations, plus all other black organizations, to exemplify our power and unity. We need our ministers united in leadership. The time has come to demonstrate your commitment to community involvement.

For further information regarding your participation in this event write: Achievers Unlimited, P.O. Box 32052, Charlotte, N.C. 28232.

By Homer W. Fennell Jr.

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON



#### Decline Of Cohesive Force

The black family in today's climate is readily decreasing. Socio-economic forces have put a wedge between the individual and his family. Slavery, The Depression, and now the recession have taken drastic tolls on all families especially minority (black) families.

Slavery divided the family unit through selling of spouse and child to other slave owners. The lines of communication were abruptly cut and names not carried on. During the era of The Depression men and women left homes in hopes of finding work. Oftentimes these people were never seen or heard from again. The recession bears a story far different from the others.

The on set of the recession has produced an enormous crop of opportunists. Opportunists who feel that their families are liabilities rather than assets. Cohesiveness for the opportunist represents a form of past values - never stopping to think that some of these values transcend time. This has no bearing on today's society.

Families across the country are feeling the pinch of the opportunity. Holiday and family gatherings are seeing fewer and fewer participants. The central family unit is being spread across the country and in some cases abroad because of job promotions and possible opportunities.

The political establishment is suffering as much as the family unit. For a time past politicians could almost count on someone within the family becoming active in the arena once he retires. Now there is a trend of the younger family members to move away and devise their own ideologies.

Opportunists can almost be classified as Gypsies because of their frequent mobility and lack of roots. Gypsies because of their cut-throat code of ethics - "Everything goes my way or no way at all." The get all you can attitude is a major cause of the decline of the cohesive force called family.

Gypsies, opportunists or whatever one may call them - the people are leaving their family units. The family that could be most beneficial in one's success or helping one back up when he has fallen. For projection purposes: If all opportunists in any given family would come back into the family force, work together in a given community and come together as a community - where would our society be?

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#### From Capitol Hill

### Reagan's Affirmative Actions Accomodate Foundation

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

It is impossible for President Reagan to reconcile his rhetorical dedication to civil rights with his efforts to completely eradicate every single civil rights gain. The Administration is trying to cloud its bold steps with non-sensical explanations.

The Labor Department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) has just released its new regulations. The paperwork threshold has been changed, under the claim of lessening paperwork for contractors, which the agency terms as burdensome. It says contractors, supposedly remain under the non-discriminatory phases of affirmative action. Representative Augustus Hawkins labelled as sheer folly for the Administration to make such strong complaints over the paperwork, at the same time letting contractors off the hook without filing an affirmative action program. Employers with 50 employees and a \$50,000 contract who are required to file a written affirmative action program will be excluded under the new ruling. The present ruling requires proof that a contractor is in compliance with the non-discriminatory rule before being awarded a contract has



Alfreda L. Madison

been eliminated. OFCCP's new rule does not allow class-action suits; only individuals, who can prove that they have been discriminated against are allowed that privilege.

The new ruling relies on the good will of contractors to cease discriminatory practices. Contractors will monitor themselves and make reports to OFCCP.

Representative Hawkins, Chairman of the Employment Opportunities Subcommittee of the House Education and Labor Committee held hearings on OFCCP's new ruling.

Mr. Hawkins stated that Executive Order 11246 requires all contractors and subcontractors seeking federal contracts agree in their contracts that they will not discriminate in employment practices because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, and they are required

to take affirmative action to promote equal employment opportunities.

There are more than 300,000 employers doing business with the federal government, employing millions of people with contracts totaling \$100 billion. "Yet," says Hawkins, "the OFCCP has a regrettable history of non-enforcement, while some significant improvement and enforcement gains occurred between 1976-80, much remains to be done. The last two years, witnessed what appears to be efforts to undermine gains minorities and women have achieved, and to destroy the tools which have made those limited gains possible."

NAACP Legal Defense Fund which has testified on numerous occasions on Title VII stated that it is important for Congress to take action to prevent this Administration from eliminating the last vestiges for enforcement of fair employment practices. LDF related many cases which attest to the Court's upholding mandates of Title VII and the Reagan Administration's intense efforts to have the Court reverse their affirmative action decisions.

International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers said OFCCP's new regulations, if put into effect, will

seriously weaken affirmative action. It will be tantamount to the Administration's licensing employers to discriminate against women and minorities. The Union emphasized that more affirmative action enforcement is needed, instead it has opted for significant curtailment of the program, for reliance on self-monitoring by contractors, which will certainly be viewed by employers as a clear message to retreat in equal employment areas. The Union witness announced that the International Electrical Union vigorously opposes all new OFCCP's new regulations.

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the umbrella Civil Rights organization, says the new OFCCP affirmative action changes affect large numbers of workers and threaten gains women and minorities have made in equal employment opportunity. U.S. Civil Rights Commission has constantly stated that discriminatory hiring practices were the primary cause of the disproportionately high percentage of unemployed and underemployed women and minorities.

United Latin American League said the Reagan Administration is significantly withdrawing from effective affirmative action enforcement. Changes offered by the Ad-

ministration clearly benefit private industry which severely undercuts the intent of affirmative action. Reagan's action is wedging greater animosity between private industry, minorities and women.

Clarence Thoman, Chairman of EEOC related that EEOC is the lead agency for coordinating all regulations, directives and policies of Executive agencies that relate to equal employment opportunities. While the agency had not met with OFCCP in changing the regulations, it has relayed certain objections to the labor organization.

Thomas stated that he recommended that OFCCP

modify its rules to avoid contractors' compliance with its affirmative action obligations but could still be in violation of Title VII.

Affirmative action to the Reagan Administration eliminates enforcement of all anti-discriminatory hiring practices for a "good faith" effort. The conservative Heritage Foundation is calling for all the civil rights reversals. It highly recommended that "The Administration make civil rights a top priority and attack hundreds of existing affirmative action agreements designed to remedy discrimination." Mr. Reagan is cooperating with the Foundation, whole heartedly.

#### Cancer's Mysteries

Continued from Page 1  
well," Shingleton said.

Another field that is rapidly developing is that of biological response modifiers - using naturally occurring substances, sometimes in purified states, to elicit a response from the body.

Improvements in cancer treatment include the discovery that a combination of chemotherapy and radiation can be more effective in controlling some forms of the disease than either of the therapies individually. Medical researchers are also optimistic that hyperthermia, or

heat treatment, when combined with other therapies, has potential.

"There are positive steps one can take to avoid cancer, and these include giving up cigarettes, avoiding excessive exposure to sunlight and being aware of environmental concerns, such as asbestos and carcinogenic chemicals.

