

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

An Age Of Uncertainty

The nearly 4,500 students who graduated from Charlotte-Mecklenburg's 10 public high schools last week were undoubtedly like the multiple of thousands across the nation going through similar solemn ceremonies. A central thread to all this pomp and circumstance is and has been the traditional cliché of an undercurrent of excitement and anxiety felt by the graduates in the fleeting moments of graduation glory and their sense of uneasiness in stepping toward a future of uncertainty.

However, for the graduating classes of 1983, the cliché appears to have taken on a new sense of realism. Students, at all intellectual levels, are increasingly aware of the high cost university training, the lingering impact of high levels of unemployment, the ever mounting threat of a no-win nuclear war, their potential for drug addiction and the expanding life-killing uncontrollable disease called AIDS.

Among the graduates of North Mecklenburg High School this sense of uncertainty was on the minds of many. For example, Lysa Deaton appeared to express the sentiment of many when she said in her invocation, "Deliver us from fear of that which is new," or the unknown.

Another graduate said he is worried about the future, "about what life will be like after graduation... Things are so high. Jobs are hard to find."

As if trying to escape the reality of their new-found uncertainty, a couple of the graduates shifted their thoughts from the concerns and potential decisions about a job or a college education to a pre-occupation with the immediate present by stating that they were ready to go to the beach and that 90 percent of their classmates would do likewise. This appears to be symptomatic of what author Maxine Schnall referred to as "...the terrifying uncertainty of our age..."

In pursuing this line of reasoning further, Ms. Schnall says such "anxiety-ridden students who grew up in a culture that shattered their ideals but not their aspirations" want to hide out at the beach even if only temporarily in order to delay facing the uncertainties that endanger their ideals, hopes and aspirations.

Adult America, the burden and responsibility for reducing the level of uncertainty for the classes of 1983 is upon you if we hope and want these young people to become productive, civic-minded citizens.

Reaganomics Hurts Blacks

While progress has been made under the civil rights laws and affirmative action programs, American society remains divided by disparities that "threaten to destroy the national fabric" said a group of 30 Black leaders and scholars last week. Their words represent a restatement of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders who concluded in their 700-page report in 1968 that "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one Black, one white, separate and unequal."

Thus, in assessing current economic and social progress in the United States, the group of 30 said the federal government should begin broad economic planning in order to achieve full employment and a revision of those policies that have hurt large segments of the Black population.

In a report entitled "A Policy Framework for Racial Justice," the group calls for national commitments to strengthen the Black family, an end to the proliferation of households headed by poor, Black women

and to provide high-quality effective education.

It certainly is helpful for knowledgeable people to remind the nation of its commitment and obligation to segments of the American population. However, the beginning of such progress must begin within the hearts and minds of those people such proposed policies are expected to benefit.

Our point is that there remain among large segments of Black Americans a strong need for renewed value commitments to education, the work ethic and a sense of personal self-esteem. Government policies cannot provide these needs, yet it was just such value commitments that inspired Martin Luther King, Roy Wilkins and other Black leaders who lead the struggle for the civil rights gains Blacks have achieved.

A high-quality, effective educational system can and will only produce results if the students in such a system have family, community, and most of all, self-reinforced values of the worth of education.



Facing Blacks

Republicans Drives Home Dilemma

Dear Sir:
I recently returned from the Republican State Convention in Raleigh. Black Republicans have weathered many storms. Half heartedly welcomed by some members of the Republican Party and distrusted by segments of the Black community, this path of political participation is not an easy one in which to tread. The convention demonstrated that while individual Blacks have made efforts toward building influence within the Republican Party, the Black community as a whole has not made an effort to influence the party through involvement.

Organized groups of Black Republicans were able to wield substantial clout at the convention. The Forsyth County Black Republican Council sent seven delegates fielding 14 percent of the county's delegation. Richard Bishop led an eleven-man delegation from Cumberland County casting 50 percent of that county's delegate votes. Wayne and Craven Counties also had strong turnouts at the convention.

The Republican Party has made limited efforts to reach out to the Black community statewide. Several issues of concern to the Black community were specifically addressed in the 1982 Party Platform. The state convention featured a well-attended seminar directed at the party leadership on reaching out through dialogue to

the Black community. Local party organizations in some areas have also made some positive efforts. The past Forsyth County Republican Chairman identified as defending segregation by some members of the Black community has been succeeded by an individual who has emphasized outreach. He is not relying on the oft times slanted mass media to get out his story, but is taking his position directly to the Black community. If the recent outreach seminar has a positive effect on the participants, we may see more of Republican Party leaders in the Black community.

Even noting these positive changes, the Black community has a long way to go before it realizes the political power potential of the two-party system. While several counties had strong Black delegations, most of the delegations from major urban areas had little or no representation. Charlotte, Greensboro, Wilmington and Ra-

leigh had no black delegates. Durham had less than a handful. These poor showings underscore the unwillingness of the Black community to use the political resources well within its reach to impact on the Republican Party. If every Black majority precinct in the state that was not represented sent one delegate to the Republican Convention, the Black Caucus would have 25 to 33 percent of the delegates present.

The Republican Convention clearly showed both believers in the two-party system and numerous skeptics that Black political participation has great growth potential in the Republican Party. Some members of Black political leadership mainstream must get involved in both parties and fight for their objectives. No political gains have ever been won effortlessly in the Democratic Party or any other party.

Vernon Robinson

Lupus Foundation To Meet

Dear Editor:
The Charlotte Chapter of the N.C. Lupus Foundation will meet at 3 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 101 Colville Rd., Charlotte, on Sunday, June 19.

Dr. Gordon Senter, practicing Rheumatologist at the Nalle Clinic, member of our Medical Advisory

Board and wonderful speaker, will discuss "Lupus and the Central Nervous System" with us.

We would like to see you there. We thank you for bringing this announcement to your readers, listeners, viewers and staff.

Very truly yours,
Margaret Nelson
For A.E. Dument

From Capitol Hill

Congress Must Rescue Civil Rights Commission?

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
Congress established the Civil Rights Commission 25 years ago as an independent, bi-partisan Commission, free of any politicizing by any President or political party. This freedom has been maintained until the advent of the Reagan Administration.

According to the statement by White House Counsel Ed Meese, in commenting on Blacks' perception President Reagan is turning back the clock on civil rights gains. Meese said, "One of the things we'd like to do is change that perception. That's why Clarence Pendleton and others have as their responsibility to communicate with Black individuals and organizations, to get goals and objectives of this Administration across." That seems proof that the Commission is being used as Mr. Reagan's public relations agency.

Then, according to reports of the Gannett News Service, when San Diego Urban League officials had serious questions about Clarence Pendleton's mishandling of funds during his tenure as head of the League, he reportedly told the League's controller, "As long as my folks are in the White House, they ain't gonna touch me." If this is true then there is little doubt why Pendleton says



Alfreda L. Madison

he needs a change in commissioners so he can carry out the White House policy. This is evidence that the Commission is also being used to cover up alleged wrong doings.

Victoria Cendreda, San Diego Urban League controller, according to Gannett, stated that Pendleton in 1981 directed her to change on League books, the status of \$94,000 of federal funds received from Health, Education and Welfare, as a family planning grant. She also claimed Pendleton used \$14,398 of federal grant money from public employment programs for general League expenses and he told her to write it off. Later Pendleton told the controller to list the funds as income from expired programs, stating that he had done such things before without audit problems, because he had friends in the White House.

According to Cendreda, Pendleton said the statute of limitations would run out on the \$94,000 and it would not have to be paid back. However, he was wrong about that because HEW soon demanded the \$94,000 payment. After long negotiations, HEW settled for \$20,000. The government also asked for payment of the \$14,398 plus 14 percent interest.

When Pendleton was questioned by the Senate Judiciary Committee about his expense allowance and income tax, Gannett states that he told the board that San Diego Urban League did not require him to account for the expense account in individual transactions. No such directives were ever given. Pendleton told Senator Biden that he regularly provided the League with expense records that documented his use of monthly allowance. Yet, just three months before the confirmation hearing, when asked by Urban League treasurer, "Is the Urban League provided with documents for the monthly expense draw?" Pendleton wrote back, "No."

According to Hope Logan, Chairwoman of the Urban League Board, Pendleton's telling the State Judiciary that he submitted detailed travel expenses to her was not true. Gannett's investigation re-

vealed that Pendleton misled the Judiciary concerning tax liability. Gannett further states that Pendleton told the committee he was not liable for income taxes almost totaling \$50,000 for expenses he received from the Urban League. He said he did not have to report the money as income because Internal Revenue Service tax regulations only require that he had given the Urban League documents justifying his use of the money for business expenses. Hope Logan said this was not true. She stated, "Never, at any time during his tenure, was he accountable for his expense allowance." Pendleton admitted to Gannett reporter, that his testimony before the committee was misleading.

It is reported that as President of the Urban League Pendleton often ignored guidelines in managing federal funds. The day before he resigned from the League, he wrote himself a total of \$10,000 in checks. Each check was for \$999 - an amount less than \$1,000 which would require another signature. Pendleton told reporters a few days before he was sworn in as Civil Rights Commission chairman, that he had not cashed the checks and that he would return whatever portion the League said he owed. Yet, the bank stamp shows the



Sabrina

What College To Attend?

It's that time of year for most graduating high school seniors - the time to make the decision as to what institution of higher learning to attend. The acceptance and rejection letters pour in each day as the

neighborhood post person delivers them. Now one has to decide which institution he truly wants to attend. The following are some important guidelines one should take into account when making the final decision as to where to go.

1. Do some research on your own. Find out the institution's ranking nationally and locally in the field(s) that most interest you.
2. Find out the percentage of graduates that attend professional or graduate schools and what were those schools. (The Admissions Director has this information.)
3. Find out the percentage of graduate who go directly into the job market (also ask what companies); did they receive these jobs through on-campus interviews or did they "pound the pavement" months before graduation?
4. What are the requirements to receive a bachelor's degree? Does the institution allow one to design his own special course of study around the frame work of the basic degree requirements?
5. Does the institution encourage internships (working within one's field during breaks to obtain on-the-job training, and can one obtain an internship through the school)?
6. Does the institution encourage independent studies both within and outside of one's field?
7. How far or close to home must one want to be and the modes of transportation available.
8. What is the area like? (Cosmopolitan, metropolitan or rural; shopping facilities, movies, museums, and entertainment arenas) and is one willing to adjust to the new surroundings?
9. What are the social events offered? (Speakers, lecturers, musical events, sports and parties.) How often do they occur?
10. Visit the campus: look at the facilities, talk to faculty and students, attend a class or two, eat in a dining hall on campus and visit the dorms.

Take each one of these above questions into serious consideration when making that final choice. They could save one a great deal of anxiety in the long run if one has made the correct choice initially.

Next in the series; financial aid as a way of deferring the high cost of education.

felt the investigation had been thorough. Congress should stand up to its responsibility and remove Clarence Pendleton from the Civil Rights Commission and rescue the entire Commission from a complete take-over by the Reagan Administration.

NAACP Dispute Not Over

Continued from Page 1
Attorney Wilson called for was legal and board members who supported Hooks were advised to attend.

Following the board's action, Rev. Hooks addressed a crowd that had gathered in front of the national headquarters and told them that had not grudges and would seek reprisals against Mrs. Wilson or any of those who had failed to vote against her position.

Michigan members of the board who attended the meeting were Carl Breeding of Jackson, president of the State Conference of NAACP Branches; Thomas Turner, president of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO and chairman of the NAACP.



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