

# EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

## Stress Is Color-Blind

A survey of 284 Black students at predominantly white UNC-Charlotte revealed that 70.7 percent feel financial difficulties were the major cause of stress and coping with racism was a stress issue for 48.1 percent.

UNC-Charlotte Counseling Center psychologist Gloria Edmunds, author of the survey, said the results are "relevant to the Black students' presence at a predominantly white university."

With all due respect to Ms. Edmunds' effort, our reaction to the survey and its results leaves us with a "ho hum, so what else is new" feeling because Blacks historically have faced twice the level of unemployment as whites and, when employed earn only 59 percent of that of whites. A study released last week based on the 1980 Census confirms our observations.

## Pursuit Of Excellence

The quickest route to self-destruction is to allow mediocrity to become an acceptable standard. Unfortunately in many respects, far too many Black people seem to have come to that sad state of affairs in this country. Granted, Blacks...have suffered years of oppression...racism....(and) hard times....but nothing...can excuse mediocrity," says The Carolina Times and we strongly agree.

Without waiting for Reaganomics to end, without waiting for whites to "give" Blacks anything Black America needs to end all forms of mediocrity in the home, in child rearing, in money management and the like say The Carolina Times.

Furthermore, the 48.1 percent of the UNC-Charlotte Black students who said coping with racism was a source of stress is also a characteristic on a national scope. Fifteen years ago the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorder concluded that the basic cause of the rights in our nation's cities was white racism, a racism in some form and for some people that lingers on in 1983.

Ironically, too, one of the reasons for which young Blacks attend college is to achieve a level of financial success which hopefully would end much financial stress. However, what some might consider the most successful Blacks - executive positions in the nation's major corporations - need to be reminded that such executives often are confronted with new stresses as financial stress itself may di-

The study, prepared by the Joint Center for Political Studies says the wealth of Black families in the United States averages about one-third the holding of white families. While Blacks make up 12 percent of the nation's households, they have only four percent of the combined wealth of Blacks and whites.

The 1979 median income for Black households in the United States was \$10,133, and for white households, \$17,259. However, the wealth of Black households averaged \$24,608 compared to \$68,891 for whites, the study said.

Thus, the stress arising from the financial difficulties experienced by the Black students at UNC-Charlotte is simply a characteristic part of the broader economic stress Black Americans have historically been struggling with.

Furthermore, the 48.1 per-

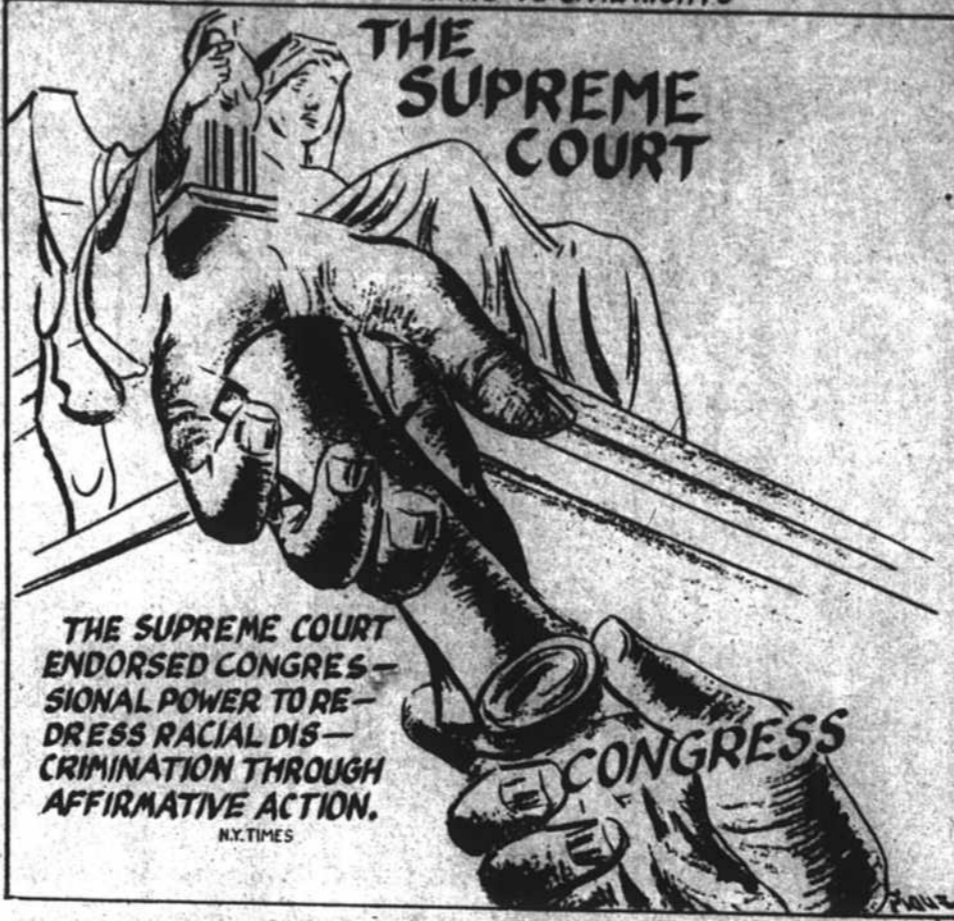
minish.

Corporate stress - often evidenced by executives encountering drug and alcoholic problems, ulcers and heart attacks, and divorce - affects both Black and white executive managers. However, many Black upper level executives and some psychologists and sociologists agree that Blacks are confronted with stressful conflicts their white counterparts never have to face. Among these stresses are workplace alienation, isolation, cultural-social barriers and getting your white peers to be receptive to your ideas or sharing theirs with you.

While there is certainly no reason to doubt the nature of these stress causing situations, it is, nevertheless, a known fact that the principal cause of tension among business executives is personality conflict associated with office politics and competition. Significantly, since much of this kind of internal corporate conflict grows out of people's reactions to what they perceive as threats to their security, it is difficult to know the extent of stress in the corporate suite that is racially motivated as opposed to other motivations for stress.

Finally, The Carolina Times offers a plan to break the surrender to mediocrity. It calls for: setting a goal, prepare to achieve the goal, stay in good health, develop drive or a sense of achievement, develop resourcefulness, and develop perseverance.

### KEPT COMMITMENTS TO CIVIL RIGHTS



## Sixth Miss Wheelchair Pageant Set

Dear Sir:

This is to inform you of the Sixth Annual Miss Wheelchair North Carolina Pageant to be held July 16, 1983 in the Charlotte Civic Center at 7 p.m.

The pageant is a pageant of achievement and accomplishment rather than beauty. A panel of judges representing different walks of life select the most qualified to represent the disabled citizens of North Carolina. She must promote public awareness concerning the rights of disabled individuals to live an active and productive life as possible according to his or her disability. Not only will Miss Wheelchair be chosen from five finalists, but a Miss Achievement and Miss Congeniality will be chosen.

The pageant this year will have 16 contestants and will begin July 14 and climax Saturday, July 16 at 7 p.m. Each day will have judging sessions and informative workshops in the Radisson Plaza Hotel. Thursday evening will be casual get acquainted evening for the contestants and their companions. Friday evening will be a formal evening with the contestants speaking to the audience as a practice session. Saturday, the 16th, will include a fashion show, judging session and rehearsal. Then the climax will be at 7 p.m. in the Charlotte Civic Center.

The Miss Wheelchair North Carolina, Inc. is dedicated to support of the disabled citizens of North Carolina. Each and every part of the weekend, but especially the pageant itself is open to coverage.

We will be in touch again within the next ten days. If you have any questions, please contact us at the

telephone number or address below. Please forward the enclosed P.S.A. to your Public Service Department. Thank you for your consideration in these matters and we look forward to meeting you personally.

Robin Hefner  
Executive Director  
704-827-6301

## Say Brother Scheduled

Dear Sir:

I am extremely pleased to notify you of two spectacular upcoming events to celebrate the 15th birthday of SAY BROTHER, the Emmy award-winning television series produced by Boston's WGBH-TV.

On Wednesday, July 20, from 5-8 p.m., a gala birthday party will be held in Studio A-WGBH to honor the series - the longest-running minority program on the Public Broadcasting System and second longest-running Black program in the country - which premiered on July 14, 1968.

For the occasion, series producer, Barbara Barrow-Murray, an eleven-year SAY BROTHER veteran, will be joined by predecessors Topper Carew, Marita Rivero and other past and present production staff. A SAY BROTHER historic overview, live entertainment, local and national luminaries, great food, libation and a

sneak preview of special birthday footage (to be included in a live broadcast in September) are among party highlights planned.

And, to kick-off SAY BROTHER's 16th anniversary season, an hour-long tribute, Thursday, September 29, live from 9-10 p.m., will be broadcast on Channel 2 from the Museum of National Center of Afro-American Artists and the Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts. Inlaid between live interviews and star-studded celebratory festivities from the dual-locations will be the special SAY BROTHER birthday footage with a video recap recorded July 20 in Studio A. From various on-location sites, taped segments feature former staff member and SAY BROTHER theme composer, Webster Lewis, Robert Guillaume, Carmen McRae and others.

Sincerely,  
Lynn DuVal  
Publicist

### From Capitol Hill

## Congress Must Block Reagan's Apartheid Support

Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

South Africa's apartheid - based on the tyrannical doctrine of racial exclusion transcends all human rights. As a necessity for this Administration's policy change from support of apartheid to a concern for human rights, Representative Stephen Solarz has introduced H.R. 1693, an amendment to the Export Administration Act. Key features of the amendment are: (1) it establishes a set of legally enforceable fair employment standards for American firms operating in South Africa with more than 20 employees; (2) bans loans by U.S. banks to South African government, except loans for educational, housing and health facilities open to all South African citizens; (3) imposes a ban on the importation into the United States of the South African kruggerand or other gold coins offered for sale by South African government.



Alfreda

whom are Black. Half of these firms have not signed the Sullivan fair employment principles and one-third of the Sullivan signatories have failed to implement the codes.

Joseph Demin, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Africa, in stating the Reagan Administration views, strongly opposed H.R. 1693. His emphasis was on the importance of our trade with apartheid South Africa as precedence over human rights. Commerce feels that the Solarz amendment is unnecessary, and undesirable - the noble U.S. goals will be seriously hindered if the legislation is passed. Demin stated that after consultation with other U.S. government agencies, both here and at our embassy in South Africa, the Administration has concluded that the most effective means for social and economic

change in South Africa is by voluntary performance. He said that a mandatory code of conduct for U.S. corporation operating in South Africa, will retard human rights there.

Of the 350 U.S. firms invested in South Africa, 250 of them are in the "Fortune 500." Commerce encourages U.S. investments in South Africa. Demin believes that the corporations that have not become signatories of the Sullivan code refused because they reject having someone else setting standards for them.

This testimony by the Commerce Department is the continuing example of President Reagan's taking a stand for human rights for everyone but Black citizens - rights which he leaves to the voluntary goodwill of whites.

William Draper, Chairman and President of Export-Import Bank of the U.S., stated that while he supports the desire of the amendment for fair employment practices in South Africa, he feels that the provisions could have an impact upon Eximbank to render financial aid to U.S. suppliers throughout the world.

The National Council of Churches of Christ stated that there has been no improvement in South Africa's apartheid, the Reagan policy of "constructive engagement" supports apartheid, and white minority rule; that U.S. corporate investments strengthen apartheid and make it possible for South Africa to continue its wars in Namibia and against its neighbors. The witness said the story of economic development in South Africa is bound up with foreign capital, technology and expertise and that the U.S. investments support all of these.

Dr. Leon Sullivan, author of the Sullivan Code, said that some improvement has been made, but there must be mandatory requirements for full compliance with the code principles. He said that both a divestment campaign and legal enforcement are needed. He urged passage of H.R. 1693 because it "a role would set a precedence for other nations."

Randall Robinson, Executive Director of TransAfrica, emphatically stated that the Solarz amendment should be passed because it prohibits direct and indirect loans to South Africa. He said foreign investments and loans enable South Africa to pursue its campaign of domestic and regional intransigence. Reagan's constructive engagement has almost tripled the loans

from \$1.4 billion in June, 1980 to \$3.7 billion in June, 1982.

Robinson said "constructive engagement" policy of this Administration observes South Africa's bombings of Lesotho and Mozambique continued unabated, invasions of Angola and its \$1 billion Namibia War is no closer to an end. He stated that this legislation must be passed for prohibition of the sale of the kruggerand in this country which provided South Africa revenue far in excess of the \$1.1 billion International Monetary Fund. It almost doubled the cost of South Africa's Namibian War and is one of the most lucrative underpinnings of apartheid.

The Reagan Administration continues to argue against legislation that restricts investment capital to South Africa. The argument states that a ban against bank loans is a violation of the "liberal and non-discriminatory trade philosophy which the U.S. has been at the forefront in advocating."

U.S. bank loans fuel South Africa's attempt to destabilize entire Southern African region. The gur that South Africa holds to the head of its neighbors uses bullets paid for by United States loans. Passage of the Solarz amendment was strongly advocated as a "must" by the committee's witnesses for an overthrow of South Africa's inhuman apartheid.

## Scholarship Program

Gary, Ind. - R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc. contributed \$10,350 of a \$200,000 scholarship program to train Black college students for careers in journalism.

In a speech delivered here at the annual convention of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, Marshall B. Bass, vice president of R. J. Reynolds, said the program is an effort to support the Black news media in the United States.

"The Black news media continues to play a critical role in the United States," Bass said. "Its ability to communicate to this nation's largest minority group is an important public service toward preserving and enriching the Black community."



**THE CHARLOTTE POST**

"THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER"  
Established 1918  
Published Every Thursday  
by The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.  
Subscription Rate \$17.68 Per Year

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Second Class Postage No. 965500  
Postmaster Send 3579s To:  
1531 Camden Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28203  
Telephone: 704-376-0496  
Circulation 11,023

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106 Years of Continuous Service

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Second Class Postage No. 965500 Paid at  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
Under the Act of March 3, 1878

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Member, National Newspaper  
Publishers' Association

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North Carolina Black Publishers Association

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Deadline for all news copy and photos is  
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Representative  
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2400 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60616 Columet 5-0200  
45 W. 45th St., Suite 1493 New York, New York 10036 212-489-1229