

editorials & comments

The Black Family Crisis

In the 1960s, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, then a Harvard University sociologist, wrote that the American Black family was in a state of disarray and near total collapse as a result "benign neglect." Many Black civil rights, political and educational leaders took strong exception to Dr. Moynihan's viewpoint and alleged that he was a racist.

Moynihan said Black people were brought to America with little useful skills, no strong community of free Blacks to greet and aid them and their strong family institutional ties were severely impaired by institutionalized slavery. Black people then had an unfortunate introduction to America, unlike that of any other immigrant group, an introduction that has had a devastating impact upon the values, habits, beliefs and social patterns of too many Black Americans.

There were and are today too few two-parent Black families, too few foster homes for Black youth, too few married mothers, too few employed fathers, too few youth motivated to graduate from high school, too few Black role models for youth to admire, and too few with values beliefs and commitment to a self-fulfilling, productive life.

In an essay from "A Policy Framework for Racial Justice," a statement by 30 Black scholars and civil rights leaders, much of what Dr. Moynihan was criticized for 20 years ago has been confirmed. However, considering the civil rights legislation that has been passed in these same 20 years it would appear that many Black citizens are considerably worse off.

Special Crisis

Eleanor H. Horton, chairperson of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from 1977 to 1981, mounting "economic and social pressures, feeding on the long-standing efforts of racism, have produced a special crisis for the Black family in America."

Ms. Horton, a law professor at Georgetown University, the cumulative effect of racism is in the rise in Black female-headed households and accompanying poverty, high rate of illegitimate births, and massive unemployment among Black males and youth. Ironically, too, it has been government policy on one hand and the lack of policy on the other hand that has created and

tends to perpetuate the demise of the Black family.

Out of date policies for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC); inadequate inducements in the educational and economic systems to motivate Black youth to want to study hard for available economic rewards, that is, jobs and hopes for advancement; and weaknesses in affirmative action programs have denied Black males and Black female household heads job opportunities even when they are adequately trained.

The clearest evidence of the failure of government policy in these areas and the lack of any sense of a moral commitment by the private sector is seen in the persistent joblessness of 20.6

Emotional Factor

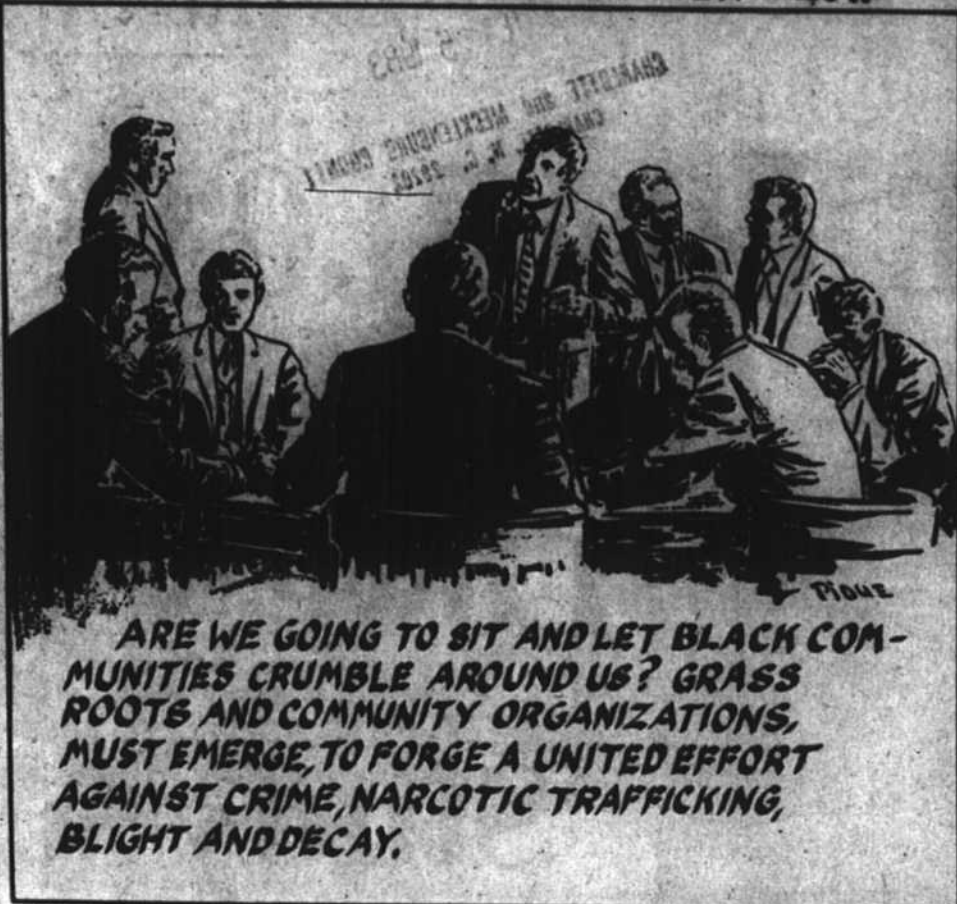
percent for Black adults and 48.2 percent for Black youth while the overall national joblessness is only 10.1 percent; over half of all Black baby births are to unwed mothers; and the accompanying sense of hopelessness that these conditions create.

These conditions create high levels of stress in the home, stress which psychologists now say shows up in the classroom. A recent study of over 4,000 children appears to show clearly that youth under stress suffer major declines in IQ scores. "Stress influences IQ test performance," the researchers report. Given the conditions we have briefly described about the crisis in too many Black families, it is obvious that stress is an ongoing emotional factor in many Black homes and helps to explain why so many Black youth do poorly in a traditional educational environment.

Undoubtedly, if Black families are to halt this assault on the foundations of Black America, they cannot simply wait on government to solve all their problems. New laws and new government policies can and will help, but Black citizens must, through their own inner self-commitment to values and beliefs with an "I can, I will" philosophy, must be the beginning to ending the Black family crisis.

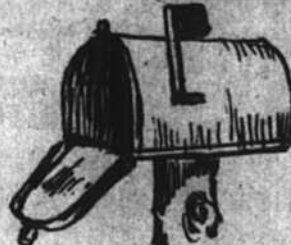
An "I can, I will" philosophy means a belief that no matter what the odds I can overcome the obstacles and get on the road to success. Anyone can quit, anyone can let racism destroy them, anyone can surrender to poverty, anyone can blame society for their problems.

IT IS UP TO US TO IMPOSE ORDER—NOW



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

Letters To The Editor:



Post Article Inaccurate

Dear Editors:

Your issue of The Post dated Thursday, July 7, 1983 contained an article with a few inaccurate statements concerning The Christian Fellowship Softball League.

First, a little background information. The Christian Fellowship Softball League was organized several years ago for the purpose of these churches fellowshiping one with the other through sports. This year the League is comprised of 12 churches. Each church has a men's and ladies' team, with the exception of two churches, which only have a men's team.

The League this year was divided into two divisions since we grew from 10 to 12 churches. Our Northern Division includes Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church, Faith Memorial Baptist Church, Catawba United Presbyterian, Gethsemane Baptist Church of Davidson, N.C., Morning Star Baptist and Salem Baptist Churches.

The Southern Division churches are: St. Luke Baptist, Pleasant Hill Baptist, Gethsemane Baptist, Antioch Baptist, Mt. Carmel Baptist and St. Paul Baptist Churches.

The Commissioner of the League is the Rev. Larry Hill who is also pastor of Catawba United Presbyte-

rian. We have an executive committee this year to arbitrate grievances. Those members include Mr. Willie Caldwell of Pleasant Hill; Mrs. Odessa Moultry of Mt. Olive; and Mr. Joseph Wright of St. Paul.

For the past three years a floating sportsmanship trophy has been awarded to the church with the most outstanding sportsmanship of the League. The coaches vote for the church whom they feel has exemplified the most sportsmanship. Past winners of this award are Mt. Carmel, St. Paul and Antioch Baptist Churches.

The items in question in the article are "Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Panthers are defeating the Christian Fellowship Softball League," and their standings in relation to the other teams.

Northern Division standings when that article was printed for the three top teams were as follows:

Men's team: No. 1--Catawba, 11-0; tied No. 2--Mt. Olive, 9-2; tied No. 2--Gethsemane, Davidson, 9-2.

Ladies' team: No. 1--Mt. Olive, 10-1; No. 2--Faith, 9-2; and No. 3--Catawba, 8-3.

Southern Division standings were:

Men's team: No. 1--St. Luke, 8-3; tied No. 1--Pleasant Hill, 8-3; and No. 3--St. Paul, 7-4.

Ladies team: No. 1--St. Luke, 10-1; No. 2--St. Paul, 8-3; and No. 3--Pleasant Hill, 7-4.

As one can see, Pleasant Hill's men are tied for first place in the Southern Division, but tied for fourth place overall.

The ladies are in third place in the Southern Division and falls to sixth place overall.

This is not a tactic to smear Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Only a rebuttal made to defend the positions of the other teams, which are ahead of Pleasant Hill.

Pleasant Hill has two very good teams, both offensively and defensively and I hope they make it to the playoffs at the end of the season which has been rescheduled to end July 23 and due to games being postponed because of inclement weather.

I wish God speed to all teams!

Sincerely,
Nellie Jackson,
Secretary, CFSBL

Letters Welcome

Do you have something to say? Then do so for everyone to read. The Charlotte Post, the only other voice in town, welcomes all letters on various subjects.

From Capitol Hill

Blacks Settle Only For Full Participation

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The possibility of a Black presidential candidate has certainly stirred up what one could call a "hornet's nest." Some are saying it is an unwise venture, some that it is a ploy to get Blacks registered and voting, and others feel it is to let Republicans know that Blacks cannot be written off and Democrats can't take them for granted. It is highly probable that a Black person doesn't have very much of a chance to become President, at this time. Yet, Americans must realize that Blacks will not remain quiet, and feel that the highest positions in the land are not for them. Then, too, considering the deteriorating economic conditions of the United States, where the average citizen, in spite of the heralded recovery, is finding retail prices, utilities, health care and housing costs are soaring. The tax cuts that Mr. Reagan emphasizes are only for the rich. Fed tax cuts only cause state and local governments to raise taxes for necessary goods and services.

So as Jesse Jackson says, a Black running for President will not be a President for Blacks, but one for all people. Especially the poor, handicapped, women, all minorities and middle income



Alfreda L. Madison people who are really bearing the economic burden.

Black citizens take on new responsibilities, because their problems are many and they are shared by Asians, Native Americans, Hispanics, men, women, children - young and old. The platform embodies the hopes and aspirations of all these groups.

Unemployment crisis is most severe among minorities. The government must create jobs; especially since there is a great need for goods and services. It must implement manpower skills and a policy which targets training and retraining for technological skills. The monetary and tax policy should keep inflation low while still providing vigorous economic growth and full employment. There is a need for tax reform to enhance revenues and non-productive tax give-aways that reward the wealthy.

The platform stated that the federal government has

a legitimate role to play in education. Budget cuts must be restored for the Title I programs, education for the handicapped, Pell grants and other higher education financial aid. Increased federal aid for the 102 Black colleges. Blacks also feel that parents, state and local officials also have an education role.

Black citizens call for a strong reaffirmed civil rights enforcement of the laws. There is a need for both a voluntary and court ordered affirmative action programs. The group was highly cognizant of the Reagan Administration's effort to leave all affirmative action to the good will of whites. Strong emphases are placed on rescinding regulations that subvert civil rights laws, funding must be restored to vital civil rights agencies and units. The platform really calls for William Bradford Reynold's resignation, when it states that civil rights should be led by persons who believe in the laws they are charged to enforce.

Title VIII - Fair Housing Act must be strengthened and Legal Service Corporation has to be retained at full funding.

The federal budget must have human needs as its first priority and excessive defense spending should be reduced.

The platform also calls

for an urban policy with increased funding for social services and infrastructure repairs. It states that cuts in subsidized housing result in housing shortage, increased rent and in some instances non-available housing. There must be improved criminal justice system in the inner cities; less police brutality and innovative alternatives to incarceration where appropriate.

Black leaders are greatly concerned about the loss of Black-owned farms. While there were one million Black farms in 1930, they will be almost non-existent by the end of the next decade. There is a call for the Agriculture Department to increase the number and amount of loans and technical assistance to Black farmers, increased civil rights enforcement of minority employment within the Department and the agency must set up integrated community councils which set FmHA loan policies.

The platform's "New Realism" signals awakening of the Black vote. The 1984 election and a long time policy must be given strong consideration. It recognizes the maturation of Black and minority citizens. They must compete for full participation and a valid place in the social system at a status other than the bottom.

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON



SCOPE

Sabrina

Trends Of The Past

Flexitime, permanent part-time employment and job sharing, and compressed work weeks are forcing many employers to take a fresh, new look at the nine to five day and the five day week. Employees are demanding such changes in work time due to social factors such as single parenting, the desire of older workers to reduce their hours while continuing to work and an increased preference for leisure time.

Personal time is a growing phenomenon for many employees. In 1978 a Louis Harris poll showed that 30-40 million employees would accept up to 10 percent reduction in pay if the reduction in working hours were equivalent.

The bureau of labor statistics' report for 1980 states that 7.6 million people were on flexitime, 1.8 million worked short, compressed weeks and 12.5 million worked voluntary part-time. This trend in work scheduling costs very little to implement and demands no major changes in organization methods or its technology - but it can help increase America's productivity by having an employee work during his peak time and not burning him out.

Flexitime has four subtitles: Flexitour (employees choose starting and quitting times and stick to that schedule); Gliding Time (starting and quitting times vary, eight hours must be worked); Variable Day (employees must work a given number of hours for each week); and Maxiflex (employees vary daily hours but do not have to be present for all core hours). These variations in flexitime have proved successful in the finance and insurance business, and the federal government but are still in the experimental stage on the blue collar level. If designed properly all forms of flexitime can be used effectively in white and blue collar jobs. It also may allow the employee to work more efficiently and effectively in allowing him to work during his peak performance hours - thus fulfilling some psychological needs.

As far as permanent part-time employment is concerned, older employees prefer part-time work to full retirement and single parents would also prefer this form of job sharing. Permanent part-time employment allows the career minded single parent or aspiring professional to fulfill the career urge and the social commitment made prior to employment (children and education).

Compressed work weeks allow the employee to choose and plan his work and leisure time. He may choose to work four 10-hour days, three 12-hour days or four and one half days. This may help decrease the idea of drudgery in the work place.

All of these new methods of scheduling work time may enable parents to spend more time parenting, young people the opportunity to pursue other interests and older people to continue working longer. The drudgery of working eight hours each day may change into working and doing an effective job. These methods also leave room for white and blue collar workers to work at peaks rather than valleys (some people work better in the afternoon, morning or evenings).

Possibly tossing out those time clocks and modifying the work day could result in decreased unemployment. According to the March-April 1983 edition of The Harvard Business Review, if 20 million people would give up 10 percent of their work time, then two million full-time jobs would be created; that would mean two million unemployed American workers would find work. This may be an answer to the unemployment situation - but can it happen?

For July 19-22

Concert Schedule

Nobody likes to be cooped up inside all day during the glorious summer weather Charlotte has been enjoying lately, so hot or not, hundreds of Uptown workers are flocking to the midday Brown Bag Concerts. Held Tuesday through Friday at three office plazas, the free concerts are sponsored by the plaza managements and the Central Charlotte Association, a division of the Greater Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

The schedule for July 19-22 is as follows:
Tuesday, July 19, First Union Plaza--Gootman Sauerkraut Band, the brainchild of Charlotte's Jerry Goodman, which plays German beer drinking, "oompah"-style music. Wednesday, July 20,

NCNB Plaza - Treva Spontane and the Grafics, a Raleigh-based group which specializes in modern rock music. Thursday, July 21, Charlotte Plaza - Carolina Brass Quintet, which plays everything from classical music to ragtime by Eubie Blake. The group's leader is Bill Laving, a teacher at Davidson College. Friday, July 22, First Union Plaza - Charlotte's own Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs - one of the region's most popular beach rhythm and blues bands.



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

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

106 Years of Continuous Service

Bill Johnson Editor, Publisher
Bernard Reeves General Manager
Fran Farrer Advertising Director
Dannette Gaitner Office Manager

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

Member, National Newspaper
Publishers' Association

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

Deadline for all news copy and photos is
5 p.m. Monday. All photos and copy
submitted become the property of The Post
and will not be returned.

National Advertising
Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

2400 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60616
45 W. 45th St., Suite 1403 New York, New York 10036
Columet 5-0200 212-489-1220