

# editorials

## & comments

### Price Of Unity

By Charles G. Adams  
 Frederick Douglass once said, "We may not get all we pay for in this world, but it is certain we must pay for all we get." The only way to achieve unity in the Black race is to pay the price of subordinating individual preferences to the wisdom and welfare of the whole. The same rule applies to a political party. If our aim is to unseat President Reagan, we must pay the price of unity and pay it in time. This is precisely what we did not do in 1980.

Will we make the same mistake in 1984? It seems so. The political leadership of the race was confused about the target in 1980. They were cool and hesitant toward Jimmy Carter. They advertised his shortcomings and accentuated his failures. They disparaged the Democratic Party because of its racial inequities and moral imperfections. Nobody noticed until too late that Reagan was striding to the White House while Democrats and Blacks bickered and dickered among ourselves.

There is a time to correct one's political party and there is a time to defend and protect one's political party in order to win an election. This is the time to get Reagan out and that will not be accomplished unless we pay the price of unity. The last thing we need now is a fantastic excursion into the oblivion and disunity of running a Black candidate for President as a ploy to discipline and change the Democratic Party.

### Severe Cutbacks

1) There will be more severe cutbacks and eliminations of social welfare programs. 2) There will be an acceleration of military spending and production. 3) There will be deeper retreats and retrenchments on civil rights and human rights. 4) There will come the destruction of the public schools and the proliferation of private academics. 5) The society will become less humane and more outwardly religious at the same time. 6) Religion will be more a matter of form and fashion than commitment to the betterment of humanity and enhancement of our common life. 7) There will be more bankruptcy, unemployment, disease, ignorance and death among the poor. 8) The economic recovery will come but it will never reach us.

The economy will be better off but we will be worse off.

Is that what we are willing to endure for four more years in order to enjoy the brief pride and fleeing vanity of bolting the Democratic Party by means of a Black presidential candidate? I think that the cost of a Black presidential candidate is too great for us to pay at this time. We can't afford four more years of Reagan. The misery and despair among Blacks is already incredible and intolerable. How much more can we take? If to defeat Reagan is our target, we had better take an early aim and keep our eyes on the mark. While we look around us, our target will be gone.

### Black Voters

It is hard for me to understand just what the Rev. Jesse Jackson is aiming at. According to his Detroit campaign manager it is reported that the goal of his candidacy is "to spur Black voter registration and force the Democratic Party to strengthen its commitment to civil rights." That's all well and good. Unregistered Blacks do hold the potential of deciding the presidential race in several Southern states, but Blacks by themselves can't elect a president.

Unless those Blacks who are registered work within the structure and consensus of the Democratic Party, they will not be successful in preventing four more years of Reagan. Any forcing of the Democratic Party to strengthen its stance on civil rights will only weaken it in the eyes of White voters and drive them by droves into the arms of Ronald Reagan. This is not the time to strengthen the Democrats' commitment to anything but defeating Ronald Reagan. Our role must be to lead the way in healing and reuniting the Democratic Party so that it can remove the present occupant of the White House and save the nation. Once that is done, then we can educate and correct the party and sensitize the new President to our needs on pain that if he does not hear us and respond to our needs, he will be packing up in 1988.

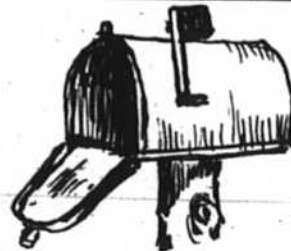
As quiet as it is kept, this was what we did in 1976. Once Mr. Carter was elected, Blacks enjoyed access to the decision-making process. Coleman Young picked up the telephone and millions of dollars flowed into Detroit.

THIS IS WHAT WE CAN DO NOW

THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST RATS IS A GARBAGE CAN WITH THE LID ON TIGHT!



Letters To The Editor:



### Children Acquire Values At Home

To The Editor:

One of the saddest things I have encountered in the area of public education has been the devastating effects White racism is having upon the lack of development in the Black child. Victimized by institutionalized racism before entering the public domain, the Black child has internalized so much self-hate that his academic progress seems almost retarded, his lack of self-esteem real and his fear of White people concrete.

From the primary grades to the secondary, one can witness too many Black children ridiculing each other and their parents for simply being Black. The very word itself is often used as an adjective to describe negative images. Without self-respect and the respect for the learning of others around you, academic achievement becomes awesome because there is no real purpose for being in school.

It is in the manifestation of self-hate, lack of cooperation through disruptive behavior and mutual disrespect for Black authority figures, the basis for academic failure among Black children can be observed.

It is customary in many of our city schools for Black children to create unnecessary upheaval in a Black teacher's classroom while reserving appropriate

classroom decorum for White instructors and "integrated" classroom settings. The quality of instruction has little bearing on these behavior patterns because it appears Black students do not seem to respect Black adults as much as they fear Whites.

Children acquire many of their values from the family: who to fear and who, not to fear is often taught in the home. Feelings of self-worth and the respect for those who look like you are demonstrated by family members toward neighbors and each other. Children learn at an early age how to articulate their parents' unspoken feelings. Thus, the irate Black parent gathering composure when confronting a White teacher and not the same when confronting a Black teacher, sends a message to the child whom to respect and for what reasons.

Self-knowledge, understanding and self-esteem would help many of us overcome the limiting fears we seem to be unknowingly passing on to our children. Black parents ought to talk more about self-worth and blackness with their children. A purpose for going to school should be clearly defined long before kindergarten. Interaction with what a child is learning both at home and in school ought to be part of a parent's daily

life. Instructing our children in racial pride does not mean they are taught one race is superior to another. The sooner we abandon this notion, the better. Let us be clearly understood: race is an important issue when it comes to teaching our children self-knowledge and self-esteem.

Instead of waiting to sow the seeds of "integration" in our community schools and neighborhoods, why not be about the task of establishing a concrete atmosphere of respect and trust amongst ourselves.

Sherman E. Hightower

### 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.

Letters to the editor must include your signature and address, both of which may or may not be used per request. For purposes of identification only, writers should include their telephone numbers.

All letters are subject to editing for grammar, libelous content and when necessary, brevity. Please limit letters to 500 words. Letters should be addressed: Editor, The Charlotte Post, P. O. Box 30144, Charlotte, NC 28230.

From Capitol Hill

### Roundtable Explores Impact Of Race

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post  
 Passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, paved the way for election of Black officials. As Black candidates have begun to move beyond Black-majority jurisdictions to compete in White-majority constituencies the rate has slowed down. As Jesse Jackson says about a Black presidential candidate, Blacks will run not as a candidate for Blacks, but as one who happens to be Black, but a candidate of all the people. Problems that confront minorities are common to the majority of the American people, since they are not numbered among the most affluent.

The Joint Center for Political Studies held a roundtable to explore the impact of race in contemporary politics. Taking part in the discussion were 1982 Black candidates, political consultants, pollsters and academic researchers.

It was revealed that although Black candidates attempt to structure their candidacy around partisanship and other issues, it is almost impossible for them to overcome race. The news media always refers to the "black candidate."

There were lengthy discussions on just how a Black candidate should respond to race inference.



Alfreda L. Madison

One suggestion was that they should confront the race issue head on, yet when Blacks make race an issue they are falling into the opponent's trap. To say as Mayor Tom Bradley said, "Don't vote for me because I am Black, but don't vote against me because I am Black." Some felt that appeals to race may be necessary to ignite interest of both the minorities and whites.

It was noted that Blacks cannot rely on the Democratic mechanism to support them and a Black Republican stated that he lost because Black Republicans said they wanted to send Reagan a message. Black women candidates find it easier to get elected than Black men, because women will support them, and that White men consider them less of a threat.

Black candidates have a tremendous task to overcome the idea, that a white

candidate can represent state's people, city's people and district people, Blacks and all the people; the implication is that a Black can never represent Whites.

Criticism of the polling process was discussed. A very small number of Blacks are included in the polling samples of Black-White candidates; the typical turn-out pattern in such elections, and the need to use White interviewers when talking to White respondents and Black interviewers when talking to Black respondents.

Even though candidates use television advertisements, the television will use tricks, such as showing very plainly that the candidate is Black, often they avoid showing the Black in a racially mixed group.

Several grassroots organizations were examined. Mayor Bradley was criticized by some constituents for not differentiating between Blacks, Hispanics or Asians. He attempted to respond to issues he deemed important to the people. He felt it was a disservice to fragment the people by organizing them in their ethnicity framework.

Mike Michaux, who ran unsuccessfully for Congress in North Carolina, initiated contacts in the

Black community and used them to contact the whites. He also targeted interfaith ministerial groups, senior citizens, public housing projects and college campuses. Michaux also distributed voter registration statistics of Blacks in the Black community emphasizing that the Black vote is important in electing a Black candidate. He also emphasized that an issue which appeals to emotions is important in arousing the people's enthusiasm.

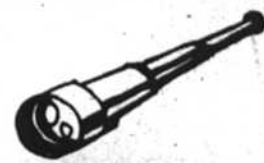
Larry Gibson, who managed the victory campaign of Kurt Schmoke for Maryland's Attorney General, recognized early that many Whites were willing to vote for Schmoke because he is Black, so it was made clear in all campaign strategies that Schmoke is a Black man. Gibson stressed the use of the electronic media, at every opportunity, because it's a means of reaching more people.

Furnishing free transportation to the polls on Election Day is important, especially in the rural districts.

Mobilizing a candidacy around issues is a most effective way to get constituents interested.

The Republican representative revealed that the GOP targets Blacks through analysis of polling data, precinct returns, direct mailing and telephoning.

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON



SCOPE



Sabrina

### Teen Crisis

By Sabrina E. Johnson

"They feel alienated and alone and it seems like this will bring peace." Teenage suicide has become one of the most devastating public health problems in the United States. In 1981 over 5,600 young women and men took their lives.

Aside from the actual deaths a great percentage more people under the age of 25 consider suicide; at an earlier age than in the past. Many schools and communities across the United States have realized that suicide is contagious and very serious.

According to leading teenage psychologists, every school has teens who feel depressed or misunderstood, and are considered risk for suicide and other mental problems. If one potential suicide victim goes on and does the unthinkable, in some unique way gives others permission to follow suit.

Many high schools are opening "Crisis Rooms" for students to discuss problems of growing and maturing, and teachers have begun "suicide watch" on those who have threatened or attempted suicide as well as one's associates. These task forces work under the pretense that they can cut off a potential suicide by proclaiming suicide to be a cop-out and that the people were afraid of learning the truth about their lives. They also train parents to look for signs of depression in teens.

Suicide knows no economic or social lines; from poor inner city dwellers to wealthy suburbans. Race or national origin is not a determinate factor. It can strike anywhere.

Teens who talk of suicide or attempt it - want to die, and such behavior should be considered serious and handled with care. Many people feel suicide attempts are means to acquire attention and have no intent on dying. Yes and No. Attempted suicide does have a purpose - one wants to escape life through death. Once the attempt is foiled steps can be taken to save that life and others. These steps should be professional counseling and family support.

Teens and young adults experience moodiness, sadness, social isolation and depression, which are common to this group, are pure signs of possible suicide. During the weeks or months before attempted suicide, relationships between parents, friends and teachers often break down: proving suicide is not an impulsive act. It is carefully planned and calculated.

Males and females are at risk for suicide, however more females than males attempt suicide, but more males succeed.

Teens kill themselves for a number of reasons as a result of society's pressures: over crowding of the earth, lack of employment for the young, lack of child - parent communication and emotion distress - suicide seems the best way out.

The rate of teen suicide can be cut down by forming more suicide task forces within the community before and teen commits suicide - not after.

### "Moonlighting Income"

### Subject To Income Tax

Greensboro - Thousands of North Carolinians find it necessary to work at more than one job to meet their economic needs or to afford a few luxuries for their families. It's called "moonlighting" and has become a common life style, the Internal Revenue Service says.

The IRS reminds these taxpayers that all income from "moonlighting" must be reported on the Federal tax return. Frequently, in the rush to prepare that return, the taxpayer forgets to include it because, in some cases, a W-2 form is not provided to the worker.

Some examples of moonlighting are: A school teacher picking up extra money tutoring students after normal working hours; an off-duty policeman doubling as a taxi driver; a secretary selling cosmetics door-to-door; or an accountant performing bookkeeping duties during his or her spare time. Too

often, these services are paid for in cash, the IRS said, with the intent of not declaring the income.

In many instances, an employer asks the "moonlighter" to say nothing about the wages to the IRS. This is an evasive technique and in violation of tax law. A word to the wise, says the IRS, is to keep good records for yourself and declare that income as required.

The "moonlighter" may even be able to claim certain expenses incurred in earning extra income. For instance, if the job is umpiring baseball games, the cost and maintenance of the uniform, equipment and other expenses could be claimed under "Miscellaneous Deductions" on Schedule A.

Having to work at two jobs to make ends meet is no disgrace - in fact, it shows that good old American resourcefulness. But, reporting that income on the tax return is also the American Way.

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