

editorials & comments

Jackson's Success Is Commendable

Nearly a year ago, while national black political and civil rights leaders were considering the feasibility of a black presidential candidate, Jesse Jackson had already decided that there would be a black candidate and that he would be that candidate. Jackson's "Lone Ranger" approach on this vital issue undoubtedly is one reason that no prominent black leader has endorsed his candidacy.

In another "Lone Ranger" move, Jesse Jackson flew off with two of his sons and a group of black ministers to Syria in a quest to secure the release of U.S. Navy pilot Robert Goodman. Since the U.S. Ambassador Robert Paganelli and Reagan Administration officials had been unsuccessful in getting Lt. Goodman released, few believe Jackson would succeed and many were critical of his unsanctioned interference into a foreign affairs issue.

Politics aside, the nation and certainly Lt. Goodman's family are and should be elated over the success of Jackson's mission. Furthermore, whatever his motive, Jackson should be applauded for his successful effort in bringing an imprisoned serviceman home.

Returning to the politics of

Jesse Jackson's Syrian adventure, he embraced a big political gamble and won; had he lost his already slim chance to become the Democratic Party's presidential candidate, his chances would have become even slimmer.

Most would agree that the release of Lt. Goodman enhanced Jesse Jackson's credibility as a serious presidential candidate - at least temporarily. The crucial question is whether Jackson can translate his Syrian accomplishment into votes at the various state primaries and the Democratic nominating convention.

Some political analysts have concluded that Jackson's successful foreign affairs efforts will enhance and broaden his support among black voters. As important as it was that Jackson's efforts led to Lt. Goodman's release and that the event may serve as a catalyst for new Middle East peace talks, these in and of themselves are not a basis for voting for a person to be president of our nation.

We join the nation in applauding Jesse Jackson for his humanitarian efforts, but caution that this action does not necessarily qualify him to be President of the United States.



Civil Rights Leader

Letters To: The Editor



Spend Day In Reverence

Dear Editor:

Those of us who are fortunate enough to be away from our jobs and celebrate Dr. King's birthday before 1985, have no excuse for not spending the day in reverence.

Neither do those who are required to work on his birthday.

Dr. King's birthday wherever it is spent should be a day of New Beginnings for all of us. We should take a look at his "I Have A Dream Speech," then interpret and execute what the Freedom Fighter was denied to witness alive.

I realize the word "if" implies supposition. But think about it: after sharing his dream with the world more than 20 years ago, Dr. King could express his feelings about color of skin, but by character, "would he be satisfied that his dream is reality? Hardly.

And if Dr. King walked through the states of the nation, would he see the oasis of "freedom and justice," which he had visions of? Certainly not. So after dying because he wanted to abide by the Word of God and have the rest of the country do the same, we still don't carry out Dr. King's mission. That's why the theme of the 20th Anniversary March On Washington suggested "We Still

Have A Dream."

Dr. King spent most of his short life throughout the South, working with those who wanted the same kind of equality and freedom which he always talked about. He wasn't the only leader of civil rights then, and we still have fine civil rights leaders today. But Dr. King led a pilgrimage which affected every life in America in some way.

Feel confident he wouldn't be offended if you didn't accredit your right to vote, or frequent public institutions to him. He wasn't seeking praise. He was seeking equality. If you don't want to work to strengthen those efforts because of Dr. King, then do it simply for yourself. Either way, he will be pleased.

Sincerely,
Marla Bracey

Califf Heart Attack Is Frightening Experience

A heart attack is a frightening experience that, more often than not, shortens an individual's life.

"But some people live 20 to 30 years after a heart attack and then die of something totally unrelated, like cancer," said Dr. Califf, director of the Cardiac Care Unit at Duke University Medical Center in Durham.

How can doctors predict which patients will go on to live a normal life and which ones will not?

Dr. Califf will discuss this and other questions about post-heart attack treatment at this Friday's Grand Rounds lecture, to be held at 12:30 p.m. in the Mercy Hospital auditorium.

Several tests can be done to predict the long-term effects of a heart attack, said Dr. Califf. The most accurate is a cardiac catheterization in which a tube is inserted into vessels around the heart and iodine dye is injected. This test shows how much damage the heart attack caused and where the arteries are blocked.

Mercy Hospital's Medical Grand Rounds series is conducted throughout the year, except the summer months, to keep area physicians abreast of the newest techniques and theories in a variety of medical specialties.

For more information contact Mercy Hospital Public Relations at 379-6052.

Education And The Blacks Athletes

While little is said about it publicly, and it's highly visible, black athletes dominate the basketball and football programs of most of the nation's colleges and universities. Furthermore, the success of these athletic programs among the major universities in the South has been the direct result of black athletes. Ironically, less than 20 years ago many of these institutions of higher learning would not have even hired a black janitor, much less have black athletes representing their institutions.

Tragically, many of these institutions around the nation provide degrees to these young men and women in exchange for their athletic skills and without requiring any meaningful academic effort. In effect too often big-time athletes don't and can't meet academic requirements because of the pressures and demands of football or basketball.

To paraphrase Derik Bok,

president of Harvard, lucrative TV megabucks alumni who only care about winning, and gate receipts to support athletic costs have led many colleges and universities to ignore academic standards for athletes. Thus, on some campuses 50 to 60 hours of practice a week is normal and 70 percent of such athletes never graduate.

A group of university presidents hopes to change all this at the NCAA annual convention in Dallas this week. Since the exploitation of black youth to provide jobs for coaches and many others, most of whom are white, and big bucks along with prestige for these universities is central to the whole issue, black Americans need to be aware of what happens in Dallas.

Since most of these black kids will never earn a professional sports dollar, academic training is important for their lives after college sports. Blacks must demand that sports-academic be kept in proper perspective at all times.

From Capitol Hill

Hunger Is No Faking Business!

Is the Administration's face red, or is it just plain fool-proof, over White House Counselor Ed Meese's inept statement about hunger in the United States?

"I don't know of any authoritative figures that there are hungry children. I've heard a lot of anecdotal stuff but I haven't heard of any authoritative figures. So if there are hungry children then why are they hungry?" said Ed Meese. He stated that he had information that people go to soup kitchens because the food is free and that's easier than paying for it. Does Mr. Meese feel hunger is a faking business?

It is hard to perceive that a person who is so high up on the Administration ladder to be as unknowledgeable as Ed Meese. He referred to talk about hungry kids as allegations. Meese spoke of a task force that the President had appointed a few months ago, "on food assistance to get at the bottom of some of the allegations which have been unsubstantiated until now. So if there are hungry children, the question is why are they hungry?"

After having been in office for around three years, with the outrageous high unemployment, cuts in child nutrition funds, welfare funds and school



Alfreda L. Madson

lunches, Mr. Reagan commissioned a study to determine if people are really hungry, or if the organizations that are serving thousands of people food daily, are giving to people who are food boats.

Ed Meese's press interview is undisputed proof that this Administration has scarcely any concern for the poor. When confronted with the severe problems of human needs and financial cuts for programs that aid in relieving their misery, the President always responded that he would take care of the "truly needy."

Since not seeing any human misery among the Ivory tower Administration residents, the White House, evidently assumes that none exists.

Ed Meese could have consulted many sources for hunger facts. The Agriculture Subcommittee on Domestic and Consumer

Affairs has held extensive hearings on hunger and malnutrition. They have discovered some very startling facts. The committee reported that people below the poverty line increased from 34.8 percent in 1982 to 35.4 percent in 1983, emergency kitchens increased from 30 percent in 1982 to 40 percent in 1983.

Even though the Administration emphasizes the recovery in October, 1983, the committee found that in many large cities, hunger has greatly increased. In Cleveland, food assistance requests increased by 112 percent from 1981 to 1983. In Denver, the increase was twice as much in 1983 as in 1982. Chicago, Seattle, Detroit and most of the nation's industrialized cities showed soaring food assistance requests: Forty-seven percent of those living in high risk areas are found to be undernourished.

A recent study revealed that in Chicago it was found that for the period of June-September, 1983, 24 percent of the children were admitted to energy centers, 10 percent were short of stature. It was learned that malnutrition inhibits normal growth.

A New York City 1983 study showed that large numbers of children have less than 450 calories a meal. These are just a few statistics on hungry children that Mr. Meese could

have bothered to get which would have taken only about five minutes of his valuable time.

The reasons are very simple. Although unemployment has dropped to 8.5 percent, Blacks 17.5 percent and Hispanics and youth still are astronomically high, people have to go hungry, undernourished or find soup kitchens. Reports show that many of those who are employed below the poverty line, cut back on food because of soaring energy and rent prices.

Hungry children, malnourished children are very low achievers in school. So a very important fact of the President's improvement in education should provide either jobs or money for eradication of hunger and malnourishment of America's children.

Does anybody in the Administration look across the street from the White House in Lafayette Park or out of the limousine windows as they roll along the streets of Washington and see people lying around with neither food or shelter? Does the Administration feel that they have money but are doing this because a park bench or a cold sidewalk is free?

The Census Bureau reported that poverty has risen to the highest level in 18 years.



Sabrina

Granny Bashing?

The social issue of 1984 is not child abuse, alcoholism, gay rights or nuclear war - it is "granny bashing" - elder abuse. Studies have suggested that four percent to 12 percent of the nation's 26.8 million old people suffer from some form of "granny bashing."

Fortunately the problem of elder abuse is not ignored. Within the last five years elder abuse has grown in the 1980's. It has attracted a great deal of concern from social workers, health care professionals and legislators. Today, conferences are being held, treatment plans being made and laws being written.

The proposed protection of the elderly act is similar in writing to the protection of abused children act of the 1970's and makes it mandatory that suspected cases be reported. The law has been passed in 30 states. This law would enable the state to do many things to help the abused.

Aside from making it mandatory for state health officials and social workers to report suspected cases, and confidentiality would protect those who made the reports from potential lawsuits by the victims' families, the elderly who are identified as being abuse victims would be offered a host of alternatives to bring normalcy back to their lives.

Unfortunately, the law will not help every abused elderly person. Realistically speaking, it would do little in the pathetic cases such as those involving mentally competent elderly who are beaten and abused, and those who fear retaliation. It also will not help those who out and out refuse all offers of help.

Studies have found that the average victim is female, aged 75 or older, with physical or mental ailments. Most victims are abused by their sons or daughters, with the sons being the most common abusers. With most abusers, this "Granny Bashing" is due to a personal problem of the abuser, such as alcohol or drug abuse, mental illness or poverty.

Most elderly victims suffer from several types of abuse - they may be tortured physically and psychologically and financially exploited. Most are abused through neglect. The United States House Select Committee on Aging stated in a 1981 report that an appalling number of abused elderly were denied medicine, food, blankets or heat, and even bed pans.

Studies have shown that a majority of abuse victims were abusive parents and the children are merely "getting even." Also it is not uncommon for an abuser to be a "spoiled child" who cannot accept the fact that the parent can no longer take care of him.

Even with the laws to protect the elderly, help cannot be forced upon them. If can merely be suggested what can and should be done! The decision is ultimately that of the abused person involved.

Granny Bashing may become a silent killer of this country's elderly. Unlike the abused child, the elderly are isolated; they do not interact with society on a day-by-day basis, chances of finding them are slim. Also, unlike the abused child the elderly,

cannot be removed from the adverse situation and placed into state care because they are adults and are responsible for themselves. The abused elderly do not have the shelters as of yet to seek refuge as battered wives have obtained. The elderly have legal protection but that protection is limited and specified.

Most abused elderly will not leave the abusive home area due to emotional ties and dependency. All social workers can do is report and make suggestions, but the ultimate decision is that of the person involved.

It is heart breaking that the wrinkles (elderly) of this country - a great resource - are treated as such. The two most valuable groups, children and the elderly, are treated as third class citizens. The elderly are walking information banks, productive, useful and energetic. Why has this society allowed them to be kicked back into the shadows? Since 1984 is here, the potential to correct the problem is here, but the solution must be carefully planned and executed with the utmost efficiency. As the first step is to make the elderly aware of the fact that they do not have to take beatings and abuse from their social misfit children and that help is readily available.

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