

editorials

COMMENTS

Blacks In An "Age Of Affluence"

Last week we commented on the 1984 "State of Black America" report prepared by the National Urban League which concluded that black Americans are in a "disastrous" state of affairs.

While no one can deny that data that supports the NUL's conclusions, so much has been written and said about the plight of black Americans that we have to wonder whether the media is not contributing to the sense of hopelessness and discouragement among many blacks, especially young adults who might otherwise have an "I can make it" attitude and philosophy. After all, if black Americans hear repeatedly only about the economic and social forces that hamper advancement, fewer and fewer are going to develop the faith and hope that they can be successful in America.

While we certainly should continue to be concerned about the less fortunate among us, we need to spotlight, recognize and be increasingly aware of the contributions, successes and advances of black Americans. It is from such successes that our young can find the role models so essential to their own motivation, self-esteem and commitment to the work ethic. For example, while nearly ignored by the media, the NUL report does cite "individual achievements by blacks" and notes that the high school completion rate

of blacks rose from 23 percent in 1950 to 79 percent in 1980. Furthermore, the report informs us that while blacks have not yet fully realized their voting potential, black voter turnout has been substantially increasing as recent elections have shown.

These somewhat lightly regarded trappings of success are threads for some and highways for others into what William Lazer has called an exploding "age of affluence." Writing in the February issue of "American demographics" magazine, Lazer and other economists contend that more "good life" products will be sold in larger quantities to a growing number of Americans. In the next 12 years better-educated workers will be entering higher paying jobs, more women will be working in professional jobs. Forty-six percent of all households - 47.5 million - will have incomes above \$25,000 annually and 29 percent - 29.8 million - will be about \$35,000 annually. Computers, luxury autos, custom-made clothes, gourmet foods, portable phones, automated banking, luxury housing, furniture and appliances will be common place among whites and an increasing number of blacks.

These things, too, blacks must be aware of and be sharing in if they are to truly keep their dreams and hopes alive, for without them we cannot keep the dream alive.

The Paradox Of Success!

With the desegregation of American education 20 years ago, new educational opportunities at formally segregated, all-white colleges and universities have become available to black students.

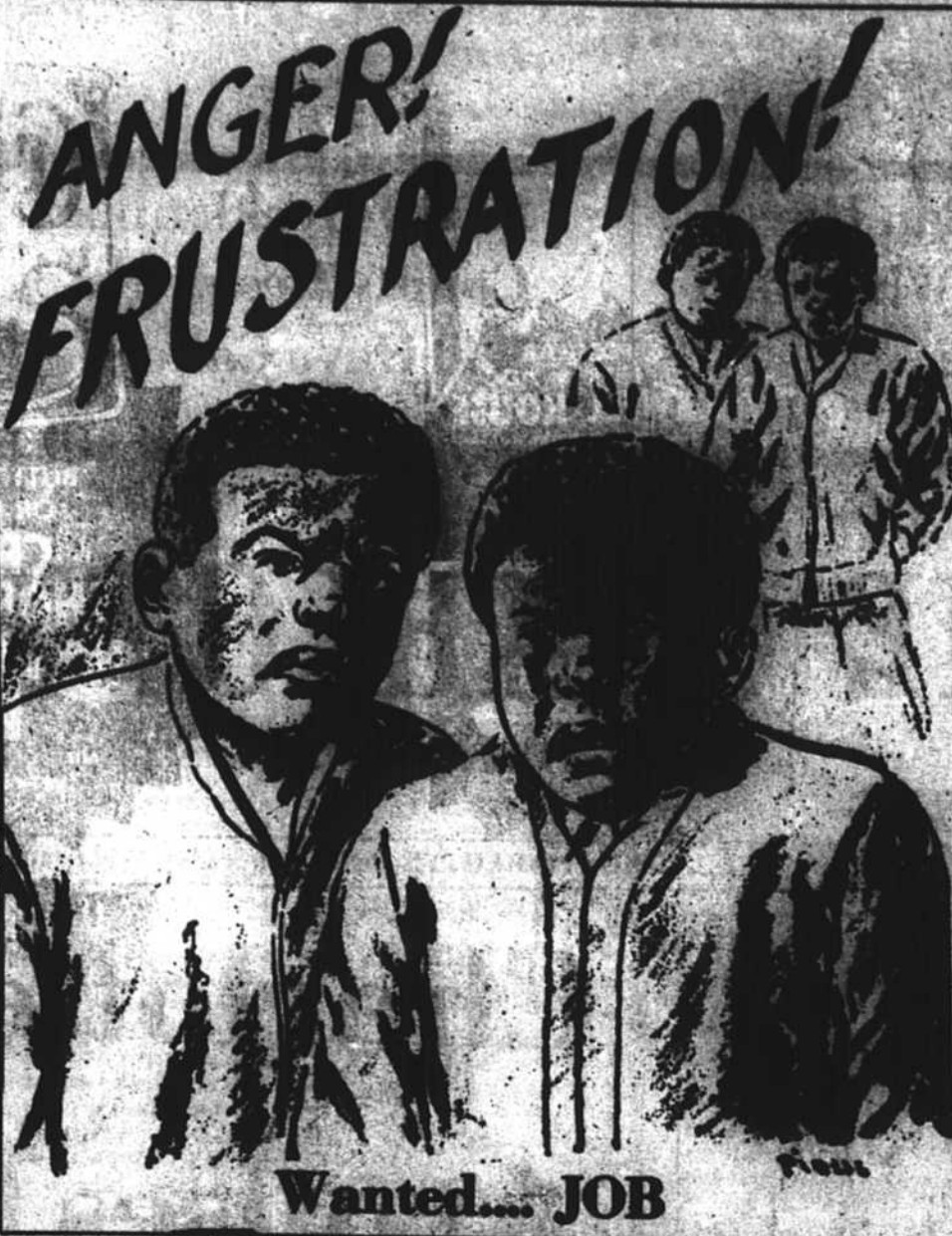
Nevertheless, feelings of isolation, alienation and little apparent opportunity for individual recognition at the previously all-white large institutions led many blacks to pursue their higher education at the traditional black colleges and universities. This has resulted in more than 40 percent of all black college students continuing to pursue their four-year degrees at traditionally black schools.

In spite of these efforts, traditionally black colleges are losing their faculty and students to formerly segregated, all-white schools. Much of this change has resulted from the pressures of the federal courts to

hasten desegregation. High pay and better working conditions for black faculty members and broader educational opportunity options for black students have made this possible.

Yet, no one should interpret this to mean that black colleges are no longer needed. Most black colleges and universities need every opportunity to survive, not because they are black, but because they have and are meeting the needs of a segment of American youth seeking higher education who just happen to be black, and whites too if they choose to attend such schools.

Blacks, whites, foundations, corporations and others who support black colleges and universities and doing what is traditionally American - investing in the future of the nation. Won't you do your part?



Letters To: The Editor

Let's Swap Cubans For Hijackers

Dear Editor:
For the first time since Castro took over Cuba, we have an opportunity to use our leverage. Let us take a bipartisan approach to the following by offering to swap the Cuban workers.
Return all highjackers of U.S. planes to Cuba. This would lessen the desire to gain "freedom" there while endangering American lives.
Remove all Cuban soldiers from Nicaragua, El Salvador and other Central American countries.
Take back the Cuban criminals (I'm told these are the worst in the world), and mental patients shipped to the U.S. during the last major Cuba-Miami boat lift.
Remove Cuban troops and support personnel from Angola and other countries where they are spreading Communism.
Of course Castro has told his soldiers to fight to their deaths to protect Grenada while he is surrounded by 20,000 soldiers, missiles, tanks and thousands of cigars.
Reagan is the first Pre-

sident since Eisenhower to have the guts to do what's right to protect Americans in foreign lands. Thank God for President Reagan. I'm just sorry that Sen. Percy is Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I think my 13

year-old son, Jeff, knows more about foreign affairs than he does. Percy scares me to death, although he seems like a gentle, kind man.
J. T. Kimbell

Reperory Company Plans Audition

The N.C. Black Reperory Company is seeking musicians, singers, dancers, and choreographers.
The company will audition musicians to become permanent members of the "Black Rep Orchestra." The Orchestra is responsible for providing music for major musical productions, cabaret performances and monthly Theatre Guild recitals.
Singers who successfully audition for the Company will also be selected on a permanent basis. They will become members of the Performing Company, appearing in all major musical productions, cabaret performances, Theatre Guild recitals, and special requested appearances. Singers interested in

auditioning, should bring sheet music and/or tape. Dancers and choreographers auditioning for the Company, should reveal a wide range of dancing abilities. Those selected will also become permanent members of the Performing Company.
For more information about the Black Reperory Company and auditioning, telephone the Company at 919-723-7907, or contact Joe Daniels or David Allen at 919-723-1822 or 1985, respectively.
The North Carolina Reperory Company is based in Winston-Salem, N.C.
The more you buy from Charlotte Post advertisers, the more jobs you create at The Post and with our advertisers.

that meet the needs of the poor.
Jacobs called the now Reagan-controlled Civil Rights Commission an "unholy alliance" with the Justice Department. William French Smith, the recently resigned Attorney General and his Justice Department, have declared war on all civil rights gains. As bad as Smith has been as Attorney General, newly appointed Attorney General Edwin Meese, is quite likely to wage a more intensive and extensive civil rights war.
Jacobs said, "We are faced with a situation in which major federal departments are engaged in an effort to destroy vital tools for equal opportunity, even in the face of Supreme Court decisions that have upheld affirmative action."
The power of the vote is emphasized in the report. It urges blacks and minorities to vote. They can make a change in the 1984 election which will result in bringing this nation closer to a society that is more equal and just.
"If white workers had anywhere near the unemployment levels of blacks, we would be seeing a massive national job-creation effort," said Jacobs.
To move America towards its great potentials, the Urban League has issued a blueprint.

Keeping Good Records Can Erase Anxiety For Taxpayers

Special To The Post
Winston-Salem - Keeping good tax records throughout the year can erase the anxiety that many taxpayers face between January and April 15.
That's the advice of Charles Simms, manager of tax planning and administration for R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.
"If you've kept good records throughout the year, you not only have a clear picture of what to expect, you also have eliminated much of the tension that seems to come with the task," Simms said.
Simms, whose responsibilities include preparation of income tax returns for foreign service employees of a company operating in virtually every country in the world, said most people have the material they need. "It is just not organized so as to be useful," he said.
"It is important to remember, too, that the law requires that you keep records to prove the accuracy of your forms."
The IRS recognizes cancelled checks and sales receipts as acceptable records to document purchases, Simms said.
"Keeping all such records in a meaningful system will satisfy the IRS - especially if you are called for an audit - and will simplify the job of filling your forms," he said.
Simms offered several suggestions for the beginning of the year to make tax return preparation easier and quicker.
-Order Publication 17 from the IRS. It is available free by calling a toll-free number listed in your local phone directory. It will give you current legal requirements for record keeping on automobile expenses, contributions, employee business expenses and income from trips.
-Purchase a file with individual pockets or folders.

Label each by the deductions and credits that the IRS recognizes. Throughout the year, put all receipts into this file.
-In a spiral notebook, label pages by the same deduction and credit categories. Each month when the bank statement is balanced, jot down on the appropriate page, the number and date of the check, the person or office to whom it was paid, and the amount.
-At the end of the year, add to the check record any cash amounts for which you have a file receipt. Visit each page to determine the deduction and credits you may claim.
-Before you mail your completed tax returns, make three copies of all forms and attachments. Parts of one copy may be used for filing with state returns because some states accept certain federal forms in place of state forms. A second copy will be your permanent record in case of audit. The last copy can be used for corrections you may have to file or tax law changes for which filing an amended return means an additional refund.
Proper record keeping offers some added benefits Simms said.
"You will know whether or not you should invest some funds in an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or some other tax sheltering program to save money on your taxes," Simms said.
"Also, you will know ahead of time if you are going to be eligible for a refund so you can file as early as possible to get your money."
As difficult as filing individual tax returns may seem, Simms offers some consolation. "Corporate tax processing makes filing my own tax forms easy," Simms said.

Post Readers Respond To Help Masons

Continued From Page 1A
clothing free of charge. The latter agency, Crisis Assistance Ministry, according to Mr. Green, has already agreed to pay Mrs. Mason's electric bill.
Green, who has been working on the Masons' situation since he first became aware of it, added, "I'm also in the process of drafting correspondence to Social Services that singles out the problems." Given time to respond, Green was confident that Social Services could provide assistance.
In addition to doing his job, Green stated that he and his wife, Connie, would be donating clothing. The Greens aren't alone in that effort. Others like Mary Halsey, Mrs. Sarter and David Waymer plan to contribute clothing to the family.
Waymer, however, has become further involved with the Masons' difficulties. He has planned an inspection with building in-

spector Ed Woods to determine the magnitude of the repairs. Recently, Waymer treated the Mason children to a night out at Bojangles.
Another organization, the Boush D. Moore Sunday School Class of Greater Gettysburg AME Zion Church, where Dr. George E. Battle, Jr. is pastor, has also taken a humanitarian interest in the Masons. They are now in the process of getting a stove and a refrigerator for the family. Already, they have collected clothing and with the permission of Rev. Battle, Gettysburg is serving as a central collection site for donations.
Two weeks ago Mrs. Mason wouldn't have thought it possible that there would be a light at the end of her tunnel. Because of concerned citizens and organizations, her repair is turning to hope. More can be done. If you can lend a helping hand, contact The Post, 376-0426.

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Recovery Is Real Only For The Rich!

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
Is there really a recovery or is there really a depression? For the rich the recovery is real. For blacks, Hispanics, Native American Indians and poor whites, there is a depression. These conditions exist because of the Reagan Administration's economic and social policies coupled with a communitistic phobia, which benefits big corporations in the sale of military equipment.
The President gloats over statistics showing that unemployment has been reduced to 8.3 percent. These figures do not give a true picture. Part-time workers and those too discouraged to look for work, are not counted in these unemployment figures.
The National Urban League has recently issued a startling report on the "State of Black America." It says "The black and poor have been relegated to an out-of-sight, out-of-mind status in American life." Black unemployment remains around 18 percent, black teenagers, 49 percent - half of all black children are in below poverty level households. The report states that the social service programs are being cut, while poor people are being squeezed out of the job market. These people find mere survival almost impos-

sible, while the Administration and Congress are fattening the Pentagon budget far beyond any national security needs. John Jacobs, Executive Director of the National Urban League, said, "I see no sign that their situation is understood by either the Administration or by Congress. Instead there is a complacency that borders on the callous."
The Urban League considers the hunger problem in America as being played down as an excuse to promote block grant programs. The report continues, "block granting food and nutrition programs can only accelerate the spread of hunger and malnutrition in a nation that already should be ashamed of the scale of deprivation that exists."
Members of Congress are urged to bury the hunger task force report and initiate funded programs

that meet the needs of the poor.
Jacobs called the now Reagan-controlled Civil Rights Commission an "unholy alliance" with the Justice Department. William French Smith, the recently resigned Attorney General and his Justice Department, have declared war on all civil rights gains. As bad as Smith has been as Attorney General, newly appointed Attorney General Edwin Meese, is quite likely to wage a more intensive and extensive civil rights war.
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"If white workers had anywhere near the unemployment levels of blacks, we would be seeing a massive national job-creation effort," said Jacobs.
To move America towards its great potentials, the Urban League has issued a blueprint.

1. At the top of the list, since neither blacks or the white poor will continue to accept permanent depression (based on Representative Gus Hawkins Jobs Training Proposals), the League strongly emphasizes the need of this proposal which guarantees the unemployed, productive work and training skills necessary for holding jobs. There should be a joint venture between public and private sector for improving the infrastructure, which will provide many jobs and services.
2. A joint House-Senate bipartisan oversight committee over social services and human resources programs should be established.
3. The welfare system should be federalized through national funding.
4. The tax system should be modified so that families earning poverty-level incomes, no longer lose a significant portion of their earnings to income and payroll taxes.
5. There should be federal funding for prevention, vocational and health related initiatives that deal with teenage pregnancy.
6. The Justice Department should withdraw briefs opposing affirmative action cases that are before the Courts.

Careful Addressing Prevents Broken Hearts

If you want your valentines to be delivered on target and on time, you can help the Postal Service by addressing them properly, Postmaster Walter E. Crowe of the Charlotte Post Office said today.
"A return address should be the first address a person puts on an envelope," he said. "If there is a delivery problem, it will allow us to return the letter, card, or parcel to the sender."
Both the return address and mailing address should contain complete address information. This includes all of the following elements that apply:
-Name of recipient
-Street number or apartment number
-Rural route number and box number
-City name and number or post office box number

-City, state and -very important - ZIP Code.
Postmaster Crowe also urged use of: legible handwriting, a ball point pen (felt tips smudge easily) and correct postage (oversized cards require extra postage).
"Proper addressing is especially important around holidays such as Valentine's Day, when many people do not let their return address in order to momentarily surprise the recipient. But when the card or letter is undeliverable, the one who is surprised is the sender when he or she discovers it was not received," Crowe said.
National Urban League
The Urban League National Advertising Representative will be held Monday, February 13, in the Charlotte Post at 5 p.m.