

editorials & comments

Blacks In White News Rooms

With the founding of the Freedom's Journal in 1827, the black press had its historic beginning in America. By 1980 there were approximately 385 weekly and daily black-owned newspapers offering a black perspective to "all the news that's fit to print." These newspapers employ about 7,000 people and have a circulation of nearly 12 million. Included in this capsule history of the black newspaper is the 106-year history of The Charlotte Post.

When Bill Johnson purchased The Post in 1974 he said, "The Charlotte black community needs a voice that mirrors the opinions of the community. We want The Post to provide services which the daily papers do not offer." If anyone ever doubted the significance of Mr. Johnson's comment, a review of a recent study by the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) on minority employment will alert them to a new dimension of America's black visible man.

At the ASNE's recent convention, a report was released which indicated that minority employment in the nation's white newsrooms had increased from a mere 5.6 percent to 5.8 percent, or dismal 0.2 percent over the past year. Thus, of 50,000 journalists on America's 1,700 daily newspapers, about 1,500 are black, 650 are Hispanic, 430 are of African ancestry and 100 are American Indians. Therefore, while blacks and other minorities are playing a larger role in political, business and urban life, nearly all the nation's newspaper copy is written by white people. This means that little, if any, newspaper copy is written from the perspective of black people.

Black Journalist

Minority journalists argue, and we agree, that it is necessary to integrate the nation's newspapers simply to make them better newspapers. Ironically, as early as 1977 ASNE had resolved to make their staffs representative of the 20 percent non-white population by the year 2000. However, ASNE itself admits that goal ranges "somewhere between slim and none."

Whatever the reasons for the very few black journalists on the staffs of white newspapers - discrimination, apathy, supply and demand - it points out the

need for the black newspapers. For example, whether you agree or disagree with Jesse Jackson's bid for a Presidential nomination, and/or his platform on key issues, had most of the newspaper copy about him been written by black reporters the American people would have a somewhat different viewpoint of Mr. Jackson. This is most evident in the way the white press persistently denies that Jackson has any white support by what and the angle it takes pictures of people surrounding Jackson and by promoting the perception that he is running a racist political campaign.

Jackson's Appeal

Admittedly, Jackson frequently appeals, as in his most recent visit to Charlotte, for voter support of all local black candidates, would cause many to believe it's racially motivated.

In fact, such voter appeal is racially motivated, however, the white newspapers persistently fail to note that this arises in part because there are still far too many white voters who will not vote for any black candidate no matter how much experience he or she may have nor how competent. This was evident in Charlotte's most recent race for the mayor's office. Particularly considering his opponent, Harvey Gantt, by training, demonstrated skills, experience and a keen insight to the issues confronting the City of Charlotte, should have probably received 85 to 90 percent of all the votes cast. Among white voters he got only 40 percent. Obviously too since this was considered excellent white support by national comparisons, it still reflects the silent racial attitudes of many white voters toward black candidates.

Similarly, too many elements of white-oriented newspapers sought to deny Vanessa Williams a clear and competitive right to be the first Miss America who happens to be black. Such newspapers want to insist that she won only because it was time for a black to win. A writer from a black perspective would not, in most cases, have that kind of racially-oriented viewpoint.

Yes, the black-owned, black-oriented newspapers are and continue to be a vital part of the printed news business of America.

IT IS UP TO US, BLACKS WHO CARE ABOUT THE BLACK FUTURE, TO IMPOSE ORDER WHERE NONE EXISTS TODAY.



WE HAVE TO DO IT BECAUSE WE CANNOT ASK OUR OLD PEOPLE TO SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES PASSING THROUGH A GAUNTLET OF MUGGERS.

JUDE CHINIS
NY MAGAZINE

Letters To The Editor:



Optometrists Suffer Grave Injustice

May 16, 1984

Mr. Bill Johnson
The Charlotte Post
Publishing Company
P.O. Box 30144
Charlotte, N.C. 28230

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I have been an ardent supporter of your paper since my arrival here in Charlotte and by and large, I have been impressed with the way you disseminate vital information to the community. On Thursday, May 3, 1984, however, you erred in your article on eye care practitioners.

You have done the optometrists of this community a grave injustice. The information that you reported obviously came from an ophthalmological society who used requirements for an optometrist dating at least 60 years ago. Doctors of Optometry are health professionals who specialize in the examination, diagnosis and treatment of conditions or impairments of the visual system.

Specifically educated, clinically trained and state licensed to examine the eye and related structures to detect the presence or absence of vision problems, eye diseases and other abnormalities, optometrists are the major providers of vision care in America. They provide treatment by prescribing ophthalmic or contact lenses or other optical aids, treatment of eye diseases, and

by providing vision therapy when indicated to preserve or restore maximum efficiency of vision.

By gathering information and thoroughly evaluating the internal and external structure of the eyes, optometrists detect and diagnose signs of systemic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and arteriosclerosis and eye diseases such as glaucoma and cataracts.

Doctors of Optometry are the only providers of vision care, who through their classroom and clinical education, are thoroughly trained in all aspects of vision science and optics. Among other things, a four year degree program in optometry includes comprehensive training in ocular anatomy; neuroanatomy and neurophysiology of the visual system; ocular myology; color, form space movement and visual performance and visual screening.

Since doctors of optometry are members of the primary general health care team, their professional education also includes such subjects as biochemistry; cytology; human anatomy; endocrinology; microbiology; general pathology; sensory and perceptual psychology; biostatistics; statistics and epidemiology.

Today, over 76 percent of all students admitted to optometry schools have four or more years of un-

dergraduate education prior to entering optometry school. This compares favorably with the other independent health professions.

The role of the optometrist as a provider of primary care has increased steadily in importance in recent years. An explanation of primary, secondary and tertiary levels of health care is offered in a 1976 report written by the U.S. Public Health Service. Defining "primary care" as "diagnosis and care of the ambulant patient" and "that care rendered at the patient's first point of contact with a wide variety of services", optometry is listed along with general physicians, such as general practitioners. Although ophthalmologists do provide primary care services, the secondary level enables them to function at their level of skill and training.

The optometrist is often the first point of contact for patients in the health care system. About nine out of ten of the patients who need vision care require services which are within the scope of optometry. Less than 10 percent of the population with vision care require surgery that must be provided by ophthalmologists as is indicated by the National Center for Health Statistics Survey of Ophthalmologists.

Thank you for your attention.
Paula R. Newsome, O.D.

From Capitol Hill

U.S. Peace Proposals Are Unfair?

Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
Representatives Patricia Schroeder and Mary Oaker, recently visited Russia, having been invited by the Supreme Soviets, and equivalent of our Congress. They returned convinced that the Russian citizens want peace, and that further fair negotiations should be undertaken.

These women learned that the Russians feel the U.S. peace proposals are unfair, since the weapons reduction only call for limitation on the U.S. and Russian deployment in Europe with no limit being placed on French and English weapons.

The Soviets consider this a one-sided policy. This is the reason they walked out of the Geneva conference. The Soviets are very anxious to resume the space talks which the U.S. walked out of. The Russians feel that President Reagan will be reelected and that he will continue his present policy, with even tougher stands taken during his next term.

The Soviets are very unhappy about President Reagan's failure to attend the funerals of Brezhnev and Andropov. There seems to be a slight resurgence of the Russian women's concern that began in 1942. They organized to combat fascist expansion, initiated by



Alfreda L. Madison

Hitler. Aid around the world was sought by them, but only Mrs. Roosevelt responded. They celebrated her 100th birthday. Schroeder and Oaker found that the Russian women now have a women's council headed by the Russian woman astronaut. This marks the small beginning of the Russian Women's assertiveness. These American representatives noted that American women are denied equality, but the difference is that Americans are free to organize, protest and speak out, while Russians are denied that freedom.

Russian women are interested in a peace movement. Their idea of national security is in direct contrast to methods advocated by our Administration. While we feel that an enormous military build-up is necessary, the Russian women stress education and job training as national

security measures.

When questioned about communist expansion, the Russians fired back about U.S. Central American involvement. They noted that they have no interest in communist expansion in that region, but that they are only giving aid. On human rights when asked, how can Americans talk about human rights, with the U.S. treatment of the Indians, Blacks and other minorities?

Representatives Oaker and Schroeder reported that there is competition between the United States and the Soviets, but the Soviets' question is can it be through nuclear weapons? They are concerned about spending money on education and a race in research for cancer, heart ailment and other disease cures. The Soviets are concerned about their economic conditions. They are spending money for developing gas and oil in Siberia, while limiting defense spending. The Soviets are spending a greater percentage of their GNP for agriculture than the United States.

The Russians made it known about their great concern over President Reagan's visit to China. They feel this is an attempt by this Administration to drive the Russians and Chinese further apart. Especially, at this time when reconciliation seems

to be developing between the two countries. The Soviets are particularly bothered about Mr. Reagan's nuclear Chinese proposal.

Oaker and Schroeder reported that the Russians believe the U.S. Middle-East policy is unfair. They are concerned about the Israeli tilt, with little or no concern for fairness to the Palestinians.

The Russian population is changing. The European Russians are beginning to become outnumbered by the Moslems.

The Russians do not suffer from physical needs as some Americans experience, because everyone is provided food, shelter and clothing. However, these are not elaborate, but very crude.

These Congresswomen said that while the Russians do not experience physical starvation, they suffer from intellectual starvation. They know very little about the political affairs of their country. Their news is highly censored and the average citizens are prevented from speaking out and protesting, as Americans have the privilege to do.

Schroeder and Oaker state that crime is not as great in Russia as it is in this country. Women have no fear of walking the streets alone any time during the night.

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON



New Mothers: Older, Richer, Better Educated

Today's mommy is older, more financially secure and better educated. That is the conclusion that the United States Census Bureau has found. More women are having children after the age of 30 and these women hold more professional jobs than their counterparts in the 20's. Increased fertility for women in their 30's parallels with the current stability in child-bearing for younger women giving way to the attitude of waiting to have children. The Bureau found that women are choosing to finish their education, obtain a career, build it and incorporate marriage and children as part of total fulfillment - before it is "too late."

Women between the ages of 30 to 34 averaged 13.8 percent first births per 1,000 in 1981, up 1.0 percent from 1980. First births for women 35 to 39 rose to 5.2 percent per 1,000 from a low of 3.6 percent. The studies show that a substantial amount of time does pass from completing education to child bearing.

The study showed that women 30 to 44, 40 percent of those who had children in 1983 were employed, while women 18 to 29 showed only 33 percent with children were employed outside the home.

The 30's are the prime time for women to bear children because they are still in a relatively safe period - with the chance of medical problems being low. The probability of medical problems increase as the woman reaches 35 and above. Women in the 30 to 35 age group were the only portion of the population studied to show a substantial increase in overall births between 1980 to 1983.

Births to these women increased 15 percent from 60 per 1,000 to 69.1 per 1,000. Births for women between the ages of 25 to 29 revealed a much smaller increase which was not statistically significant at this point in time. The birth rates for other age groups proved to be consistent during 1980 to 1983.

Income levels seem to play an important part in this picture. Of those mothers studied under the age of 30, 45 percent reside in families with income levels of less than \$15,000, compared with 27 percent of those over 30 years of age. A mere 10 percent of those younger mothers reside in families with income levels of more than \$35,000, compared to one-fourth of older mothers. The Census Bureau also found that 34 percent of working mothers over 30 hold managerial or professional jobs, double the percentage of those under the age of 30.

Generally speaking fertility of American women ages 18 to 44 is fairly stable - 71.1 births per 1,000 in 1980, and 73.2 births per 1,000 in 1983. The 1983 study found 1,000 women anticipated 2,079 births during their lifetimes, which is not substantially different from 2,059 births anticipated in 1980. However, the contrast shows a down swing from 2,160 births per 1,000 in 1976. The trend being approximately 2.1 children per woman, compared with 2.6 in 1971 and 3.1 in 1967.

The overall study proves that American women are seeking options in their lives. No longer does the stereotypical scene stand-highschool-marriage-children. Today's mommy is choosing to become a mommy later or not at all. Personal and career goals are the order of the day. Given marriage and child birth maybe considered personal goals, they are not priority goals.

Women are exercising the desire to achieve; achieve educationally, financially and personally. Women have realized that accepting the second best is not the key to happiness, they realize that first place takes time, commitment and only cost 10 percent more than second class.

A message to the husbands and mates of these women, is it not more interesting to have a companion that has a life and mind of her own than to have a companion that talks of diaper rash and back aches? You choose your course. Why can not your mate? A thought to ponder.

Health Care Improvement

Continued From Page 1A
people. The state must support these services.

"We must also work with our rural counties to help them establish the clinics they need to provide proper medical care. Maintaining the financial stability and the quality of our hospitals is also essential to assure that we have both quality and accessible health care.

"As Governor, I can pledge to you that the quality of life of every North Carolinian will be of



Eddie Knox
Governatorial candidate
prime importance to the Knox Administration.

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