

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Beyond Immorality

Some 56,697 children were reportedly sexually abused in 1982, mostly by parents, step-parents and relatives, according to the American Humane Association. Others accused of such molestations include day care workers, babysitters, YWCA workers, and public school teachers and administrators.

In spite of the sexually explicit lesbian pictures appearing in Penthouse magazine that led to the dethroning of Miss America 1984, Vanessa Williams, Miss Williams, or more accurately her behavior, made her the final judge for Miss America 1985. The new Miss America, Sharlene Wells, the 20 year old daughter of a Mormon Church leader, does not smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, gamble nor believe in premarital sex, abortions or the Equal Rights Amendment. Miss Wells said, "I have no 'skeletons' in the closet," and "I guess they (judges) were looking for somebody like me." Some of the other contestants felt the pageant was so preoccupied with its image that they were not fairly judged on the pageant's criteria.

Thousands of elderly citizens are the targets of sleazy con men and two-bit hustlers who are victimizing older Americans out of their savings, insurance money, home repair overcharges, purse-snatching and numerous other swindles.

A disturbing number of Americans have too often imposed their own religious values and beliefs or opposed the beliefs of candidates for public office based on bigotry, denomination and the narrow rigid application of selected Bible scripture or doctrine.

Over 50 percent of all the black babies born in America since 1980 have been born out of wedlock and over half of all black children live in homes with a single parent.

Each of these comments on our level of morality appears to indicate that we are becoming a sex-obsessed society, an abuser of our children, a prey on our elderly, and a

debaser of our politics with religion and our religion with politics.

When a nation's adults use its children to satisfy its own selfish sexual passions, is eager to spend thousands of dollars to see nude sexually explicit photos, victimizes its elderly and debases its politics with religion and its religion with politics it is past time to shift gears to reassess our sense of morality, values and ethics.

These issues are critical moral and social issues that must be dealt with now. Just think, these 56,597 sexually abused children will grow into adulthood emotionally and psychologically scarred unknowing how their childhood experiences will affect their level of maturity.

In addition, babies born out of wedlock, often to young, immature mothers, growing up in single parent homes are starting life with a major handicap, thus they too will reach adulthood with emotional and psychological scars that will undoubtedly affect their level of maturity.

Thirdly, with a growing elderly population we must take some positive action to protect these older citizens to reduce the exploitation and fear that they face even in their own homes. We cannot consider ourselves a free and democratic society if our elderly loved ones cannot experience a sense of safety, security and happiness in their declining years.

Finally, the manner in which religion is taken, or more significantly, God's Word to support or justify a particular political philosophy or political Party is the ultimate show of disrespect for our Maker. Let us be ever mindful that while our religious values and sense of morality should be an influencing force in our political and other secular life decisions, we should not assume that God is, for example, a Republican or a Democrat. God loves us all, Republicans, Democrats, Independents and all those in between.

Maintaining The Free Press

In recent years a growing number of newspapers have had to discontinue their businesses because of declining advertising sales and presumably declining readership.

Underlying these losses to our free press is in part a misunderstanding by too many newspaper readers-subscribers as to the economics and business side of a newspaper. In television, the money used to pay for commercial time underwrites the cost of your favorite TV show. Likewise, the advertisements in a newspaper pay for the cost of the paper itself, the printing, personnel and the distribution costs, insurance, rent and related business costs.

It means, too, that a newspaper's management leadership must judge the amount

if its news copy versus its advertising space, keeping in mind that the latter pays for the former. Thus column inch space in a newspaper is costly, the more that is used for news information the less that is used for advertisement revenue and likewise.

It is for this reason that newspapers edit their news stories to assure adequate, factual and informative news information while being aware of the importance of needed space for the advertisement revenue dollars. Equally important for newspaper readers to understand is that the price of a typical daily or weekly newspaper is a very small percent of the income received when compared with the paper's overall operating expenses.

Just as there are no free lunches, there is no free space in a newspaper.

From Capitol Hill

President Reagan Is Running On Hidden Record!

By Alfreda Madison
Special To The Post

President Reagan is running hard on a hidden record. Women and minorities make up a large voting constituency in this nation, so this Administration is attempting to keep its unfair discrimination employment record under cover, at least until after the election.

The House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities recently issued its analysis report on the State of Affirmative Action in the Federal Government 1980-1983. The facts are startling.

The report analyzes affirmative action practices in 45 Federal agencies for the period of three years. It was found that minorities and women suffered disproportionately from government-wide reductions-in-force (RIF) in 1983. Of the 6,170 Federal employees affected by RIFs, 35.9 percent were women and 38.7 percent were minorities. It was reported that the higher the rank, the smaller the proportion of minorities and vice versa. Despite affirmative action goals and legislative mandates, the minority status in the Federal workforce in 1983 is little improved over 1979. Although women constituted nearly half of the total GS workforce, they continued to be clustered in the lower salary grades.

Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act adopted anti-discrimination policy to protect private sector employees. In 1972 the Equal Employment Opportunity Act added Section 717 to Title VII to extend the anti-discrimination coverage to federal employees.

The Reagan Administration reduced the Federal workforce be-

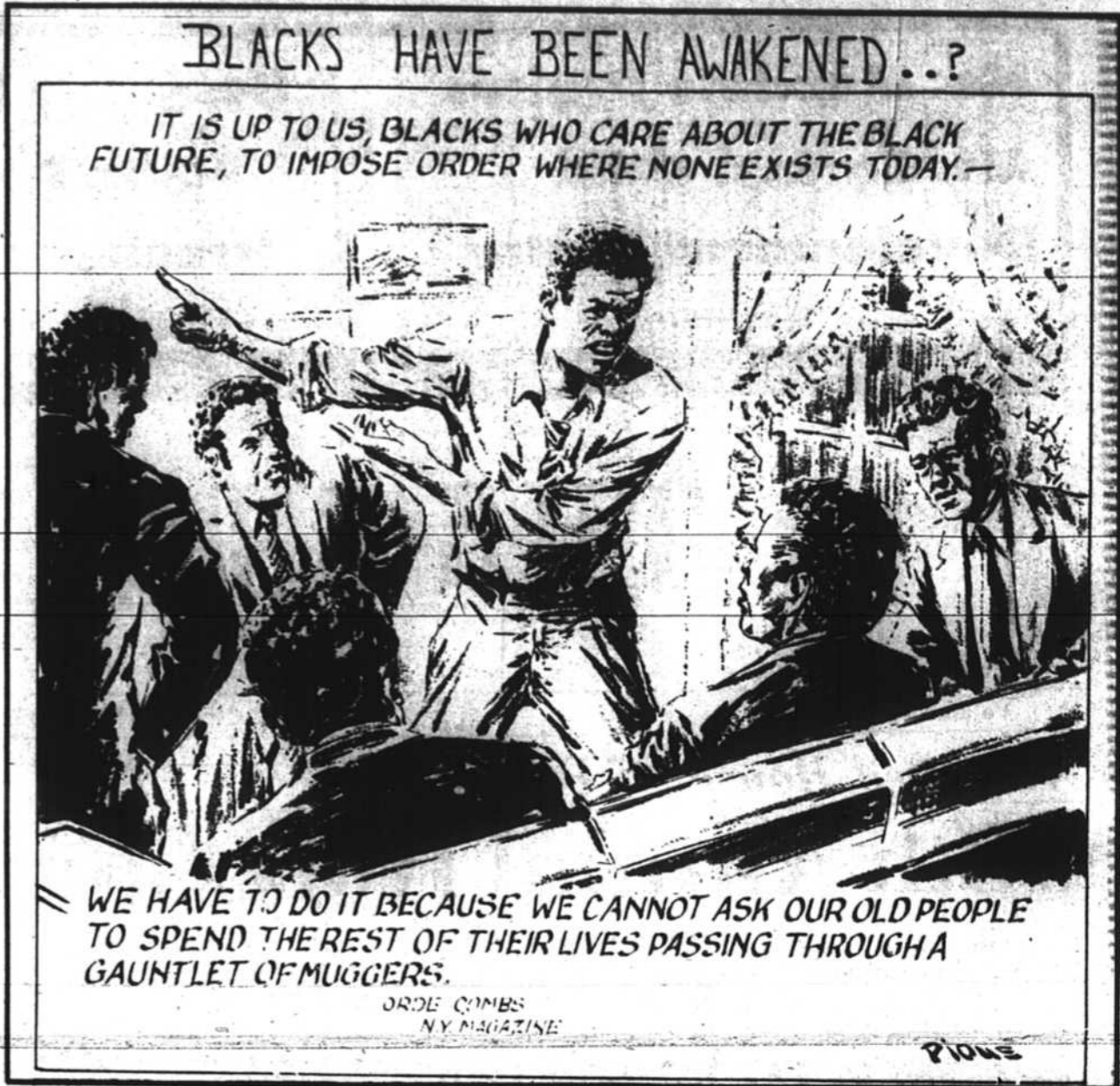


Alfreda L. Madison

tween 1980-1981, but increased it by one percent in 1982-1983 with the largest increase occurring in agencies dealing with national defense and international relations. The Administration cut growth by RIFs affecting thousands of government workers through downgrades, lateral reassignments or forced retirements or separations.

While the Defense Department increased its workforce by three percent, women and minorities are disproportionately concentrated in the lower level jobs - below GS-8. The agency reported a 25 percent increase in the upward mobility program has resulted in some progress for these target groups in the mid-levels GS 9-12. There was little or no improvement made in GS-13 grades and above.

Severe patterns of discrimination were found in all Armed Services related agencies. It was revealed that 66 percent of all minorities employed by the Air Force were concentrated in the lower-paying grades and 80 percent of all women occupied the lowest



U.S.-Vatican Diplomatic Relations?

By Sabrina Johnson

On Wednesday, September 19, a coalition of Baptists, Presbyterians, Unitarians, Evangelicals and members of other religious groups filed suit in U.S. District Court seeking a ban on U.S. diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

The formal complaints contend that the government is establishing formal ties with the Vatican that have enhanced the ability of the Catholic Church to compete within the religious marketplace.

The plaintiffs explain that the Reagan administration has violated constitutional prohibitions against the mingling of church and state by spending tax money to send an ambassador to the Vatican. In excess of \$350,000 has been given to William A. Wilson to act as the U.S. ambassador and to cover salary and expenses. The White House has declined to give any comment to the suit or about Wilson as a Vatican ambassador.

It was in January of this year that the administration announced it would seek full diplomatic relations with the Holy See, the government of Vatican City, and that Wilson



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would be appointed ambassador. Keep in mind that no formal diplomatic ties had existed since 1867 - when Federal Statute banned such actions. President Reagan urged congress to repeal the ban, which they did, in November, 1983.

The coalition of plaintiffs has asked for an injunction prohibiting Wilson from performing any ambassadorial functions and forbidding the spending of government funds to support his post.

Basically speaking, the law suit accuses the administration of showing preference to one religious denomination over all others. It

also argues that the new-found diplomatic relationships with the Vatican will effect the advancing of one religion, thus inhibiting

all others. The relationship creates the potential for excessive church-state entanglement and provides the means whereby the federal government can openly or secretly participate in the affairs of one specific religious organization.

Who are the people fighting so hard against the relationship? They include:

1. Americans United For Separation of Church and State;
2. The Unitarian Universalist Association;
3. The United Presbyterian Church;
4. American Baptist Churches;
5. Church of the Brethren;
6. The National Council of Christ in the U.S.;
7. The Presbyterian Church of the U.S.; and
8. A Catholic group called The National Coalition of American Nuns.

The Jews have not, as of yet, spoken out against the relations but are expected to formally complain also.

The location in which the suit was filed is Philadelphia as being the birthplace of Democracy.

The named defendants in the law suit are President Reagan, Ambassador Wilson, the U.S. Government, Secretary of State George B. Schultz, and Secretary of the Treasury, Donald P. Regan.

Formal relationships between the state and one church is improper in a nation where the principle of the separation of church and state has been written in constitutional law and in the souls of Americans. This act can be conceived as being callous because it disregards what the founding of this country is based upon. The colonists left England to seek religious and social freedom. This act seems to be pointing towards one religion and that religion will be the "official" one of the United States. The Catholic religion is not supreme nor inferior to any religion, but such a relationship between the United States and Vatican City can implement it as being the government's religion; thus giving them undue power in persuasion.

Basically speaking there is nothing truly wrong with the government seeking diplomatic relations with the Vatican. But if it's going along that route then diplomatic relations must be formed with all major religious leaders home and abroad. It seems to be an all or nothing situation: either recognize all religious leaders or recognize none.

Poetry Seminar

A poetry and painting seminar is scheduled for Saturday, September 29, and Sunday, September 30.

This seminar is being sponsored by Reynolds House Museum of American Art and Delta Arts Center, 1311 E. Third St.

The work of Lois Mailou Jones and the poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks will be on hand for the public.

Both artists will be present to share with the public the work that has given them national acclaim.

For the schedule of each artist, call 725-5325 for more information. The public is cordially invited.

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