



# EDITORIALS

## Recipe For "A Happy New Year!"

It has become almost a compelling ritual this time of year for journalists to review the past year's major events and to suggest that its readers should make New Year resolutions to help assure a truly Happy New Year. In departing from this tradition, we would say simply that 1984 was a year characterized by Americans deciding to feel good about themselves. Three events personify this feeling - not one but two "Miss Americas" who happened to be black; USA's success in the Summer Olympic Games; and, a President who rode to reelection by convincing most people to resurface their pride in America because prosperity had been returned to all (well, not quite everyone).

On the question of New Year resolutions, we would suggest that the ritualistic manner in which such self-promises are made that they be foregone for 1985. While such resolutions can be useful in reevaluating our lives and establishing new priorities or goals, too many of us get on a guilt trip after we make no real attempt to abide by ill-conceived piously made resolutions.

In order to avoid the annual guilt trip, we might consider, in the words of Ann Landers that, "Just for today, I will have a program. I might not follow it exactly, but I will have it," as a guide, as something to work toward without a sense of guilt if not achieved.

We think your non-binding but achievable "program" for 1985 should embrace the two true keys to a Happy New Year - good health and peace of mind. First, a holiday message from the American Council on Science and Health suggests some "Do's" and "Don'ts" that will contribute to life-long happiness far beyond the year 1985. In summary, the Council says DON'T: smoke, mix alcoholic drinking and driving, drink alcoholic beverages to excess, and don't become obese. DO: exercise regularly but cautiously, have regular blood pressure check-ups, use auto seat belts, have a working smoke detector in your

place of residence, and be cautiously knowledgeable in the use of health information and health consumer products.

This basic program to maintain and/or achieve reasonably good health will, for most people, provide a rational basis for positive thinking. Such thinking should focus on the "Recipe for a Happy New Year" as printed on a brochure many years ago. It says, in part:

"Take 12 fine full months (1985) - see that they are thoroughly free from all old memories (1984) of bitterness, rancor, hate, and jealousy. Cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past....

"Into each day put 12 parts faith, 11 of patience, 10 of courage, nine of work, eight of hope, seven of loyalty, six of liberality, five of kindness, four of rest, three of prayer, two of meditation, and one well-selected resolution. To this add a dash of fun, a sprinkle of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

"Pour into the whole mixture love and kindness, and mix with a vim. Cook thoroughly with fervent heart, garnish with smiles and a sprig of joy, then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness, and A Happy New Year is certainty."

From a human standpoint, from an "I am my brother's keeper" viewpoint, this is an appropriate recipe for happiness in 1985 or any other year from which we can gain much. However, this recipe is and of itself not achievable by individuals. What is missing or what is needed is a sprinkling of the infinite wisdom of Jesus Christ. Think for a moment and you realize that each New Year is preceded by a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ - Almighty God who came to this earth in human form so that we might have the opportunity to witness the birth of each new year.

Happy health, happy peace of mind, Happy New Year to you and yours in 1985.

## Apartheid? Why Not More Opposition!

The movement by American blacks and many white "liberals" against the white South African government's apartheid policies - racial segregation and the complete denial of voting rights to blacks - was enhanced by unexpected support from 35 conservative Republican members of Congress. The focus of this protest has been on demonstrations in front of the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Public opinion in America appears to have shifted from one of South Africa's racist policies not being right to a stronger feeling that they are outright wrong. The demonstrations at the S.A. Embassy begun on November 21, 1984, have been given credit for this population shift.

However, considering the conservative drift of America, leaders of the demonstrations and, indeed the general American black leadership, has been getting strong criticism from the conservative press. Journalists such as William F. Buckley and

Joseph Sobran have alleged that black Americans are only opposed to the oppression of blacks if the oppressors are white as in the case of South Africa.

However, in other parts of Africa - Nigeria, Hutu in Burunda, Uganda under Idi Amin and other places literally thousands have died due to oppression by black leaders or starvation in part due to corrupt government officials, again black. This has occurred over a 20-year period without a single person on a picket line in front of embassies protesting.

Patrick Buchanan goes so far as to say that "South Africa is being targeted because it is an island of the West." That is, a non-communist nation. The point here is to taint and thus discredit the protests against South Africa as a communist conspiracy. Obviously this latter allegation is the figure of Buchanan's imagination and nothing more.

### From Capitol Hill

## President Reagan's New Federalism Is Unworkable

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

Tunica, Mississippi, is a prime example that President Reagan's New Federalism won't work. It is only a revival of the old states rights policy.

The National Association of Health Services (NAHS) charges that Tunica, Mississippi, has received more than a million dollars in federal money for neighborhood development but it hasn't spent one dime in the worst area of town. The population of Tunica is 9,644 of which 7,050 are black. The median income for a black family is less than half that of blacks nationwide, and is scarcely more than a third the income level of the average U.S. resident. The AFDC Program of \$31.44 is the lowest in the country. Nearly all black residents of the town of Tunica live on Monroe Alley, known as Sugar Ditch Alley. Clustered in this alley are fifty some dilapidated homes. These are located behind the solid brick structures of the town's downtown businesses. The Main Street merchants collect between \$35 and \$65 per month in rentals from these tenants. Provisions and other merchandise are available to tenants if their rent is current.

The average "Sugar Ditch" home is the size of a single-car garage, and lacks electricity, as well as indoor running water and toilet facilities. A very few of these families have access to outdoor "privies." Therefore, scores of families deposit raw human waste products into "Sugar Ditch," which is 20 feet by 10 feet. It has served this purpose for as long as any town resident can remember. This human waste contamination causes children to suffer from



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persistent and perplexing fevers, and other symptoms commonly associated with types of parasitic and bacteriological infections. The most serious of disease symptoms go undiagnosed, untreated and unreported to local and state public health officials. Infant mortality rate greatly outstrips that of any U.S. born babies.

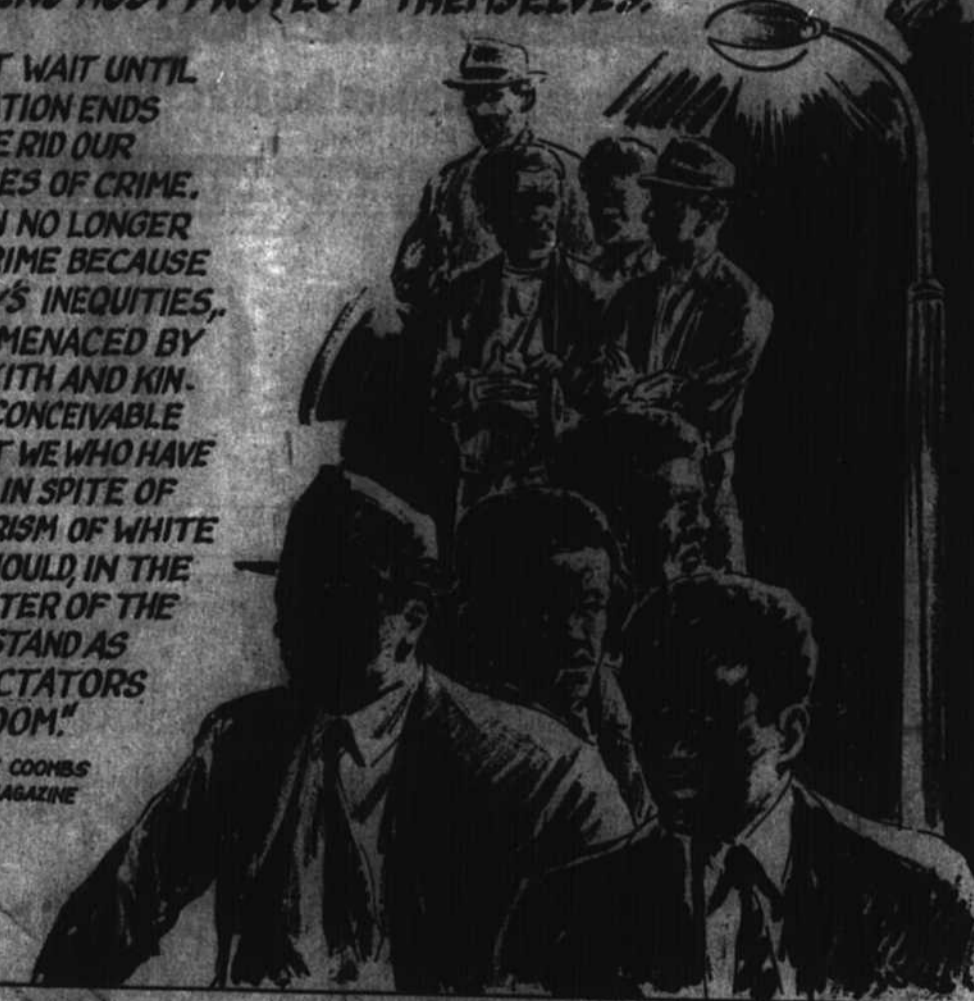
The town of Tunica has received \$660,000 in federal funds and town officials have indicated that they have no plans to apply any of these federal funds to rehabilitation of Sugar Ditch housing or to alleviate the health conditions. The town's present plans call for using the federal and other funds for beautification of the downtown business district. These plans include erecting a barrier so that passerby cannot see the poverty of "Sugar Ditch Alley."

Medical care is severely limited for county residents, particularly for black residents. There are three general practitioners for the 10,000 citizens of the county (no specialists). The area meets Health and Human Service definition for a medically underserved area. Due to

**'IF THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PROTECT US AND IF THE POLICE CANNOT, IT FOLLOWS THAT BLACK CITIZENS MUST PROTECT THEMSELVES.'**

**'WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL DISCRIMINATION ENDS BEFORE WE RID OUR COMMUNITIES OF CRIME. WE CAN NO LONGER EXCUSE CRIME BECAUSE OF SOCIETY'S INEQUITIES. WE STAND MENACED BY OUR OWN KITH AND KIN. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT WE WHO HAVE PREVAILED IN SPITE OF THE BARBARISM OF WHITE PEOPLE SHOULD, IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE CENTURY, STAND AS MUTE SPECTATORS TO OUR DOOM.'**

ORDE COOMBS  
N.Y. MAGAZINE



## Resolution: Stronger Family Life!

Sabrina's Scope column will return next week.

By Elizabeth Hood  
Special To The Post

Reviewing the gone-for-ever 12 months and resolving to do better in the New Year, traditional mental exercises produce double side effects. The guilt trips and failures stack up beside a clean slate of promises and new commitments. For Blacks, the old year-in-review offers some clear suggestions for making resolutions with real potential for charting a better life for the group as a whole.

The national political scene acted out in 1984 spoke powerfully to Blacks. One of its clearest messages was that sex differences in voting behavior were less important than race, earning power and stable family life.

Results of voting patterns gathered from a New York CBS News Poll (New York Times, Dec. 16) showed clearly that the majority of married men and women of all age groups, tended to favor Ronald Reagan's platform because they felt it addressed issues close to their own values and lifestyles. They wanted to



Sabrina Johnson

deal with how to educate their children, means of providing medical care for family members and decent housing at affordable costs.

The "marriage gap" as a factor in voting is critical to the future of young Blacks because it focuses upon the reality of the attitudes and values supported by White, middle America. This group tends to view the Democratic Party as a political force encouraging dependence upon federally-funded social programs. In their thinking, the poor, single women, and members of the gay community benefit most from these provisions. The high percentage of poor, single-parent Black families reinforces the narrow perspective held by White

families struggling to survive on modest incomes.

This narrow perspective too often reflects a blindness to forces working against stable family life among Blacks. It does not see poor, unemployed teenage Blacks becoming poor, unemployed adults requiring social benefits for continued existence. Neither does it acknowledge the powerful strain poverty exerts on marriage and child-rearing in a society granting every adult the option of separation or divorce.

Regardless of the nearsighted opinions of White middle America, Black individuals and organizations have seen their power as a political force. At the same time, they now have enough information to make clearer judgments about their major opponents. That is, the higher the income, the more conservative people are likely to become because they sense themselves as having more to conserve. By this reasoning, political candidates will be judged on what they offer towards maintaining voter interests and gains.

Because there is more than enough evidence to link economic success in the U.S. with two-parent families, Blacks need to resolve in 1985 to strengthen Black family life. The strengthening process begins with educating Black children to become effective workers and to value family life as a source of both physical and social survival.

Effective workers develop from the type of teaching in home and school which stresses early focus upon career goals, setting high performance standards, developing skills in time management, adjustment to competition in the workplace, accepting responsibility, taking initiative and building respectable track records.

Young Black adults characterized as effective workers will have much to conserve. While demanding assistance for the less fortunate among their group, they are likely to continue conserving their gains, passing them on from one generation to another.

In recounting the blessings experienced during the past year and in assessing individual shortcomings for that period, Blacks should resolve to reduce the deadening effects of perhaps their more serious problem - poor Black families passing bleak life chances to children.

Memphis hospital. The delivery was with accomplishments. A minor who was obviously in labor with a letter from local welfare authorities confirming her eligibility for Medicaid, was turned away because she was told that she had to pay \$450 preadmission deposit. The girl, accompanied by her mother, contacted the local welfare director who telephoned the hospital and the girl was admitted. The doctor requested an ambulance immediately at 10:30 for a black woman who was seriously ill, the ambulance arrived at 12:30, even though the hospital was only a half mile away. No explanation was given for the lateness of the ambulance. The woman was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital.

There is need for an in-depth and on-site investigation to determine whether the hospital's operations and practices are in line with the dictates of federal laws. If the hospital is found to be in non-compliance with the applicable federal laws, Congress should continue oversight of the hospital to ensure that the letter and the spirit of federal laws are being adhered to.

Mayors have a perfect right to complain about President Reagan's New Federalism, because it gives states the right to use federal funds in any manner they desire. Strict guidelines must be set up and vigorously enforced in all of the block grant categories.

### Winter Classes

YWCA Winter Term classes begin January 7 and will run through March 17. Interested persons can register at either the Uptown or Park Road Center.

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