



# EDITORIALS

## Challenge To King's Legacy

On Tuesday, much of the nation paused to pay their respect to the memory of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for his momentous impact on the American consciousness and the resulting demise of legal

segregation and discrimination. While injustice has not yet disappeared in the 17 years since Dr. King's death, his non-violent leadership has moved America much closer to fulfilling its true purpose, that is, justice and equal opportunity for all.

As we all know, Dr. King was the nation's spiritual leader who set in motion actions that moved 20 million disenfranchised black Americans across the threshold a few steps into the land of self-respect, justice and equality.

Ironically, in 1985, there has emerged a core of zealots who insist that Ronald Reagan's landslide political victory last November was somehow more than a mandate to promote certain government policies, values and programs consistent with his campaign rhetoric. Meg Greenfield wrote in NEWSWEEK that, "...you hear the impressive Reagan majority (57 million votes to Mondale's 37 million) being referred to not as an impressive majority, but rather, in a breathtakingly immodest leap, as the whole nation: 'the American people.'" Significantly, the 37 million people who voted for Mr. Mondale, and those who

voted for Reagan may now disagree with some of his policies, an apparent growing number of people, are being viewed by the zealots as totally wrong and "out of touch with the American people" - as if they themselves are something other than Americans.

Implied in this kind of narrow-minded thinking is an apparent attitude of disenfranchisement for those out of touch with the "real" Americans. This kind of thinking, too, could be aimed primarily at black people because of the overwhelming voter support that they gave to Mr. Reagan's

opponent in the November election. Thus, the justifiable things that Martin Luther King Jr. fought and gave his life for may be threatened not so much based on racial differences. But more the mere act of disagreeing with the majority along with many white voters.

Any embracing of the zealots' viewpoint by the Reagan Administration could set a dangerous precedent and crack the foundation of our democratic society. The right to dissent and the right to have minority opinion does not make anyone less an American with a right to expect consideration in national, state or local policy issue decisions. This is and has historically been the American way. To suggest any change in this democratic tradition is to threaten the freedom and welfare of us all.

## Drugs And Our Athletes

David Thompson, the highly talented athlete and North Carolinian, who led the N.C. State basketball team to victory over then powerful UCLA in the 1972 NCAA Championship, is finished as an NBA basketball player at the relatively young age of 30. Phil Ford, another North Carolina young man of great basketball talent who at only 28, is also at the end of his basketball career in the NBA.

Recently, John Lucas, a rookie sensation in 1979 was waived by the Houston Rockets when he failed a urinalysis test for cocaine, an all too familiar story about big time American sports and its undermining of basic life values. Likewise, David Thompson's demise was drug related and Phil Ford reportedly had an alcoholic problem.

In a four-part series on drugs in sports, Peter Richmond makes the disturbing observation that "the next generation of professional athletes is abusing drugs and alcohol at an unprecedented rate in high school and college." Mr. Richmond's comment is supported by a preliminary report of the NCAA's national drug use study which said that 31 percent of 2,048 athletes at 11 schools had used anti-inflammatory drugs at least once in the last 12 months. Sixteen percent said they had been frequent users of such drugs. The report noted other incidents in the use of drugs by college athletes ranging from 12 percent who had used cocaine in the past 12 months,

to 27 percent using marijuana, 11 percent using major pain-killer medications which includes narcotics, and 82 percent who used some alcohol.

While each athlete, like any other adult, has or should have a set of values and moral principles to live by and, therefore, is partly responsible for his or her decision to accept and use drugs for any reason, the major cause of the problem is the excessive pressure placed on athletic coaches at both the college and professional levels to win at almost any cost. Likewise, the athlete, fearful of losing his scholarship or his paycheck, too often submits to the indiscriminate use of drugs to reduce pain in order to keep playing in the game.

Therefore, all the enforcement rules and security and medical checks on athletes by the NCAA and the professional leagues won't do any good until our values about athletic competition and the "winning is the only thing" mentality have been thoroughly reassessed and placed in proper perspective.

Let us begin to place competitive sports in its proper place among the needs and values of our nation and stop exploiting both coaches and athletes, too many of whom happen to be black, in the quest for money and fame for all concerned. If money and fame and reason be damned is a cornerstone of American values, then our nation will surely suffer in fate of the fall of the Roman Empire.

THIRD MONDAY IN JANUARY  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY



## The Still Unfinished Dream

Sabrina's column, "Scope" will return to this space next week.

The observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on January 15 recalled more than a hero's dream of an America liberated from racial and economic oppression. In 1985, it is a moment of truth for the people of this country, so eloquently stated by the white historian, Louis C. Harlan, "We live in an altered society, but not a transformed one. Of that much I'm sure. Blacks are still subjugated. We are still a black people and a white people in a state of confrontation."

Dr. Harlan is right on all counts. American society has changed substantially since 1963 to reflect some glorious achievements among blacks. The percentage of the group moving into the "gainfully employed middle-class" has been impressive. While still underrepresented on Wall Street, and in leadership positions in major businesses and corporations, the black presence impacts strongly upon decisions made in those sectors as a



Sabrina

result of the group's power as consumers.

Black political influence is powerful in geographic areas with large black populations. As chief executive officers, they preside over Washington, D.C., Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Charlotte, and in many more cities. In the last two decades, the percentage of black elected officials in the U.S. has increased by 50 percent. While this gain represents only one percent of the total number of elected officials in the country, it demonstrates progress in measurable terms. Still without a voice in

the U.S. Senate, blacks now make up roughly five percent of the delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In the halls of the great institutions of higher education in the U.S., blacks make outstanding contributions as scholars and researchers. While proportionately low in numbers, blacks have even penetrated the hallowed halls of large Southern white universities. To list a few of the breakthroughs, they hold academic chairs at Wake Forest, Duke, Vanderbilt, Emory and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

As students, blacks in large numbers qualify on admissions tests and on measures of personal attributes for admission to both black colleges and others throughout the country. Their representation in professional schools, including medicine, dentistry and law, has increased steadily since the 1960s. Black students are also meeting the challenges demanded by the high-technology explosion in employment. They are graduating as engineers, computer programmers, physicists and automotive designers.

In spite of the remarkable progress made toward achieving the dream expressed by Dr. King, blacks, as a group, remain subjugated and locked into a state of confrontation to defend themselves against what Joel Dreyfuss calls stereotypes as either "helpless victims of society, predators or marginal players." These stereotypes derive, for the most part, from the persistent pressure of a black underclass, representing approximately one-third of black residents in large urban communities. The code words of the 60s for this left-behind group have changed from "accommodating," "ambitionless," "tricky" and "fun-loving." Today, conservative economists refer to the unfortunate one-third as "criminals," "welfare addicts," "the womb-to-tomb poor" and "the generally undesirable element."

King's dream held no separate reality of social good for any minority group in the U.S. It did recognize, however, that the structures imposed by racism and elitism may force different oppressed groups to employ social strategies for obtaining their social benefits.

### From Capitol Hill

## Constructive Engagement Policy Supports Apartheid

By Alfreida L. Madison  
Special To The Post

Representative John Conyers, who spent a night in jail in Free South Africa Movement, vowed to document facts which show that the Reagan Constructive Engagement policy supports South African apartheid.

The United States is a signatory to the United Nations Arms Embargo against South Africa. The Embargo mandates cessation of the sale of all "arms or related material to South Africa. The arms embargo is a tangible way of expressing abhorrence for apartheid. It gives all nations considerable leverage against the apartheid regime.

An effective international embargo would cripple the South African Defense, by freezing its access to all weapons and the technology to make them. Since the nations failed to comply with the United Nations embargo, South Africa has grown to be an aggressive military power, capable not only of terrorizing its own population but also of invading and occupying neighboring countries.

Conyers documented facts to prove the Administration's support of the South African policy.



Alfreida L. Madison

turbo jet aircraft, and technology useful in the manufacture of arms.

- The State Department lists the National Physical Research Laboratory and the National Institute for Aeronautics and Systems Technology, both of which do classified military research for the South African government.
- The Commerce Department permits sale of computers to South African agencies that enforce apartheid. IBM computers are used by the South African government to maintain race classifications in enforcing the pass system.
- The Commerce Department reclassified U.S. manufactured Beech and Piper aircraft as medical supplies for exporting to the South African government.
- In November 1983, U.S. manufactured computer system, made by Digital Equipment Corp, was seized in Sweden en route to the Soviet Union. Before the system was rerouted to the Soviet Union via Sweden, it had been shipped with U.S. government approval to a

private South African firm.

- The Reagan Administration has expanded nuclear cooperation with South Africa despite South Africa's unwillingness to adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In 1982, the Administration licensed Control Data Corp to sell advanced computers which can be used to simulate nuclear explosions to South Africa's leading defense research group.
- Nuclear technicians have traveled to South Africa and South African nuclear technicians have been trained in the U.S. Facilities.
- In 1982, the Commerce Department approved the export of 2,500 electric shock batons to the South African police.
- Recently the South African Defense Force received air transports for, civilian source in South Africa. The engines for these planes were manufactured by Garrett-Airsearch of Los Angeles.
- U.S. manufactured Colt and Browning weapons, other police equipment are used in South Africa.
- The House African Affairs Committee documented U.N. arms embargo violations in which Defense and CIA officials were implicated.
- Italo-West German police aircraft were exported to South African Military Force. Engines for these aircrafts were manufactured in the United States by Avco-Lycoming. The Commerce Department failed to do its duty in monitoring the end-use of all military related exports.

13. In 1982 this Administration expanded diplomatic contact with South African military police which included the training of the South African Coast Guard. The Administration also resumed official intelligence and official nuclear advisory contacts with South Africa.

The Reagan Administration has supported a \$1.1 billion International Monetary Fund loan to South Africa in 1982. This loan allowed South Africa to increase its military expenditures by that same amount. The Administration has shown continuous support for the South African Government at the United Nations, by defending it in the General Assembly and also in the U.N. Security Council when the Council condemned South Africa for aggression against its neighbors.

Conyers stated that these are some of the examples which prove a wide range of Reagan's support for the South African government which fortifies its stronghold of apartheid. Conyers says this record must be viewed against increased repression and violence of human rights and democracy, during the past four years.

Randall Robinson, Executive Director of TransAfrica, said, more people have been killed in the past four years, than were killed in the entire 20 preceding years, and that far more raids on neighboring countries, by South Africa have occurred during the same period, as compared with 20 years previously.

All of this shows that the Reagan Administration's "Constructive Engagement" policy and apartheid have made good bedfellows.

The Charlotte Post  
North Carolina's Fastest Growing Weekly  
704-376-0496  
"The People's Newspaper"  
106 Years Of Continuous Service  
Bill Johnson Editor, Pub. Bernard Reeves Gen. Mgr. Fran Bradley Adv. Mgr. Dannette Gaither Of. Mgr.  
Published Every Thursday By The Charlotte Post Publishing Company, Inc. Main Office: 1531 S. Camden Road Charlotte, N.C. 28203  
Second Class Postage Paid at Charlotte  
Member, National Newspaper Publishers' Association North Carolina Black Publishers Association  
Special Advertising Representatives  
Associated Publishers, Inc.  
One Year Subscription Rate One Year - \$17.75 Payable In Advance