

EDITORIALS

We Must Continue The Struggle

Given the problems of crime, unemployment, illiteracy and poverty, the crucial question of progress in the Black community focuses on: How do we come together as a community to get our fair share of resources to lessen the burden of these problems?

The Post believes that public opinion is stronger than any political institution. We feel, therefore, that organization, activism, and participation are the forces that influence constructive change and are rooted in the fundamental laws of democracy. Government is, after all, organized opinion.

It was the hammer of public opinion that educated America about the wrongs of racial segregation and discrimination. If no one attended Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington, then perhaps the course of civil rights would have taken a different and more difficult road.

Of course, knowing who to express your views to is as important as the act itself. In other words, don't blame the piano player if your food at a restaurant is lousy. Thus, you

should acquaint yourself with all of your elected officials, as well as unelected community officials who know the proper channels to use.

The second step is to identify issues which you can focus and organize your efforts around (poorly lighted streets, run-down buildings, child care, crime, etc.). The last course of action is to develop a coordinated strategy to call or write responsible officials to inform them about your collective views. Petitions with each individual's name and address and a cover letter citing the particular problem are useful ways to get action.

Remember that it's important to make your voice heard. The decisions that will be made in the arena of politics will affect not only your future...but the future of your children as well.

We must also remember the labors of our ancestors as they struggled and died to uphold many of the civil liberties we enjoy today. If for no other reason, in their name, we must continue the struggle, to speak out, to participate...and get involved.

A Meaningful Challenge

Rewritten From

The Michigan Chronicle

Graduates both at the college and high school level across the lands have been exhorted by commencement speakers of both sexes and all sizes, shapes and colors across the land during the past few weeks to go forth and face the challenges of the future, whatever they may be.

Few of the many who accepted the challenge to address graduating classes had more to say more effectively than Wade H. McCree Jr., the former U.S. Solicitor General, who is now the Lewis M. Symes professor of law at the University of Michigan.

McCree, in an address to the graduates at Northern Michigan University, admitted that the commencement speaker is usually a frightful bore for whom the graduating student "must struggle to muster up a final surge of tolerance to sit politely through the exhortation, until, at last, he is free to engage in the bitter sweet activity of leave-taking."

His speech, however, contained many gems of wisdom that should be taken to heart by every young person who looks forward to making his or her way into the next century. McCree spoke of the need of a new ethic that is in tune with the economic reality of our time. "We need," he told the students, "a pattern of living that will justify distribution of goods and services to persons who need them, and that will eliminate the guilt that leisure implies."

He suggested that the ethic of extolling work and decrying leisure was the product of an economy of scarcity. "It served this nation well when the labor of all people was needed to produce goods and services that were required," he said. He further suggested that today's technology has "freed us from drudgery" and at both ends of the economic spectrum there is leisure.

"Unskilled labor is not needed and the affluent don't have to work to be able to pur-

chase the good things of life," McCree contends. "Since there isn't a consensus about a style of life for such a society, our economic systems has become glutted and it falters. People with leisure, for want of socially approved ways to spend it, suffer a loss of personal satisfaction and many turn to drugs and cults to find personal relevance."

McCree's observation have been made by many but the suggestion that there is need for the establishment of a new code of ethics must make sense to those who continue to be puzzled by the diminution of morality that has appeared to impact virtually every segment of our society.

McCree urges that America must "come of age" in facing the new realities. There must be more time for creativity, personal relationships, a better husbanding of our resources and a greater appreciation of our environment. He suggests that a new ethic "won't be created overnight" but will evolve out of experience as the Puritan ethic did.

Most thoughtful persons will agree with McCree's observation about the need for new ethics. Recently, while memorializing a war that ended 40 years ago, but obviously continues to be with us, the world saw the chosen leaders of two of the world's most powerful nations square off in a bit of sword rattling that certainly frightened those who recall the devastation of that war.

After listening to the speeches at Bitburg, Germany, and from Red Square in Moscow, it causes many to wonder if that great war has really ended. This nation was split in two over the President's actions in Germany. There is little question that the moral issues involved will be debated for years to come.

McCree suggests that it is the young people of today who will be responsible for shaping the new ethic and urged that youth alone should not stand in the way of their assuming leadership. It is a greed that this nation must look to our young graduates to revitalize our political process, to save and correct our domestic institutions and to see to the survival of our planet.

LEADERS MUST ORGANIZE



Americans Occasionally Stricken With Disease Of Simple Mindedness

In a country built on freedom Americans are occasionally stricken with the disease of simple mindedness. Americans pride themselves on free and unrestricted exchange, housing, education and travel. But are often quick to call a lifestyle or personal preference wrong. Such an issue being gay parenting.

As recently as the spring of 1984 a gay couple wanted to become foster parents. In the words of society "they lead a good, clean life," both are gainfully employed, religiously involved and community oriented. The men sought religious counseling from their respective leaders. After careful and etiled investigations by the state's Social Service Department, three weeks ago the couple was given two boys, ages two and three. The children were from abusive homes and found this foster home to be secure, caring, loving and patient.

All went well until local paper caught wind of the information. The peace of that home and neighborhood was destroyed through stories about the "family." The reporter questioned the ability of the couple to rear children without inflicting personal preferences upon them. Thus



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because of the press the children were removed from that "fit home."

The question being: should the element of homosexuality be a factor of consideration of those gay and lesbian couples seeking foster children or children for adoption? State Legislators have never debated over it and the community criticizes it without detailed knowledge.

Sexual preference should not be an issue in parenting. Just because a male or female chooses a member of the same sex as an intimate partner does not mean that a child can not be exposed to an open minded lifestyle. Contrary to

accepted opinion some children from heterosexual parents are often disillusioned about the diversity of society. They can be taught prejudices in all forms, physically or mentally abused or completely segregated from the concept of a loving family.

The dark ages of homosexuality are giving way to an enlightened age. Society is finding out that the majority of gays and lesbians are not "sick" but people seeking self-fulfillment and happiness. That homosexuality is not a disease but a chosen way of life — personal life. Homosexuality does not alter the quest for creature comforts or the quest for suburban materialism. It is something the mind and body choses to make oneself happy.

Why does society have such a problem with gay or lesbian parenting? Remember this is the society that gives rapist, murderers and thieves "a second change." It allows the courts to place children back into the hands of abusive parents. A society that does not view child molestation as a felony if it's a parent doing the damage. A society that has problem accepting gay or lesbian parenting but finds it okay that a father does not support his children — by slapping him on the back of the hand and saying "Don't do that again." A society that views all abortion as wrong regardless of the physical, emotional and economic ramifications that an unwanted birth may cause.

No one plans to grow up to sexually, physically or emotionally abuse their children. Women do not plan to be raped or developed physical conditions hindering giving birth. And just that way children do not plan to become homosexual, there is simply something inside of them that says "This will make me happy and fulfill my needs."

Simple mindedness is a terminal disease. It kills hundreds of thousands of people annually through the realization that a concept or idea taught is not true. For many of those suffering from the terminal disease suicide, alcohol and drug abuse are the answer. It is quite true that history repeats itself only the events leading up to it are slightly different. Hitler's Naz Germany grew strong quickly but quickly was destroyed. The Holy Roman Empire was the strength of early Europe but soon fell. The point being that a concept, idea or way of thinking can only remain simple as long as no one from the outside assertively works to change that thought. In the case of the Holy Roman Empire — smaller forces joined hands and grew to defeat the divine attitude.

From Capitol Hill

Military Aid Greatly Increased In Nicaragua

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The Reagan Administration sees Central America as a zone of East-West confrontation, with a complete disregard for the economic struggles in the region. The United States is escalating its military involvement in every nation in Central America and it is also becoming more involved in the internal conflicts.

The primary purpose of this Administration is to intimidate, undermine and overthrow Nicaragua's Sandinista Government.

In Central America, the United States is increasing covert aid to the contras, increasing military grants, loans and weapons deliveries, direct role in combat operations; U.S. military people; the duration and scope of military exercises and deployments; intelligence gathering and training activities. The Administration is using Honduras as its Central American military center. It is building potential facilities for combat use by American forces, stationing troops there, permanently, conducting military exercises and seeking new permanent naval and land bases there. These are not justified by the level of Soviet and Cuban military involvement in Central America.

United States military aid has greatly increased in Nicaragua since the overthrow of the Somoza regime which was put into power and supported by the U.S. The Reagan Administration is deepening military relations with Costa Rica and Belize—trying to get them more involved in an anti-Nicaragua military coalition.

The Center for Defense Information has published a study showing



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facts on the U.S. military involvement in Central America. It states that this Administration is increasing its combat operations in that region. It is reported that the CIA has supervised the mining of Nicaraguan harbors; CIA pilots have flown supplies from El Salvador into Nicaragua to Salvadoran troops; American advisors have accompanied Salvadoran pilots on training missions which have made bombing runs and U.S. helicopters and pilots have transported Honduran troops on anti-guerrilla operations.

In facilitating military build-up in Central America, the U.S. is building air fields, radar sites, storage depots roads, housing in combat activities in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The Pentagon noted, "Forward storage of munitions such as iron bombs and rockets will significantly enhance the U.S. Air Force's tactical air contingency capabilities throughout Central America."

Since the 1800s, the United States has been militarily involved in Central America. It has had

lengthy occupations of Nicaragua and Panama, and has worked very closely with military authorities who have dominated Central American politics. The Reagan Administration while being obsessed with Soviet-Cuban involvement in the region, believes the problems can be solved militarily, and it has emphasized the Grenada invasion as its determination to use muscle power in the hemisphere.

The Center for Defense Information (CDI) states, "There is no threat to the U.S. in Central America which justifies extreme uses of force. There is nothing of political, economic or military value worth the price of intervention, loss of life, hundreds of millions if not billions of dollars, hostility from most Latin American nations, and international condemnation."

With the exception of former British colony Belize, the U.S. has always been the greater supplier of military to Central America. Recently, the Soviet Union has become Nicaragua's supplier. U.S. military aid in the region in 1982 and 1983 has exceeded the three previous decades. This aid is provided through grants and loans. All of this comes out of the pockets of the American taxpayers. Reagan is proposing that the Central American loans be made at the low interest rate of five percent.

This Administration has a huge military build-up in Honduras, and it has aircraft carriers in the Caribbean coast of Central America. Maneuvers and exercises are conducted in Honduras, which closely resemble the maneuvers that were conducted near Grenada, about two years before the invasion of that country, which was predicted by the

late Maurice Bishop, and was denied by the Reagan Administration. Ortega, the leader of the Nicaraguan Sandista government, insists that the United States is preparing to invade Nicaragua. History gives merit to this belief.

CDI says that Reagan maintains that Nicaragua is a Soviet-Cuban surrogate; that is exporting arms to other Central American countries and is perhaps planning to invade other countries in the region. Soviet military presence in Nicaragua is not large nor its influence significant. Soviets have, practically, no enthusiasm for getting heavily involved in that region.

This Administration has misled Congress about its military operations in Central America. Congress was not told about the use of money that was appropriated, to be used for equipping and training military personnel. Mining of the Nicaragua harbor was kept a secret by the CIA.

CDI gives new approaches for U.S. Central American relations. It states that if this country continues to use military solutions to the conflict in the region, practically all governments in the region will become hostile and distant to the U.S. Even though the governments may be radical, there is no evidence that they will be anti-American or pro-Soviet. The policy of this country should promote economic cooperation and prosperity. This nation should form a voluntary economic federation modeled after the European Economic Community, with respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal political affairs. This should be a federation of all North and Central American nations.

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