

# EDITORIALS

## Defining Our Own Freedom!

In 1933, Carter G. Woodson, distinguished black historian, urged blacks to use common sense in adapting behaviors and tastes practiced by whites or other racial groups. On the contrary, he urged in his "Miseducation of the Negro," blacks should deal with their own environmental conditions as a basis for developing policies and practices best for them.

The present state of black America as it relates to family life and economic conditions is testimony of the failure to heed Woodson's warning. Social legislation creating more freedoms for minorities, women and the handicapped have not improved substantially the conditions of poor blacks in the U.S.

The right to do what whites do, has, in many instances, encouraged blacks to abandon many of the values and behaviors that spelled survival during the holocaust of slavery and the continuing nightmare of racism. As a result, in 1985, blacks living in urban areas suffer an extreme loss of personal freedom.

This loss of personal freedom, ironically, is closely related to a misguided use of freedom established by law. Freedom to abandon traditional values linking pregnancy and childbirth to husband-wife families has been a strong contributing factor to poverty among black families. In 1985, almost 51 percent of black children live in families headed by females. Twenty years ago, the percentage of black children reared by women alone was 25. Going back farther, in 1954, less than 16 percent of all black households in the U.S. were headed by single female parents.

### Powerful Benefits

Critics of public assistance, in discussing the incidence of breakdown in the black family, or the nonformation of the black family, until recently urged more money for the single mother or attacked the system for not providing more supports in terms of subsidized child care. Now, however, these same critics admit that while money and day care are powerful benefits, they cannot substitute for the two-parent family.

Given the impact of media and less rigid social controls, women rearing children alone stagger under the burdens of discipline, guidance, physical care and time for plain loving.

Freedom to live without the constraints of marriage has created, in many instances, worse constraints. State Senator Jackie Vaughn, addressing an assembly of Detroit high school students, questioned black resistance to prisons in their communities. He told of black parents being forced to drive as far as Marquette to visit their sons in prison. At the same time, sons incarcerated in Marquette must struggle to get home when a parent is critically ill or has died. In somber tone, he reminded his listeners that 80 percent of all persons in Michigan's state prisons were blacks.

Denied their freedom because, in most instances, they violated the freedom of others, the majority of Michigan's black

prisoners are victims of either childhood neglect or having been allowed too much freedom, too soon.

On warm evenings, many "free" children roam the streets of Detroit without parental supervision and guidance. Security guards at the Northland shopping center remark upon the "free" youth who walk the mall. Loud, noisy behavior is mild compared to the chilling fact that if searched, one out of every three young black males would likely have a handgun.

Crime is only one spinoff from too little parental supervision. Without strong controls, children experience difficulty in developing habits which lead to high achievement in school. Routines characterized by promptness in completing tasks and adhering to rules and regulations emerge best in households with strong parental controls.

Black parents must model their freedom from the cult of television and other media glorifying sex. The misguided freedom dangled by the wider society has neither been right nor helpful to blacks. Dr. Woodson's warning was on target.

### Mark These Words

Rewritten From The Carolinian

Strike up a conversation with anyone you meet and you can immediately determine why the community isn't further along in its development.

Attend any meeting of a church board or church club and you will soon learn what is important to that august body.

Sit in any living room in any palatial dwelling and you will soon discover how concerned the inhabitants therein are about the plight of their fellow citizens.

Listen to the gossip in an office and learn just how committed the employees there are to sacrificial progress and other forms of human endeavor.

Which citizen will say, let us embark on such and such course of action so that we can accomplish this and that?

Who invited an acquaintance over to devise a way of solving a specific problem which plagues his or her fellow man?

Which church last undertook a project to relieve a burden which may be strangling the lifeblood out of their community?

Which community organization last announced that it was spearheading a major effort to solve a significant community weakness?

Parties we have plenty of. Meetings abound galore. Prayer meetings have richly blessed their participants. Television has mesmerized the majority. And recreation and leisure have drugged the remainder.

We then have little concern for anything that may call for sacrifice, sweat, disappointment or money.

The community stands in a unique trick. It has but can't. It sees but is blind. It knows but won't. It needs but fears. As one citizen recently expressed the situation, it doesn't want to go backward, but can't go forward.

BE A PART OF THE NEW AWARENESS

**BLACK BUSINESS MEN AND POLITICIANS SHOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF LONG-RANGE PLANNING FOR IT IS ONLY THROUGH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLOUT THAT ETHNIC GROUPS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE UP THROUGH SOCIETY.**

SUBURBIA  
THE FLIGHT OF CAPITAL FROM BLACK COMMUNITIES

MICHIGAN CHRONICLE

## Eastern Has Something Interesting?

Every airline has them - discount fares. Some are humane, some not humane. And even an airline or two that have such creative people to come up with an idea on how to make money off discounted fares, one such airline being Eastern Airlines.

Eastern has something particularly interesting in the field of discounting - called moonlight specials; which offer some coast to coast service for \$98 one-way. These limited flights leave from nine U.S. cities, feed into Eastern's Houston freight hub and connect with flights that take people coast to coast in the wee hours of the night.

How can Eastern do this? The bargains are offered because of an exclusive three-year contract with Consolidated Freightways, Inc. (CF, INC.) which pays for and gets cargo space for overnight freight deliveries. Thus enabling Eastern to afford to charge less for the 252 seats of its airbus, A-300 wide-body planes.

On this wee hour plane the stop in Houston is mandatory and amenities cut. For example, Eastern



Sabrina

does not offer free baggage checking service on these flights because the belly of the plane is used or reserved for cargo, not luggage; but one can check his luggage at the cost of \$10 per bag, which may not be received until the next day. And besides, who needs amenities in the middle of the night while one is sleeping? Of course, the midnight specials are not for business people with appointments to keep; cargo takes time to load and that means the plane will not always leave on schedule. The idea is nice for those people who work and want to leave for vacation at night or for stu-

dents, retirees, and families. Another airline is offering a \$99 one-way fare nonstop to Miami with no advance purchase. Their appeal is to the get up and go crowd. Wonderful if one wants to go to Miami on the spur of the moment.

No frills is fast becoming an American way of consuming - one airline, fairly young, is using no frills at no cost as their marketing strategy. This airline is making its name through the \$29 air fare to Newark with additional cost for points connecting out of New York-Newark. And what does one get for \$29 plus? A seat on an airplane that's it, nothing else. This airline is conducting business somewhat like the train business. One can make his reservation in advance and purchase his ticket on the plane. No waiting in line. Also on this airline you cannot lose your luggage because it never leaves one's hand - that's right, pay to check the luggage. Hungry or thirsty? Well, the \$29 airline charges for all beverages and snacks. What they have done is eliminated the things unwanted! Low prices, no restrictions and no amenities unless one pays for them.

Can an airline such as this seriously make money? After all, airlines are supposed to be profit making organizations. Maybe they can through low overhead and volume.

Who started this fare war? Deregulation. Which means everyone must compete effectively and efficiently in the market. Effectively by attracting new customers and infrequent customers. Efficiently by catering to the needs of the travel rich business sector.

Jet-setting business executives are expected to make over 150 million business trips in 1985 - \$32.2 billion spent on airline tickets. So to this group, luxury, speed and efficiency. Roomy comfortable planes, business class section on board the aircraft, issuing boarding passes at the time of purchase, airline clubs and frequent flier bonus programs, just to name a few options open to business travelers. These people do not have the time to always connect in Newark or fly in the middle of the night. This group wants its travel time to be travel problem free.

Ask any airline marketing executive and he will tell you the discounted fares are not the best for business travelers.

### From Capitol Hill

## "Square With The World, Mr. President!"

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

President Reagan constantly emphasizes that we are at peace, not at war, and that he is for a nuclear freeze. The Center for Defense Information disagrees with Mr. Reagan's rhetoric. Congress gave its loudest applause during the President's '84 State of the Union Message, when he said, "Nuclear war cannot be won, and must never be fought." Yet, both the United States and the Soviet Union are engaged in a huge arms race, which increases the danger of a nuclear holocaust.

Since Ronald Reagan came on the political scene, he has opposed every nuclear arms control agreement. He opposed the above-ground nuclear testing treaty negotiated by President Kennedy, the Non-Proliferation Treaty negotiated by President Johnson, SALT I Agreement and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty by President Nixon, the SALT II understanding reached by President Ford and Brezhnev and he opposed U.S. Senate ratification of SALT II Treaty signed by President Carter. Reagan is the only President since President Truman who has accomplished nothing in reduction of the threat of a nuclear war.

The Center for Defense Information (CDI) admits that the Russians have always been difficult negotiators, yet previous Presidents have been able to negotiate agreements with them. CDI says, "Ronald Reagan, who opposed every nuclear arms control agreement before he entered the White House, is clearly not trying very hard for other agreements now that he is President. It is also clear that President Reagan will not negotiate,



Alfreda

seriously, with a nation he has referred to in speeches as an evil empire and the focus of evil in the world."

CDI emphasizes that the United States is playing war games. In nearly every corner of the world, the United States is practicing fighting conventional and nuclear wars against the Soviet Union. These include mock land, sea and air battles fought on or near every continent. In the past few years, the U.S. has expanded both size and scope of its war games in the Third World. The frequent war games are intended to pressure unfriendly governments as well as bolster our ability to fight in the Third World.

Annually, the U.S. conducts numerous military exercises, which provide training for over 500,000 U.S. troops.

Reagan has a fixation that trouble in the Third World is caused by Soviet military power, that of destabilization in those countries. He justifies his Third World war games on grounds that it must be capable of responding to a Soviet attack. He ignores the fact that most Third

World conflicts are local - that fighting in El Salvador, Lebanon and elsewhere illustrates, and the absence of Soviet ability to carry out - large scale military operations in the Third World.

We have war games in Western Europe and South Korea. The U.S. has 360,000 troops in Europe and 40,000 in South Korea. These will automatically draw the United States into any major conflict of these countries. The war game scenario used in these two regions posit an attack by the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies or North Korea. This attributes reckless aggressive actions to countries which have traditionally, particularly the Soviet Union, displayed much more cautious behavior. The Vietnam War proved that military intervention in the Third World is a costly and ineffective means of solving the conflict.

These war games that deploy thousands of U.S. military troops in foreign countries have political implications. President Reagan argues that these games are bound to have a positive political effect. He assumes that any future war in the world will result in Soviet aggression. The President feels that these war games will deter Soviet aggression and reassure friendly governments. Because of U.S. intervention in the Middle East and Central America, as well as Soviet military intervention in countries, world opinion does not view these war games as benevolent. In Western U.S., military maneuvers have generated fear that the U.S. might be too willing to fight a war in their countries. These exercise battles, which took place in the streets of the towns and in fields of farms cause damage to property,

costing millions of dollars. War games in the Third World will quite likely cause a political backlash. Egypt, Oman and Somalia restricted media coverage when war games were conducted in those countries for fear of being charged with cooperating with the U.S. military. These charges can severely undermine support for the government both at home and in other Arab countries. U.S. war games in Central America tend to isolate the U.S. from other friendly governments. This conflict is seen in the different approaches of resolution of conflicts in the region between the contradora countries and the United States. The contradoras advocate the elimination of any foreign military presence and stresses political resolution while the Reagan Administration places emphasis on a military solution.

CDI concludes that: U.S. war games demonstrate both the global scale and military character of U.S. commitments, revealing over-reliance on military measures instead of a more constructive foreign policy. War games in Middle East and Central America are provocative and undermine resolution of the problems in political and economic ways. These war games do not focus on defense of the U.S., but on fighting wars far from home - particularly in the Third World. CDI says, "U.S. war games are designed to improve our ability to fight and win a nuclear war. The danger is that we might gain false confidence in our ability to prevail in a nuclear war and thus reduce essential efforts to avert that calamity."

There are 41 wars going on in the world and we are supplying military weapons to all of them.

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