

Editorials

Where Are The Black Investors?

Recently, Detroit's Mayor Coleman Young said during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of Trapper's Alley - a new commercial street, "This is another indication that Detroit's on a roll." Equally, if not more significant, and yet ignored or simply missed by the news media, Young said, "If you own property in Detroit hang on to it. If you don't, you better buy some."

Mr. Young's comment brings to mind certain developments of concern in a part of Charlotte's black community, in this case, the Beatties Ford Road corridor. While the City of Charlotte is involved in a commercial development plan for at least a portion of Beatties Ford Road, we have to wonder if developments on this major thoroughfare between I-85 and the intersection of LaSalle Street is an indication of things to come.

Along this stretch of Beatties Ford Road, two black-owned businesses—gas stations—have had to close, black efforts to acquire the Texaco service station at I-85 have failed and black efforts to purchase the supermarket in the University Park Shopping Center failed because of too little financial support. In addition, the much talked about upper middle income multi-family housing development to be located to the rear of the relatively new black-owned Burger King fast foods eatery has never materialized.

Except for the opening of the Burger King and some long-standing black-owned businesses, namely Dalebrook Pharmacy, Queen City Sundries, Walton's Accounting Services, the West Charlotte Drive-In Restaurant, Long's Mortuary, two relatively new churches, and a few other small

We Are The Enemy

"We have met the enemy, and it is us." This quote from an unknown source has often been used to describe those who are knowingly or unknowingly engaged in self-destruction.

While black Americans have at least learned and developed strategies to attack race prejudice; have gained an awareness of the link between limited education and poverty; have an understanding of the significance of good health habits; and hopefully understand the psychological impact of its historic roots; yet, when we

look closely at the progress that black Americans have made, it becomes increasingly clear that even greater progress could have been made except for the apparent

self-hatred and self-destructive forces within us. This truism is manifested in the fact that black people harm and kill each other at an alarming rate, too many of us — one is

too many — are spaced-out on drugs and alcohol, over half of our households contain one parent families, and too many black elected officials are out of touch with reality. One such reality is that if they

businesses, black economic development has all but ended.

The fact is in just over a 10-year period a McDonald's hamburger restaurant; a Handi-Pantry, Tenneco and 7-11 mini-shopping stores; three chicken fry fast food eateries; and a large Sav-On gas station (all white-owned) have all opened in this predominantly black neighborhood. We certainly have no ill-will nor animosity toward anyone with a successful business venture, considering the risks that they must take.

However, we do wonder where are the black investors? Why, with the neighborhoods linked to this section of Beatties Ford Road having estimated annual incomes totaling \$60 million, are not black investors in the forefront of this last decade of economic growth. We are, of course, mindful of the fact that many lending institutions make it difficult for blacks to borrow investment capital, yet there are many more lenders and other financial mechanisms for securing investment capital.

Hidden in Mayor Young's remarks on the need to own or buy land is the need for blacks to become more investment conscious so that they can better control their own financial futures and keep much of the money owned by blacks in the hands of blacks.

Unless the broader black community begins, and begins quickly, to develop more people with an entrepreneurship spirit and work ethic philosophy, black people will continue to stay on the bottom rung of the economic ladder, even below the most recent immigrants to America — the Cuban and Southeast Asians.

are elected by a largely white constituency then their loyalties belong first to that constituency. The problem is black voters either don't understand this or don't care and black elected officials too often are not willing to tell black voters of their reality.

Underlying much of the self-destructive nature of too many black Americans is a preoccupation with the trappings of success — big houses, big cars, expensive clothes, and for some a make-believe escape from being black. When these values are evident in black leaders they lose touch with reality and are thus of no help to the black masses.

Thus, while we pursue the quality of values of better education, good health habits, meaningful employment, family to-

getherness, and maintain in historical perspective our past for its value in the present and future, we must be ever mindful of the potential enemy who lies within each of

us poised in a manner to bring about self-destruction. Won't you do your part while I do mine?

From Capitol Hill

President Reagan Owes Americans An Apology

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

In a recent speech in Miami, President Reagan said the "Democrats are pitting white against black, women against men, young against old. Republicans have been blessed with grassroots supporters who are committed to ideals of individual freedom, family values, free enterprise and a strong America. While the other party has tried to build a coalition by segmenting America into warring factions, we don't promise quota systems and give-away programs. We promise to do what is right for America and all Americans."

In speaking of quotas to an overwhelming white Southern audience, Mr. Reagan appeared to have been race-baiting, in order to build up support for his anti-affirmative actions.

At least the President realizes that racial tension is increasing, the financial and job inequities between women and men, high youth unemployment, the financial inability of many eligible college students to attend college. These conditions seem to have Mr. Reagan so frustrated that he is floundering in trying to place the blame.

The President has accused black leaders for those of the rank and file blacks possessing the intelligence to know that they are unemployed, unable to send their children to college, their youths can't find jobs and the erosion of civil rights gains for which many of them or their ancestors, marched, died and were imprisoned.

One questions why the President unfairly lambasted the Democrats, just a few days before launching his tax reform program, for which he advocates bi-partisan support? Was



Alfreda

this a trick to get the Democrats to use the time, in their response, by refuting his false charges against them? Was it a ploy to get them to oppose some elements of his tax provisions that he hopes will not pass so he can go before the people and blame the Democrats, or was it just the usual Reagan way of verbally attacking people whom he wants to whip into acceptance of his policies?

Mr. Reagan supported Clarence Pendleton, Chairman of the Civil Rights Commission, whom Parren Mitchell called the President's "lackey," in his vitriolic expressions against black leaders. The Congressional Black Caucus, in a letter to the President April 12, requested a meeting with him to discuss their differences. They received a reply April 22, stating that he was taking it under advisement. To date, the advisement period is still in effect. When Larry Speakes, White House Press Secretary was asked why the President had not granted the Caucus' request, he replied that he does not meet with all caucuses. Larry was told that Black Caucus was only a name and that a



Epidemic Of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Is Dangerous

With all the news articles and editorials written about the epidemic of acquired immune deficiency syndromes (AIDS), it is still a disease plagued by general ignorance. A contagion so dangerous that it may be more threatening than the disease itself.

Yes, the cases have multiplied from 11 in 1979 to 10,526 as of 1985. And it is more common in the homosexual community. However, this is not the complete story.

It is expected that the number of active AIDS cases may reach 20,000 during 1985. Realistically, the facts are frightening. There is no cure for the disease. The virus may remain dormant for an extended period of time and triggered by another virus. One can be exposed but may not contract it. It can be transmitted through sexual contact or of blood donors.

Studies estimate that a million people — homosexual and heterosexual — may have been exposed to AIDS and that 10-15 percent may or could die. By the close of the century more than 10 million



Sabrina

will be exposed and due to a lack of a cure one million could die. These are scientific projections.

For the past few months the myth that AIDS is only communicated by male homosexuals has been in the minds of most people. A myth drawn upon ignorance and stupidity.

Many religious leaders and spokes people view homosexuality as sinful and suggest that AIDS is God's punishment for the sin. The leaders also argue that the way to cure the disease is to eliminate homosexuality.

thus government funding of the research should be withdrawn.

It is a fact that over 70 percent of AIDS victims are homosexual males. It is also true that bisexual males have passed the disease to their heterosexual partners. AIDS has also been transmitted via blood transfusions in a very small percentage of diagnosed cases. The wives and unborn children of those AIDS victims have contracted it. A total of 120 children have AIDS.

Educating the public is needed. It was needed when homosexuals thought they were the only victims and it is now needed to help and inform potential victims. The world is in need of a cure. Whether or not this is a divine punishment is it really for mortal man and woman to judge? It is a disease that threatens the well being of the population on a whole — not just a part. Government involvement is needed just as it is was needed in cancer research, diabetes, heart disease, and organ transplant.

Aside from the obvious physical tragedy of AIDS an emotional one is rising to the surface. The homosexual individual and community have had to overcome the reluctance in society accepting them. This community has lived with emotional stress since each was old enough to understand the "difference" in their desires. The onset of the AIDS propaganda has inflicted another stress, one of possible alienation. Homosexuals historically have been taught to suppress the unhealthy feelings or desires for healthy ones. Well, what is healthy or unhealthy?

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome is a disease that is contagious.

But so is ignorance; there are no crusades to stop government support of education. AIDS for the 1980s is what cancer was for the 1960s; a terminal disease with no cure or treatment. The puzzle pieces for AIDS will hopefully come together and a treatment or cure found.

Aside from the emotional withdrawal of AIDS another concept comes into play when discussing the disease: Sex. The most common way to contract AIDS is through sexual contact of homosexuals and heterosexuals. Sex is considered the cure of the AIDS crisis or epidemic.

supports, in a tangible way, the oppression by the four million whites of the 22 million blacks, whom he calls rioters, in their actions to get freedom in South Africa. He also refuses to utter one word about South Africa's attacks on surrounding countries. All Americans deserve to know the whole truth.

Since President Reagan realizes what the problem are, he should turn the search light on his administration, analyze its actions, and then he will find the root cause so there will be reason for floundering for blame placement.

If Mr. Reagan is serious about wanting to solve these devious problems, he will halt the Justice Department's civil rights assaults.

Letter To The Editor

Celebrate All Race

History Each Month

Box 16027
Charlotte, N.C. 28216
June 2, 1985

Editors, The Charlotte Post:
The following letter was sent to the attention of Jeanne Bohn, WSOC-TV:

A while ago I expressed my concern that a designation of February as Black History Month might limit emphasis to just one month. A suggestion was to celebrate All Races History each month.

Thank you, WSOC-TV. Your present Black History Moments made the hot June day cooler as I readjusted the February-only concept.

Daisy Spears-Stroud
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