

Editorials

The Price For A Principle

Last week we suggested that President Reagan's decision to challenge Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi's "line of death" by sending warships into the Gulf of Sidra might lead to the loss of human life. While Qaddafi denies guilt, and the Reagan administration believes him, someone or group planted a bomb on a TWA jet airliner that killed four Americans. A group called the Arab Revolutionary Cells claims responsibility for the bombing. A Cells' spokesman told the Associated Press in Beirut that the bombing was in retaliation for "American arrogance" in the Gulf of Sidra last week.

Obviously, we will never know for sure, but it appears that Mr. Reagan's ill-timed move into the Gulf of Sidra based on the principle of a 12-mile territorial waters limit as opposed to Qaddafi's 100 miles, is going to cost American lives needlessly. We can only hope that Mr. Reagan will retreat from his war mentality, particularly in an area of the world that has no strategic

military value to America.

Likewise, while Mr. Reagan is pressuring Congress to provide \$100 million in aid to the rebel contras opposing the Nicaraguan government, a local missionary just returning from the war torn nation offers another story. The Rev. Jake Golden, a Methodist minister, has just returned from a nine-month tour of Nicaragua.

Golden says Nicaragua is a poor nation of three million people, half of which are children. Most of the people live in poverty, they are victims of injustice and terrified by their nation's civil war. Most tragically, Rev. Golden reports that the U.S.-backed contras killed a Swiss Christian and four females he was attempting to help. He adds that the contras have brutalized many innocent women and children.

If these reports are true, the Reagan administration needs to rethink its aid plans and reassess who America should be helping. To do less might result in needless bloodshed and loss of life.

A Great City And A Great Mayor

Last weekend, a special television show focused on black mayors in America. These mayors from Kenneth Gibson in Newark, NJ, to Tom Bradley in Los Angeles to many mayors in small, rural towns in the deep South. Likewise, the problems, needs, concerns and effectiveness of these men and women were aired. Any observer would have been proud of Mayor Gantt's appearance, his articulate manner and the excel-

lent image he projected for the City of Charlotte.

Likewise, too, in the current issue of Ebony magazine is a very interesting and very positive article about Mayor Gantt. Again, his leadership style and perception indicate a man of good character, honesty and humility. Through it all what comes out is a good mayor who leads a great city - Charlotte.

Kids Crying Out For Discipline

Duke University's basketball team fell one game short of winning the NCAA championship. Nevertheless, the No. 1 ranked Blue Devils had won 21 straight before losing the championship and completed the overall season with a 37-3 record. Furthermore, the 37 victories represent the most games ever won by an NCAA team in a single season.

While these sports achievements are to be applauded in their own right, Duke had an even greater victory that will surpass the faded memories as they give way to next year's winner. Significantly, we can look to another sports figure or personality to place in perspective these greater victories of Duke. The loveable John Wooden, who coached UCLA basketball teams to 10 national championships in his last 12 years of coaching, was quoted in the Christian Science Monitor as saying: "...I can tell you for a fact that today's kids are crying out for discipline, and most of the time they aren't getting it...at home or from...their teachers. And until we give them the proper standards to live by, we will continue to be a nation whose young people will be in and out of trouble."

Coach Wooden's words appear to have been personified by the character and attitude of Duke's basketball team this year. In point of fact, Duke's four starting

seniors—David Henderson, Jay Bilas, Mark Alarie, and Johnny Dawkins—will graduate with their class this spring. As big time NCAA basketball goes, this is in itself a major and unusual victory. In point of character, The Charlotte Observer sports columnist Ron Green stated in eloquent words a real tribute to the Duke basketball team and coach Mike Krzyzewski. Already quoted in some newspapers, it is well worth stating again now that the emotion of the NCAA Final Four has passed and we can think, hopefully, in serious terms the full meaning of Ron Green's words. He said:

"...it would be a good thing for college athletics at this troubled time if Duke should win the championship. Good kids who stay out of trouble, go to class, work hard, conduct themselves well in public and can play (basketball).

"This Duke team represents all that is good in sports at this (or any other) level. All the administrators who are trying to legislate books back into and shabby behavior out of collegiate athletics don't have to concern themselves with this team."

Ironically, the character of the professional football team that has its home in Dallas, host city for the NCAA championship game, has led to that team, the Dallas Cowboys, being called "America's Team."

Miller Says:

Socioeconomic Progress Made Through Coalitions

By Sherman N. Miller
Special To The Post
When I examine the impact of the Mid-East crisis on ethnic groups in America, I conclude that it is impeding black America's upward mobility. I see a major Mid-East campaign currently under way, in the United States, that is being fought by black mercenaries who are emotionally finessed into trading black America's socioeconomic progress for illusionary venomous rhetoric.

I came to realize the domestic impact of the Mid-East war whilst talking with Roke Lieberman at Beth Emeth Synagogue of Wilmington, DE. I asked him why a chasm exists between the black and Jewish communities.

"I don't know. If I had an answer, I would be a wise man. It has always befuddled me."

Lieberman's comment suggests that the obdurate developers of the ill-natured strategy that underpins this black-Jewish chasm have masked their intentions well. Nevertheless, I got some insight on their hidden agenda by viewing the black-Jewish chasm as an outfall



Sherman

of the Arab-Israeli war.

Carl von Clausewitz, the great war philosopher, in his book, "On War," offers a human nature scenario that I believe is one of the root causes of the current black-Jewish chasm.

"An act of violence which anyone commits upon us by order of his superior, will excite in us a desire to retaliate and be revenged on him, sooner than on the superior power at whose command the act was done," writes Clausewitz.

During my visit, Beth Emeth Congregation was seeking ways to bridge the chasm with the black community. As I listened to their special guest discuss the activities of Minister Louis Farrakhan, it was clear that Farrakhan is a repugnant



You Can Prevent It... This Is What We Can Do Now.

Flowers Have Become Year-Round Staple On Shopping Lists

By Sabrina Johnson
Special To The Post
The old fashion notion of sending flowers only for special occasions is passing. There once was a time when after Valentine's Day flower sales dropped sharply. No more. Flowers have become a year round staple on shopping lists; special occasions are not the only reason for buying a bouquet. Just being is. People are buying flowers on the way home from work or to cheer up an otherwise grey day.

Business for dealers in floral products has blossomed in the past few years. In the U.S., retail sales of cut flowers has increased from \$2.9 billion in 1982 to \$3.7 billion in 1985. The long distance delivery network, FTD, has been growing annually by 10 percent or more, reaching \$551 million in 1985.

In today's moving society the idea of buying flowers is becoming as common as buying bread and is no more of an extravagance. Customers are picking up fresh-cut flowers while doing their



Sabrina

shopping. Often they do not know the names of the flowers but do know how they look in their perspective place. Consumers are buying flowers to decorate living spaces, brighten offices, cheer up pals or just because it's fun and nice to do.

A primary reason why flowers are selling is that they are now available in non-traditional places—meaning they are sold in many more places than the traditional florist shops. Supermarkets are a common place now to find and buy flowers. Cincinnati-based Kroger has put flower sections in 80 percent of its

1,351 stores. European style flower markets are growing in malls. These markets are usually centrally located in the mall so that mall customers do not have to pass through doors to buy flowers, but simply walk up to pick and choose the bright colored posies.

The increased availability triggers impulse buying. So much so that 7-Eleven is selling single, long stem roses in its stores in South Florida.

The fast growth in the volume of people buying flowers has given way to a new type of flower store called Stem or Bucket shops; which let the customer be the florist. Each variety of fresh cut flower is put into a vase and the customer is left to "create" his or her own bouquet.

In addition to the mass merchandising of flowers, florists are cultivating all consumers with special emphasis on encouraging women to give flowers to men (adding to the traditional man giving flowers to women), or men giving flowers to men. Television commercials such as the FTD-Merlin Olsen commercial are focusing on the fact that men like or enjoy receiving flowers.

Exotic flowers are also in great demand. They contributed an estimated \$240 million in sales during 1985. The Netherlands is one of the most popular sources, which exports some \$100 million worth of tulips, freesias, lilies, alstroemerias, and many others to the United States. Columbia and Israel are two large exporters.

The Caribbean and Hawaii send such tropical strains as orchids, heliconias, proteas, and banana flowers.

Aside from the economics and business of it, flowers still project the image of special; regardless of the day or occasion, they still maintain a level of special

about them. Flowers can bring a feeling of joy and continuance into the day. The new reasons to buy flowers are wonderful but they are still a fabulous way to

express and profess true love and affection. If they did, would not florists and consumers go to the ends of the earth to get the perfect flower?

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Semitic rhetoric automatically becomes a field marshal in an anti-Jewish army.

Clausewitz offers another comment: "Truth alone is but a weak motive of action with men, and hence there is always a great difference between knowing and action..."

70 Percent

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Income for black children was \$1,500 compared with \$2,650 for white children. The average for Spanish children was also much lower than for white children.

—Only half of black and Hispanic children were covered by private health insurance compared with three-fourths for white children.

—About one out of five black children lived in a household where no member was in the labor force—53 percent of them in female families. Other proportions were five percent of white and 13 percent of Hispanic children.

—The survey showed 9.5 million blacks, 49.5 million whites, and 4.9 million Hispanics under age 18. The proportions living in female-family households without a father present varied widely—46 percent for blacks, 14 percent for whites, and 24 percent for Hispanics.

The Census Bureau cautions that these estimates are not adjusted for seasonal variations, and may be revised. The data also are subject to sampling variability and other sources of errors.

Copies of the report are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.