

## Editorials

### "A Man For All Seasons"

Willie Lee "Bill" Johnson, a practitioner of quiet diplomacy who became the city's first black mall carrier and first to work for a white daily newspaper, civic leader, the father of three sons and three grandchildren, and for over 12 years the motivating force behind the Charlotte Post, died recently at the age of 68.

Because of Bill's wide yet unassuming contributions to the betterment of the community - especially Johnson C. Smith and the black community - through his quiet diplomacy approach, we who have labored under his leadership at the Post are privileged to bestow upon him that rarest of dignified titles, "A Man For All Seasons."

Bill Johnson's death ends 12 plus years of balanced, thought-provoking influence on the broader Charlotte community. His editorials and stories have offered a black perspective on a wide range of important issues. For this effort, many of our citizens are richer in knowledge and understanding of many of the complex issues that can and do affect people in an urban living environment.

Forty-one years ago toward the end of World War II, Army Private first class Bill Johnson was contemplating a career in journalism when he wrote in a military newspaper some of the thoughts that guided him through his years at the Post. In those war torn years Bill said, "We fight for 130 million different ideas...Some fight for the right to have a farm and to raise whatever they think best for themselves...We fight for the right to build...a bigger and better world, not to destroy and conquer. To teach our children to love and help one another and not to kill. To train them with balls and

bats, not rifles and bullets...We fight to preserve the American Way of Life..."

It was this same kind of fighting spirit that led Bill Johnson to purchase the Post at a time when the newspaper, founded in 1918 and believed to be one of the oldest black newspapers in the nation, was sliding into a nearly insurmountable debt crisis. However, with a fighting zeal, Bill vowed to revive the Post and to make it once again a profit-making enterprise.

In this effort, Mr. Johnson used a federal loan in 1982 to upgrade his capital equipment, then a year later he moved the business from West Blvd. to larger quarters off South Tryon Street. Circulation and advertising rose significantly and the newspaper's profit margin rose nearly 100 percent between 1982 and 1984.

It was the same kind of fighting spirit cloaked in quiet diplomacy that enabled Bill Johnson to convince Charlotte Observer sports editor Wilton Garrison in 1947 to give a part-time job covering sports among black high schools and colleges, thus becoming the Observer's first black writer.

With persistence and patience, Bill was able to expand news about black athletics from just lists of scores of games without any details to full game coverage and profiles on black players and coaches. Bill "was a pioneer in that significant movement," says an Observer editorial.

Willie L. "Bill" Johnson, 1918-1986, was truly "A Man For All Seasons." His death leaves a void in our community that cannot be filled because of his unique character. Let us hope as Bill assumes his permanent rest among the angels that we can and will carry on the traditions of what the Charlotte Post that he built stands for.

### Famous Lady Is Symbol Of Hope

With starvation, famine and devastating poverty such a harsh reality in many if not most parts of the world, some people might wonder why over \$230 million and two-and-a-half years of labor by nearly 200 American and French architects, artisans, painters, carpenters, engineers, ironworkers, brick masons and laborers have been working six days a week for the most exhaustive facelift of a statue in history. A facelift that should last for the next 200 years.

In a physical sense, this effort has been made to offset 100 years of erosion from alternately brutal cold and heat, salt water filled heavy winds, acid rain and human neglect of the world famous Statue of Liberty. Beyond the desperately needed physical improvement of the Statue, a gift from France, is the more important fact of what the Statue of Liberty symbolizes.

For the masses of immigrants who have entered America with dreams of freedom and escape from poverty, political and religious oppression, greater economic or educational opportunity or simply to join relatives and friends in America, the Statue of Liberty was the first visible sign of

America that they saw. Then too, because America has historically, at least in the past, kept its doors open to all who wanted to come, the Statue of Liberty has further symbolized the broad based freedom that America represents.

The Statue is the symbol of hope, dreams to be fulfilled, challenges to be realized, opportunities to take, and the achievement of self-fulfillment unmatched anywhere else in the world.

The famous lady is a reminder of what is good in all America and can be an example for all the world to emulate.

God bless America for its goodness and love to all mankind.

### Speak Out!

Do you have something to say? Then do so for everyone to read. The Charlotte Post, the only other voice in town, welcomes all letters on various subjects.

Letters to the editor must include your signature and address.

Please limit letters to 500 words.

Letters should be addressed to: Editor, The Charlotte Post, P. O. Box 30144, Charlotte, N.C. 28230.

### Miller Says:

## White Universities: A Microcosm Of Mainstream

By Sherman N. Miller  
Special To The Post  
Blacks' high attrition rate at Mainstream American universities is rapidly evolving into a constriction to black American socio-economic progress. I wonder if many blacks enter these institutions with the wrong mind set for success.

Discussions with other blacks who matriculated at mainstream universities suggest that there exists a set of minority group survival principles which should be fully appreciated prior to blacks enrolling at these institutions. Carl Turner, M.D., a graduate of the University of Delaware and the Medical College of the University of Pennsylvania, believes that clear goals, self understanding, discipline, and persistency are the keys to survival at mainstream universities.

Yet what do we really mean when we say that one should understand oneself? Antinez Jones, a research scientist at the DuPont Company who did graduate work at both the University of Missouri and Yale University, declares, "I know who I am by not letting my past go - not letting my roots go! Also by knowing



Sherman

where I wanted to be, and that now I'm there."

During my own tenure at the University of Delaware people often marvelled at the high levels of academic excellence displayed by Oriental students. These students demonstrated a penchant for what Turner contends are the most important characteristics necessary for ethnic minority students to succeed at mainstream universities.

"The most important things I think would be to study hard and apply (yourself)," he stated.

Students are often told to apply themselves. But apply may be an abstract term to



### Beware The Siren Call Of Cheap Oil

Sabrina's column will reappear next week.

In Greek mythology, sirens were sea maidens whose irresistible singing lured sailors to their destruction. For the U.S., today's siren call is the current deluge of cheap oil. It can lead the nation down a dangerous course unless Americans resist the temptation to succumb to a false sense of energy security.

Lower prices at the gasoline pump are providing many benefits to consumers, but that's not cause for losing sight of the need for U.S. energy production. Today's global oil glut is a temporary condition. Complacency over current energy supplies could lead to government policies that slow development of the United States' petroleum resource base.

The U.S. could well face another energy crunch before the end of the century - and quite possibly within the next three to five years. The decline in oil prices is bringing drilling for new U.S. supplies to a near-standstill. The number of



Sabrina

active drilling rigs exploring for new U.S. oil and natural gas supplies, which was close to 2,000 at the end of 1985, had dropped to 800 by the second week of May; that was the lowest weekly domestic rig count in the past 37 years.

Not only are fewer new wells being drilled; marginal production wells are being shut in - many, probably forever. Shut-ins occur because the value of the oil produced is not sufficient to cover the costs of maintaining production.

Expert projections made

even before the recent price decline agree that, as the nation approaches the year 2000, there will be a steady increase in U.S. oil consumption, an inevitable decline in domestic oil reserves and production, and a sharp increase in oil imports.

The projections also agree that oil output in regions outside the Middle East will peak before the end of this century and then start to decline, while world consumption continues to grow. The recent sharp decline in crude oil prices will accelerate these trends. This will provide OPEC nations around the Persian Gulf with an expanding market for their abundant supplies.

This has serious implications for U.S. energy security and the nation's factories and farms, which run on energy. This country will leave itself open to grave economic and security dislocations if it becomes unnecessarily dependent on imported oil. Domestic resources have to be found and developed in preparation for the time when world oil supplies will be much tighter than they are today.

Common sense dictates, therefore, that the government remove unnecessary restraints on domestic energy production and avoid new ones. Public policies should allow oil companies to explore and drill on onshore and offshore government lands that possess energy potential, avoid discriminatory taxation of the petroleum industry, and complete the deregulation of natural gas wellhead prices.

The year 2000 is now less than 14 years away. The nation is closer to the 21st century than to such events of the recent past as man's first step onto the moon in 1969 and the world's first human heart transplant in 1967. If Americans want to strengthen themselves against a new energy shock before the end of this century, they must realize that the siren song of cheap oil today can mean greater reliance on insecure imports tomorrow.

### Final Registration

Final registration for summer quarter at CPCC will be July 7-8 on campus or at GPOC's learning centers in Pineville, Matthews, Cornelius, and Freedom Mall. High school completion, business and career training, and liberal arts all will be offered. Tuition for most classes is less than \$20. Summer quarter classes begin July 10 and continue for 11 weeks. Registration centers will be open from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. and from 5-8 p.m. For details, call 373-6887.

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many students. What do we mean by applying oneself?

"I mean to critically evaluate (your) subject matter and try to make it personally relevant," says Turner.

At the University of Delaware, I befriended other graduate and undergraduate physics students, from whom I learned a great deal. I also became friends with many of my professors who were always willing to offer their assistance. Yet my mind was always on my studies and I wasted little time worrying about a social calendar.

Some blacks argue, "Why go to a white university?"

I believe blacks should be free to choose any college or university in the U.S. Mainstream universities I feel, though, are microcosms of Mainstream America. That is to say that these universities will offer minorities an opportunity to adapt to the rigors of the Mainstream American culture prior to their making serious upward mobility mistakes that would permanently prejudice their managements' opinions against their capabilities.

I feel compelled to offer a set of postulates to enhance minority students' chances of succeeding at mainstream

universities.

Have a clear goal in mind that answers why you are going to a particular university.

Concentrate on your studies.

Do not expect a great social life.

Try to make white friends (teachers and students) who have goals similar to yours.

Join study groups and make significant contributions.

### Demonstrator

### Bus To Travel

### City Transit Routes

"The Americana," a German designed 40' bus manufactured in North Carolina, is on loan to the Charlotte Transit System through June and will be put into service on several routes. This 40-passenger bus is built by M.A.N. Truck and Bus Corp.'s plant in Cleveland, N.C.

The City of Charlotte has requested bids on the purchase of new buses for Charlotte Transit. "The Americana," one of the vehicles being evaluated for possible purchase, differs from the existing Charlotte Transit fleet in the following ways: Six-inch wider body; German-made transmission and engine; Wider doors; and Lower floor height.

The demonstration will allow transit officials to gauge riders' reaction to the special features.