

# Editorials

## Our Children In Our Schools

The National Governors Association meeting at Hilton Head Island, S.C., this past weekend released a 173-page report on education that received mixed reviews from many of the nation's leading educators. The report, developed after a year-long study and public hearings across the nation, is designed to be give governors a much greater role in influencing the trend toward educational changes in many of the states.

Mary Futrell, president of the 1.7 million member National Education Association, expressed concern that the report's plans to reward competent teachers with higher pay and more authority would unfortunately take the best teachers out of the classroom where they are needed most.

Albert Shanker, president of the 600,000 member American Federation of Teachers, said that the governors and their states should proceed slowly and cautiously in giving students and their parents the right to choose the schools of their desire. Shanker said, "If you have the right to switch, nobody wants to fight." That is, few people would be say, for example, willing to argue for improving inner-city schools. Most parents would probably send their children to the school nearest their homes for reasons of convenience. In addition, and while apparently not mentioned publicly, many educators were concerned that allowing students to choose their schools would resegregate many school systems along racial and economic lines.

However, U.S. Education Secretary William Bennett defended the idea of letting students choose their schools. He said, "If a school is wretched, we should let people leave it." Yet, there is in fact no valid reason for a public school to be allowed to become "wretched." The planned closing and demolition of an old school is understood as appropriate, but no serviceable school facility should be allowed by responsible public officials to become "wretched" by neglect and thus need to be closed.

## Sex Education

On another vital issue, the governors did not adopt any position on sex education, and the report lacked any specific recommendation on the subject. Nearby, 25 anti-abortion protesters demonstrated. They said they wanted the governors to know that if sex education is taught in the schools, students should also be instructed not to engage in sex outside of marriage. It appears to us that it was a serious oversight for the governors to have not taken some position on this vital issue.

It is, of course, important to note that our schools are really no stronger than the support and interest shown by the community in which the schools exist. This is particularly significant as it relates to the parents of the school children. Retired First Ward School Principal Cleo Gullick summed up decisively what the National Parent Teachers Association and the professional education associations have

known for years that, "Parents are a critical factor. They know more about their children than we (educators) know. They know their major modes of learning, their interests, and talents."

The fact is, without parental support of what the school seeks to teach children is a sure way to guarantee failure of both the school and the children. There is in fact a significant correlation between students' academic achievement and parental interest and involvement in the school. The absence of such involvement has been a vital reason that some inner-city youth have not reached their potential in the student-teacher learning process.

## Parental Support

Parental support of the student-teacher learning and achieving process may mean different things to different people. However, Nancy Brachey of The Charlotte Observer summarized articulately what role parents should play to help their children have successful school-learning experiences. Just in case you missed or overlooked Ms. Brachey's excellent article, here is a brief summary of her article as drawn from suggestions by the National PTA and local school administrators and teachers. As parents, we should:

- Set a good example. Let your children see you reading.
- Read to your child (with enthusiasm and interest).
- Go with your child to the library regularly.
- Talk with, rather than to, your children. This involves being a good listener (you will learn something, too).
- Help your children to manage their time. (Regulate and direct their use of television. Help them to organize their school study time in a quiet, well-lit place with a dictionary, pencils, school books, and other study aids. Insist that your children be responsible for certain chores in the home such as keeping their room clean, feeding the family dog, cutting the grass and washing dishes. Developing a sense of responsibility in doing such chores will have a positive impact on your children's attitude and responsibility about school work and other life activities.)
- Be patient. A child who is scared, upset and under (unnecessary) pressure is less likely to learn than a child who is calm and unworried.
- Take time to share ideas and let and encourage your children to develop their decision-making skills.
- Family builds self-esteem in your children through praise. (However, when reprimand is necessary do it calmly and constructively; explaining the circumstances to assure that a positive learning experience will take place.)
- As another school year begins, we hope you will think on less things so that your child or children and mine may have a better chance at having a successful and productive school year.

Miller Says

## Black, Single Mothers Can Guide Their Children

By Sherman N. Miller  
Special To The Post

Listening to the doomsday merchants, America's black family structure has already crumbled and black children are trapped in a labyrinth of poverty. These soothsayers defacto depict single black mothers as parental incompetents because they have no hope of guiding their children towards realizing the American Dream. This doomsday scenario is purely balderdash because of black single mother can guide her children towards traditional American values.

I think the late Lucille Wilder of Aliceville, Alabama, was a testimony of the tenacity of a single black mother when forced to raise a large family alone. When I met her over 22 years ago she was a widow struggling to raise 10 children on a farm. It took me only a few moments to recognize that she was a God-fearing person with very strong moral convictions that underpinned her development plan for her children.

This black lady demonstrated that one need not give birth to a child to mother it. I married her oldest daughter



Sherman

and she immediately began to treat me as though I was one of her own. She shared with me her dream of seeing the family's assets (knowledge and material possessions) cumulated between generations.

This lady's love reminded me of my own upbringing. Namely, one is expected to be responsible for his family's well-being, and the children's education is paramount. These two forces placed a great burden on my mind that lasted for months.

I was haunted by the issues of "selfishly using my

earnings for only my immediate family or helping 10 talented children." When I fully comprehended Mom Wilder's vision, my own training demanded that I help. Today these children are professional educators and professionals in industry.

This black mother's strength reached beyond the grave when her children signed over their share of a relatively new house to one daughter to keep the property in the family. This house had been the fulfillment of this black woman's dream to get her family out of the housing projects where they had had to settle after a tornado destroyed their farm house.

Some might argue that I am letting the black males off the hook by suggesting that the black female can raise children alone. I want to make it perfectly clear that I feel all men, regardless of their race, have a responsibility for the health and welfare of their families. Furthermore, our welfare system should be underpinned with the premise that maintaining the family structure is a key ingredient

COMMUNITY  
SELF-HELP PROJECTS  
"EDUCATION"  
VOTER REGISTRATION  
ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAM  
POLITICAL ORGANIZATION  
MORALITY  
DELINQUENCY  
FIGHT AGAINST  
CRIME!



"TRUE WISDOM IS TO KNOW  
WHAT IS BEST WORTH KNOWING,  
AND TO DO WHAT IS BEST  
WORTH DOING."  
HUNTER

BLACK COMMUNITIES CAN AND MUST DO THE JOB

As I See It

## JCSU Football Is In Jeopardy

By Gerald O. Johnson  
Special To The Post

In my youth I can remember going with my father to JCSU football games. I got the chance to go to all the CIAA college campuses to see the Bulls play. I have fond memories of those days. I can still see the Bulls' bus pulling up to the opposing stadium. I can still hear the players' chanting "let's go down and get it over with, get it over with, let's go down and get it over with, we're going to win this game." The chants, the players, the mood, all brought fear to the hearts of opposing teams.

Even the names of players of yesteryear bring back fond memories. Who can forget "Butch" Walker, Pettis Norman, "Snowhill," "Rocky Mount," Tom Brown, Andrew Perry, Tim Harkness, Bill Davis, Lenwood Spindle, just to name a few. But, the question now must be will new names continue to be added to the list of those who wore the Blue and the Gold? When will the names stop? When will the last Bull season end?



Gerald

All of this nostalgia, this pagentry, is on its way out from JCSU, unless we act now. The athletic department at JCSU loses approximately \$200,000 a year. The department runs on a budget of \$400,000 of which football gets the lion's share of \$135,000. This figure includes department salaries, equipment, promos, scholarships, and everything else under the sun. The income from sports is only \$200,000. Half of this comes

from student fees.

Based on the above statistics, it should be apparent to any Bull fan that the school cannot afford to continue to take losses of this magnitude. Hence, committees are currently studying the feasibility of discontinuing football.

Some immediate observations come to my mind. First, the JCSU athletic budget is far less than a lot of schools they have to compete against. Several of the schools have football budgets in excess of what Smith's entire athletic budget is. How can you expect a school to win under these circumstances? How can a school with such a skimpy budget recruit quality athletes? The answer is they can't.

Consequently, JCSU is caught in a "catch-22" situation. They can't afford to recruit quality athletes, hence, they lose. Losing causes the fans to stop supporting the teams. With no fan support there is not enough income from gate receipts to help support the teams. Therefore the school loses money.

Unfortunately, many people feel that the school gets plenty of money and that the problem is a misappropriation of funds. Others simply blame coach Small. The truth is JCSU gets funds under Endowment programs. This money is given to the school for specific purposes. The contributions of funds generally specify what donated monies can be used for. Moreover, without getting into details on how endowments work, the endowment money is not readily available for use. Suffice it to say that monies coming to JCSU are not going into the Athletic Department.

The truth of the matter is most schools should not have to spend money from general funds to sponsor athletic programs. Athletic programs should be self sufficient. This is the whole purpose of booster clubs. Gate receipts and contributions are all that should be needed to sponsor quality athletic programs. The school cannot and should not take a loss sponsoring athletics. Even though intercollegiate athletics is an integral part of a college education, it is not the purpose for which any institution of higher learning was founded.

## AHA Puts On

## Food Festival

"American Heart's Food Festival" is an innovative national program to focus public attention on the benefits of low-fat eating patterns and heart health. Local grocery stores will display posters, and provide information and recipes on heart-healthy foods and will have these foods featured during the Festival Week of September 7-13.

Scientists have demonstrated that the typical American diet - high in cholesterol and saturated fats - contributes to the risk of cardiovascular disease.

THE CHARLOTTE POST
North Carolina's Fastest Growing Weekly
704-376-0496
"The People's Newspaper"
107 Years Of Continuous Service
Gerald O. Johnson Co-Publisher Bob Johnson Co-Publisher Bernard Reeves Gen. Mgr. Jackie Carr Copy Editor Loretta Manago Mag. Editor Fran Farrer-Bradley Adv. Mgr. Dannette Gaither Office Mgr.
Published Every Thursday by The Charlotte Post Publishing Company, Inc. Main Office: 1531 S. Camden Road Charlotte, N.C. 28203
Second Class Postage Paid at Charlotte
Member, National Newspaper Publishers' Association North Carolina Black Publishers Association
National Advertising Representative: Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
One Year Subscription Rate One Year - \$17.76 Payable In Advance
USPS No. 985500 POSTMASTER Send Change of address to: Charlotte Post 1531 S. Camden Rd. Charlotte, N.C. 28203