

# Editorials

## Hope In 1987

Tradition leads many to the belief that they should end each year with a series of resolutions - life-guiding principles for the new year. Lloyd Shearer followed this tradition in listing nine resolutions on the cover of PARADE magazine (Dec. 28). His first reads, "No one will ever get out of this world alive. Resolve therefore to maintain a reasonable sense of values."

While this resolution states a pessimistic truism, it likewise suggests obtaining a "Sense of values". As we reflect on the events of 1986, we have come to the conclusion that at the center of any value needs in 1987 should be in the value of hope. However, the "Reasonable sense" of it refers to what we should hope for. Billy Graham offered an example of misdirected hope when he told 1,500 graduates at the University of South Carolina, "We put our hopes in (materialism), in technology and progress, (and) in moral absolutes, and it has failed." He admonished the graduates to place their hope in God and the Bible.

Much has happened in 1986 that gives a sense of realism to Dr. Graham's views. For example, we have observed the death of University of Maryland's basketball player, Len Bias from a drug overdose, the already well known exploitation of college athletes and fans' attitude tolerant of and encouraging professional sports teams to cheat if necessary to win. Los Angeles Laker coach Pat Riley touched on the problem when he said, "The public, the media, fans and even management have such unrealistic expectations about winning that I have to deal with the possibility that the players will get no joy out of the season. No one can win all of the time. When you're not only expected to win, but to win and look great, you're put in a position where you can never be satisfied. I tell the team that it's OK to lose 25 games - that should be our goal."

## Reducing Aid To Poor

We see a federal government that is increasingly reducing aid to the poor while spending increasing billions of dollars for new war materials. We observe the same national government breaking the law, maintaining a foreign policy that is in considerable disarray and practicing racism in its ambassadorship appointments.

We noted one editorial writer who doubted God's response to a mass prayer request for rain during the drought last summer, and then, when the rains came, just a few hours before the prayer meeting, he offered not "thanks", but rather questioned why God had sent the drought.

We have witnessed the rise of anti-black attitudes as white racists in New York City

physically attacked blacks and blacks retaliated. And on the local scene, the Ku Klux Klan sought to spread their racist ideology. We continue to receive reports here as from elsewhere of sexism in the workplace and of religious zealots who seek to curb the process of freedom in public education.

We seem to be indoctrinating our youth with the belief that work is simply a means to earn money and ignoring the fact that work in and of itself offers value in our lives. Likewise, supposedly knowledgeable people tell the poor that if they want to escape the cycle of poverty to first acquire so-called "middle-class values" but they don't state which middle class values? For example most poor people have as strong a commitment to the work ethic as do many middle class people.

And then we observe the totally unselfish people who never do anything wrong are often involved in assisting the poor and the needy, yet suffer personal pain and tragedy. Such misfortunes, Harold S. Kusher writes, inevitably raise questions (in the minds of some) about the goodness, the kindness, even the existence of God."

## Times Of Crisis

These brief comments drawn from the events of the year 1986 should be a reminder that in the life span of every human life there are times of crisis. "These are," in the words of Dr. Arnold Hutschnecker, "Traumatic events that cloud our vision and make even the bravest of us feel like giving up, like letting that precious gift that is life slip through our fingers. At such times nothing seems to matter." This was dramatically acted out by N.C. State University distance runner Kathy Ornsby on June 4, when while running in a national college championship race in Indianapolis she suddenly left the race running two blocks to a bridge 40 feet above a river. Ms. Ornsby jumped off the bridge landed 30 to 40 feet below on hard ground at the edge of the river. She was paralyzed from the waist down. She said her fear of failing God led to her decision to jump off the bridge.

Hope sustains life, hopelessness causes death. Kathy Ornsby nearly lost her life because she apparently failed in her search either consciously or unconsciously for a life sustaining hope.

Therefore, with these reminders of despair, moral depravity, life-threatening stresses, an approaching national drug and AIDS epidemic we as a nation and as individuals need to begin a new search in 1987 for a new or revived hope for the future.

## Miller Says

# Failed Government Programs Become The Norm

By Sherman Miller  
Post Staff Writer

Failed government programs have become the norm for the United States of America. But have we allowed low expectations to prevent us from exploiting successful ones?

U.S. Senator John Heinz (Pennsylvania) pointed out a crack in the new Tax Reform Act that was put there as a testimony to a proven governmental program. In the Tax Reform Act," says Heinz, "the one tax credit that still remains to give business an incentive to employ disadvantaged or minority youth and other categories of the disadvantaged is the "Targeted Jobs Tax Credit."

Yet Heinz complained, "because a lot of people don't know about (the) Targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program". He recounted the story of a lady who had gone on 30 unsuccessful job interviews in a six month period, but who quickly became employed after she received a program voucher.

Heinz explained that a voucher is "... (a certificate) that you are poor, and in one or another of several categories of disadvantage: a minority, Vietnam veteran, ex-offender, teenage youth, ... and others."

Heinz was eager to reveal that the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program "... each year is responsible for the employment of literally hundreds of thousands..." of people. He



Sherman

added, "The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor through the State Bureau of Employment Securities."

His excitement was contagious. It forced me to consider if there are other similar business-oriented programs that Congress should pass in 1987.

The rhetoric I have heard on the Enterprise Zone suggests that it has the potential of being another very successful government program. I asked Heinz why he thought the Democrats continue to block this idea.

"It beats the hell out of me!" said Heinz. "It does not make any sense."

Heinz vented his frustration: "The principal support of the legislation on the House side is a Democratic Congressman from the South Bronx (New York City). Let me tell you, Mr. Garcia



## As I See It 1986 Has Been A Tale Of Two Cities

By Gerald Johnson  
Special To The Post

This year has been like The Tale of Two Cities for me. It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Needless to say that the loss of my father was a tremendous blow for not only me, but for the rest of my family as well. During the course of 1986, I lost several close friends also. James "Muff" Martin, a very close friend and associate, suffered a heart attack while we were playing golf. He died while several of us watched helplessly. Cecil Ivory was murdered in New York City. Cecil was a close friend and associate through high school and college. Prior to 1986, death was a stranger to me. I had never experienced a close relative or friend dying. In 1986 I experienced three. It was the worst of times.

Yet, 1986 brought about several rewarding situations



Gerald

as well. The Charlotte Post, without a doubt heads the list. Not knowing exactly what to expect once the decision was made to keep the paper going, I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of community support that was displayed. All of you have been instrumental

in giving us the strength and courage to go on. Your criticisms, corrections, complaints and compliments all go into helping us shape the direction The Charlotte Post will head in. Your support made 1986 the best of times.

1987 promises to be a very good year as well. All I ask is that you stay in our corner and continue to support us. Of course support comes in many forms. We need for you to continue to purchase and to read the paper. Tell your friends and relatives about The Post. It is very important that we get and keep our circulation figures high. With a stronger circulation we can strengthen our advertising revenue, thereby strengthening the paper. With stronger revenues we can hire additional staff to broaden our news coverage, improve our layout design and provide more photographs, including the addition of color.

Moreover, we need you to continue giving us story leads, bringing in your stories and helping stay on top of what is important to you. This is your paper, use it.

In addition we need you to shop our advertisers. The people that advertise in the Post make it possible for us to provide the newspaper to you. It is important that you patronize these businesses and let them know that you saw their ad in the Post. Also, when you patronize a business that does not advertise in the Post, ask them why they don't.

With this type of support we can continue to provide you with the best product we know how to deliver. With this type of support we can continue to give job opportunities and responsibilities to individuals who might not get them otherwise. With this type of support we can broaden our existing services and expand into other areas.

Even though I don't know what 1987 will bring, with you in our corner I am confident we can face any challenge. I am looking forward to 1987 being the best of times. I am looking forward to facing the challenges, together. Thank you for your support. May God bless each and every one of you and may you have a happy and prosperous New Year!!!

knows what tough times are. The South Bronx's (is) about as tough as you can get."

Heinz's monologue led me to conclude that many poor people will have to suffer because the Enterprise Zone Bill is tied up in 1988 Presidential politics. Actually, Heinz says, "in the House it is known as the Kemp-Garcia Bill." There is no doubt that the Enterprise Zone Act would be a boon to Jack Kemp's presidential aspirations.

If my conclusion is

## Figures Show Decrease

### In Poverty Among Blacks

Recent figures indicate that in 1985, for the first time in many years, there is a slight drop in poverty among blacks. However, there is still an alarming percentage of individuals and families below the poverty level, according to Census Bureau data featured in the January issue of Black Enterprise, black America's guidebook for success.

Both black and white Americans have suffered a rise in poverty between 1980 and 1984, but the number of poor blacks is substantially higher according to Black Enterprise.

In 1984, Census Bureau data revealed that 33.8 percent of black

individuals were below the poverty level compared to 11.5 percent of white individuals. Further, 30.9 percent of black families experienced some financial difficulty, in contrast to 9.1 percent of white families, Black Enterprise reports.

The increase between figures for 1984 and those of 1980 represent a growth in poverty levels for both black and white individuals and families. The January issue of Black Enterprise is available at selected newsstands or by sending \$1.95 plus \$1.00 postage to the publisher, 130 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.

## Hampton University To Receive \$60,000 Grant

Hampton University is among eight colleges in the U>S> selected to receive a \$60,000 Presidential Discretionary Grant from the General Mills Foundation. Dr. W. R.

Harvey, President of Hampton University, intends to use the money to help finance a complete curriculum review at the university.

In a letter to Dr. Harvey, James

Shannon, Vice President and Executive Director for the Foundation, said, "We realize, given the size of your annual budget, that this is a modest grant.

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