

Editorials

The Inertia Of History

Since we live in an age of constant change we are, when we take time to observe and think about it, we'd be surprised if not shocked by the degree of inertia in our historic development. Some recent developments are an unhappy reminder of the depth of our inertia - that is - the tendency for much in the human condition to remain the same within the midst of change.

Two ongoing human conditions reaffirm this inertia of history. First, Oliver Tambo, president of South Africa's outlawed African National Congress (ANC), said in a recent New York Times interview that the United States used violent warfare to overcome slavery and to defeat Nazi Germany, but is now trying to discourage South African blacks from using similar tactics. "Nobody," Tambo added, "has the right to demand peaceful behavior of us within our own country until we are free." White South Africans and others "are used to blacks being killed (but) they are not used to bleeding themselves," Tambo stated. He said further that many whites and his critics are often indifferent to the killing of large numbers of black children and youth by South African security forces. However, "when it's a white child, it's something else."

And The New Racism

The New Racism arose with the passage of the Voting Rights Act and other laws and Presidential Executive Orders of the 1960s that sought to remove the political, economic and social barriers to black people's progress in the '60s. The New Racism was evident in culturally biased educational and job placement examinations, reinforced seniority systems that by their very nature were discriminatory because past years of discrimination prevented blacks from developing seniority; and dual educational tracts within integrated educational systems that too often do not put black students in college preparatory courses. Housing discrimination except for higher educated, higher income blacks and the ongoing exploitation of far too many black athletes still abounds.

The New Racism Part II is a continuation of these plus a re-emerging wave of violence against blacks - the killing of a black man at Howard Beach in New York, the racial hazing of Citadel cadet Kevin Nesmith, the harassment of black civil rights marchers in Cumming, Georgia, and the Ku Klux Klan's efforts to intimidate blacks in one Charlotte neighborhood. The New Racism has expanded its evil to encompass other ethnic and racial groups with growing evidence that Asians are among the hardest hit.

For example, in California, the controversial effort to make English the official language and thus, among other things, to end

bilingual educational programs is aimed primarily at Asians and Hispanics. Some whites and blacks also have argued that this hostility has been created by the Asians and Hispanics because of their refusal to speak or learn to speak English.

Over the last three years 11 Korean businesses in Washington, DC, have been fire-bombed; Vietnamese fishermen have been attacked in three states; in 1982 a Detroit man killed a Chinese youth that he thought was Japanese; in June, 1986, a white electrician killed a Vietnamese after a traffic dispute in Massachusetts; and next month, three Stoughton, Massachusetts, men go on trial for assaulting four Chinese-Vietnamese waiters. And, back to black folk, in both Los Angeles and Philadelphia during the past year interracial married couples have been harassed and their property defaced by whites.

Economic Insecurity

We might wonder why are supposedly law-abiding citizens attacking others? We believe that it is a combination of a sense of economic insecurity either real or imaginary, about job security and a lack of moral leadership by the Reagan administration in Washington. President Reagan's abandonment of affirmative action enforcement and support of the old line seniority system has resulted in a rising tide of resentment by many white workers who feel that as minorities fight to preserve the civil rights gains of the 1960s through the courts that their jobs are being threatened. This feeling of job insecurity by white workers is also in part the responsibility of President Reagan. Adele Terrell, program director of the National Institute Against Prejudice and Violence headquartered in Baltimore, has said, "There is all this feeling about Japanese trade overcoming our economy." Terrell's point is that while Reagan is carelessly pursuing a free

trade foreign policy, the Japanese and other nations we trade with are practicing some degree of protectionism in the interest of their national economies and particularly jobs for their workers. Our get-it-alone free trade practices are upsetting the balance of trade and thus costing the loss of American jobs. Therefore, since Japan is a major trade importer of the United States, when jobs are threatened many American workers vent their anger and frustrations at Japanese Americans and all other Asians.

Nevertheless, the quest for economic and social justice must, as an ongoing struggle, continue. In spite of inertia, in spite of human error, in spite of the seed beds of racism, mankind must seek progress for without it we black, white, brown and yellow will all be doomed to a terrible end.

Miller Says:

Emotionalism Is The Opiate Of The Masses

By Sherman N. Miller
Special To The Post

In recounting one's mistakes in judgment, one readily concludes that emotionalism is the opiate of the masses. Emotionalism's hypnotic control over people's actions can be seen through some lonely peoples' quest to find companionship.

I was recently taken aback by some emotional actions of people in a public bar at a Holiday Inn in Columbia, SC. Upon entering it I was asked to fill out a card giving my thoughts on an intimate acquaintance. Then they wanted to affix my initials on me in large, bold letters.

Since I was only interested in having a beer and listening to the music, I declined the offer. I found a seat facing the disc jockey which also overlooked the dance floor. An eerie sensation came over me when I realized that I was the only one sitting on this long bench in a full club.

My apprehension was calmed when I noticed that practically everyone's eyes were glued to an electronic bulletin board above my head.



Sherman

The dance floor was empty and it was no serious competition for the bulletin board. Curiosity forced me to look up.

As I read the comments from the men to the women and vice versa, I almost fell from the bench. I could not believe I was sitting in a public bar reading personal love letters on an electronic bulletin board. Furthermore, the initials of the sender and the receiver accompanied each comment.

I began to put faces to the initials. It was apparent that a couple handfuls of people were sending the bulk of the love notes. Some of these

COMMUNITY
SELF-HELP PROJECTS

"EDUCATION"
"VOTER REGISTRATION"
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"POLITICAL ORGANIZATION"
"MORALITY"
"DELIQUENCY"
"FIGHT AGAINST CRIME!"

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

BLACK COMMUNITIES CAN AND MUST DO THE JOB

Give Children An Earlier Start

By Marian Edelman
Syndicated Columnist
Reprinted from the
Winston-Salem Chronicle

Washington-In trying to prevent teen pregnancy, which stage of a child's life is most crucial?

Many adults would automatically answer: the pre-teen and teen years. This is when we usually become most urgently concerned about a child's risk of too-early pregnancy and parenthood.

But we cannot afford to wait that long.

Helping a child to develop and grow in the crucial early years-birth to age five- will improve that child's chance of be-

coming a healthy, motivated teen. And we know that such a teen has a better prospect of avoiding too-early pregnancy and parenthood.

One important key to helping lay a firm foundation for a young child is a strong early childhood development pay off in later life, research tell us.

A 20-year follow-up study on graduates of one such program found that the children in it were more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to be supporting themselves and less likely to become teen parents.

The importance of aiding our children's development before they go to

school is now becoming widely recognized.

In a report issued in August the National Governors' Association or NGA, recommends that states provide quality programs for four year olds and where possible three year olds as well. In the past three years, 14 states have passed legislation that sets up or expands such programs.

Early childhood programs must be able to serve both parents and children well.

Working parents need full-day services which accommodate their schedules. All children, regardless of whether they are participating in full or part-day programs, need comprehensive and high quality services.

As the NGA report says, "The early years of a child's life are the foundation upon which all skills will be built. If there are weaknesses in this foundation, early detection and correction are essential to future growth and learning."

Our government must make the investments in child care, Head Start and other programs that can give every child this foundation. The problems will only be harder and costlier to fix later on.

Marian Wright Edelman is a National Newspaper Publishers Association columnist who is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for youth.

Deadline Nears

January 31 is the deadline for young North Carolina musicians to enter the 1987 NCNB Music Competition.

Entries can be obtained by calling Shelby Graham at NCNB in Charlotte, 704-374-8830.

The seventh annual competition, offering scholarships totaling \$24,000, begins February 21 with regional auditions in Fayetteville, Marion, Wilson and Winston-Salem. Winners in regional performances are invited to the finals at NCNB Performance Place in Charlotte's Spirit Square March 10.

First prize is a \$12,000 scholarship to the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem.

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