

# Editorials

## An Educational Paradox

On two separate fronts, we find that the United States is now in the grip of a dual educational paradox. On one hand, blacks, who fought racism and discrimination in the streets and in the courts for a 100 years, and finally won desegregation of public facilities, including schools, are now seeking a return to black educational institutions. On the other hand, many of the same predominantly white educational institutions that ostensibly seek black students are now instituting quotas to limit their admission of Asians.

The underlying reason for these paradoxes are twofold. Many black students look to black colleges and universities to assist them in gaining a sense of personal identity as a black person or to reassess who they are within the context of a relatively new integrated, society developed over just the last 20 years.

Secondly, many Asian-Koreans, Vietnamese, Japanese, to name a few who immigrated to American in these same 20 years, and who have very high educational values, are facing a quite informal form of discrimination in college and university admissions. A recent NEWSWEEK article quotes MIT alumnus Arthur Hu as saying, "unwritten quotas are making it more difficult (for Asians) to get into selective schools." The same article states that "some critics accuse schools of deliberately adjusting admission criteria to keep Asian-American numbers down." Asian-Americans make up only two percent of the nation's college-age population but comprise 11 percent of this year's freshman class among the prestigious Ivy League schools. Blacks, Hispanics, or any other minority would suffer a similar fate if their enrollment were of a like ratio.

However, Asian college students are probably victims too of the current wave of anti-foreign feeling arising in part from the controversy surrounding efforts to reaffirm English as our national language to the exclusion of foreign languages in connection with public facilities and services. Such racist attitudes are not limited to white Americans as blacks too have expressed some dislike of Hispanics and Asians. For example, upon the early arrival of Cubans to Miami, Florida, following Castro's rise to power, blacks felt economically threatened by Cubans getting jobs traditionally held by blacks. In many urban centers too blacks are hostile toward Koreans, Vietnamese and Hispanics because they have become the new owners of neighborhood grocery stores and many other small businesses in black communities. Blacks have undoubtedly contributed to their own frustrations in these economic areas by not aggressively seeking to operate small businesses in their own neighborhoods.

borhoods.

On the question of black identity, psychology professor Jacqueline Fleming conducted a study of 3,500 students at 15 colleges and universities in Georgia, Mississippi, Texas, and Ohio in an attempt to find out the relative difference between the impact of black and white colleges and universities upon black students. The study was compiled in her book, "Blacks in College."

Dr. Fleming wrote, "Black students in white schools (colleges and universities) are not performing up to their maximum potential. The same things that black students have more of in predominantly black schools should be offered at white schools: more interaction with people. It makes a difference between how well you do." Wisely, Fleming adds, the solution to the problem lies within the student, not the school. Therefore, we might add, the introverted, shy, unimaginative student lacking initiative will feel left out, isolated or disconnected from any college or university whether he or she be black or white.

Undoubtedly, the key point of Fleming's book is in her conclusion that students enrolled at black colleges starting out with lower educational levels than the blacks at predominantly white schools, will by the end of their fourth year, eliminate those differences where similar aptitudes are evident. This simply confirms that different educational needs of blacks like any other students are met by different kinds of educational institutions.

### Dual Unique Role

There is, however, a dual, unique role played by black colleges and universities in serving black youth. First, many, perhaps too many, black youth graduate from high school ill-prepared for college study. Black colleges are to be highly commended for helping many of their students to overcome this handicap. The obvious and best proof of this success is not just in how many students graduate from such black institutions of higher learning but also in how many of these graduates go on to attend and graduate successfully from many of the nation's leading graduate schools.

Secondly, for the black youth coming from a largely white environment - high school, neighborhood, circle of friends and possible part-time work associates - black colleges are a valuable means of seeking out their own black identity. In a Charlotte Observer Black History Month article, David Perlmutter wrote about Octavia Cannon of East Lansing, MI. A graduate of 85% white East Lansing High School, with acceptance slips from her two home state universities, Ms. Cannon nevertheless came South to attend Johnson C. Smith University.

Miller Says:

## Now Is Time To Reassess Black-Jewish Alliances

By Sherman N. Miller  
Special To The Post

Black and Jewish American unity during the zenith of the Civil Rights movement produced significant progress against overt American racism. But America's racist minority can take solace in the current black and Jewish schism. Thus Black History Month offers an opportunity to reassess this historical Black and Jewish alliance in light of the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I shall call upon Dr. James Newton, director of the Black Studies Program at the University of Delaware, to offer a sterile view of Dr. King's teaching. Newton, speaking at a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration hosted by The Jewish Federation of Delaware and Beth Emeth Congregation of Wilmington, DE, said King "felt that Black Americans would fare well by the Jewish example."

He quoted from the writings of James Washington, "A Testament of Hope - The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr." to point out that "unlike Jewish Americans, black people have not developed a sense of stewardship."

Newton also saw a sense of oneness missing in the black community. A Jewish person later commented on the Jews' belief that Jews who have risen up the socioeconomic ladder have responsibility for those who have not broken poverty's chain.



Sherman

Newton offered a rationale for a disunited black community which is often exploited by many blacks to excuse failure. "The separation during slavery, family from family, caused a disunity amongst blacks that still persists today," proclaimed Newton.

Another Jewish person suggested that blacks are continuing to use 1960s' legal tactics in hopes of circumventing mainstream standards versus demonstrating higher caliber performance. This person cited, as an example, the case of the Wilmington black police officers who failed the promotion examination and the black leadership taking this issue to court instead of these officers working harder to improve their promotion potential.

I chatted with several Jew-

As I See It

## NAACP Faces Its Biggest Challenge

The Charlotte chapter of the NAACP is about to face one of its toughest challenges to date. This time the opponent is not wearing hooded robes and marching in downtown Charlotte. This time the opposition is not the management of businesses denying job opportunities to minorities. No, this time the foe isn't an entity or a group impeding the progress of the hopeless and downtrodden. Instead, this time, the NAACP's problem comes from within.

Several members of the local chapter are afraid that the historically rich organization is on a collision course with its own destiny. These members are claiming that under the current leadership improprieties exist. The improprieties include nepotism, conflict of interest, disregard for the local and national NAACP bylaws, election scandals, and many others. The discontent members feel that in order to save the organization, they must sacrifice some individuals.



Gerald

Starting in this week's edition, we will be running a three-part series on the conflicts that exist within the NAACP. The series is intended to inform and enlighten us all to this situation with the hope that the situation can be resolved.

Hence, we have been gathering information to expose both sides of this conflict.

To this end I must commend

those individuals who stepped forward with their story. Their sincerity of purpose was constantly demonstrated as they often showed concern for the continuing viability of the organization. This is not to say that they are necessarily right with their accusations. But it is to say that they demonstrated an unselfish conviction for what they were doing. It is not about sour grapes. It is about a group of individuals that feel that their organization is being torn apart at the seams. Consequently, by going public with the problems, maybe a form of mending will occur.

Our job as a newspaper is to gather and report the facts. This is what we have attempted to do. Unfortunately, some people will be hurt by what we are trying to accomplish with this series. Many of you will undoubtedly say that this should not be made public. Many of you will say that this is the business of the NAACP and no one else should be concerned.

To all of you that feel this way, I can only say this. The

tradition of a great organization like the NAACP historically represented the mood and attitudes of a people. The organization served as the spokesman for justice and freedom. It acted as the knight in shining armor to fight for those things that were constitutionally ours by right, but were only given to us through a fight. Even today as this organization strives to find its rightful place in today's changing society, many people are resting their hopes and dreams on this dying warrior to wage just one more fight if the need arises.

Therefore, the series should be important to us all because of what the NAACP once was and because of what it can still be. As a community we can not afford to have this organization divided. The internal fighting must end, so that the organization can get on with external concerns. By airing the internal issues of both sides publicly, we hope to make the organization accountable to its membership as well as to the community it serves. It is inconceivable to me that a group whose very existence is based on fighting for the rights of others is being accused of treating its own members unfairly. This is the ultimate insult to the integrity of the organization. It could lead to its eventual demise.

Hence, let the facts flow and let the healing begin.

ish people after the program. These conversations convinced me that Affirmative Action was a key impediment to good black and Jewish relationships. One issue which lurked just under the surface in many of my conversations was, "Should excellence take precedence over racial quotas?"

My first inclination was to ignore these Jewish people's concerns over Affirmative Action because they hold a disproportionate number of the high paying professional jobs.

It was not until I was watching a professional basketball game on television that the Jewish side of the issue started to trouble me. As best I recall, there were five black chaps from the Atlanta Hawks play-

ing five black fellows from the Houston Rockets with a predominantly white audience.

I called my wife into the room and asked her what happened to the hopes and dreams of the many rising young black basketball stars if professional basketball teams were required to hire players by racial quotas? Are not black players picked because they are the best basketball players?

Numerous Black Americans have clearly demonstrated their ability to excel in sports and show business. If the black community is serious about massive black upward mobility, then they must accept Dr. King's teaching on excellence and apply it in America's educational arena.

### McMillan Receives Appointment

Washington - Congressman Alex McMillan was appointed recently to the Joint Economic Committee of the 100th Congress by House Speaker Jim Wright. McMillan was nominated by House Republican Leader Robert Michel.

"The Joint Economic Committee is important because it studies and makes proposals on current economic issues," said Michel in nominating McMillan for the Committee. "Only four House Republicans could be appointed and Alex McMillan was a clear choice. He is uniquely qualified for this post because of his extensive economic and business background and his thorough understanding of the economic con-



Congressman Alex McMillan  
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