

Editorials

Victory Over Sexism

In 1980 Paul Johnson, an employee of the Santa Clara County (California) Transportation Agency, was refused a promotion. The job he sought was given to Diane Joyce, a person with less job experience and who made a lower score on the job interview than did Johnson. Believing that he had been treated unfairly Johnson filed a lawsuit charging discrimination. With the Court ruling in favor of Joyce, Johnson appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

With the high Court upholding the lower court ruling in a 5-3 decision, the Court had for the first time upheld an affirmative action program for women. The majority opinion as written by Justice William Brennan was a stern rejection of the Reagan administration and conservative groups who had supported Paul Johnson's claim of discrimination.

Justice Brennan, supported by Justices Harry Blackmun, Thurgood Marshall, Sandra Day O'Connor, John Paul Stevens, and Lewis Powell, said that employers should not have to admit discrimination before adopting affirmative action plans as a means of creating a more balanced work force. O'Connor, a Reagan appointee, said in favoring the Joyce decision that she, nevertheless, believes that the court had gone too far in endorsing affirmative action.

Another Reagan appointee, Justice Antonin Scalia, writing the minority opinion, stated forcefully that "A statute (the 1964 Civil Rights Act) designed to establish a color-blind and gender-blind work place

has...been converted into a powerful engine of racism and sexism..." Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Byron White voted with Scalia.

If Justices Scalia, Rehnquist and White consider affirmative action a form of racism and sexism, we have to wonder what they would call a society where women, from the very moment they enter the work force, earn considerably less than men? This is exactly what a survey of 10,000 recent high school graduates in the United States revealed. In fact, a basic comparison of annual wages shows that four years after high school graduation men earned an average of 30% more than women or, \$11,000 a year, compared to \$7,800 for women.

Furthermore, in the typical discrimination way, 87% of the office clerical workers were women while men comprised 93% of the skilled trade jobs with pay averaging 31% more than the clerical jobs. The point is, there is still in America considerable resistance to women pursuing careers and job opportunities in many jobs traditionally held by men.

Of course, black people, older and young workers continue to experience discrimination in the work place. Therefore, the Paul Johnsons of this nation will have to live with what some call "reverse discrimination" until justice for all becomes a matter-of-fact reality for all Americans and not the Anglo-Saxon white male. "...there can be no mistaking that what is happening (in the work place) reflects what is happening in the country."

The New Racism

The quotation we have used to end our editorial on "Victory Over Sexism" emerges from Jonathan Yardley's Washington Post article about the "new hotbed" of racial animosity on the nation's predominantly white college and university campuses. Yardley attributes much of the new racism in the nation to a gross lack of moral leadership by the Reagan administration. For example, the White House was strongly opposed to the U.S. Supreme Court's Johnson vs. Joyce decision, it made no effort to recruit black personnel for senior level positions and has in fact let their number decline by over 50% in Reagan's six years as President (Charlotte Post, March 26) and has significantly cut federal aid to higher education.

The latter action by the Reagan policies will have a particularly heavy impact on higher education opportunities because too many black parents are still locked into lower paying jobs because of job discrimination and the absence of meaningful affirmative action programs or more ideally, a racism-less society.

Yardley goes on to say that "the college campus, which a quarter-century ago became

the spawning ground of civil rights activism, now seems to be breeding a new and especially distasteful racism." Indeed such a statement causes one to wonder what is the quality of American higher education? Yardley notes that a survey by the Chronicle of Higher Education confirms racial conflict and hostility at eight known colleges and universities, all in the North, except the Citadel, and each with incidents at least equal to if not worse than the Citadel's hazing of a black cadet.

While the administrations of these institutions of higher learning "reacted with genuine shock and anger to disclosures of racial prejudice, and most tried to deal responsibly with it," they have too often exhibited a lack of moral leadership. This is most evident in the failure of such institutions to hire black personnel across the board in any and all available positions. The pattern and practice too often is to focus the only black department head in Afro-American studies which also probably has most of the black-tenured professorships or to make them vice chancellors of student affairs or community relations.

Miller Says

Massive Job Exodus Has Generated Paranoia

By Sherman N. Miller
Special To The Post

Many Americans have watched their high-paying jobs become the bounty of cheap, foreign labor. This massive job exodus has generated a national paranoia over America's non-competitiveness in international trade arenas. Thus some people worry, "What will we do when the communist Chinese start exporting goods?"

Yet Han Xu, ambassador for The People's Republic of China, does not see an immediate threat to American jobs from an onslaught of cheap, Chinese goods. He argues, "We are not a country like Japan. In China, trade possesses only a minor part of our economy. First we have to meet the needs of the domestic market."

Ambassador Han Xu's comment offers some solace to worried American workers. But how long will it be before we see China incorporated as a formidable competitor in international trade arenas?

"It will take quite some time," says Ambassador Han Xu. "Then we will become more competitive maybe."

Ambassador Han Xu could not offer a more definitive time table.

Han Xu pointed out further that America's business lead-



Sherman

ers should not merely focus on per capita income when assessing China's market potential. He sees the total income of highly populated countries as a more realistic economic barometer.

"By the end of this century we will quadruple our economy," said Han Xu. "At that time the per capita income will be \$800 U.S. It is not very big, but considering at that time we will have 1.2 billion population, the total income will be \$1 trillion."

Although China represents a huge market, its communistic philosophical bent does not set well with Americans. Yet Han Xu, who has also served a tour in the Soviet Union, does not see China fol-

Are School Based Clinics Needed?

School Based Health Care Clinics are on the firing line. Some school systems, parents, students, and teachers feel that they are necessary and can aid in fighting teen pregnancy and AIDS. But are school based clinics giving into the problem rather than fighting it or solving it?

To many the idea of such clinics are saying that parents lack the need responsibility to raise children and instill values in them. Sex education, which is the core of the controversy, in schools is to be an enhancer of values taught at home for teens' responsibility and restraint.

Oftentimes parents are reluctant to discuss sexuality and sex with their children fearing that it will encourage them to partake in such actions. According to Secretary of Education William Bennett, this is not true. He believes that by discussing sex at home, much of the mystery is removed through the frank, candid conversation. It also allows a parent the opportunity to convey and ingrain a value system in relationship to what sex is and how it is to be used.

Increased pregnancy and increased abortion are two things not to be encouraged among teens. School clinics in many cases almost condone the fact. They are saying to teens that sexual activity is fine and if you become pregnant in the meanwhile we can fix that, too; and it's still okay. Where is the parental involvement?

Churches, especially black churches, are making strides in combating the problem of sex education. A select few are offering value based information that is accurate, straight forward, and involves the parents. These candid sessions



meet the problem of educating head on: no sugar and no side-stepping. Medical personnel, religious leaders and counselors make up the forum along with children, teens, and parents. Parental consent is needed and participation is greatly encouraged.

School Based Clinics do not need parental consent to counsel the young person nor to dispense contraceptives. It seems as though they are trying to keep the parent from finding out what is going on. The parent is developed as the opposition rather than an ally. Trust and communication between the young person and the parent(s) can become non-existent.

The public education systems do not have money laying around allocated just for such use. Thus some pharmaceutical companies that produce contraceptives are using this opportunity to instill product loyalty by funding these clinics in the school. It is the same idea computer companies used in a different vein. To educate children, computers are one thing but contraceptives, sex education and the like are another. While these clinics claim to be comprehensive health clinics too often they become dispensaries of condoms and birth control pills: a cope out.

Can this be called sex education? Handing out a method is not education; it is saying "It's okay - everybody is doing it." Everybody is not do-

ing "it." Where is the stressing of responsibility, or teaching real sexuality in all aspects? Where are the values that say "You do not have to do it to be socially accepted?" or "Partaking in such activity is not in your best physical and mental interest at this time, so let's stay away from it."

Condemning and/or condoning are not the answers. Some type of revolution is needed whereby administrators, teachers, parents and young people come together to meet the problems of sex education and School Based Clinics head on and work to solve them.

Parents must stand up and be responsible. They need not be experts to control and voice opinions about the clinics. In fact, parents have a right and obligation to know and be part of what is going on in the public education system.

Neighborhood schools are fast becoming part of the past. Thus parents need to become viable parts of the school, no matter how close or far. The interest is needed because what happens within those walls for six hours each day affects the entire 24 of the family's. What is learned there is brought into the home. What if a child brought home contraceptives or information concerning sex education without parental consent? Parents must once again become involved in what is going on in school and the education of their children.

THE CHARLOTTE POST
North Carolina's Fastest Growing Weekly
378-0496
"The People's Newspaper"
108 Years Of Continuous Service
Bill Johnson Publisher Emeritus
Gerald Johnson Co-Publisher
Bob Johnson Co-Publisher
Dorothy Galtner Office Manager
Bernard Reeves New Mktg. Mgr.
Jackie Carr Production Mgr.
Loretta Manna Managing Editor
Fran Payne-Bradley Adv. Mgr.
Published Every Thursday By The Charlotte Post Publishing Company
Main Office: 1881 S. Camden Road Charlotte, NC 28208
Second Class Postage Paid at Charlotte
Member, National Newspaper Publishers' Assoc. North Carolina Black Publishers Assoc.
National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
One Year Subscription Rate \$17.55 Payable in Advance
USPS No. 983500 POSTMASTER: Send Change of Address To THE CHARLOTTE POST 1881 S. Camden Road Charlotte, NC 28208

lowing the strict Soviet style communist doctrine. He says they are developing a unique Chinese economic system where they are employing the strengths of both capitalism and communism.

"So long as we stick to the principal that our ownership is public ownership," contends Han Xu, "and also we follow the destination of common prosperity, we have no fear to make use of the capitalist way (for instances, the

Stock Exchange).

Han Xu's comments suggest that the Chinese are looking for proven methods to quickly improve their economy. "Through this Stock Exchange we can reinvigorate our internal economy. In the factory, when some workers become shareholders, they become more enthusiastic towards their work because they believe there is a share of their property."

His enthusiasm was very high when he offered me a new buzz phrase to position China's economy in the international arena. Han Xu proclaimed China has "a planned commodity economy."

Can American businesses afford to ignore a \$1 trillion economy and be competitive in the world market? Would it not be foolhardy also to think you can ignore one billion people?

An Opinion About Proposition 48

Dear Editor:

According to many experts, Proposition 48 (as it is affectionately identified), depletes our colleges' and universities' efforts to strengthen the academic base of the athletics programs. Their claim is that many of our athletic programs have ventured outside the intent or mission of formal education and the educational institutions of this nation. Others claim that "Proposition 48" is an attempt to discriminate among our student-athlete population in order that certain sports (football and basketball come to mind first) become more racially balanced at our predominantly white institutions, as well as discrimination of minorities to exclude them from attending college period.

It has become evident that major college athletic programs and small schools aspiring to great heights have and will continue to embrace the rules of this NCAA policy for participation and eligibility--700 SAT minimum and 2.0

grade point average.

Although each side for and against this new requirement certainly has perhaps legitimate claims as to their positions, I submit the following:

1. Proposition 48 presently has greater impact upon black athletes as attested to by those who have been declared ineligible as freshmen.

2. Fortunately or unfortunately, depending upon one's point of view, Proposition 48 will not cause a substantial number of black athletes to migrate from predominantly white colleges and universities.

3. Proposition 48, even though its intent may be of a discriminatory posture, will in the end assist black and minority athletes more so than hurt them. This will apply both academically and athletically.

4. In Division II and III, the adjustment period to meet this new standard is August, 1988, which means a high school student sin-

cerely interested in a college education and a quality educational experience will have an ample opportunity (two academic years) to better prepare himself/herself toward this adjustment.

Sincerely,
William E. Lide, Ph.D.

NTE Workshop

Rock Hill, SC - Winthrop College is offering a series of workshops to prepare future teachers to pass the National Teachers Examination. Successful passage of the NTE and specific specialty sections are requirements for teacher certification.

The workshops, sponsored by Winthrop and its Joyner Conference Center, are designed to improve test-taking skills, increase reading speed, enhance reading comprehension, and reduce test-taking anxiety.

To register or for more information, call 803-323-2196.