

Editorials

The Charlotte Post

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Jackson's Sense Of Reality

In our editorial, "Jesse Jackson's Realism" on June 25, we noted how most white journalists apparently want to make Jackson the real "Invisible Man." That is, invisible in the sense that as a nation far too many white people continue to ignore the needs, concerns and interests of minority people. We noted too that Jesse Jackson is the latest nationally prominent black personality to receive the invisible man treatment in that the white media and many national Democratic Party leaders refuse to acknowledge him as the logical and natural frontrunner in the presidential race. The media spends more time talking about why Jackson is ignored than about the substance of what he has to say.

Now comes reports that the Democratic Party bigwigs are puzzled by Jesse Jackson's presumed indecision about announcing his candidacy for the party's nomination for the presidency. After what we would agree was a steady-but-lackluster performance in a July 2 debate with the five expected Democratic presidential candidates on William Buckley's "Firing Line" television show, Jackson told reporters that he still had not made a final decision on seeking the presidency.

Jackson said that he would make his final decision by Labor Day, the first Monday in September. More significantly, Jackson said, "This (seeking the presidency) is not the only way we're willing to serve." Thus as white news reporters continue to ignore what Jackson has to say, they missed the fuller meaning of this statement. In looking beyond the headlines we found in Jackson's first book, "Straight From The Heart," the meaning of his statement on willingness to serve.

In the editor's introduction it says that Jesse Jackson's approach to social change involves at a minimum three steps. First, what he calls "rejected people," must change their minds about themselves and "recognize that they are important ("I am somebody") rather

than impotent." Secondly, through self-discipline rejected people must develop whatever powers and resources they have. Thirdly, they must use this power to "gain leverage to bring about changes," and the punchline, "while rejected people rarely have a majority of the political or economic power in a particular situation, they frequently have enough to determine where the balance of power will lie."

Jackson's cautionary note about his candidacy for the presidency is reflected in another statement in his book. In a quote from a 1983 speech, Rev. Jackson says, "It is better that we lose a political race and keep our self-respect than to win the race and lose our soul." Undoubtedly, Jackson's point is in the reality that to survive in the game of politics the player must develop and live with the art of compromise. Jackson rightfully believes that compromise can, and too often does, lead to abandoning the individual's basic beliefs and values and may lose his soul. It is quite evident that we have finally secured a copy of Jackson's book "Straight From The Heart."

We said in our earlier editorial that upon reading this book we would have more to say about Jesse Jackson because "his views will have a significant impact upon the next President, no matter who wins."

In this regard, what we are attempting to say is that Jackson's perceived indecision about his candidacy is, in reality, a reflection of the two points that we have drawn from his book. In summary, and to repeat, being able to influence the fringes of political and economic power while maintaining self-respect and therefore aiding "rejected people" may be better achieved outside of the White House than in.

As promised, we will be drawing points from Jackson's book from time to time to help keep in clear perspective the meaning of political events leading to the two national political conventions in 1988.

Council Loses A Winner

City Council member Minette Trosch's July 2 announcement that she will not seek reelection as an at-large Republican represents a major loss of a dedicated public servant. As a district then an at-large Council person, Mrs. Trosch has always been available and interested in laboring to respond positively and objectively to the needs and concerns of the voters.

In listening carefully to the concerns of west side residents, Mrs. Trosch fought to stop efforts to extend LaSalle Street through the University Park community to I-85 to accommodate truck traffic from the industrial parks along North Graham Street.

In announcing her retirement from public office, Mrs. Trosch uttered words that reflect the commitment to serve that she has demonstrated and an insight to the future directions of Charlotte that many others would do well to listen to.

She said that our "accelerated growth has potential pitfalls: loss of a sense of community...declining emphasis on human values and growing emphasis on the glamorous trappings of a world-class city. This undoubtedly refers in part to international commercial air traffic, NBA basketball, foreign sister city relationships and more national corporate headquarters in Charlotte. While not necessarily opposing these developments, we see Mrs. Trosch running up the caution flag to say that we should proceed with a clear perspective on where we are going. "Gimmicks," she says, "and promotions to become just like any other big city will leave Charlotte featureless and futureless" at the cost of our "human city" quality.

As we bid farewell to Mrs. Trosch as a good and faithful public servant, we can best show our appreciation by heeding her words of wisdom to keep Charlotte a "human city."

TAKE A LOOK AT THE FUTURE, OUR FUTURE AS A RACE. A CONTINUATION OF POVERTY, TEENAGE PREGNANCY, ILLITERACY AND STUPIDITY BECAUSE IT SEEMS THAT WE JUST DON'T CARE ABOUT ONE ANOTHER. THIS YEAR THE SUMMER OF 1987 MARKS TWENTY YEARS SINCE THE 1967 RIOTS OF WATTS, WHICH IGNITED A SERIES OF OTHER RIOTS IN OTHER CITIES THAT HOT SUMMER. SINCE THEN, STUDIES SHOW THAT WE ARE NO BETTER OFF NOW THAN WE WERE THEN. IF ANYTHING WE ARE WORSE OFF. FACT #1, THERE ARE 36% MORE BLACKS TODAY LIVING IN POVERTY THAN IT WAS IN 1967, AND PROJECTED NUMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2007 WILL BE A LOT WORSE UNLESS WE ACT NOW. LET'S PULL OURSELVES TOGETHER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



Minority Teacher Shortage Becoming A Crisis

The National Education Association (NEA) recently completed its 125th annual meeting. A segment of the meeting dealt with the declines in minority teachers while minority student enrollment steadily increases. In a five year period covering 1981 to 1986, the percentage of Black teachers declined nearly a percentage point from 7.8 percent to 6.9 percent.

The NEA further reported that by 1990 more than 30 percent of all students in public school systems will be minority students. Meanwhile, only five percent of the teacher population will be minorities.

Mary Hatwood Futrell, President of the NEA, explains, "this trend toward fewer and fewer minority teachers threatens to deny minority students the positive role models they need to succeed in school".

While the percentage of minority teachers has been declining since 1971, the percentage of white teachers has been edging upward.

The NEA report discloses that cutbacks in federal financial aid as one key reason for the decline in the number of minority teachers in education. Fewer and fewer minorities are entering college, thereby, reducing the number of potential minority candidates entering the field of education.

To understand the magnitude of this problem, consider that a large percentage of minority children come from non-conventional households.

The family relationship will not be like that of the Huxtables.

You will find a large percentage of single family households. You will find a large percentage of households where the parents are too busy trying to make ends meet



that they don't have time to participate in their child's educational process.

You will find a large percentage of poor people who can not obtain transportation to get to their child's school activities because the school is across town.

You will find households where parents are intimidated by the educational process and are ashamed or afraid to participate in their child's educational endeavors.

All these reasons justify why strong minority role models are so vitally needed in the public school systems.

Moreover, the sensitivity to minority concerns is of utmost importance. Recent incidents that have occurred locally help demonstrate the point.

The Derek Barnes' situation at McClintock Junior High School is one that appears to be an insensitivity to minority concerns. Derek was denied membership in the school's honor society.

The yearbook incident at Olympic where offensive photos and cutlines were used to depict Black students at Olympic, is even a more glaring example of minority concerns.

As the minority teacher population shrinks and the minority stu-

dent population increases, problems of this nature will exacerbate. Black students' concerns and problems will not get dealt with properly. The primary reason is the lack of sensitivity to the needs of the minority student.

Obviously, more minority teachers in education will help give students role models to emulate. Moreover, it will help non minority teachers understand the Black perspective of situations that will occur. But, the problem of getting more minority teachers in the school system is long term. Even if programs were developed today to stimulate getting minorities into education, it would take five or more years to see the results. However, now is the time to initiate such actions.

A more short term action that could realize some results is to make all non minority teachers take minority sensitivity training. All teachers should understand the backgrounds of the various ethnic groups they will have to deal with. Understanding the background helps one understand the problems they may have to confront. More importantly, it will help teachers understand how to deal effectively with those problems. The need for a program of this nature has manifested itself with the aforementioned incidences.

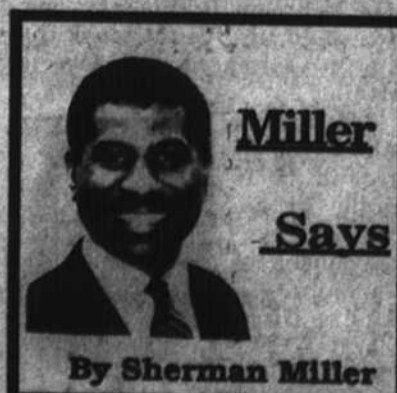
Also, we need younger, more innovative principals in our schools. These guys sitting around for retirement and/or area superintendent positions are actually doing the school system more harm than good. The old way of doing things may have been good for the old days, but can retard progress for the nowadays.

The community must act today to guarantee our children a tomorrow.

Blacks Positive Contributions To U.S.

Discussions about the importance of Black History in the economic mainstream are usually undergirded by altruism. Yet, this parochial view may be obviating a significant source of revenue for tourism in many states.

In the early 70s at a Western North Carolina plantation country club, I was given a tour which included a stop at the well preserved grave sites of some black slaves. I became enchanted by the spirits of my black forefathers crying out with joy because one of their sons was walking with the son of a former slave owner. In reassessing this experience from a business prospectus, I see that my tour guide really pointed out the mainstream market value in preserving Black History. The African Methodist Episcopal Church recently went a step further and highlighted the value in states identifying and preserving their black historical sites. Harmon Carey, President of the Afro-American Historical Society of Delaware, says that approximately 1000 A.M.E. Church members, largely from the Northeastern United States, visited the Delaware Plantation where their founder Bishop Richard Allen was a slave. This was a bicentennial tribute of the A.M.E. church. This simple tribute makes this former Delaware plantation a must visit place for A.M.E. tourists seeking the roots of their church. It also helped the Delaware civic leadership recognize the impor-



tance in researching the history of Delaware's black community.

Delaware is also the birthplace of the black AUMP Methodist Church. Further, Delawarean John Dickinson (a signer of the U.S. Constitution) freed his slaves and later paid them fair free men wages. Fortunately, Delaware has seen the wisdom in reconstructing the slave quarters at Dickinson's Mansion.

artifacts in their possession, anything they can share. . . . We are open to their being actively involved in all aspects of our efforts."

Clearly, Black History will rapidly evolve into big business. Economic is the driving force of this Great Nation, therefore, the American History books of 2025 will stress the positive contributions of black Americans in building the United States of America.

Carey says that Black Delawareans hope to build a Black Historical museum. Chattanooga, Ten-

nessee's Afro-American Heritage Council might offer Delaware some guidance since they have been collecting artifacts and they are well underway with their efforts to construct a major museum. I did feel like I was going through a time warp whilst walking through Chattanooga's current tiny black museum.

Thus, the issue becomes, "How do black Americans ignite this Black History fervor throughout the nation?" Carey says, "The (National) Black Congressional Caucus has a National Black Roundtable. They met about two months ago and one of the recommendations I made attending that conference was that The Roundtable support the establishment of Black Historical Societies or organizations in every State of the Union. U.S. Congressman Walter Fauntroy is going to take it to the Board because he thought it was an excellent idea." I once had a White Virginia chap lend me the bill of sale for a slave girl which had been in his family since 1842. This document made it clear to me that any serious effort to find artifacts on Black American History must include all races of people.

"Though we are concerned with Black History we don't consider this to be a black effort," proclaimed Carey. (We include) White people and any other ethnic groups who have information or

