

Editorials

The Charlotte Post

Bill Johnson, Publisher Emeritus



Gerald O. Johnson, Publisher
Jalynne Strong, Managing Editor
Dannette Gaither, Office Manager

Bob Johnson, Co-Publisher
Jackquelyn Carr, Production Manager
Fran Farrer-Bradley, Advertising Manager

Published Every Thursday

Issues Determine Real Victory

Rev. Jesse Jackson said last spring that he would announce by Labor Day whether he would be a candidate for the U.S. presidency. That decision, he added, would be influenced in part by a show of support through the raising of \$1 million to \$2 million. As of last week Jackson appeared to be well on his way to meeting his goal. He is in fact expected to be just beyond the \$1.5 million mark by September 1, 1987, a week before Labor Day.

Equally encouraging for Jackson to run was the enthusiastic outburst of applause that he received at the Southern Legislative Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, recently. During his August 21 breakfast meeting at McDonald's Cafeteria here in Charlotte, Jackson noted that in his possible bid for the presidency that he would focus on five points: stopping the importation of drugs, ending the exportation of jobs, ceasing the exploitation of workers, restructuring the debts of the nation's farmers and re-prioritizing items in the federal budget.

Saying what none of the other candidates will say, Jackson said forcefully that if the United States can defend the borders of other countries like Nicaragua and Vietnam, then it must be willing to defend the borders of America from drugs. He added that our national government knows where the drugs are and where they are grown.

Speaking on similar candid terms Jackson referred to the farmer as "necessary" to our nation and the world and noted that the farmers were not looking for a handout, just a bail out. To dramatize his point, Jackson added, "If we can bail out Chrysler, if we can bail (the City of) New York, then we certainly can bail out the family farmer."

Attorney D. G. Martin said in his Post column last week that earlier this summer Jesse Jackson was giving a similar address in Atlanta as one of several candidate speakers. Martin wrote, "I stood next to an old line conservative Democrat from rural Georgia" lis-

tening to Jackson. "When he (the old liner) leaned over to talk to me I expected to hear nothing good about Jackson. But here is what he said, 'If that boy was white, he'd be the President. He is the best of the lot.'"

That kind of deep-seated racism is still very much a part of the American character. For example, a Joint Center for Political Science study of television news coverage of Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign showed that TV reporters viewed him as a legitimate candidate (and why not?), but outside the circle of possible winners. C. Anthony Broh, author of the study of 2,189 or more 1983-1984 evening news clips, said, "I don't believe it's explicitly racist. I believe there's an institutional racism built into the society."

This illustrates that racism has an ironic twist. When Stan Kaplan, president and publisher of The Charlotte Leader gave welcome remarks for Jesse Jackson's Charlotte visit last week, he said it did not matter whether Jackson won the presidency. "All that matters is that Jesse runs and that Jesse tries. And it will have an effect on us '88."

Kaplan may have taken a page from Jesse Jackson's 1984 Democratic National Convention speech when he said, "Democracy guarantees opportunity" it does not guarantee success. Democracy guarantees the right to participate; it does not give a license to either a majority or a minority to dominate. The victory for the Rainbow Coalition in the platform debates today was not whether we won or lost the vote but that we raised the right issues.

Thus, while unjust men, infected with the sin of racism, would deny Jesse Jackson a fair and equal opportunity to serve in the highest political office of the nation, a just god assures that Jackson's messages will be heard and accepted with respect as in the case of the old line conservative Georgia Democrat.

From Renters To Homeowners

In May of this year, the Charlotte housing Authority announced its Stepping stone housing program. These two-site 100 unit apartments will be rented to carefully selected public housing applicants with the clear expectation that within five to seven years the tenant will vacate to become homeowners.

Then in late July of 1987, the Jimmy Carter Work Camp of 200 volunteers from 28 states and Canada, plus 100 local volunteers built single family detaches in five days. The homes were sold for \$25-\$28,000 each at no interest. Each buyer was required to put 100 hours of "sweet equity" into the home they purchased and 200 hours in two other houses to help keep costs down. This effort was habitat for Humanity's biggest project of its type ever in the nation. In a ribbon cutting ceremony last Friday, the City of Charlotte officially opened 24 single family homes in one of the very few programs of its kind in the nation. The homes, built under a joint venture, involved the NCNB Community Development Corporation, the John Crosland Compa-

ny, Gulf South Development Group and the City of Charlotte.

The most unique feature of this program is that the homes were sold to public housing tenants with many years as tenant dwellers. Mrs. Wynona Martin, a 52-year-old mother of five children, had lived in public housing for 32 years. The City of Charlotte provided deferred payment second mortgages to help assure that the homes would be affordable. Likewise, as the 24 buyers vacated their rental units until others in desperate need of housing were able to move in.

These three unique housing programs reflect the City's strong and continuing commitment to provide more and better housing opportunities for low income people. The City of Charlotte provided grant funds for Habitat for the land acquisition and infrastructure work. Also, the City and Mecklenburg County are helping to finance the Housing Authority's Stepping Stone housing developments.

Yes, Charlotte is truly a caring city.

A Question For The Rainbow

Guest Editorial
By Fess Bradley

After reading the August 13 issue of the Post I was surprised to find that the scheduled appearance of Rev. Jesse Jackson was not reported in the paper. Upon inquiry I was informed that the Charlotte Chapter of the Rainbow Coalition did not notify the Post. However, they did inform the Observer and they apparently informed most of the other majority owned news media. Was this simply a curious oversight, a lack of political maturity or a cold conspiracy not to inform the Post and its readers?

If this was an oversight it was indeed peculiar given the fact that other organizations were informed. It is unthinkable that Rev. Jackson could appear in any other city where there was a Black owned newspaper and that newspa-

per not be informed. Hopefully this was a shameful and isolated incident and these actions are exclusive to the Charlotte Chapter.

Perhaps this incident was a simple reflection on the lack of political maturity within the local chapter. If so, they should be reminded that the only group that solidly supported Rev. Jackson's campaign in 1984 was grass roots Black people. And as his campaign attempts to expand its base in 1988 the only group that can be expected to solidly support Jackson are grass root Blacks. Not even the Black bourgeoisie solidly supports Rev. Jackson. Therefore, why would his local branch not inform a newspaper that clearly reaches the grass-roots? This is political immaturity personified.

If this was a cold conspira-

cy, was it because the Post courageously took the correct position in calling for the resignation of Commissioner Walton, who appeared as the master of ceremonies on the Jackson program. This was ironic given the fact that the invitees to sponsor the event from the majority community covered the complete political spectrum from the liberal Stan Kaplan to an archconservative such as Cy Bahakel. Is the Charlotte Chapter telling us that white people of differing political ideologies can come together for a common cause but Black people of differing persuasions can't?

Whatever the reasons, I think the Rainbow Coalition owes the Post and its reader's an explanation, and the Post deserves all due credit for giving Jackson's appearance front page coverage (August 20) regardless.



Adoption: Black Kids, White Families?

Guest Editorial
By Kwabena T. Ekuban

Adoption: black kids, white family? This is exactly the question most black people have asked themselves and answered "Hell No!" The rationale behind this varies from the fear of these black kids losing their cultural heritage and black identity to, simply, black pride—all of which have some merit.

Black kids, white families was also the subject of discussion on ABC news program "Nightline" on July 31. I can't remember the name of the participants but there was a gentleman from New Orleans who represented the opposing view. His concern was no different from what most black people have previously expressed. In other words, he represented the majority view.

Before I go on, let me caution the reader that I write here not as an expert but as a concerned individual expressing his view on a subject facing the community in which he belongs.

I have always thought the primary rationale for adoption is to give that unfortunate child (black or white) the chance to grow up in a loving family and have a parent or parents.

The reason we adopt is very simple, because we care enough to love these unfortunate children.

If these are the reasons for adoption, then I am yet to be convinced why race should become a dominant factor in approving who should adopt whom.

An interesting question raised on the "Nightline" program concerned how does a black child adjust to other black people, after that child has grown up in an all-white family, lived in all white neighborhoods, and possibly attended mostly white schools?

Outfall Of Deregulation: Mediocrity

"If you have a business day to spare, fly by Altair" was an adage that haunted me whenever I was forced to take this now defunct airline. At the time, I believed this airline was merely an outlier in the industry. Yet, today, business people openly lament the pervasive poor service throughout America's airline industry which forbodes an industry ripe for an external invasion.

I never paid much attention to what differentiates airlines until I travelled within the Orient. Until then, I had believed the U.S. Government set the standard of excellence for airlines: a quantum level beyond the world. Flights on Lufthansa (German) and Singapore Airlines, however, redefined my view of the international airline industry.

I found the Business Class on Singapore Airlines to be superior to First Class on PanAm. In addition to excellent traditional services, a Lufthansa stewardess even mailed a love note to my wife that I wrote over Vietnam en route from Hong Kong to Bangkok, Thailand. I do not ever recall hoping to attract someone's attention to obtain service on these airlines because their flight attendants just seemed to sense I needed something.

Nevertheless, I heard a scary story (probably just a tall tale) of foreign airlines that never had a crash because they changed their names after an incident. This horror story shook my confidence so I adopted cabin upkeep and cleanliness, scratches on the windows and newness of paint on the plane's body as gauges of airline safety. I concluded that attention to these details offered an inkling of an airline management's

In my attempt to answer that question, I pose another question: How does a black kid who lives with his or her black parents in their suburban home by "whiteman standards," attends a private school with his or her "whiteman-like accent," etc., adjust to those of us from the ghetto with our ghetto accent and typical public school education? I don't know.

However, if that would be a problem then it seems to me the problem is not confined to that adopted black child who happens to grow up in a white family.

The gentleman from New Orleans, however, made a serious accusation which needs to be looked into. He said something to the effect that adoption agencies have deliberately set the standard for adoption in a manner that makes it almost impossible for black people to adopt one of their own. Some quarters of the black population have described this discriminatory act as "genocide." I take this opportunity to call on the appropriate authorities to investigate.

Tell me about the erosion of our culture and I will add to it. As a people, I strongly believe that we are losing our cultural heritage. But black kid, white family?—How much "cultural heritage" will it take from the kid, if any at all?

Has someone thought of how many Africans carry English and French names today? How many Kunta Kintes are still alive? I join hands with those fighting for the preservation of our cultural heritage but I think the battle front lies somewhere deep in our roots.

While I may not, personally, like to marry into a different race, I say loud and clear that I

have no quarrel with those black or white people who choose otherwise. Yet I've come to realize that racial intermarriage is more of a threat to the very existence of the black race than black kids growing up in white families. Moreover, I see much more serious threats to our racial pride right in our black neighborhoods. I just hope someone will bring them up.

I can hardly believe that a black or white family that has adopted a child of another race out of love and concern would work to deny these children something as important as self pride including their racial identity.

We all know the story of Moses. An Israelite who happened to grow in the house of Pharaoh and an adopted child from infancy, Moses, as the story goes, went to the extent of killing an Egyptian slave-driver for brutalizing an Israelite slave—all before Moses ever knew his real identity.

Blood is thicker than water. I don't think families who adopt children ever think of concealing the identity of the children either from the children themselves or anyone else. Those who have tried have always had the children turn against them.

We all stand for racial integration. But, perhaps black people with white parents is little better. I can agree with that. Therefore I echo what others have been saying in that black families should be first considered when it comes to black kids for adoption.

But for heavens sake, let's not allow racial consciousness to deter us from seeking the interest and welfare of our children, even if it means a black kid with a white family.



By Sherman Miller

My airline gauge had drifted off into my subconscious until several months ago when I had the dubious honor of riding a Florida Express flight. This flight had a stewardess who appeared to be training the other two flight attendants. She must have walked back and forth nervously from Florida to Norfolk, Virginia. I found myself questioning if anyone on the flight knew what they were doing.

I looked up at the cabin walls and the metal strips were out of alignment. An elderly lady sitting in the same row saw the disquietude etched on my face, so she shared her uneasiness with me. We could not help but notice the trash on the floor which made me seethe, disturbed with my travel agent who was unable to find a timely alternate flight to Richmond, Virginia.

In late May, the straw that broke the camel's back in shaping my negative image of America's airline industry came on a commuter flight from Philadelphia, PA to Richmond, VA. The Richmond Braves (farm team for the Atlanta Braves) were permitted to go onto this flight first and it was open

seating for the rest of us. When we arrived in Richmond, we learned that they had left our baggage in Philadelphia without telling us.

No one was on hand in Richmond to assist us so many of the people stood hopelessly around over a half hour before we walked up to the U.S. Air ticket counter to learn the truth. I finally got my bags around 11:00 p.m. that night after the Marriott Hotel called the airline. I must admit that I did violate the unwritten travellers' code: "Always carry your bags on board and take only direct flights."

On the other hand, I have always looked forward to flying on Delta and Piedmont airlines. They have always had very good service. Thus, I wonder if the recent safety incidences on Delta merely highlight a much greater industry problem.

I was on an airline leaving the Wilmington, DE airport which had one of its two engines stop because oil was shooting out of it like someone was holding a garden hose spraying a lawn. This flight returned to the Wilmington airport and there were supposedly fire trucks and ambulances awaiting our landing but I do not recall hearing a word about it in the Wilmington evening news.

I recall a commuter flight that left another airport and flew approximately 10 minutes before returning. A lady brought a metal clipboard and handed it to the pilot and we took off again. Many of us wondered if the crew had left their flight plans behind.

The above concerns led me to conclude that an outfall of the airline deregulation is mediocrity.