

The Charlotte Post

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Editorials

Poitier: A Happy Warrior

Americans appear to have lost their will to be happy, to feel a sense of inner peace and outer joy in their spiritual lives, their families, their accomplishments, their leisure, and even within themselves. Yet, while the pursuit of happiness is an all-consuming goal for most people, and polls show that nearly 90 percent of the adult population claim to be "happy", they never quite demonstrate it.

A Louis Harris' poll shows that 63 percent of the American people said they are "very satisfied" with their life. However, the fact that another 35 percent (or nearly 62 million adults) feel that their lives are not completely fulfilled. It would seem that most people are seeking something beyond their ability to achieve, thus, happiness may escape them for an eternity. Henri Frederic Amiel put this point in perspective when he wrote, "The man who has no inner life is the slave of his surroundings."

While Harris' poll says that the degree of happiness among people may vary with age -- 53 percent of those 18 to 24 years of age expressed high life satisfaction, this rises to 59 percent for those 25 to 34 and 62 percent for those 35 to 39. Yet, Harris notes, "when asked bluntly if their happiness has been going up over the past five years...fully 44 percent say it has not." Since the decade of the 1980's has been one of increasing affluence for the nation as a whole, we might ask, why then, are so many people expressing personal dissatisfaction in their lives?

A close look at developing trends in America indicates that personal satisfaction in our lives is largely influenced by the degree of stress the individual faces in day-to-day pursuits. Stress has become a major factor in the physical and mental well-being of our nation's lifestyles.

Unfortunately, instead of following the advice of Amiel by learning to cope internally with stress so that it does not consume us and result in heart attacks, strokes and ulcers, we tend to seek outside influences that enslave us and lead us into foolish and irresponsible habits and atti-

tudes.

In this regard, and most especially among so-called mature adults, we try to off-set stress inadvertently by engaging in behaviors that result in stress from another source. This occurs through our obsessions with seeking to look more youthful, and becoming unrealistically concerned about our health and safety to the point that we inhibit our freedom to relax and enjoy life a little.

In particular, a vast majority of the nation's adults "are close to being obsessed with their physical appearance," Harris reports. Recent full page ads in a number of newspapers have inch high statements that read, "The lines depart...look younger or your money back!" The reality of this obsession emerges "when people are asked if they would like to change something about their personal appearance." Surprisingly, 94 percent of the men and 99 percent of the women said they would like to make some physical change in their physical appearance. Such desired changes ranged from baldness in men to larger or smaller busts in women. And then there is Michael Jackson who has had three face lifts to satisfy some deep sense of insecurity.

Considering this high level of neurotic behavior of far too many adults it is pleasing to read about a happy warrior, that is, someone who knows how to deal with the stress and more importantly, the aftermath of it. Such a person is Sidney Poitier, retired movie actor, and now, after ten years starring in a new movie, "Shoot To Kill".

Poitier is quoted in a recent *Parade* magazine article as saying, "The person I am today is the result of all my experiences, even the painful and terrifying ones. I have no real regrets." the 61-year old actor then said, "I have a wonderful life." This is the statement of a man living in happiness. We can do likewise if we first learn to love and respect what God has given to each of us and be happy with it, that is, be happy first within ourselves.

The Problem In Forgiving

Jim and Tammy Bakker blamed Jimmy Swaggart, Bob Walton and Gary Hart blamed the media, and Jimmy Swaggart blamed himself, each for a sexual encounter indiscretion.

As we reflect back on the conduct of these fellow human beings, we who are ourselves not perfect, find it difficult, if not impossible, to be forgiving, to be understandable, to be Christ-like. We mortals lack the capacity to accept disappointment in others because we expected something to happen that did not happen. We are disappointed, angry, hurt, and out seeking revenge because our standards and our expectations were not met. That is, in our sub conscious minds we have set ourselves up like little gods to judge our fellow human beings and in so doing have forgotten as a result of our own weakness that "we have all come short

of the glory of God."

For those of you who may be of the Christian faith, let it not be forgotten that Jesus Christ, as an example for all men of all faiths, came to Planet Earth and died on the cross so that we - you, me, the Bakkers, Walton, Hart, Swaggart and others could be forgiven and cleansed of our sins.

This is not a sermon, but merely a motivational thought to help us renew our faith and to remind us that faith should be only in your God not any mortal man. But it is also to remind us that in whatever punishment these wayward people in high places are receiving and may rightly deserve, let us be kindly, loving and understanding as we would hope Almighty God might be to each of us in not such high places when we, too, have done wrong.

Going For Broke: Strategies For Jesse Jackson Campaign



by
Lenora
Fulani

Black Empowerment

that is its capacity to provide Jackson with the leverage he needs to play a major brokering role at the convention.

By the time the Democrats get to Atlanta, there will be a place on the ballot for an independent, Black candidate in 36 states--more than two-thirds of the way towards the goal of ballot access in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. My campaign will have raised in excess of \$1 million and, with matching funds, will have put \$2 million to use in publicizing the independent Rainbow road. The Democrats on the other side of the bargaining table from Jackson will know that he has an ace up his sleeve--the Black vote with a well-situated campaign to desert to.

Such a threat will not fall on deaf ears. The Democratic Party is still recovering from the shock of 1968, when George Wallace, dissatisfied with the party's domination by what he considered to be liberal elements, ran a 50 state Independent campaign for the presidency.

Attracting traditional Democratic white, blue collar votes across--but not exclusively in the South, Wallace took Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia and beat the Democratic candidate, Hubert

Humphrey, in Tennessee, North and South Carolina. The Alabama racist received almost 10 million votes in the general election, and Richard Nixon won the presidency.

Wallace's independent run is generally credited with having forged the Democratic party to renew its interest in its southern white constituency, a constituency it had taken for granted while busying itself with securing the newly enfranchised Black vote in the South in the wake of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Democrats' current fixation on the southern white vote is a direct result of Wallace having organized the Independent power of that voting bloc to make the party pay a price for its indifference.

We must be willing to be as tough as our ideological and political enemies are. If we expect Jackson to wield significant influence within the Democratic party, at the convention and beyond, we've got to apply some intelligent and well organized muscle. Right now the Democratic leadership fends Jesse off with the threat that he will lose the election for their party if he is on the ticket. If Jesse wants to improve his bargaining position he's got to turn the tables. He's got to make it clear that it will cost them the election if he isn't on the ticket.

As for the argument that some voters may be "confused" by "Two Roads," that has not been my experience. Our people went through 1984 and learned some harsh lessons. They understand that my independent candidacy is not being run against Jesse but for him and for the political strength of the Rainbow movement and our social vision. The way to be most for Reverend Jackson is to be least for the Democratic Party.

Assimilation Or Integration?

During the sixties, I had a cousin getting married in South Carolina. Family members (the family) from near and far traveled to Orangeburg to witness this festive occasion.

After most of the family members got settled, some of the children and young adults wanted to take a swim. So, they all hurried to don their swim wear and rushed to the pool sight.

The pool was occupied by several white families by the time we all arrived. Not being a swimmer (I don't have the legs for it) I stood by and witnessed an invaluable lesson unfold before my eyes. The teacher was my father. As the family members proceeded to get into the pool, the white families proceeded to get out. Within a matter of minutes the pool was dominated by the family.

The family members were fit to be tied. They all got out of the pool literally upset because the white folks left. My father who witnessed this whole thing at a distance walked up and asked what was wrong.

Of course everybody started yelling about what had happened. My father asked, "Did you come here to swim or to socialize with strangers?" "To swim," was the reply. "There is the pool," he coolly responded as he turned and walked away.

Often times in the confusion of this mixed up world of ours, I find myself falling back on this episode to make sense out of various situations.

The recent incident in Alledale, S. C. is a good example. Controversy has surfaced at the local high school because white parents did not stand up during the singing of "Lift Every Voice And Sing" --- the Black National Anthem.

Obviously, the black population of this township have been angered by this incident. Petitions are being signed to have the principal fired.

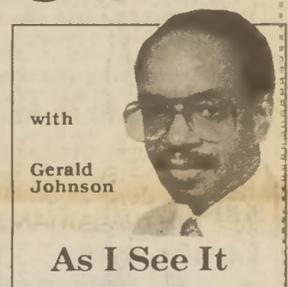
"Lift Every Voice and Sing" is a song adopted by black Americans as the theme for the struggle. All black Americans are not even in tune with this fact. But it should not disturb us that white Americans are insensitive to this situation.

Moreover, we should not be perturbed that some might even find it unpatriotic. We sing this song because it has meaning to some of us. That's it. If others don't view it this way, then that's fine.

But, I see very little philosophical difference between publicly singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" for black people and "Dbde" for white people.

Our causes and our struggles are just that...ours. We can not be insensitive to the fact that others may be insensitive to the causes. Accept openly those that can sympathize and empathize with our plight.

Educate those who may not understand and who openly disagree. Ignore those too dumb to care. Who knows, we may learn a few things ourselves.



with
Gerald
Johnson

As I See It

More and more we seem to be confusing the meaning of integration with assimilation. Integration gave us the right to sit anywhere on the bus we so desire.

It did not remove the right of the person sitting next to us from getting up and moving to another seat.

It is important that this fact not get lost in the hustle and bustle of everyday existence.

A lot of our disappointments are stemming from wanting acceptance. I can understand that everybody wants and needs acceptance. Acceptance has its place.

But the major objective of our struggle should not be acceptance, but rather, equality. Our goal should be to swim in public pools and not to worry about who will swim with us.

As long as we stay focused on the objective, the goal is within our reach.

Let's Resolve The Middle East Conflict

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life symbolized the peaceful pursuit of dignity and respect for all mankind. Yet I felt great stress over international violence at a recent very beautiful Dr. King birthday celebration.

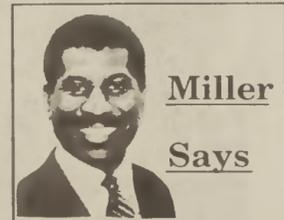
I celebrated Dr. King's birthday at my local Jewish Community Center. They had a program focused on music that linked the black and Jewish communities. A renown Jewish music professor did a superb job linking the two ethnic music cultures.

The zenith of the program came when a black Methodist minister, The Rev. Thomas Brown, Sr. of Delaware, directed black singers in selections of black gospel and Jewish songs. He also got the audience to sing along with him on a few selections.

Brown is unique. He has lived in Israel. He also claims to have been one of Dr. King's confidants.

Brown spoke Hebrew to his audience. His program got some of the approximately 175 Jewish people clapping their hands to black gospel music. But Brown's program stayed clear of any highly emotional black music.

Nevertheless, as this Dr. King celebration progressed, I was



Miller
Says

By Sherman Miller

haunted by the opening comments of a Jewish lady. "...[Dr. King] cared deeply about the Jewish people," she said. "He cared deeply about the State of Israel. He cared about the Soviet Jews/. He cared about black people. And he cared about everyone else."

The picture of Palestinian children getting killed for throwing rocks reminded me of my civil rights days in the early 1960s. I know no one walks in ham's way day after day unless they are totally convinced they are undergoing a serious injustice. Thus, the nonviolent symbolism of Dr. King tormented my mind throughout this celebration.

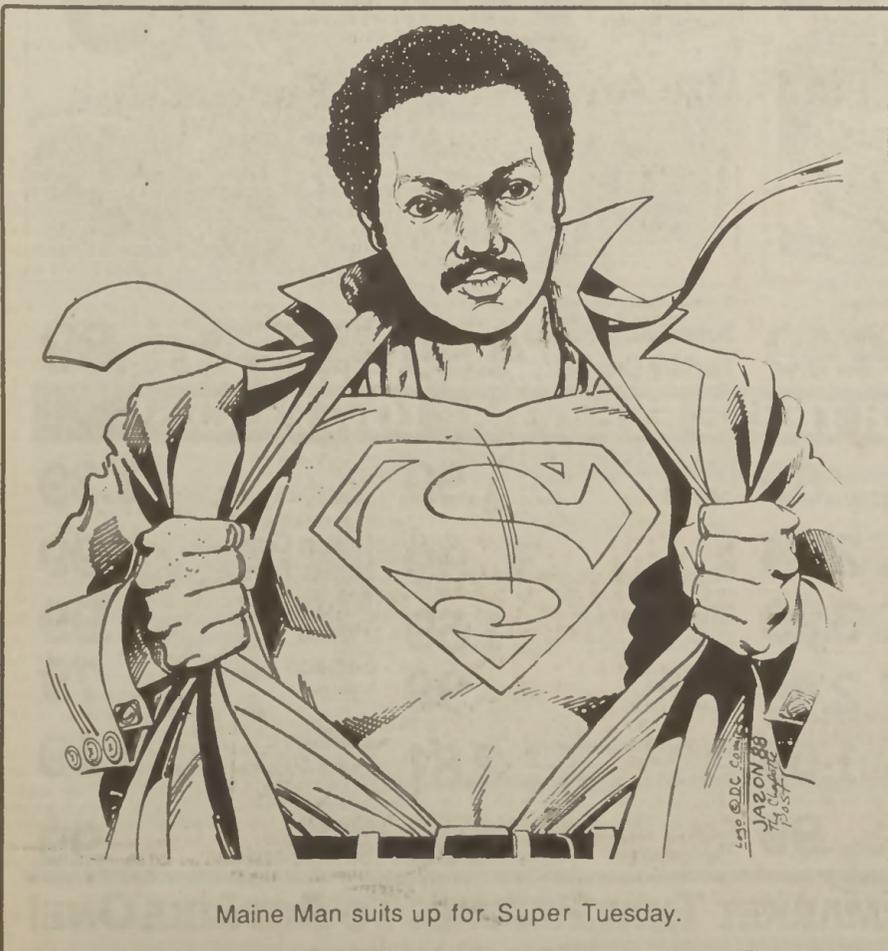
My disquietude is rooted in my

being a strong proponent of freedom for Soviet Jews. I have signed a petition for the freedom of Soviet Jews. I have also attended Jewish functions commemorating the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust. Frankly I am disappointed that Israel has permitted itself to become juxtaposed to Racist South Africa. I am sure Dr. King would be lobbying the Israeli Government to stop the violence.

I feel that there has been a great deal of pussyfooting on the occupied territory question. It is time the black community makes some history during Black History Month. Black America must lobby the U.S. and the Israeli Governments to resolve the Middle East crisis.

I, therefore, challenge our Presidential candidates to present proposals to resolve the Middle East crisis in their first term of office. Clearly, the Middle East crisis left to its present course portends that American families can look forward to sacrificing their sons and daughters in another foreign war.

Will America tolerate four more years of diplomatic impotence in the Middle East?



Maine Man suits up for Super Tuesday.