

# The Charlotte Post

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## EDITORIALS

### Drugs: The New Priority

By HOYLE H. MARTIN  
Editorial Writer

While serving as vice president in the Reagan administration, George Bush directed a drug program that supposedly focused on preventing drugs from entering the continental United States. However, when the quantity of drugs flowing into the United States tripled and the market price fell by 50 percent in a five-year period --- 1983 through 1985 --- Bush's critics called the program a colossal failure. Now, as President, and in the shadow of his own failure, Bush has received a draft of a new drug plan from his own drug czar, William Bennett. The new strategy shifts its primary attention from prohibition to ways to cut demand through education and the offer of treatment programs.

The new drug program includes increased military aid to stop foreign drug production, increased foreign aid of up to \$400 million for Columbia, Bolivia and Peru where most of the illegal drugs are produced, increased federal grants for prisons and local drug enforcement and treatment programs, the publishing of the names of drug users in local newspapers, and sending first-time drug offenders to boot camps. Congressional critics and others have already begun to find fault with the Bennett drug strategy just as they were critical of earlier strategies because Mr. Bush has failed to provide the necessary finances to assure some degree of success. The point is, the war on drugs is still, from a federal government perspective, a war of rhetoric with little action.

However, to strengthen his plan's chances for increased federal funding, Bennett has drawn on a Gallup poll which concludes that drug are so readily available that both adults and youth respondents declared drug abuse to be the nation's number one problem. "In the 50 years that the U. S. public has been asked to name the most important problem facing the nation, it is virtually unprecedented for any social issue to appear at the top of the list," said George Gallup. This was confirmed by results which show that: (a) 92 percent of adults and 88 percent of youth welcome tougher drug laws, (b) 75 percent of youth and 48 percent of adults are ready to volunteer time to drug prevention programs.

However, before we get a distorted sense of the drug abuse crisis, let us understand that first and foremost the drug problem is an

economic problem. Therefore, any meaningful effort to curb drug abuse in America must include efforts to eliminate the so-called free enterprise profit motive in it. This won't be easy, especially where you have youth as young as 7, 8 and 9 years of age living in an environment of hopeless poverty and using their drug sales to support and be masters over their parents and older brothers and sisters. Even for teenager a minimum wage job in a fast food chain is no match for a \$3,000 per week income from drug sales. Thus, everything else aside, there is a very powerful economic incentive for poor people to sell drugs.

Syndicated columnist Anthony Lewis wrote so eloquently, "...a drug policy that mattered would have to offer kids an alternative life, an alternative hope. But to deal with the problem in such realistic terms would be costly -- and politically difficult. Most politicians are afraid to urge spending for the poor or for drug users. Leadership could (or should) do something about our national hypocrisy on drugs. Let us hope that the new Bennett strategy will get the necessary finances it needs to have at least some hope of making at least a dent in the national drug crisis.

Undoubtedly, few people would disagree with what we have said thus far. Therefore, the question arises as to what are we willing to do in our own homes, communities, churches, schools and social organizations to help mount an attack on drug abuse. What are we willing to do about altering the values that too many young people have that focus on instant gratification.

Last week in our editorial on "Help For Black Men" we noted the efforts and contributions of First Friday, Inc., Focus On Leadership, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church's "Alternative Friday Night Out" for youth and Vivian Williams' leadership training program for black teenagers. Beyond these fine efforts, beyond Mayor Myrick's drug awareness marches and beyond reading and hearing the rhetoric of ministers, newspaper writers and television commentators, what are you as an individual doing to help end the drug crisis in America before it consumes us all? The drug war is the greatest threat to the safety and security of the American people. Total victory over this enemy can only be achieved if every adult free of drugs takes some active role in this the greatest challenge to national survival.

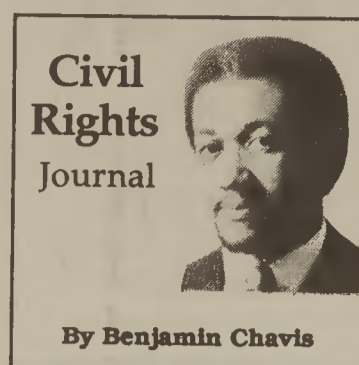
### The New Civil Disobedience

We are well aware of how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used the tactic of civil disobedience as an effective means of challenging the racism of American society. Dr. King taught that it was immoral to be obedient to racial discrimination and other forms of racial injustice. Thus, African Americans as well as others were encouraged to participate in nonviolent civil disobedience. Now, in South Africa, there appears to be a growing use of the tactic of civil disobedience to challenge openly the apartheid regime.

There are some historians who make a comparison between the civil rights movement of the 1960s in the United States and the anti-apartheid movement of the 1980s in South Africa. There are some similarities, but there are vastly more dissimilarities. Dr. King and the civil rights movement leaders were able to appeal to the judicial system for support and they were able to appeal to the Congress of the United States for legislative social change.

This is not the case in South Africa today. Apartheid, that is racism, is the law of the land in South Africa. Apartheid is the judicial and legislative framework for the present government of South Africa. African Americans were and remain a quantitative minority in the United States, while black South Africans are a quantitative majority in South Africa.

The point here is that if a



By Benjamin Chavis

quantitative minority of persons can work and struggle to change the United States' past policies of racial segregation, then there is a great likelihood that a quantitative majority of persons can work and struggle to change the present policies of racial segregation in South Africa.

But, a word of caution is appropriate in this analogy. Apartheid in South Africa is unprecedented in human history because of its totality of brutality, inhumanity and wanton disregard of all standards of morality. It is a mistake for Americans to translate as a carbon copy of the experience of the 1960s in the USA onto the dreadful drama continuing to unfold in racist South Africa.

The good news is that our sisters and brothers in South Africa are waging a struggle against apartheid on many fronts utilizing many different strategies.

The recent news from Johannesburg that black South Afri-

cans are now routinely confronting the all white health and hospital care systems of South Africa with forms of civil disobedience is another indication of the expansion of the anti-apartheid campaign within South Africa.

Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the Congress of South Africa Trade Unions, stated, "This is just another beginning of our defiance campaign. This campaign will be taken to every corner and every section of society until apartheid is unworkable." Of course, we are aware of the courage and determination of South Africans struggling to dismantle apartheid and this should serve to encourage those of us in the United States to do whatever we can to assist.

Thus, we believe that in particular one additional act of solidarity herewith the struggle in South Africa should be the medical community here to openly support this latest strategy against racist health care in South Africa. We recall that the first successful heart transplant surgery took place in South Africa. We also recall the recipient of the black South African heart was a white South African. Today, black South Africans still systematically are denied access to full health care. We all should be outraged and in particular the medical community and health care industry in the United States needs to be confronted about its general silence to the genocide of apartheid.

### Botha Blew Chance To Help S. Africa

By DANIEL MOROLEN  
Special To The Post

The South African racist regime wants ANC leader Nelson Mandela to renounce violence as a price for his release. No one disagrees with the idea of renouncing violence. But the enigma is Botha's making it a farcical condition for Mandela's release. Mandela understands the wickedness of violence, which he has always fought with vim and verve.

But Botha should understand that violence in South Africa stems from apartheid, not from Mandela or ANC. Apartheid torments Africans in many ways and ANC's abhorrence of it is both genuine and meaningful. Therefore, Botha's regime must accept guilt for inflicting the supreme violence of apartheid on Africans. It's easy for Botha to end violence in South Africa, but instead he chooses to embrace it.

Now, President Botha and Na-

tionalist Party Leader F. W. de Klerk won't end South Africa's violence merely by asking Mandela to "renounce" it. Violence can only be eradicated by uprooting apartheid. But all Afrikaner dictators love apartheid, and refuse to blame it for the turmoil in South Africa. and, instead of ending apartheid the racist dictators attack Mandela and his ANC. The oppressed masses of Africans abhor apartheid because it hurts them most with its inhumanity and brutality.

But to Afrikaners, apartheid is a boon that gives them power, freedom, wealth, security and privileges. Even F. W. de Klerk's invitation to ANC to go to the negotiations table is suspect to all Africans. In one breath de Klerk promises Africans to end white domination but proceeds to reject majority rule outright! What an illogical contradiction! Yet, majority rule is the only answer to South Africa's vexing ra-

cial dilemma.

Besides, Africans see the violence of apartheid as the root cause of the bitter antagonisms, conflicts and violence that are prevalent in today's South Africa. Apartheid is the African people's Golgotha that enslaves the entire Black Race of the world.

It would be wise of Botha to regard apartheid as the root cause of the violence, and demolish it. He could start by renouncing it, and then proceed to make the country free, non-racial democratic society. But Botha's successor, de Klerk, already rejects the concept of majority rule, and favors apartheid.

Botha exits from the presidency a few days hence, after squandering his chance to save South Africa. Now, it is Mandela and ANC who stand to democratize South Africa and turn it into a land of liberty, equality and nonviolence.

### Russian Style Ethnic Violence

About a year ago Russian premier Mikhail Gorbachev suggested that the way to end American racial unrest was to relocate all black people to a single state or region. In making such statement, Mr. Gorbachev has copied a bad habit of our national government, that is, sticking his nose into the domestic affairs of another nation. The practice is doubly bad because the United States is usually involved in the same kind of misconduct as is the nation of which they are being critical.

Likewise, as Gorbachev seeks to give America advice, his nation is experiencing racial and ethnic problems of their own. A recent Knight-Ridder report begins with these words, "The cycle of ethnic-related violence that has raced through the Soviet organization like an infectious virus was born in

this capital of Kazakhstan 2-1/2 years ago."

The Soviet Union is made up of over 100 ethnic groups, or nationalities as they are called, living in 15 Soviet republics. Over 250 people living in eight of these republics have been killed in acts of ethnic violence during the past 2-1/2 years.

The conflicts have become so intense and complicated that the Communist Party Central Committee is planning to hold a meeting on nationalist issues. However, the seriousness of the conflicts themselves has made the meeting planner uncertain about when, where and how to structure the meeting. Thus, the Russians too, need to get their racial-ethnic act together before they suggest to the United States what it should do about racial and ethnic conflict.

### Lucas Didn't Have The Experience

By BENJAMIN HOOKS  
NAACP Executive Director

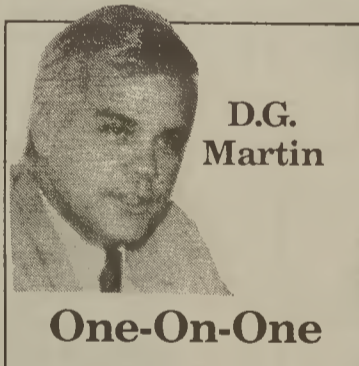
From the start, we pointed out that William Lucas was highly qualified for a number of positions in the administration but he was not a good choice for the position of Assistant U.S. Attorney General for Civil Rights. The Senate Judiciary Committee was right in rejecting his nomination and is to be commended for preventing his appointment.

We remain puzzled as to why Attorney General Thornburgh persisted in pushing this nomination, thereby embarrassing both the administration and the nominee himself. They both deserved better treatment.

We remain convinced that Mr. Lucas is qualified for many positions in the administration and we would certainly urge that his

services not be lost.

Mr. Thornburgh now has an opportunity to make amends by recommending an appointee who is not only experienced in the area of civil rights law, but who represents the repeatedly expressed basic philosophy of the Bush administration which is pledged to protect and defend civil rights laws and the concept of affirmative action.

D.G. Martin  
One-On-One

"Why should I have to pay for their mistakes?"

That is the question that you are going to ask when you understand a little more about the so-called savings and loan bailout.

Then, when you realize how much you are going to have to pay, you are going to hit the ceiling. It is not going to be pleasant when you finally wake up and realize what happened to you.

This bailout became law earlier this month when President Bush signed a 700-page bill passed by Congress just before it began its August vacation. Some view its passage as a triumph for the President. Even if you don't go that far -- and I don't -- you have to give him credit for facing up to a terrible problem that had no popular or inexpensive solutions.

What is the problem? It is hard

to explain to North Carolinians. Most of us just have not seen any problem. It doesn't seem so bad here. Nobody has lost their life savings at a savings and loan. There has been no panic. Because of good management and a good economy, most North Carolina savings and loans have operated in the black. Those that got into trouble usually found strong partners to buy them out.

Where is the crisis then. Look around the rest of the country. Especially the Southwest, and most especially Texas. Boom and bust economies, shoddy management, speculative investments, insider dealing, and lax government regulation led to mass failures -- and a potential loss to depositors of hundreds of billions of dollars, which the government is picking up.

Why did it happen? In short, it happened because you and I went to sleep at the switch. And because we sent people to Washington who were more interested in raising campaign contributions from some members of the savings and loan industry than in protecting consumers and the integrity of the S&Ls. These senators and congressmen would rather pander to us by trying to stir us up about flag burners (Has anybody burned one in your neighborhood lately?) or getting

naked people off artists' canvases (Have you been offended lately in an art gallery?) or such threats to our way of life.

If you and I are asleep, and if our representatives are busy entertaining and pandering to us rather than watchdog out for our real interests, then we should not be surprised when we take a real whipping like the bailout.

How much is it going to cost us? Estimates vary, but at least \$150 billion. That doesn't mean anything, does it? We are used to the government spending billions of dollars. But it is going to cost you big down the road. If you are an average taxpayer, your share is about \$1900.

That is what you are going to pay somehow, someday in extra taxes. You didn't know that, did you? You've been sleeping again.

What are you going to do about it? You can complain, like a guest on a TV talk show who said, "I should not have to pay to bail out the S&Ls just because the government didn't do its job. The government should pay, not me."

We are like that, too. We just can't seem to remember that we are the government, and we pay for its mistakes. Always do.

So what are we to do? This time we have to pay up. But next time, let's stay awake. And let's remember who let us down when we go to the polls.

### Second Silent March On Washington Comes At A Time When It's Needed

By JAMES WILLIAMS  
Special To The Post

On Saturday, August 26, Washington, DC, will witness an historic event -- the second Silent March of the NAACP. The first, held 72 years ago in New York City, brought to the nation's attention the plight of black Americans reeling under the impact of lynchings, segregated public facilities, housing and schools. And in the South, the vote was denied to them.

They were discriminated against wherever they turned,

and very little if any meaning went with the phrase "equal protection under the law." Race riots were still commonplace and they occurred in a number of cities -- Waco, Texas, Memphis, Tennessee, and East St. Louis, Illinois.

Today, race riots have been all but forgotten and discrimination and segregation, while still in existence, no longer are supported by laws.

The racial climate in this country has undergone a tremendous and a positive change

since 1917, but we should not be lulled into complacency and fall into the trap of believing that because we have come this far, we cannot go back.

This very real possibility lies behind the NAACP's decision to have a silent march in the nation's capital. It is rightfully concerned that four recent negative decisions by a majority of the Supreme Court -- the legacy of Ronald Reagan -- threatened the progress of black Americans have made. The march is meant to call the nation's attention to

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James Williams

this concern and to prod Congress into taking legislative action to reverse the court's decisions.

As NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks said recently: "The present Supreme Court is more dangerous to the legitimate hopes and aspirations of black people in this nation than any Bull Conner with a firehouse; than any Jim Clark with a billy club; more dangerous than any Ross Barnett standing in the schoolhouse door saying, 'They shall not pass.'"

Lest this concern be thought to be overstated, the French as usual have an apt phrase, "Plus ca change, C'est la meme chose." The more things change, the more they stay the same.

As in 1917, we face the danger of having our just concerns ignored, unless we bring them forcefully to the forefront. The Silent March of 1989 is one way of doing that. If you go to Washington on Saturday, August 26, you should.