

# The Charlotte Post

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## EDITORIALS

### Emotion Clouds Issue

The outcry over the development of two all-black classes at Eastover Elementary school is first and foremost a matter for the School Board and the responsible educators to deal with in their quest to respond to the educational needs of each child in our school system. Secondly, it is possibly another example of the sometimes insensitivity of a race related issue in our community. Undoubtedly, the failure of the Eastover's administration to adequately inform and advise all directly involved parties, particularly the parents, led to some confusion and misunderstanding about the reasons for establishing the two special classes.

On the other hand, the larger adult community outside of the schools needs to recognize the paradoxical nature of their reaction to racial issues and questions. For example, if the two classes of presumed disruptive 6th graders had been racially integrated, few people beyond the immediate families of the children would have expressed any concern. Even if the classes had been all white little would have been heard or said about them. Admittedly, some insensitivity to the racial segregation of the black students by Eastover's principal, particularly in the area of communication, helped to heighten the outcry over the whole issue. Nevertheless, the fanning of the flames of the issue by the black community appears to have been for the wrong reason. With the emphasis on the racially segregated class, it appears that little attention was given to the presumed real reason for the establishment of the two special classes, that is, to meet the special and individual needs of the involved students.

In a somewhat similar fashion, if two

school children of different races happen to get into a childhood fight, the news media, some school personnel and some parents would view it as a racial conflict or the beginning of a race riot. Few would view the incident for what it really is, merely two kids in momentary conflict.

Similarly, those who have suggested that the segregation of the Eastover students would only heighten feelings of alienation among the black students may also be a sign of adult racial insensitivity. Whether we want to admit it or not, some of those black students may have been "disruptive" as a result of the integrated educational environment they are in, if they were disruptive at all. Disruption by young children in some situations may be their way of communicating a need for loving attention, something they might not be getting at home.

Let's be realistic, we as adults, both black and white, have placed the heavy burden of creating an integrated society on the backs of children and school systems. No other group of people and no other institution in society has shown the courage to assume this responsibility. In this regard, let us not forget that Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. (church time) begins the most segregated hour in our nation every week. If we as adults do not choose to integrate ourselves - both black and white - in the worship of our mutual Creator, can we truthfully expect as much from children, the products of our adult environment, and inadequately rewarded educators.

We all need to get the emotion out of racial issues so that collectively blacks and whites can overcome the challenges that racial difference often confront us with.

### Politics Vs. The Unborn

In a reaction to election defeats in Virginia and New Jersey, Lee Atwater told a group of Republican governors meeting recently in Hilton Head, South Carolina, that they might need to rethink their views on abortion. Atwater was saying that the political reality of these two elections is that the voters are not as committed to having the U.S. Supreme Court overturn *Roe v. Wade* as they the Republican Party had thought. In this landmark case the high court ruled that the word *person* in the Constitution did not include an unborn child. Therefore, the 5th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution, guaranteeing all persons "

life, liberty and property," did not protect the life of a fetus. In other words, *Roe v. Wade* protected a woman's right to have an abortion.

The Republican Party's platform says in

part, "The unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed (upon)...And we reaffirm our support for the appointment of judges...who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life."

However, Mr. Atwater seems to be implying that it may not be politically expedient for us to oppose the right of abortion because we can't win elections with it. If our assumption is correct, Atwater is saying that for political reasons the Republican Party may need to think seriously about abandoning its so-called concern about the right to life of a fetus. With that kind of leadership in a major political party - playing politics with a potential human life - we don't have to wonder why Republicans are the nation's minority party.

### Goal To Run Toward

"...Herein lies the legacy of slavery. The self-worth of many blacks remains contingent upon the approval of whites; and the approval of other blacks continues to be comparatively insignificant to the self-

worth of many blacks.

Now, a people whose members cannot affirm the worth of one another have little hope of flourishing as a people. Blacks cannot hope to be the exception here."

Laurence Thomas, "Blacks and The Future", *New York Carib News*, March 14, 1989.

## North Carolina's Minority Goals Passes U.S. Court's Test

When the U.S. Supreme Court knocked down the minority set-aside programs for government contracts, the black leadership was left preaching doom and gloom. Bashing former President Reagan for turning back the clock on civil rights gains became the order of the day. But were these black leadership's cries also a cover-up for their failure to develop a political infrastructure that guaranteed socioeconomic parity regardless of who occupies the White House?

My distress over black America losing access to government contracts was not eased until I recently discussed this set-aside issue with Governor James Martin of the State of North Carolina. Our discussion was a follow-up to an earlier one we had at the 1988 Republican Governors Association meeting.

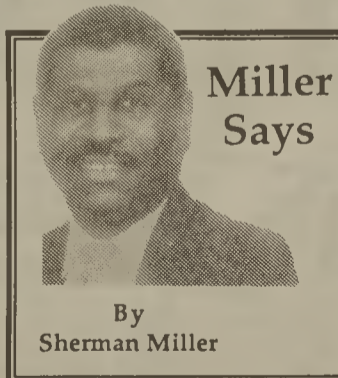
In 1988, Martin left a positive impression on his accomplishments in opening opportunity to blacks versus his predecessor. I felt compelled to know whether

Martin had softened his resolve, so I refreshed his memory on what he had said at the Republican Governors meeting. I said that you were helping blacks get state contracts at a 6 percent rate compared to your predecessor who had talked about 10 percent but had not delivered.

"He said he would get 5 (percent) and he got 0.015 percent," said Governor James Martin. "I started off with a 2 percent commitment for purchasing contracts and reached 5 percent. So we have moved our goal up to 5 percent, now 6 percent."

Governor Martin's tone remained upbeat, yet I wondered how in spite of the Supreme court ruling against preferential programs.

He read my concern. "We have also appited that same objective of encouraging minority businesses. This includes black and Indian, and it also includes businesses owned or managed by women or people who have a physical handicap to participate in real estate transactions and to participate in prison



Miller Says

By Sherman Miller

construction. We are also bound by the federal law on highway construction."

Martin had bypassed the Supreme Court ruling by redefining North Carolina's program within its guidelines. He hinted that the stake for minorities is a long-term commitment and they share in a multi-million dollar bounty.

"In a bill that passed last year which establishes a \$9 billion program for highway construction over the next 13 years, many of those projects would not be subject to the federal set-aside," said Martin.

### Reduce Demand For Illegal Drugs And Alcohol

## Time To Start Fighting Back

No one is surprised by the fact that drug and alcohol abuse is the number one threat to the security of this country. What's worse, no one really knows what to do about it. The problem has infiltrated every segment of our lifestyles. It has us on a collision course with extinction.

Until now, most talk about tackling this problem has been just that...talk. But under the leadership of Carla DuPuy and Robert Albright, a new initiative is finding community-wide acceptance. The program, Fighting Back, has the potential of becoming a model solution to reducing the demand for drugs.

The beauty of the program is it has no answers, just questions. It does have an energetic group of volunteers who are determined and committed to finding the answers. There is no marching, no preaching, no politicking, just a committed effort to have the community work together to solve this problem.

Here is how the program will work. Dr. Albright is the Chairperson of the Citizen's Advisory Group. This group of 25 to 30 individuals is responsible for coordinating efforts to obtain information about the target area. This information will be used to develop the community's needs as it relates to drug and alcohol abuse. The community need assessment will be used by the Consortium of Agencies (42 health and social agencies to date) to implement programs to address the needs.

The county will act as administrators and coordinators of the entire program. Moreover, the county is prepared to fully fund the program. However, to speed up the process and fray

As I See It



By Gerald O. Johnson

some of the cost, the county has applied to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for a \$200,000 planning grant and a \$3 million implementation grant.

Out of over 360 proposals, the Mecklenburg county proposal is one of eighteen still being considered. Twelve proposal will be accepted. The grants made available by the foundation are to medium-sized communities (100,000 to 250,000). To this end the Mecklenburg proposal was limited to District #2.

According to county commissioner Chairperson, Carla DuPuy, "The urgency and the need for this effort can easily be justified when you consider that Charlotte had the nation's third highest percentage increase with drug-related arrest among major cities."

Drug-related arrests were up 42% in 1988 over 1987 figures. Because Charlotte-Mecklenburg is at the heart of the drug pipeline between Miami and New York, the problem left unattended will surely exacerbate.

District #2 is faced with the challenge of becoming a model community for combatting drugs. It will take a concerted ef-

fort by community leaders, ministers, school administrators, business leaders, and social organizations chipping in to help with this effort. Call Dr. Robert Albright at Johnson C. Smith University to see how you or your organization can help.

The help should not be considered philanthropical, but rather necessitous. Whether you know it or not, drug abuse is taking a toll on us all. If you can look beyond those who are pushers, and beyond those who are addicts, beyond the countless senseless crimes that are directly drug related, beyond the innocent children being born to to drug dependency, beyond the related health hazards such as AIDS associated with drug abuse, beyond the lost moral code of ethics we are facing as a society, beyond the social ills reshaping our very existence, then you have not fully grasped the consequence of our dilemma.

I doubt very seriously if there are any individuals in our community that have not been impacted by a drug related incident of some kind. The degree may be limited to knowing friends or relatives that have been directly impacted. But, save for the sake of God, there goes you.

If you don't become a part of the solution, then you, inevitably, increase your chances of being impacted by the problem. This problem is indiscriminate with its victims. It crosses all racial, sexual, age, and religious boundaries.

No one is immune from its destruction. Consequently, everyone is a stakeholder in its eradication. Won't you please help.

## White Racism Never Sleeps

By T.X. GREEN

Special To The Post

The other day, I had an opportunity to participate in an interesting discussion with a brother whom I admire and respect very much. As might be expected, our conversation eventually focused on the plight of our people throughout the diaspora, and how Racism/White Supremacy is alive and well. My position in this lively act of conversation, was that since white people (and White Supremacist/Racist in particular) control everything then it is they who are in charge. Furthermore, if those who are in charge, accept willingly these status of "being in charge", then it is my contention that they are responsible for practically everything that happens while they are calling the shots. Therefore, I took the position of blaming Racism/White Supremacy for all of problems that face non-white people today, including drug addiction, illiteracy, teen pregnancy, "black-on black" crime, AIDS, unemployment, etc.

Now, my brother took the position that "Black" folks; have got to stop blaming the white man for everything negative that happens in our lives. "We have to hold ourselves accountable. Nobody can make you do anything that you don't want to do. We've seen the enemy, and the enemy is us!" As an example, he referred the drug addict who shoots up drugs, or snorts co-

caine, on his own free will and accord. My brother stated, "you can't tell me that 'the white' man is making him do that!" He added, "Or the young homeboy who broke in my apartment last month - don't tell me that some white guy put a gun to these boy's head and told him to break into my apartment! No. We've got to stop blaming everything on Racism, White Supremacy, the white man etc., and start doing for ourselves."

My brother had a very convincing point of view and although we disagreed, we were not disagreeable. Nevertheless, it was apparent to me that he, did not understand the situation completely. In his Textbook for Victim's of Racism/White Supremacy, Neely Fuller, Jr. states: IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND RACISM/WHITE SUPREMACY, WHAT IT IS, AND HOW IT WORKS, EVERYTHING ELSE YOU UNDERSTAND, WILL ONLY CONFUSE YOU." My beloved brother is confused. He fails to realize that Racism/White Supremacy is a global phenomenon that operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year throughout the world. And that the dynamics of racism operates in nine areas of people activity including Economics, Entertainment, Education, Labor, Law, Politics, Religion, Sex, and War.

So, the fact that a brother (or sister) may shoot up, or snort alone should raise the question, "what happened to make this

'original men' poison his body with drugs?" What makes one brother steal from the other? Why are babies having babies? Why does AIDS run rampant in the non-white communities? Hell, why can't little Leroy read?

For so long, these very smart beings who practice Racism/White Supremacy have established a dynamic system that keeps non-white people confused and oppressed. This is done by design. When will we ever realize that these who benefit from out being confused and oppressed, will never tell us nor show us what we need to do to truly free and liberate ourselves. It would not be to their advantage to tell us, and to help us collectively, deal with "our" problems.

My brother had difficulty in grasping my viewpoint, but that was alright with me. Denial and failure to correctly assess the situation is in itself a testament to the awesome power of Racism/White Supremacy. After all, who mis-educated us and "trained" us to think? But that's another article.

But my brother was indeed correct, in that we must help ourselves as best we can. One thing we can do is support our locally owned and operated businesses and professionals. We must begin to purchase more textbooks and perhaps fewer C.D.s and LPs. We must codify ourselves to what's REALLY going on.

productivity in reviewing their work and their development as a state employee."

This North Carolina approach is similar to what some industries are doing to open up opportunity for minority contractors. In making minority vendor participation an appraisal item in employees' annual appraisal ratings, it guarantees that they will give it high priority in their upward mobility quest. It will also reduce the high risk of career damage in working with an unknown vendor whose goods or services may prove to be sub-standard.

Martin sees his approach as addressing the quality of goods and services issue directly. "By doing it (our) way you also avoid having to give part of your business to a firm that really can't handle it," added Martin. "We avoid that by not having a set-aside -- by not having a mandate. What we end up with is the same good result by setting a goal and getting agreement."

Many blacks may feel that without a mandate North Carolina is merely pussyfooting with the opportunity issue. But the

program Martin offers is a pragmatic effort to expand minority participation within the confines of the law. Martin argues his case against mandates by highlighting their adverse impact on people working in the economic mainstream.

"A mandate would say, if you don't reach this goal, no matter how good you are in everything else, you are gone because you violate the law! The courts have said you can't do that."

It is clear that North Carolina's Goals Program is merely an effort to alter staid behavior traits in people, so that they no longer remain creatures of habit. Martin corroborated my observation by saying that they need to open people's minds to new vendors, "or otherwise people go back to the same business they traded with last year."

North Carolina's Goals Program says that opportunity can be opened to everyone if mainstream leaders have a mind to make it happen. Is the black leadership encouraging other states to develop pragmatic programs similar to North Carolina's Goals Program?