

EDITORIALS

'You're A Part Of The Solution, Or You're A Part Of The Problem'

THE VIEWS OF THE WRITERS ARE NOT ALWAYS THOSE OF THE PAPER'S

THEY ARE NOW SHOUTING 'NIGGER' AND 'ANIMALS'



The Point Is...

by Albert A. Campbell

Without a doubt, young persons graduating from the schools today are the most unprepared generation that I can remember. When I say unprepared, I mean unprepared for, or to cope with, or to successfully live in this time or society. Unquestionably, our educational system must be failing to properly prepare our young people for what is to come as they reach adulthood.

Certainly, the art of reading and writing is not only a necessity, today, but is one of the tools for survival. Yet, the need for more than reading and writing is becoming so prevalent. Just reading and writing, alone, still leaves us in a position of cultural illiteracy when one thinks of the necessity for being prudent and thrifty when simply shopping for groceries. It's easy to understand that ignorance brings about waste. Simply making the correct purchase of similar items can become the difference between a savings or a debt.

One can even look further at the young people of today and ask them to perform the simple procedure of writing a check. They have not been taught that! They have not been taught many, many of the necessities which require simply getting along in today's life.

The Driver Education Program is a commendable one. The records show it and speak for themselves; and the driving performance of young people can also speak for itself. But, then, we ask why aren't there other programs being administered in the schools today with equally as much efficiency and proficiency.

Is our school system failing to meet the needs of our people; or is the school system manufacturing robots who know how to read, write and count only.

From No To No!

Do you recall that from the day that President Nixon chose him to replace Spiro Agnew, Ford had spent a Congressional lifetime voting against progressive legislation - against the jobs bills, health bills, and education bills under three prior presidents?

Further, there appears not a piece of legislation bearing his name during his thirty three (33) years in the Congress.

So his continuing veto is just another instance of Ford saying NO to the American people and to our country.

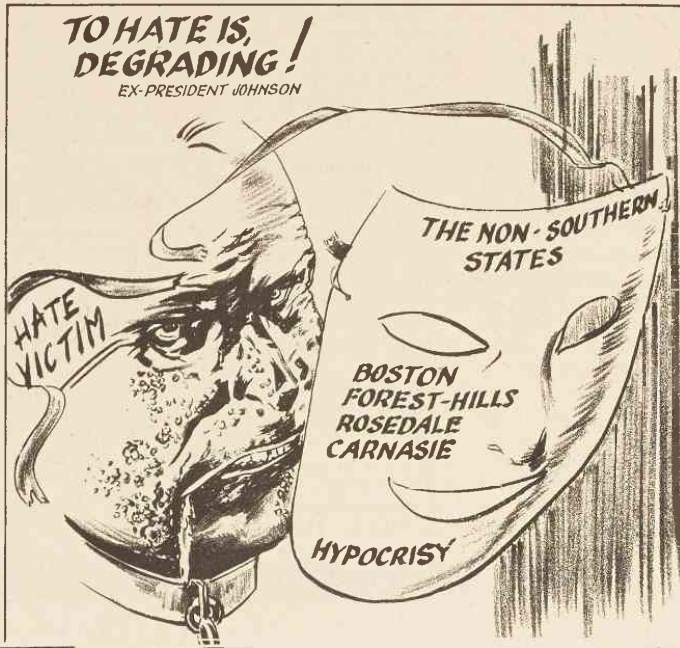
ALTHOUGH THE EDITORIALS WRITTEN IN THIS NEWSPAPER ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE THE ONLY ANSWERS TO THE PROBLEMS AND CONDITIONS EXPRESSED, SOME PERSONS MAY STILL DISAGREE WITH THESE THOUGHTS, BECAUSE OF THIS, THE NEWSPAPER EXTENDS AN INVITATION TO ANY RESPONSIBLE PERSON WHO WISHES TO REFUTE THESE EXPRESSIONS TO DO SO, AND FREE AND EQUAL SPACE WILL BE PROVIDED.

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How About Us

By Alfred L. Hinson

Decentralization of services is usually good and effective, especially when services are decentralized for the convenience of its recipients. Unfortunately, the staff of many agencies seem to feel that outreach offices are established for their personal convenience. This seems to be particularly true with the outreach staff of Guilford County Department of Social Services.

Basically, the only service that outreach offices can not provide recipients is counseling. The curtailment of other services now causes one to question the feasibility of continuing to maintain these offices. Furthermore, the general community is far less responsive to these offices as compared to the past. For example, if a given outreach office has more than 20 visitors per week seeking services, personnel from that office feel that they are setting the world on fire. Today, however, this seldom, if ever, happens.

Guilford County Social Services Director Wayne Metz and the Guilford County Commissioners should take a close look at the effectiveness of these outreach offices. Presently, these offices serve as a convenience for insensitive, newspaper reading, incompetent staff, who seemingly have no concern for the general public. An investigation of these

offices will also reveal that they are over-staffed with one and/or no more than two persons doing the work. The remaining two staff persons are often found reading the newspaper and supervising the work of the other two. This is a definite waste of the taxpayers money—even though the office is a convenience for staff.

Last week an employee of the State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation sought services from one of the outreach offices for a social services client. The client was an amputee who lived in public housing with an upstairs. The amputee was home along during the daytime and had to crawl upstairs to use the rest room. When the supervisor was asked to assist the amputee in relocating to a unit designed for the handicapped with no upstairs, the supervisor allegedly stated, "Well, you've got to crawl before you walk." This incompetent, newspaper-reading supervisor should be committed to an institution for the insane. Yet, a "box" of this mentality is charged with the responsibility of supervising others.

If the County Commissioners have money that they want to waste, they should hire an independent firm to study the whole social services program, especially the top-heavy outreach staffs.

TO BE EQUAL New Housing Program Disappointing

by Vernon E. Jordon, Jr.

The long governmental silence on housing policy has finally been broken, but the program recently announced to enable moderate income families to buy homes is a disappointing adaptation of an earlier program, and it contains the seeds of the same kinds of problems that proved disastrous.

The program is a resurrection of the old Section 235 housing subsidy program that subsidizes mortgages for moderate income families. That program became a haven for every vulture out to rip off poor families and the government.

Speculators bought up rotting old houses, threw a new coat of paint over them and sold them to unsuspecting families who thought they were fulfilling their life's dream—a house of their own. After a little while the old houses just gave out, boilers blew, leaks developed, walls sagged. The new owners had to make repairs they couldn't afford, fell behind on their payments, and then the government had to come in and take back the now worthless house.

The result: many poor families lost the little they had and the government got stuck with an enormous financial loss. The Section 235 program and some other federal housing programs were suspended in January, 1973 pending development of a new approach.

Now we have that old program back, with the same central flaw that doomed the earlier program.

Then, people were on their own in the housing market. They had to qualify for the subsidy and get homes certified as being in good condition by Federal Housing Administration inspectors. What they needed, and did not get, was some form of community-based counseling service.

Without counseling, the program became the most corrupt playing ground for chiselers in the country. And by chiselers I mean the speculators who sold rotten houses and those FHA inspectors who took kickbacks and bribes to approve them. Some of those people have been punished by the courts but that doesn't help the poor people whom they victimized or the taxpayers whose dollars should have been buying good housing

for those who couldn't afford it. The revived program errs in several ways. The glaring flaw is that it too does not provide for community-based counseling services, virtually assuring that similar problems will develop.

A second flaw is that it requires a large down payment. It will still be serving people with temporarily low incomes but the poorest families, whom the original 235 program was aimed at, can't participate.

Because the poorest families are eliminated from home-buying subsidies, the Department of Housing and Urban Development assumes intensive counseling won't be needed. That's a false assumption for several reasons.

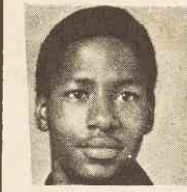
Even many middle class families need help in learning how to choose, buy, and maintain a house and there's nothing to make us think that the moderate-income families in the new program are less in need of such help than the lower-income families were.

In the absence of counseling one would think that the FHA staff would be beefed up to provide such assistance, with more stringent controls against corruption. But no new staff has been added to FHA offices so the field is again wide open for speculators to feed at the federal trough.

All of this is made more serious because the higher down payments by participating families will mean their life savings are at stake. If the house is really not worth the mortgage amount and if this program goes under the way the previous one did, those families will be left penniless.

It doesn't make sense for the government to sink vast amounts into a program and then refuse to protect that investment by not providing for counseling services. It is all the more inexcusable when the life savings of moderate-income families may be sacrificed too.

The old 235 program functioned to dump houses that couldn't be sold any other way onto the market while jacking up their prices. It was a subsidy program for the housing industry, not for the poor. Will this new program be any better?



INSIGHT: For Teens Only

by

Miller Carter, Jr.

Mistakes—we have all made a few. Some mistakes are big ones and others are not so big. All mistakes have an outcome that affect someone or something. Sometimes the outcome can be extremely fatal; and then again, a mistake may prove to be very rewarding.

The fatal mistakes can range anywhere from bad to worst to disastrous. Most of us have made a few bad mistakes and some worst mistakes; fortunately, disastrous mistakes don't happen to often. A bad mistake may be one where too much of something is added to a recipe and makes it taste bad. A worst mistake would be where too many spices were added to a recipe and gave someone heartburn. A disastrous mistake would be where poison was added to the same recipe and killed someone. Of course these are only examples but they prove in how many degrees a mistake can be measured.

Surely, we know that the term "mistake" has a bad connotation; but mistakes can often bring about rewarding outcomes. Using the same examples I used previously regarding a recipe, let's say an ingredient was added "by mistake" and it made the recipe better. This is a mistake that came out to the good. Now let's use an example that most teens are more familiar with. A boy may speak to a girl that he thought he knew but it turned out to be someone he didn't know. Then after talking with his newly-made friend for a while, he may find that he likes his new friend more than the girl he thought she was. These and numerous other examples are a few that illustrate that mistakes don't have to be all bad.

Whether bad or good, what causes

mistakes? There are a number of reasons that cause us to make mistakes. One cause to which we attribute many of our mistakes is haste. Hurrying about, trying to get things done is a sure way to make a mistake. Also trying to do more than one thing at a time will cause errors in whatever the task(s). Haste may also lead to confusion—which in turn causes careless mistakes. It is possible to do more than one thing at a time but there is a greater risk of careless error. The reason for this is that our minds can't function accurately while we try to do more than we are capable of.

Try the simple test of "patting your head and rubbing your stomach at the same time". If that is not mind-boggling enough, then try "turning one hand forward and one hand backwards at the same time". Often you find yourself patting your stomach and rubbing your head or turning both hands in the same direction.

Now let's put these examples into more practical proportions for we teens. Try watching your favorite television program and doing your math homework at the same time. You may think that you got both done, but wait till the next morning in class and see how many math problems you missed.

The world would not be "the world" if no one made mistakes. If there were no mistakes, how would we learn some of our most valuable lessons. We must all live and learn by our mistakes and remember—mistakes are not all bad.

THOUGHT FOR THIS WEEK: If we do not learn by our mistakes, then some of us may not live and if we don't live by them, we will never learn.

Things You Should Know

Herman E. PERRY



BORN IN HOUSTON, TEXAS,
 1873, HE HAD TO QUIT SCHOOL BY THE
 EIGHTH GRADE TO WORK IN TWELVE YEARS
 LATER, HIS FIRST ATTEMPT TO START AN
 INSURANCE CO. WAS A FAILURE — BUT HIS

SECOND TRY SET UP THE STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE CO., ATLANTA, GA.

— A NEGRO FIRST! BY 1918 THE PREMIUM INCOME WAS \$ 339,327.77!

HE SOON ORGANIZED THE SERVICE CO. (CAPITAL STOCK: \$ 100,000!)

AND CITIZEN TRUST CO., CAPITAL STOCK: \$ 250,000, SURPLUS: \$ 250,000!

CONTINENTAL FEELERS