

EDITORIALS

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

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

Time For Action In The Black Community

The Post-Reconstruction Years 1878-1905

Continued from Page 1

1866-through 1869, and by 1876 the Association was running fourteen normal and high schools. Following examples of other denominations, the Episcopalians founded ST. AUGUSTINE at Raleigh, North Carolina in 1867.

Students attending the typical church-related school or college were notable for their eagerness to learn. Many were adults responding to opportunity no matter how belated it had come. Most of the schools meeting the needs of its students spent most of their time on basic elements of knowledge.

Although these schools were open to all students without regard to color, almost no White student was likely to be found in attendance. The student body may not have been mixed, but the faculty was and the teachers were conscientious and dedicated. The majority of the teachers were female, and many were Black. Some were graduates of SPELLMAN COLLEGE founded in Atlanta in 1882, others had degrees from Oberlin, Wellesley and Vassar.

All church-related schools shared the common need for money. Fortunately in the closing decades of the century, the State Governments in the South and Educational Foundations established by philanthropists in the North became available.

The new South became school minded and in building schools with public funds, it was impossible to ignore Blacks. On the grounds that Blacks paid fewer taxes, and the belief that there was little point in giving him any training beyond reading and writing, less money was spent on the development of schools for Blacks. White school boards and superintendents established separate schools which were never equal. The salaries and the length of the school year differed for Black and White. School for Blacks

was often held in church basements, hired halls, or vacant stores.

The Southern States offered little support to college level work of Blacks. The MORRILL ACT OF 1862, provided for the founding and maintenance of agricultural and mechanical colleges across the nation, but was silent about dividing federal funds on a racial basis. Three Southern States did, however make available to Blacks a portion of the funds received from the national treasury.

The second MORRILL ACT, passed in 1890, specifically authorized the use of land-grant funds for Black colleges; it stated that these funds should be "EQUITABLY DIVIDED" between White and Black colleges. Equal division of these funds were slow in coming, and as late as 1916 none of the sixteen existing Black land-grant institutions were offering college level work. Black parents supplemented the school funds which the state provided. Some gave from their own pockets what they could, others raised money by holding rummage sales, giving suppers and selling raffle tickets.

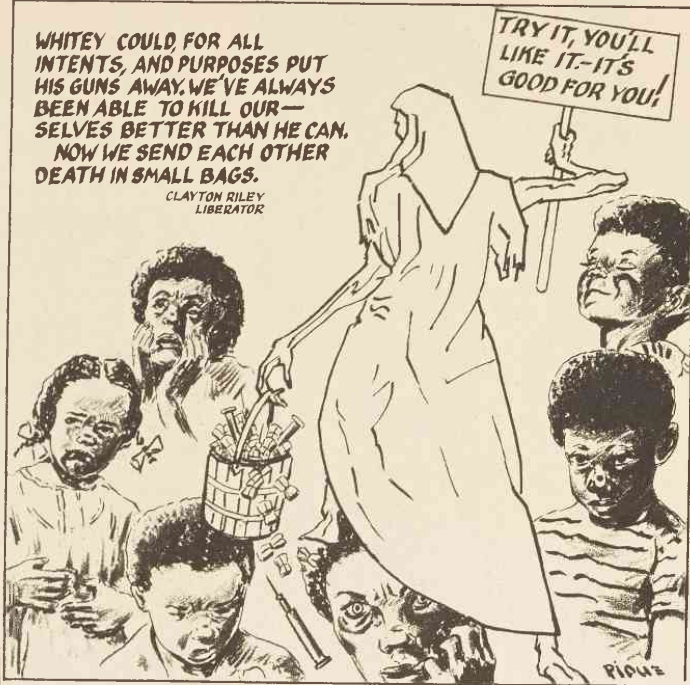
These givings, although meager compared to the total need, were an influence in enlisting substantial contributions from great educational foundations being established. Some of these philanthropic agencies which showed interest in Blacks were: JOHN F. SLATER FUND, THE JEANES FUND, THE ROSENWALD FUND, THE PHELPS-STOKES FUND. Another agency that embraced the Negro in its interest was the GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD, established by JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER in 1903.

In addition to gifts from foundations, Negro schools received support from individuals. One of the earliest and most generous was ANDREW CARNEGIE.

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.

WHITEY COULD FOR ALL INTENTS, AND PURPOSES PUT HIS GUNS AWAY. WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO KILL OURSELVES BETTER THAN HE CAN. NOW WE SEND EACH OTHER DEATH IN SMALL BAGS.

CLAYTON RILEY LIBERATOR



INSIGHT: For Teens Only

by

Miller Carter, Jr.

I have taken a stand on almost every issue that involves today's teens. However, I must admit, I have deliberately been avoiding a most important issue. One, I feel, that most of us are caught up in and which plays a very important role in many of our lives.

This issue, if you can't tell by now, is drugs. Many of you, I'm sure, have been waiting for such an article. Well, here it is at last!

Drugs today are as much a part of society as alcohol but they are used mostly by today's teens rather than adults. Though teens are the primary users, I can't let them bear all of the blame because many adults use it also. Society frowns on a teen that uses drugs; but, let's face the facts--don't we all? Older people use some form(s) of drug almost daily but preach to their children, "It's wrong!" What's the difference between a parent using drugs and the teen who uses them? Parents say, "I'm grown, I can do what I want," but what reason can a teen give.

Sure drugs are dangerous but "what's good for the goose is good for the gander." If parents, and others, can preach it--then why not practice it? Set a good example. "Lay off the booze." But no! Booze is socially accepted. Sure everyone does not drink; but then again, everyone doesn't smoke reefer, pop pills or do hard chemicals.

Let's talk about one specific drug now. Marijuana! It's the most popular of the whole drug line up. More people, young and old alike, would rather smoke reefers (marijuana) than anything else. Now, let's compare reefers to alcohol. Reefers make you high and so does alcohol. A reefer high may last for a couple of hours and then it wears off-but alcohol stays in the blood much longer. Have you heard nearly as many reports about people having accidents because of marijuana as compared to accidents attributed to alcohol. Some say that marijuana "stinks", but have you ever smelled the breath of an alcoholic. How many people do you hear about being addicted to marijuana as compared to the number of people hooked on alcohol? Maybe this is not a good comparison, but based on what I have just said, which would you choose?

Alcohol is accepted all over the world as a relaxing drink, a social drink, a before-dinner drink, an after-dinner drink or just a drink, period. Some of the most important people in the world drink alcohol in some form or another and everyone knows that. But did you know that some of the most important people and some top officials in the world also enjoy some form of drugs? Sure they do! They are human, too, with human curiosities and feelings. Someone you know, who you probably least expect, probably smokes or has smoked marijuana. It could be mom, dad, your neighbor, the secretary, the boss or even the manager--who knows.

Now comes the ultimate issue! Should marijuana be legalized? Everybody hold to their heads, sit down and read a little at a time because what I say may shock you.

YES! I think marijuana should, and maybe someday will, be legalized. Go back to the days of prohibition, when liquor was facing the same issue. Law forbade liquor to be manufactured and sold, but still someone went against the law and liquor remained in circulation. Of course, like marijuana, it was bought and sold illegally. There were many "busts" on liquor joints but the people wanted it so badly that they got it despite the law. Soon liquor was legalized and flooded the country and was socially accepted. Marijuana has been through the same problems; but still teens smoke it and will always smoke.

Humans love the challenge of doing something wrong and getting away with it. Which may be the reason marijuana is still here today. Maybe if and when it is legalized, it will take away the challenge and the desire for teens to smoke. Otherwise marijuana is here to stay.

N.C. Department Of Human Resources

There are an estimated 200,000 North Carolinians who are alcohol or drug abusers. Nearly 50 percent of admissions to psychiatric hospitals are diagnosed as alcoholics.

As this problem increases, how does it affect the economy of our state?

"These and other personal/medical problems, which cause poor job performance, cost the economy of North Carolina over \$350 million a year," said A. Richard Rhyne, occupational programs consultant with the Division of Mental Health Services, N.C. Department of Human Resources.

Approximately 10 percent of any work force has these problems, according to U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare reports.

At this time, 125 industries in the state have adopted Employee Assistance Programs to identify employees problems at the earliest possible stage, to motivate them to seek help, and to refer them to the most appropriate service available.

Professionals in the Division of Mental Health help industries develop these programs for employees with alcohol, drugs, family or legal related concerns.

Management in these industries focuses on the employee's job performance. An employee who consistently does poor work or is absent frequently can be referred to an appropriate person or agency for help. These sources are identified in the company's Employee Assistance policy.

The employer does not act as a counselor, and employees are assured that the referral will be kept confidential.

"Without the concern of the employer, the number of people who are alcohol or drug abusers will grow. They eventually become a problem of the taxpayer, when



TO BE EQUAL

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Executive Director of the National Urban League

When Lester Granger died early in January, little attention was paid to the event and while some older people vaguely recalled the name, others knew nothing about the man and what he stood for.

That in itself tells us something about the shameful way contributors to our achievements and our heritage are shunted aside and forgotten, even in their lifetimes, in the constant pursuit for new and even more exotic people and issues.

It is especially important, then, that we take advantage of the Black History Week celebrations to recall not only Lester Granger's contributions, but those of other unsung black heroes, men and women who not only survived the days of blatant racist oppression, but led the fight to end it, a fight whose beneficiaries were all are.

And the fact that this is the Bicentennial year makes it all the more important for the Lester Grangers of our history to be brought out of the unfair obscurity of the past and restored to their rightful place in our nation's history.

Granger was executive director of the National Urban League for twenty of the stormiest years in our history, from 1941 to 1961. He presided over that agency through a World War, the desegregation of the armed forces, the Korean War, and the beginnings of the southern civil rights movement, and he did it with distinction.

In the 1930s, when all unions were suspect and blacks were prevented from joining them both by racist who refused to integrate their unions and by local forces that tried to stop blacks from organizing anything themselves, Granger led the fight for unionization of black labor.

Through the Urban League's Workers' Council movement he directed, he recruited black workers to join unions and if white unionists refused them membership, to set up union locals of their own. Often, such work meant risking his life.

When war loomed, he was one of the key men who backed Phil Randolph's plans for a March on Washington, leading to an executive order opening defense plants to black workers. And when the war came, he helped set up placement programs that got blacks into

those defense jobs.

One of his big targets was military segregation. How many young people today know that blacks were segregated into separate units up to the Korean War in the early 50s? It was largely through Granger's efforts that the armed forces became integrated; in 1945 he conducted a personal study for the Secretary of the Navy that resulted in breaking down in racial barriers in that service.

When the Supreme Court ruled school segregation unconstitutional, Granger loudly backed the decision, bringing down his organization the full wrath of the frustrated southern segregationists whose locally powerful pressures resulted in a drying up of funds for some local Leagues. But Granger held firm and the organization weathered the storm.

He took over a debt-ridden Urban League and shepherded it through one of the most unstable periods in American history. At the end of his reign the League was stronger and more solidly entrenched than ever before, and black people had made significant advances, at least in some small part through his efforts.

Men like Lester Granger must not be permitted to fade into obscurity. Older leaders like Walter White of the NAACP, the still-active A. Philip Randolph, Mary McLeod Bethune, Paul Robeson, and a host of others of their generation must have their stories told in the schools, in churches and synagogues, and in civic meetings at all times and not only on Black History Week celebrations.

Lester Granger once defined black goals as "the right to work, the right to vote, the right to physical safety and the right to dignity and self-respect." The struggle for those goals is still with us, and by keeping the memory of Lester Granger and the multitude of other unsung black heroes before us, we have a better chance of fulfilling those goals.

At a time when so many figures in American history are dredged up and presented to the public in Bicentennial programs that make noble heroes out of slaveowners and moral statesmen out of politicians of two hundred years ago, let's insist on having the true story of neglected black fighters for justice told!

Things You Should Know

Ebenezer D. BASSETT...



...THE RECONSTRUCTION ACT OF 1867

AND THE 14th AMENDMENT, 1868, GUARANTEED

CIVIL RIGHTS TO FREEDMEN. BASSETT, A RE-

CONSTRUCTION LEADER, WHO STUDIED CLAS-

SICS, MATH & GEN. LIT. AT YALE & GRADUATED

FROM BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY & CONN. STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,

WAS APPOINTED U.S. MINISTER TO HAITI / BETTER HOUSING

CAME YEARS LATER, EXAMPLE: HARLEM RIVER HOUSES, JUNE 16, 1937!

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