

# The Role Of the Negro Newspaper

## Black Women Outdoing Men In Economic Advancement

### Special Bureau Of Census Study Reveals Takeover

WASHINGTON - Negro women have been found to be making a lot more economic progress than Negro men.

According to a special Bureau of the Census study of social and economic trends in the nation's 212 major metropolitan areas since 1960, the proportion of Negro women in white-collar jobs has risen from 21 to 33 per cent from 1959 to 1967.

By comparison, the percentage of Negro men in white-collar jobs remained at 21 per cent.

Central-city Negro men who worked year-round earned about 71 per cent of what their white counterparts made in both 1959 and 1967.

But Negro women, during that period, raised their proportion from 59 to 73 per cent.

The study otherwise reported a mixed picture of both Negro economic gains and setbacks in the nation's cities.

One of the more significant gains is the decline in the number of poor people - both Black and white. But the number of poor whites dropped 38 per cent between 1959 and 1967, compared to 21 per cent for Negroes.

In cities, there were 3.5-million poor Negroes in 1967, compared to 4.1-million in 1959. By comparison, the number of poor whites in the central cities dropped from 7.1-million in 1959 to 4.7-million in 1967.

In New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, the number of poor Black people rose between 1959 and 1967. The survey, however, did not explain whether this rise was due to the in-migration of poor people or to increasing poverty.

On a brighter note, central-city Negro families' median income rose 28 percent from \$4,397 in 1959 to \$5,628 in 1967 - based on dollars of equivalent purchasing power.

By comparison, white families' income rose less from \$7,160 to \$8,294.

In other good news, Negro families' income increased

### \$50,000 Gift To St. Paul's

LAWRENCEVILLE, Va. - President Earl H. McClenney of Saint Paul's College here announced last week a single gift of \$50,000 from an unannounced source on the eve of a drive for \$135,000 for special projects, and two major changes in the institution's administrative setup.

Approved last fall by the college's board of trustees, the campaign will be formally launched during observance of Founder's Weekend, March 14-16.

Chairman of the fund-raising committee is Charles A. Carr, a Saint Paul's trustee and chairman of the board of Dibrell Bros., Inc., Danville, Va.

The \$135,000 is sought to make possible additional faculty-staff housing, the expansion of student facilities, in-



**EXPANDS BLACK BUSINESS**-Arthur T. Gist, Jr., left, president of black-owned Killmanjaro African Coffee, Inc., New York City, importers and processors of coffee products, is now conducting a nationwide tour establishing distributorships for his firm. He talks with his brother, Herman Gist of Greensboro, recently named distributor for North and South Carolina and border points in Virginia. Both are graduates of A&T State University.

### Teacher Still Important Part Of NCC's Program

DURHAM - A tentative calendar released this week by the North Carolina College Summer School office reveals that teachers are still expected to compose an important part of the summer student body.

The Department of Education offers the widest range of course offerings, a total of 40 and of these only six are at the undergraduate level. All ten of the courses offered in this department during the six-week intersession beginning June 23 are at the graduate level.

The intersession, which begins two weeks after the regular summer session of nine weeks, is in fact exclusively for graduate students, most of whom are teachers whose schools closed later than the beginning of the regular session. Two undergraduate mathematics courses will be offered, but they are mathematics for the elementary school teacher and algebraic sym-

### "Freedom's Journal" Was First Paper, 142 Years Ago

BY CHAS H. LOEB

During the week beginning March 16, 1969, Negro editors and publishers throughout the nation will mark the 142nd anniversary of the founding of the

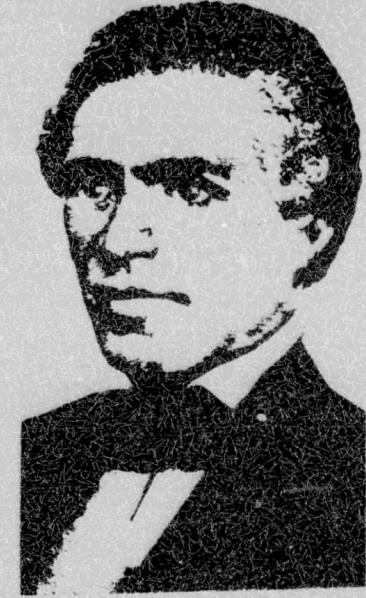
still (with sorrow we confess it) there are others who make it their business to enlarge upon the least trifle which tends to the discredit of any person of color.

"In the spirit of candor and humility, we intend by a simple representation of acts to lay our case before the public, with a view to arrest the progress of prejudice, and to shield ourselves against the consequent evils."

Like many of the Negro journals to follow, "Freedom's Journal" was largely a one-, and endeavor with extremely limited circulation, and seldom, if ever, profitable.

It served a purpose in an age when the black man's quest for freedom upon the spoken word, the flaming rhetoric of black orators, of which the great Frederick Douglass was the most superb. Negro historians have broken down the field of Negro oratory into three periods. The first from 1619 to 1832; the second from 1833 to the present. Douglass, whose activities on the platform occurred in the second - and most glorious period - is regarded as the finest of a group that included Charles Lennox Remond, Samuel Ringold Ward, J.W.C. Pennington, Henry Highland Garnet, William Wells Brown, Sojourner Truth, Lunsford Lane and others.

The smoother platform presentations and better diction had been preceded by an illiterate but powerfully eloquent group of black preachers who crusaded for freedom from the pulpit. A few of the outstanding ones included Uncle Jack, Lemuel Haynes, Andrew Bryan, Henry Evans, Black Harry, John Stewart, Lott Carey, Absalom Jones, and Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. With no established Negro Press, few of their speeches were ever recorded, and the South's reaction following the Nat Turner insurrections, so rigidly curbed religious organizations and preaching that none of these first-period orators had Douglass' chance to reach a national audience.



FOUNDER  
JOHN B. RUSSWURM  
First American Negro Editor  
First Negro American College Graduate



FREDERICK DOUGLASS  
ADVOCATE

first Negro newspaper, "Freedom's Journal" on March 16, 1827. It was on that day that John B. Russwurm, a student at Bowdoin College, and the Rev. Samuel Cornish met in the home of Boston Crummell to launch their two-man enterprise.

In setting forth, in their first editorial, the objectives which prompted the publication, the editors said:

"In presenting our first number of our patrons, we feel all the diffidence of persons entering upon a new and untried line of business. But a moment's reflection upon the noble objects which we have in view by the publication of this Journal, the expediency of its appearance at this time, when so many schemes are in action concerning our people - encourage us to come boldly before an enlightened public. For we believe that a paper devoted to the dissemination of useful knowledge among our brethren, and to their moral and religious improvement, must meet the cordial approbation of every friend of Humanity."

"We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us. Too long has the public been deceived by misrepresentation in things which concern us dearly, though in the estimation of some mere trifles; for though there are many in society who exercise towards us benevolent feelings,

Northern armies. As the leading figure among the Negro people, he was called into conference by President Lincoln several times. Finally the president agreed to enlist Negro troops, and Douglass issued his famous clarion call to the Negro people to take up arms. They responded in great numbers and Douglass' two sons were among the first to enlist in what was later to become the famous 54th and 55th Massachusetts Regiments.

While today most Negro newspapers are profit making ventures, most of them printed in modern plants and employing thousands of trained journalists and technicians, the motivation of the press and its crusading spirit is still moldered in the pattern of Russwurm and Douglass.

Negro newspapers are read regularly by nearly four million Negroes each week, most of them between the ages of 18 and 49. These newspapers are the primary source of information in the all-important area of employment. They have a believability that other newspapers do not have, for they are the only media that expresses the Negro point of view on community affairs which is recognizable and accepted by Negro readers. Negroes rely almost completely upon their newspapers for social and religious news, and are the major source of positive news about the Negro's contributions to the American way of life.

Negro newspapers devote more space to Negro progress than all other newspapers combined, and growing circulation reflects the growing appreciation of the Negro newspaper's role by its readers.

Though there is no central organization that sets policy for Negro newspapers, the National Newspaper Publishers Association has served member-newspapers as a forum and research arm since 1940. Its membership reflects about 30 percent of the total circulation among Negro newspapers in the United States, with most of the largest ones enrolled as members.

Back in 1949, the late Thomas W. Young, then business manager of the Norfolk Journal and

Guide, reiterated the chief aims of the Negro press: Said Young:

"The chief aim of the Negro press is to maintain a united front to protest and expose every condition inconsistent with the democratic concepts we all treasure, and to give coverage to that news of the Negro population which is ignored and distorted by white papers. Young stated that the Negro press serves to inspire the race to greater accomplishment by publishing news of outstanding achievements and strives for greater cooperation and unity between white and Negro newspapers.

Since Russwurm and Douglass' times, the issues have changed somewhat, but so long as inequities exist in the work of American justice, the Negro Press will remain the most strident voice in the crusade for freedom.



WINS DANFORTH FELLOWSHIP - Miss Sandra A. Carlton, senior English major at A&T State University, last week became the first A&T student to win a prestigious Danforth Foundation Fellowship for graduate study. Miss Carlton, a native of Warsaw, won the award in competition with 1,900 other college seniors.

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### St. Aug. Presents Black Rhythmic Choir Here Fri.

The Student Council of Saint Augustine's College will present in concert on March 21, in the Emery Health and Fine Arts Building, the Black Rhythmic Choir from Washington, D. C., at 8 p.m.

The Black Rhythmic Choir is intended for spiritual growth and to help lead others to new religious horizons through symbolic movement of song and dance. Members of the Choir are high school and college students as well as professional musicians. Mrs. Gwendolyn H. Jennifer, instructor of music at Saint Augustine's, is a member of the Choir.

Each choreographic interpretation used attempts to provide the participants the performers and audience with a feeling that they have had their sights lifted, their imaginations challenged.

Funds from this activity will be donated to the Student Union Fund and Building Program at Saint Augustine's College. For further information, contact Donnell M. Morris, president of the Student Council, or Miss Rebecca C. Weatherford, adviser.

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