

# Black Candidates Politicians

BY ROBERT WOODSON  
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An Analyst

The winner of the 1988 presidential race faces the biggest challenge ever in dealing with America's 30 million poor.

U.S. social policy, as we now know it, is at a dead end. To get things on track again, the "poverty Pentagon"—the vast bureaucracy which manages the no-win "War on Poverty" at great cost to taxpayers and the poor alike—must be dismantled and restructured into a

welfare system which encourages and supports self-reliance. The only way our poor will ever have a chance to get out of the poverty trap.

The true test of character of any nation is the extent to which it is able to provide for the least fortunate of its members. This moral obligation now converges with a great economic necessity. In the next 20 years, the U.S. economy is expected to produce 16.8 million new jobs. Population trends indicate that this workforce will increasingly be black and

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One million youngsters drop out of school each year and a million more graduate illiterate. If America is to be competitive as a nation, we must make sure its future work force will be able to compete. We must press for dramatic changes in improving the lives of the poor.

America has been very generous to the poor over the years. Unfortunately, the social policies of the past 20

# ...d To Help Poor

created a mammoth "tagon" that has cost billions of tax dollars without reducing poverty.

Before the advent of government programs, there was nobody to "take care" of blacks, so they cared for themselves; they found ways to solve their own problems. In 1883, when 1,000 blacks were fired off the docks of Baltimore, they didn't respond by marching on Washington, they formed the Chesapeake Main Dry Dock and Railroad Company which

operated for 18 years. When blacks were refused access to banks, they formed 53 banks and savings and loan associations with some of them with assets of millions. And this was in 1883.

If these great achievements were possible then, when conditions were worse than today, blacks could certainly do even better now.

One of the greatest obstacles to such self-reliant behavior is the poverty industry that has developed to "provide for" the poor. Those ser-

vice providers—regardless of their good intentions—have every incentive to see that no permanent solutions are ever found to poverty in America.

Today's poor are unwitting participants in a poor morality play where the worst parts are reserved for them. And we keep rewarding them for taking these parts.

If you are poor and you are a drug addict, there's a program for you. If you are poor and you are pregnant, there's a program for you. If you are (See HELP POOR, P. 2)

## Journalists To Hear Address By SWAPO Pres.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Sam Nujoma, the president of the South West Africa People's Organization of Namibia, announced plans to visit the United States later this spring to address a conference of black journalists and to participate in a round of Capitol Hill hearings on South Africa's atrocities against the Namibian people.

The hearings, sponsored by the World Council of Churches, will coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Kassinga Massacres which resulted in the death of several hundred Namibian refugees, mostly women and children who were living in southern Angola.

The SWAPO chief will address the opening session of the hearing which will also receive testimony from congressmen, State Department officials, religious leaders and statesmen from around the world.

Nujoma will also deliver the keynote address at the fifth national conference of the National Alliance of Third World Journalists in Atlanta. The conference, scheduled April 21-24, is expected to draw black and (See SWAPO LEADER, P. 2)

## New Horizons Program Helps Area Teenagers

The New Horizons Program which serves youth ages 9-17 held Peer Counselors graduation exercises recently and was a special event for participants.

The six graduates earned certificates by completing 24 hours of training in the following skill areas: listening, awareness of non-verbal behavior, methods of establishing a non-threatening situation, ways of responding including feedback and clarification, awareness to determine when professional counseling is needed, and information as to the existing sources of approved counseling services and agencies available in the community.

Related topic areas addressed were sexuality, substance abuse, teen depression, suicide, career choices, and family problems.

Ms. Montana Lee, who serves as the New Horizons program director, conducted the Peer Counselor Training sessions along with health care professionals.

Keynote speaker for the graduation was Ms. Dorothy Shaw Thompson, a wife, mother of four children and a family counselor at Project Enlightenment. The major theme of Ms. Thompson's address was that every child has a soul created by God and regardless of the external circum- (See TEENS, P. 2)

## Black Press: Proud History Leading To Challenging Future

BY ALEXIS HERMAN  
NNPA News Service

As a black woman business owner in the District of Columbia, it is with great pride and admiration that I salute the industry that has been the pillar of the black community for decades—the black press.

The black press has played a vital role in the survival and growth of the black community for well over 150 years. Since the first black newspaper, Freedom's Journal, was published in 1827, the black press has continued to be a powerful source of social, political, religious, and economic information.

The history and future of the black press were issues celebrated at a black press dinner in Washington, D.C. recently.

From the early editorials condemning lynching to those supporting the civil rights movement of the '60s and the current fight for economic justice, the black press has provided the leadership and the focus of these issues. The black community and other segments of society have begun to recognize the unique and strategic position of the black community which is epitomized by the black press.

Magazines such as Ebony, Jet and Black Enterprise are just a few of the black-owned publications that are successful businesses in their own right. They continue to provide an advertising outlet for other black businesses and the corporate sector that wishes to reach the black consumer these publications along with black newspapers feature black businesses by sharing their success stories and providing valuable statistics and information on the status of black businesses.

I often rely on black newspapers and magazines for important resource information for speeches, articles, and seminars.

From a national perspective there are several significant trends

(See BLACK PRESS, P. 2)

## Program To Honor Business Mentors

A recent feature article headline read, "Mentoring—More Than the Old-Boy Network Grown Up." Publicity and national public awareness surrounding the first such research program and resulting book, "Career Mentoring at Work," culminated with "Mentors of Distinction" awards, highlighting the 10th anniversary of the Women in Business Advisory Council March 28.

Honored mentors and their sponsoring organizations gathered at Meredith College in Raleigh, hosted by Meredith Vice President and WIBAC advisor Dr. Sandra Thomas.

The event, chaired by WIBAC's Pat Gebble, recognized 26 mentors from business, professions, education, and community development. WIBAC President Dr. Jean Overton cited the importance of extending a helping hand—called mentoring—in professional and career development, wherever it occurs.

under a grant from the American Express Company Foundation, WIBAC's Meg Conner researched and published the sourcebook which has found its way across the United States and is helping inspire programs in such diverse places as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency field operations, continuing education, nurses and home economics education, public schools, professional development programs exemplified by the American Library Association, and in industry.

For WIBAC, chairman of the nominating committee is Jerry Dod-

son, director of EPA's program for minority business involvement.

Sponsored by a wide range of area (See BUSINESS MENTORS, P. 2)



MS. EMMA GUZA

## Increasing Minimum Wages Will Just Keep Poor From Starving

BY CHESTER A. HIGGINS, SR.  
NNPA News Service

By a voice vote, the 35-member House Labor and Education Committee passed a bill that will raise the minimum wage from the current \$3.50, in incremental stages, to a maximum of \$5.05 an hour by the

year 1991. However, committee chairman Augustus Hawkins, a 25-year Hill veteran, declared, "This is no panacea. It won't get the 15 million—one million blacks—out of poverty. It will merely keep them from starving to death."

He predicted full House passage of the bill after a mid-April session. He also predicted Senate passage of a similar measure and that the two branches of Congress will iron out differences in a joint conference and send the bill to President Reagan for passage.

Reagan, however, has threatened to veto the measure and Rep. Hawkins during a lengthy interview with the NNPA in his Capitol Hill offices in the Rayburn Building worried that "It is not at all certain that we have the votes to override him."

Congress had the votes to override Reagan's recent veto of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, he said. This bill was passed overwhelmingly by Congress and is designed to undo much of the adverse effects of the Supreme Court's 1984 decision in the Grove City College (Pa.) vs. Bell case. This decision narrowed the scope of the historic civil rights bills so drastically that civil rights leaders have been chafing under the restrictions ever since. Grove City simply permits divisions within an institution that are not receiving federal funds to discriminate with impunity.

Hawkins' committee is almost equally divided between Democrats and Republicans—23 Democrats, 22 Republicans. "So we have a tight battle on every issue," he said. "We simply cannot afford to lose over three or four Democrats on any issue or it is doomed."

He said a powerful U.S. Chamber of Commerce lobby is opposed to raising minimum wages. "And when you have a president in the White House who also opposes it, it is difficult to get a lot of Republicans to buck him."

Minimum hourly wages have not (See MINIMUM WAGE, P. 2)

## Physical Assault

# Woman Accuses Police Officials Examining Complaint

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—Syracuse police will talk to witnesses in an effort to answer a pregnant woman's charges that officers kicked her in the stomach, pushed her down some steps and made racial slurs to her.

"Part of the problem is rounding up witnesses. They all have different schedules," Chief Leigh Hunt said. "We want to get to the bottom of this. I would hope by the end of the week we'll have figured out exactly what happened."

The department's Internal Affairs Division is investigating the charges leveled by Lila Wingate, 31, of Syracuse, who said in a complaint filed Friday that a plainclothes officer unjustly arrested her during a disturbance March 14 at her sister's house and then physically assaulted her and told her she would have a miscarriage.

According to the police version, Wingate was "swinging her arms wildly and refused to put her arms behind her back so that she could be handcuffed," and she attempted to interfere with the arrest of two other adults.

Wingate, who is four months pregnant, claims that she was unfairly arrested while trying to remove her nephews and nieces from the home of her sister, Harriet, during an argument between Harriet Wingate and her live-in boyfriend, Richard Frazier, 24. Both sisters, Frazier and two others were arrested in the disturbance.

"I heard the kids over there screaming and I went over there to get my nieces and nephews and bring them over here," said Lila Wingate, (See COMPLAINT, P. 2)



PROTECT THE PRESS—Johannesburg—Sahoko Nyoka was one of several who demonstrated on the rush-hour streets of central Johannesburg protesting the government's closure of the weekly New Nation newspaper. (UPI)

## Teens Need Support To Stop Substance Abuse

Teenagers are tough. Ask any teen. Ask any parent. But adding alcohol and drugs makes them even worse.

Through treatment, addicted teens can overcome their substance abuse, but unfortunately, treatment is only half the battle. Once teens become sober, they have to stay sober.

Austin Warner, adolescent coordinator of CHAPS Koala Center, said most teenagers who have just gone through treatment must face three major tests: parents, peers and public attitude.

Warner said parents and young people agree that while in treatment

they want family counseling, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. But when treatment is finished, he said, the same apathy encountered before treatment sets in, particularly with parents.

Terri Demoret, a substance abuse counselor for a community school system, agreed. "Parents put all the responsibility on the young person without also carrying through with their own recovery."

"I was one of those parents who didn't follow through," she said. "When young people come out of treatment they are expected to have responsibility which they never had in the first place because they were never taught responsibility."

She said a surprisingly large number of parents place the entire burden of recovery on their children.

"Many parents," Warner added, (See COUNSELORS, P. 2)



SPECIAL AMBASSADOR—Mehal Meda, Ethiopia—Actress Audrey Hepburn, appointed as a special UNICEF Ambassador, is shown here at one of the organization's projects in Ethiopia. Hepburn spent three days visiting UNICEF relief and development projects in drought-stricken areas of the country. (UPI)



WAITING FOR FOOD—Panama City—Children wait in line for food at the San Jose church in the working-class neighborhood of San Miguelito. An opposition-led general strike and a severe cash shortage have left many poor and working class families short of food. Many churches are serving cooked meals to those in need. (UPI)