

EDITORIALS

None Of The Above

A few months ago, a public opinion survey found that people had changed their views since Ronald Reagan was elected in 1980.

In those days, people said they wanted less government. A more recent survey said they wanted more services from government.

What about the other two choices? We could have a larger and more expensive government providing less service. Some people would say this is what we have seen for the past generation at least.

Couldn't we also have less government and more services? Do you remember the first calculators? They cost \$100 or more. Now you can get much smaller, better models for less than one-tenth the price.

What is the secret? Why are we

getting better service for much less money?

We are often told that more government is needed because our world is so much more complicated. Computers are also complex. Why are they getting cheaper?

Costs have come down and services have gone up in the computer industry because a great deal of talent has been applied to finding a better way of getting the job done.

When a better way was found it was applied as quickly as possible. More people were served, the service was better, and costs were lower.

Next time if we are asked if we want more government or less service, perhaps we should answer, "none of the above."

The Christmas Spirit

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. The Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife; and knew her not until she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus" (Matthew 1:23-25).

The Christmas season being shared now by thousands find many appreciating the joys and the sorrows of the past 12 months and eagerly awaiting the challenges of the New Year.

Glory be to the One who guides the affairs of men. The favorable and unfavorable, the highs and lows, the tears and the laughter are all reconciled in the hope and good will of the Son born to man.

Many are joyous during this season because the Christmas spirit permeates beyond earthly concerns and problems and brings glad tidings and cheer.

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; in the manger born a king, while adoring angels sing, "Peace on earth, to men good will; bid the trembling soul be still, Christ on earth has come to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!"

As families and friends enjoy happiness and good will, may they also remember those who may not be as fortunate to experience the

same. Let the community reach out and extend hands of love and care to those who share the city with us and whose birthday will not be merry and happy—except we make it so.

The children should all know the meaning of this time of the year—that it is the season of love above all else.

"Hark, the herald angels sing 'Glory to the newborn King!' Peace on earth, and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic hosts proclaim, 'God is born in Bethlehem!'"

The elderly must be assured that the faces they see daily and the hundreds of others that know of their plight do possess the spirit of the One whose birth we celebrate.

Anyone who faces uncertainty and without faith may find the peace and comfort of our hearts—sharing in love and faith.

Hail! The heaven-born Prince of Peace. The Sun of Righteousness! Life and light to all He brings! Risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more to die. Born to raise the sons of the earth, Born to give them a second birth.

Go in peace with goodwill toward all.

Helping The Poor

According to an anti-poverty group that interviewed people in North Carolina and elsewhere, government should do more to create jobs and provide job training in depressed areas. Ever since the Reagan administration came to power, the government has been oblivious and rejective to the poor and underprivileged.

Overall findings of the study issued by the Washington-based Coalition on Human Needs found that poor people think the government should be more active in creating jobs and job-training, and in changing the welfare guidelines to help those who work but still live in poverty. There are many people who do not choose to live in poverty, and they deserve all the assistance they can receive so they can escape from their situation.

One woman interviewed said that although she worked full-time she sometimes thought about quitting her job so she could collect food stamps and Medicaid for her disabled husband and three

children. If industry and government will play a greater role in assisting poor and impoverished people, this kind of attitude would not be as prevalent as it is. It is common knowledge that most people want to be productive, but when they live below standards, they often are forced to take desperate measures.

As the woman stated, "A family is struggling to have the basic things. Sometimes you are working and you end up worse off. You wonder why you work."

Because unemployment is high and wages are low for most of those who work, North Carolina's tradition of low wages, plentiful labor and relatively low welfare benefits makes life difficult for many people.

Immediate action should be taken to help eliminate this pathetic plight of the poor in America. What action will President-Elect George Bush take? The poor and homeless are waiting.



BIBLE THOUGHT

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring word again, that I may come and worship him also. And when they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him; when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:8-11

Tony Brown's Column

YOUNG GIRL SHOWS OUR FUTURE IS IN GOOD HANDS

"Bubblin' over with the news," Portia Webb wrote across the top of her letter.

She identified herself as "a girl of 11" who had attended a special antidrug screening of "The White Girl" at Pennsylvania State University at University Park, Pa. (she lives in nearby College Park).

Her grammar and punctuation were as precise and free-flowing as her youthful exuberance as she explained that she had spent her time going to see my movie (and getting my message) and she hoped that I would extend the same courtesy to her letter.

"I got your strong message and I hope my opinion makes a difference," she said. "I respect you and your opinions, so I hope you won't disrespect mine."

At that moment, I wished I were near her so I could give her a big hug and thank her for even having an opinion. After all, the movie was conceived and produced to reach people—especially young, impressionable people—with a self-love and anti-drug message.

Portia Webb's letter means a number of things to me. It means that movies can make a difference—a positive difference—in the lives of young people. It also means that they are eager to identify with constructive role models. And black children have been particularly deprived by the usual Hollywood productions with emphasis on sex, violence and white role models. But Portia Webb says it best.

"I happen to live in a town where the majority of people are white, and black actors and actresses in movies are definitely what we need more of! So that's why when I see gobs of blacks in my town filling the theaters to see great movies like yours, I get extremely excited!"

"When the gorgeous Taimak appeared on the scene, there was a great roar of 'uhs' and 'ahs.' Boy, I tell you, Teresa Farley, Troy Beyer and Taimak have all got the fine look. And when you said that Joan Collins could learn a thing or two from Teresa, you weren't kidding!!"

"Now, back to my original point! Movies are rated R for many reasons, such as swearing, sex or violence. There is no reason that 'White Girl' should not stay rated PG-13. 'White Girl' did not project any swearing, sex—and the only violence it showed was a little karate from the martial arts—but that's about it! You're right, how could we tell Kim's story without seeing her snort cocaine?"

"Oh yeah, you could pretend she took drugs. But that would be very unrealistic. I mean, you didn't even have to attempt to make the movie for that matter!! The purpose for the movie was to give a strong anti-drug message, and what better way to do it than show someone in action?"

"Take 'Miami Vice,' for example. I'm sure we've seen, somewhere along the line, someone smuggling drugs or snorting drugs! What's the point? You don't have to be accompanied by an adult to watch the destructive 'Miami Vice!' At least 'White Girl' gives a positive message. In 'Miami Vice,' there is always something negative going on, with plenty of sex and violence."

"God bless you," she concluded.

God bless you, Portia Webb. And thank you for making all of the frustrations and problems in making "The White Girl" worthwhile. Your insights are indispensable to the future of our country.

"Tony Brown's Journal" TV series can be seen on public television Saturday on Channel 4 at 1:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

FROM MY CORNER

BY ADRIAN KING

Riding the Lincoln City Express or any other locally conceived alias for the bus to the blue collar, generally black area of the town one can usually enjoy or at least be exposed to a variety of musical sources. Already Charles Brown had pleaded with someone to "Please Come Home for Christmas." But it was not until Donnie Hathaway started reminiscing that the Christmas spirit really hit him.

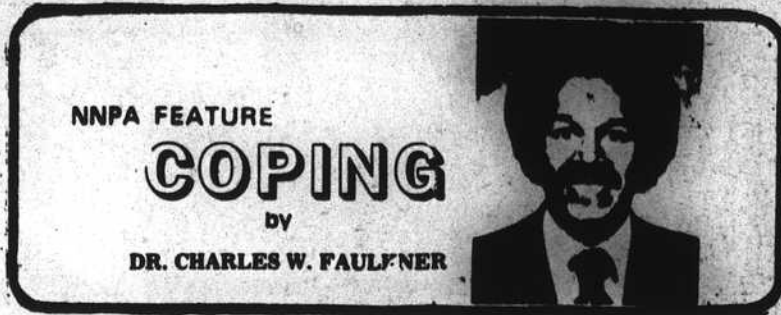
This had been a short year, but good years always are. Never mind that the car was due for a safety inspection and there was no money to replace those bald tires with some that might pass inspection. Overlook the fact that lately the meals had been lean, repetitive portions of the very basic staples. He had a job or a poor excuse for one. The rent was paid, the flat was not cold and there was no reason to suffer the humiliation dished out at the welfare office. Although everything was going well, he could not ignore reality. Christmas was near and the kids' expectations grew as Christmas approached.

What would he do? Last year the kids were told that the meager gifts were a result of Santa getting lost. The gifts under the tree were from Mom, Dad and the grandparents. This year on Christmas morn when the kids discover the absence of many gifts he would say, "That must have been Santa I scared away last night. I thought it was just a wino in the alley."

Searching for a solution his personal wish list was unleashed. Sure, he wanted his sons to be clones of Michael Jackson, Jabaar, Donald Trump and Lee Iacocca with Pulitzer Prize writing talents. His prime wishes were more self-centered. Deep inside he wished for the ability to provide not only the needs, be they spiritual, mental, economic or social, but also the wants his family desired. His most firmly rooted wish was to be at least half the man his father had been. Measure a man not by his possessions but by the obstacles he overcame and by those standards his father was a giant, a big one.

It wasn't Christmas yet. He still had time to find the solution to his problem and he would, for someone was depending on him being the giant.

Like Boston, New Jersey had a "tea party" during the mounting tension between the colonies and Great Britain. At Greenwich, near Delaware Bay, young men in Indian costumes burned a shipment of tea from England in 1774.



NNPA FEATURE
COPING
by
DR. CHARLES W. FAULKNER

BY DR. CHARLES W. FAULKNER DON'T BE BRAINWASHED INTO HOLIDAY DEPRESSION

Those nice people who own those nice stores that sell such expensive merchandise are out to get you. They want you to buy expensive gifts for your family, friends, or for anyone. However, the tricks of the trade that they use could get you into emotional trouble. They could even cause you to become terribly depressed. Merchants simply want you to spend money. If you spend money, it's good for them. If you get depressed in the process, it's tough luck for you.

Why do millions of people become depressed immediately after Christmas? What can you do to avoid post-holiday depression? Immediately after Thanksgiving, you hear Christmas carols everywhere you go. Shopping malls, McDonald's, record stores. Everywhere!

You begin to feel sentimental, almost guilty, for having neglected certain family members. You begin to feel nostalgic. You think, "How much I miss the wonderful old days at home with Mom and Dad." You begin to feel sad. "Why has life been so unpleasant?" Did you say something bad to someone last year? You begin to seek forgiveness.

Everytime you hear a Christmas carol,

it causes your emotions to rise. Over and over you hear the Christmas music, until you can no longer resist the motivation (need) to buy "soul-saving" gifts. How can you atone for your mistakes? Buy a gift. That's how. So, you buy a present for those whom you have neglected. It makes you feel good inside. Everytime you hear Christmas music, you think about your good deed. If you can't afford to buy a gift or if someone won't accept a gift from you, your feeling of guilt, nostalgia, or sadness builds up and up and up. And you get sadder and sadder and sadder.

Well, at least you have Christmas music to constantly remind you of the fact that others are using this grand occasion for joy and happiness. Just listening to the Christmas music makes you feel joyful. It's an aid. A savior. A crutch to carry you through your day. Thirty-six days of lovely Christmas music. Maybe there's hope for you, after all.

Then Christmas comes and as suddenly as it started, it stops. Abruptly and without warning. Your emotional crutch is kicked out from under you. You have nothing to hold onto. Unhappiness returns. If you're not careful, you could fall down, down, down into long-lasting depression.

What can be done to avoid it? I'll tell you in my next column.

Vantage Point

BY RON D. DANIELS

JACKSON ACTION: THE INSIDE STRATEGY

Jesse Jackson has become a formidable fact of life inside the Democratic Party. The liberal/progressive Rainbow electoral coalition which he forged in 1988 demonstrated that with the right message, and the right strategy, the Democratic Party can expand its base and remain a viable force in presidential politics.

For the record, Jesse Jackson polled nearly seven million votes in his primary presidential election bid. That's more votes than any runner-up in the history of the Democratic Party. Jesse Jackson won 13 states, 100 congressional districts, and captured more than 1,200 delegates at the Democratic National Convention. Of equal importance, Jesse Jackson kept critical issues on the table. These are issues of importance to black and Third World people—drugs, housing, health care, education, jobs, peace, justice. These historic accomplishments have propelled Jackson into the leadership of the liberal/progressive wing of the Democratic Party.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Jesse Jackson realizes that given the panic which the conservative tide has created among Democrats, the liberal/progressive forces will have to fight hard to keep the party from stampeding to the right and self-destructing. He has issued a major challenge to his supporters to participate in and transform the Democratic Party from the precinct to the presidency. The fact is black people have yet to really master and fully exploit the benefits of "traditional" electoral politics. African-Americans need to press the two traditional parties to produce every gain and benefit possible in the interest of the masses of black people, other minorities, poor working people and the struggling middle class.

Though the vast majority of black people vote Democratic, we are really not in the Democratic Party. Black people seldom seek positions on the policy-making bodies within the party at the state, local and national levels. And when we have gained access to these policy-making bodies we have often been guilty of not knowing the rules, or worse yet, failing to attend the meetings on a regular basis. Black people vote Democratic and then leave the business of setting rules, and establishing the policies by which the party will function, to someone else. No one else will project and defend your interest like you.

Jesse Jackson, therefore, is challenging

black people and progressives who vote Democratic to fight for full representation and an equitable share of everything within the Democratic Party. If the truth be told African-Americans have never really systematically fought to make the Democratic Party responsive and accountable to black people at all levels. The time has come to take our vote and participation seriously or to stop complaining about others taking advantage of us.

The black vote must be used around a progressive agenda for change and benefit for the masses of black people, minorities, poor and working people. In that regard we must fearlessly reward our friends and punish our enemies (elect and de-elect). Understanding this, Jesse Jackson continues to place a premium on voter registration. Of the seven million votes which Jackson won in 1988, about 4.5 million were black votes. But guess what? There were 14 million black registered voters eligible and available to vote in 1988 and another seven to eight million blacks unregistered. Remember, Mondale won the Democratic nomination in 1984 with 6.7 million votes and Dukakis won in 1988 with about nine million votes. The black vote potential is 22 million votes.

The Jackson agenda inside the Democratic Party calls for a major effort to liberalize voter registration laws to make it easier for potential voters to register and remain on the books. The Conyers Bill which promotes same-day, same-site election day registration is the centerpiece of the Jackson registration program. Other components of the Jackson agenda include D.C. statehood, minority and women's set-aside programs for business and support for the Dellums Bill for tougher sanctions against South Africa. Needless to say, expanded aid for housing, health care, education, jobs, and a sane foreign policy will continue to be integral to Jackson's efforts to restore sanity to the Democratic Party.

That's essentially the strategy which Jesse Jackson will be harnessing his supporters to fight for inside the Democratic Party. The next four years with critical mayoral and gubernatorial elections in 1989, the Census in 1990, reapportionment in 1991 and presidential elections in 1992 will provide ample time to test the possibilities of the inside strategy. Meanwhile, those who would seek to deny Jesse Jackson his just due as the leader of the liberal progressive wing of the party need to rethink their position. Another debacle like 1988 and even Jesse Jackson will not be able to stem the flood of disaffections and defections from the Democratic Party. Indeed, what African-Americans and the progressive movement really need is an inside-outside strategy.

