

EDITORIALS

Happy New Year!

How often have you heard the greeting "Happy New Year?" Many times, of course. With some people, it is merely a form of greeting with equal weight to "good morning," or "good evening." With others, it is a form of spiritual greeting, symbolizing a new opportunity for us all.

The days between Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve have been called the season of visions. On Christmas Eve, there is the vision back across many centuries to the beginning of the Christian religion. On New Year's Eve, there comes the vision of a new tomorrow whose days hold the filling of our wishful hopes and dreams.

A new year means a new opportunity for all of us. It is especially a great opportunity for those who have failed or stumbled along the wrong way during the past year. The chief thing to remember is that the past year is gone and all the sins and failures that occurred during those 12 months are also gone.

The new year offers hope and new opportunities for those who failed or met defeat in the past. However, we must not think of the new year only as an opportunity to redeem ourselves. The new year offers for those who have been successful a challenge. Those who have reached the top or have gone a long way toward the top, must realize that the hard part about making good is that one has to

keep on making good every day of his life.

As we have said, the new year can offer a challenge. It is such a challenge as reminds us of the old story about the shepherd who one day caught a glimpse through the clouds of the place on top of a mountain where the gods dwell.

The shepherd determined to leave his humble abode and make his way over the rough road to the lofty peak. With great exertion and effort, he accomplished his ambition. Finally he stood on the heights and the gods congratulated him on his efforts and determination to overcome all difficulties.

The poor shepherd, exhausted, lay down to sleep. When he awoke he was alone in the cold mist of the mountaintop. He caught a glimpse of the gods now in a distant and loftier peak. He cried out in his disappointment and a voice called out to him saying, "Foolish mortal, dost thou not know that he who would dwell in the heights with the gods must not sleep but forever climb higher and higher?"

Often, we have heard the wish for a prosperous New Year. Many people equate prosperity with material wealth, money and things. This is a very narrow view of prosperity indeed. Man ought to prosper in all areas of his life—the physical, emotional, spiritual. Then the New Year will be a happy one.

Growing Education Crisis

Our national education crisis is growing in magnitude with each passing day, and will continue to worsen unless we assert the necessary leadership and provide realistic budgetary resources to improve current trends. If we want to strengthen our nation's economic muscle, we must provide all sectors of our economy, and indeed, all avenues of society, with the best and brightest minds.

The current administration does a lot of talking about education, using the "politics of children" to impress others, but the bottom-line question we must ask ourselves is—what resources are we committing to our nation's schools and the millions of children who demographically will comprise a contrastingly different generation than we have ever known?

Early last year, after examining President Bush's budget for education, we were reminded of that over-used phrase, "Where's the Beef?" Not only did the president's budget investment in education receive a failing grade, but it also proposed to "rob Peter to pay Paul" by raiding funds from cost-effective federal education programs which have long been supported by the Congress and the general public.

It is time for the president to wake up to present realities and observe the dramatic changes in America's population profile. The following sobering statistical profile of America's school children excerpted from a 1986 Education Week special report titled, "Here They Come, Ready or Not," confirms this great demographic challenge:

1. One out of four will come from a family living in poverty.
2. 14 percent will be children of teenage mothers.

3. 15 percent will be physically or mentally handicapped.

4. As many as 15 percent will be immigrants who speak a language other than English.

5. 40 percent will live in a broken home before they reach 18.

6. 10 percent will have poorly educated, illiterate parents.

7. Between one-quarter and one-third will be latchkey children with no one to greet them when they come home from school.

8. One-quarter or more of them will not finish school.

This is the challenge. These are the young children who are carrying with them to our schools the diverse problems of our nation. Already, new challenges are arising as children who suffered drug exposure at birth are entering our schools, and require special educational attention. This trend will continue to rise unless we take the necessary action to prevent it.

One way we can begin to change the present course is by investing in children early. Everything we know tells us that a child's predisposition to learn is largely formed in the first few years of life. Under our current system of education we simply do not invest enough funds in preschool education and child development programs, especially when compared to other industrial nations.

If we are serious about addressing our educational challenge, we must expand preschool services and education to every child who is eligible. We must also begin to examine the needs of poor and minority children, many of whom are the helpless victims of factors such as violent home environments, poor health care, and schools without the resources to help them overcome their educational difficulties.

The Homicide Of African-American Men

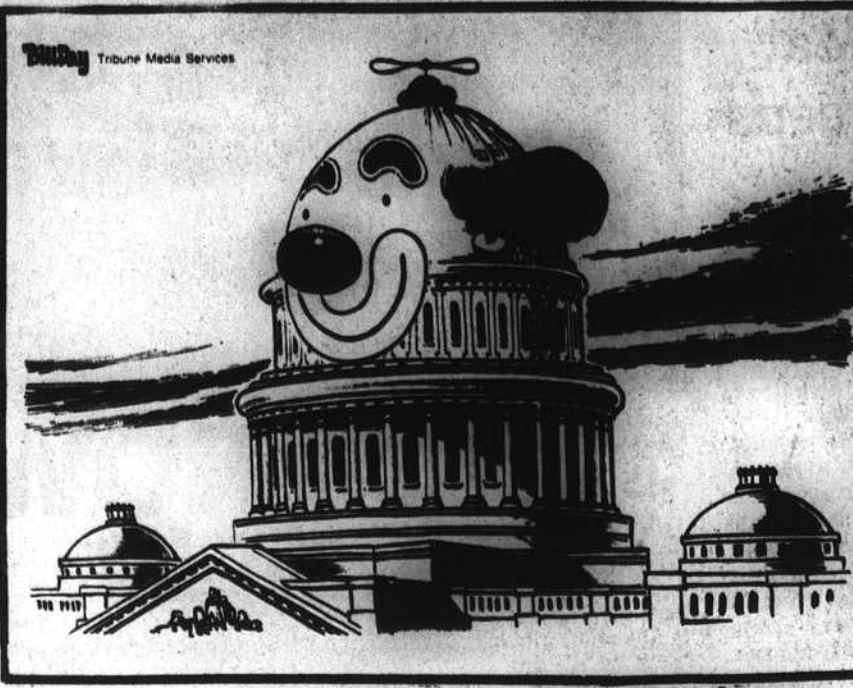
BY BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.
Guest Editorial

A new study released by the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., concluded that the homicide rate for African-American males, ages 15-25, increased 66.6 percent in the United States between 1984-88. Federal officials at the CDC have also confirmed that this alarming rate of homicide, particularly among young African-American males, continues to increase in the 1990s.

This latest report on homicides issued by the federal agency that monitors and researches mortality and life expectancy rates

should be very disturbing to all Americans. Yet, the tragic reality is that too many persons in our society have become insensitive to the slaughter of African-Americans. In fact, some urban areas in the United States have now become literal "killing fields" for African-American men under the age of 25.

The key author of the CDC report, Dr. Robert Froehle, stated, "In some areas of the country it is now more likely for a black male between 15 and 25 to



NNPA FEATURE

COPING

by

Dr. Charles W. Faulkner



MANIPULATING YOUR WAY TO HAPPINESS

Let's face it! When you are honest, lovable and devoted, you usually receive a mild emotional "slap in the face." Your mate thinks you are weak, takes you for granted and stops treating you with kindness. Your friends stop being considerate of your feelings. Your boss expects you to do more work than the other employees. And most other people generally try to make you feel unhappy.

On the other hand, when you play "hard to get," when you act mean, and when you push people around and intimidate them, they treat you in a completely different way. Your spouse becomes jealous and affectionate. Your friends regard you as strong and assertive. Your boss gives you a pay raise for being so tough and aggressive, and for displaying leadership qualities. In general, you get the respect that you want.

The nice person usually gets abused. The manipulative person gets respected. This seems to contradict what you have been told all of your life by your parents, ministers and teachers. You were told to be honest, fair and kind. You were told to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. This was supposed to lead to friendship and happiness because people were supposed to be nice to you if you were nice to them.

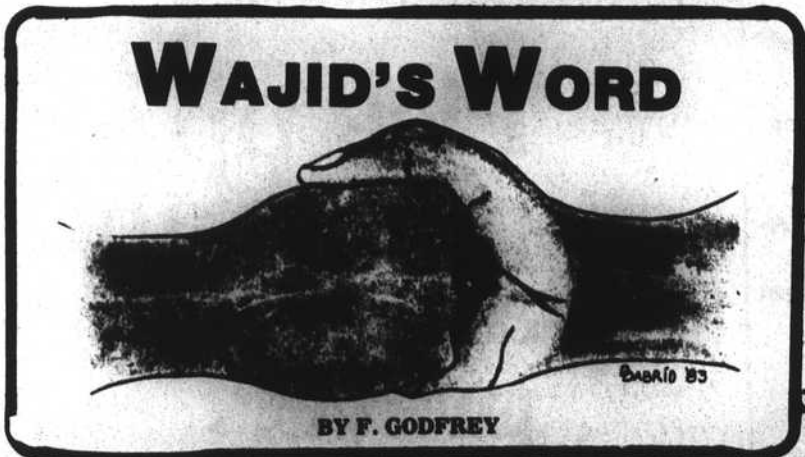
But this is the real world. Most people think that nice folks are weak. Your kindness has made you unhappy instead of happy. This seems so much against what you

were taught. No matter how unfair it is, no matter how much we want the "nice guy" to win, the simple fact is that nice guys often do not win. Nice guys are usually taken advantage of by the manipulators—who are not nice, but are tough.

I'm not referring here to bank robbers or murderers. I am referring to average people who will do nearly anything to you in order to make you do what they want you to do. Their primary objective is to control you and they will use manipulation to do it. However, they only try to manipulate so-called weak (nice) guys.

Are you surprised by this? Probably not. You realize that if you want a pay raise, you have to manipulate the boss by smiling and making him think that you regard him as a nice guy (even though you may hate his guts). If you want a good grade from your teacher, you must make him think that you like him, even if you don't. If you want to be pursued by the opposite sex, you must act nonchalant, as if every other man or woman would do anything to go to bed with you.

The point is that you are already well-schooled in the art of psychological manipulation. You probably call it something else, but it is still manipulation. Call it psychological pragmatism, persuasion, a white lie, common sense, or the con game. Call it what you want, but you and I know that those who master it control everyone else. Is it true that you'd better do it to them before they do it to you?



WAJID'S WORD

BY F. GODFREY

President Bush, responding to criticism over the number of African-Americans in the Gulf, suggested that this is merely an indication of the increased opportunities being afforded "minority" groups in the armed forces. He concluded his remarks by pointing to the fact that the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was also an African-American. He went on to suggest that all of the young men were volunteers and were not forced to join the military.

What Bush failed to admit, however, was the fact that many of the young men who joined the various branches of the military did so as a last resort. Many of them perceive military as a means of financing their college educations. Many of them were without employment and were able to find "employment" in the military. Still another group believed the numerous commercials urging one to "Be All That You Can Be" which are constantly being pumped up over the television stations and the radio stations that cater to black youth.

These commercials are professionally done and give the illusion of a military where one can learn a career and leave the military with enough money to go on to college. These commercials fail to warn those who might consider the military as an option of the real potential of never really being able to "be all that you can be," because you just might wind up in a body bag. Just as cigarette companies are now required to place warnings on their labels and in their commercials, maybe the armed forces should be required to give a similar warning to the despondent, disillusioned and unemployed youth of America.

Yes, we do have an all-volunteer Army. I guess the same thing can be said about the prison system. Those in prison, in too many cases, opted for crime as a way "out" instead of the military. Others merely drop out and live on the streets. Others go to college and hang out, accumulating thousands of dollars of debt and wasting four to six years of their lives.

If America were truly the land of opportunity, why shouldn't all aspects of society reflect the same makeup which is found in the military? Are 30 percent of the heads of major corporations African-American? Are 30 percent of the business-owners African-Americans? Are 30 percent of the students in college African-American? Are 30 percent of the prison population African-American?

I am not suggesting that the military might not be a good place for someone to learn valuable skills and even to make a career. I am suggesting, however, that given the availability of other options, most of the young men (and women) in the military would have opted for something else.

And I for one am not fooled by the position of Colin Powell who is merely an "echo" of Bush's military policy. You let Powell speak his own mind just once and see if you will ever hear from him again. Of course, I am sure that Bush was very careful in his selection of Powell so he need not worry about him speaking out of line.

Everyone should have the opportunity to be all that they can be, but such opportunity should not be confined to just the military. Peace!



The government assured the public that the first postal trucks in 1899 were equipped so a mule could be hitched to them, should they fail to run.

BIBLE THOUGHT

Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all. The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Thessalonians 15:18

OTHER VIEWPOINTS

PUBLIC MISLED ABOUT WASTE DUMP
BY EDWARD RENFROW
State Auditor

I am deeply concerned that the people of North Carolina have been misled about the recent Council of State decision against locating a hazardous waste facility at Butler in Granville County. I am not opposed to a hazardous waste incinerator in North Carolina. The management of hazardous waste is an extremely important issue and we have a responsibility to the citizens of this state to safely dispose of the hazardous waste we generate. That responsibility includes the development of safe and economical disposal facilities in North Carolina.

I am not timid about the public response to an unpopular, site decision. This type of decision is nothing new to the Council of State. Many of us were involved in the decision to establish a PCB dump in Warren County several years ago. We had to condemn private property then in order to locate and construct a PCB landfill to clean up the waste dumped along North Carolina roadways. We made the selection in an orderly and responsible fashion even though it, too, was extremely controversial and met with strong resistance in the community, even to the extent that the Highway Patrol was called in to remove demonstrators from the site in order that the trucks could dispose of their PCB content.

I am not against a Regional Agreement as some have reported. However, I do have concerns due to the recent Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruling regarding the Alabama landfill that we cannot restrict the wastes treated. My concern is not only for North Carolina but also for the other four states in the regional agreement—South Carolina, Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee. What good is the agreement if we cannot restrict the wastes accepted to those generated in the agreement states? It has been pointed out that a strong desire exists among the regional agreement states to ask Congress to establish the group as a compact which would then allow them to restrict the wastes. I am very supportive of this action and would be willing to assist in any way possible to get it accomplished.

The governor, lieutenant governor, commission members and some of their staff members have indicated that the Council of State vote against the Granville site was an irresponsible action. I maintain that it was the only responsible action we could have taken, given the significant number of unresolved questions and unique circumstances. The governor wanted a rubber stamp, but that is not what the people of North Carolina elected us to give.

I have not criticized the Hazardous Waste Management Commission. They were charged with selecting a site for North Carolina's hazardous waste complex that meets all the technical criteria. Yet when the decision was made to look only at state land, their hands were tied. After carefully reading and studying the legislation that established the Hazardous Waste Management Commission, it is clear to me that the legislature had private property in mind when the law was enacted, since they exempted almost all state-owned property from consideration. However, after encountering such strong opposition from private property owners, the Hazardous Waste Management Commission decided to direct its efforts to state-owned property. This, I believe, tied the commission's hands, because there was not enough state-owned property eligible for consideration for the commission to make the best decision.

Another factor of concern is the rule prohibiting the location of a hazardous waste facility within the corporate limits of municipalities. While I agree with this rule, and I understand there is no corporate charter for the Butler site, I believe the purpose of this rule was to prevent locating a site in a populous area. To automatically accept

(See VIEWPOINTS, P. 12)

A DIFFERENT VOICE

BY DOROTHY SHAW-THOMPSON

As we move through the Christmas season and embrace the celebration of Kwanzaa to move forward into a New Year, the words peace, love, justice and responsibility echo continuously. There are those who have already learned to live in such a way that these words are an integral part of their daily experience. For far too many people life's experiences, unmet basic needs and physical ailments and irrational belief systems create an emotional environment that does not allow for the inclusion of those words.

On the national landscape, the threat of war that adds to many individuals' distorted views of the aforementioned words. I am thankful for the job that I have working with people in the intimate relationship of counseling that demands that I practice a policy of unconditional love, personal congruency and a mental attitude that demands that I investigate, question and learn if I am able to be a facilitator of change for myself and other people. Temporarily this way of living can be taxing or stressful, however, what I have gained through my life experiences is a continuous affirmation that peace is possible, love is a capacity, justice a necessity and personal responsibility is the connecting tool.

Because in my work I am able to explore the beginnings of the life experiences that create emotional difficulties in children as well as face the adults that are the results of those childhoods in other counseling experiences I am able to learn about the indomitable will of the individual to survive as well as extend a blend of compassion and confrontation to others in a way that allows me to extend both to myself. This year I met a little girl who gives me one of the best connectors to show how the world's distortions affect the life of children. This young lady had just turned three years old when I met her. The behavioral difficulty that she was experiencing was that she was physically assaulting everyone and anything that caused her frustration. In addition, whenever she experienced those temper tantrums, when she would come calmer, she'd say that she wanted her daddy at home. Her mother was confused by this behavior and change from a previously sweet, independent and happy child. Previous discipline methods were not working and punishment made things worse.

When I met this cherub it was difficult to believe that she could display such behavior. In addition, she was one of the most verbal young children I have met to date. It was not long before I recognized the source of her difficulties. She said to me, "My daddy is in Saudi Arabia to kick the bad man's butt." Swiftly all other behavior made sense in the context of that sentence. When you couple a lack of understanding of people, places and things with a confusion about emotions, behavioral rules necessary to survive, you look crazy (smile). This child in the face of reality had learned that when you are angry and don't like the way things are going the solution is to "kick the bad man in the butt." Of course this was also reinforced every time she acted inappropriately and given a spanking, harsh words or sent away. Because the "bad man" has no face and the "bad place" is one you can't fathom, you center on words that are clear. The rule that clearly is communicated, as to what you do to protect yourself. It doesn't matter that this rule doesn't work you keep trying it, because everybody

(See DIFFERENT VOICE, P. 12)