

# EDITORIALS

## Handouts

Handouts are good and bad in themselves. Aside, from being needed a perspective giver cannot always adequately assess whether their gift will be used wisely.

Sometimes its better to give a hand-up than a handout, because it builds character, self-esteem and a feeling that the individual has some self-worth and is a growing part of society.

So often when we battle with the question of whether we should or should not give. There are a number of variables that are important to your decision in coloring the grey area that defies understanding, frustrates us, and causes us to question the morality and ethics of that gift.

Some experts will say yes give, while others will frown and scorn you for giving. However, regardless of which type of person you confront, most of the nation's homeless and indigent are still suffering from lack of adequate care and having an opportunity to become an integral part of society again. Simply, because the programs that are currently in place are not serving or addressing the real needs of those people. They're getting lip service, being pushed up, on and out to make way for the people who have the same needs. So where and how have they been helped, you haven't really given a hand-up or a handout.

Think of how difficult it is for you to ask for something you sincerely and truly needed at one time in your life. Though due to circumstances you were not able to help yourself. Now try understanding how a person feels

who asks for a handout because their lives have changed dramatically and it is now necessary for them to seek assistance just to get through the day or night.

Do you think its demeaning or are you so self-centered that it really doesn't matter. Subsequent to the person becoming a beggar they could have very well been in the mainstream of life with more success than you've achieved. Remember... "The Man In The Mirror," by Michael Jackson is just an image and that image could be yours.

So, when you are grappling with a hand-out vs. a hand-up. Be very objective in your thoughts and analyze what has been done to date for these individuals. They are growing in numbers, adequate facilities are not in place to even begin to cope with the problem and they are merely crying for help the best way they know how.

This is not just an agency problem or question, it's a question that this nation should seriously address as a whole. We are and have been known for many years as the greatest country on earth. We should attempt to live up to such a prestigious honor by doing the things that should be done that made us great and that will keep us great.

Because of whether you are a beggar or someone of accomplished means, people need guidance and assistance to have direction and purpose in their lives. Do you think this is asking too much?

## Family Stability

Probably the most profound issue to face the African-American family since slavery is family stability. Consistently, statistics indicate that the African-American family is in deep trouble.

Over the past 15 years, the number of African-American families headed by women has increased rapidly. Today, almost 50 percent of all African-American families are without a father in the home.

Some of the contributing factors to this crisis are drug abuse, alcoholism, homosexuality, high mortality rate and unemployment.

Furthermore, the number of African-American children living with both parents dropped during the same period from 58 percent to 41 percent, while the percentage in single-parent situations increased.

Economists realize that the unemployment rates for African-Americans are usually consistently double those for whites. Whereas, in 1985 the jobless rate for blacks was 15.1 percent as opposed to the 6.2 percent of whites.

Also, the median income of the African-American family was only about \$19,000 per year in 1987, 56 percent below that of whites compared in the same category. The African-American numbers below the poverty level rose from 8.6 million in 1980 to 9.5 million in 1984. Researchers behind these statistics included Maya Angelou,

Marian Wright Edelman and Dr. Alan F. Poussaint.

There is no one solution to the compound problems facing the African-American family. The crisis is something that should be seriously addressed by a "cause and effect" analysis of the best psychologists, sociologists and other professionals that the American public can gather.

It is easy for some of us to turn our heads away from the African-American family crisis and say, "All families are faced with a crisis." This is true but the multitude of the crises which face the black family are far greater than those that face most white families because whites are more entrenched in the economic structure of this country. They have better-paying-jobs, more political clout and a more sophisticated system to address family issues.

Leaders can no longer turn their backs on valid statistics that indicate there is a severe crisis in the African-American family.

The crisis is real, the people are real and compassion is not going to solve what generations have created. What is needed is sound, sincere effort on behalf of anyone who has suffered from a crisis and overcome it. Otherwise, we as a nation are perpetrating an even greater uncertainty of what crisis our children will face.

Unless solutions are implemented, many African-Americans are destined today to live in the perpetual ghetto of the 1990s.

## The African-American College Student

They are and have been a dominant force in the advancement of our race. Without them, we could never, and would never, have achieved our current success against such outstanding obstacles the African-American college student.

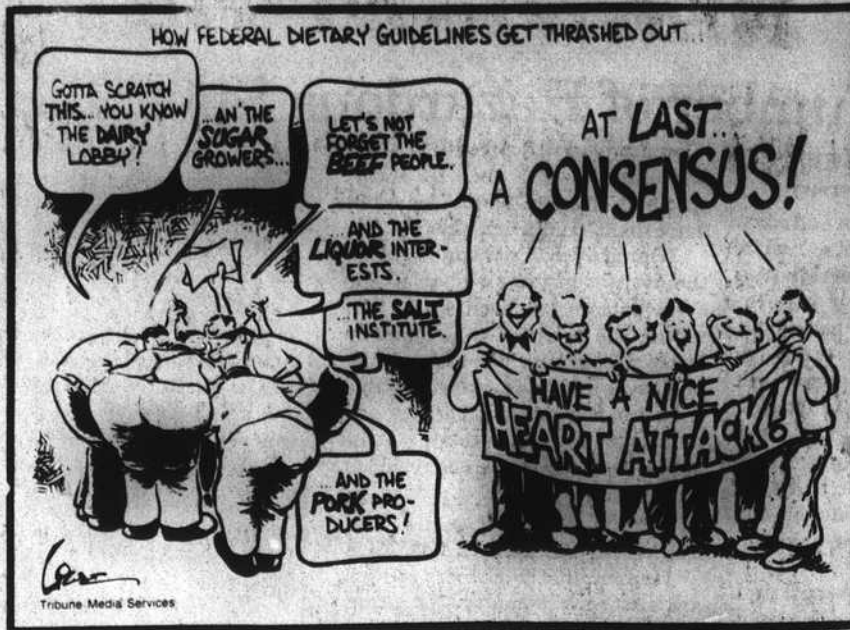
Today's student faces a far different task then, say 30 years ago. Then the African-American student faced, reckoned with, challenged and strove to overcome the color barrier in order to enter most jobs, professions and careers. Today some of these barriers have been broken and the student now must place his or her emphasis on going beyond what is in existence and

must strive to create something new in every aspect of human existence and endeavor.

What a far better, far greater task students have today, to create, improve, enrich, embellish, to start something new, to go beyond that which is current, to establish new thought, to experiment, explore, expand, to be imaginative, to be free.

Students should be courageous and know today is worth living. Yesterday, the students before you did great works. It was the students who led the change for civil rights. It was the students who brought about the beautiful

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## NNPA FEATURE

# COPING

by

Dr. Charles W. Faulkner



### BRAINWASHING YOU FOR CHRISTMAS

Well, another Christmas has passed and everything seemed normal. Advertisers were up to their old tricks. What happened was the shrewd use of brainwashing that advertisers used this Christmas and have used for a long, long time. Their idea was to manipulate you into buying, buying, buying while they got rich, richer and richer. Of course, you probably thought that you had bought all those Christmas gifts because you wanted to buy them. You said to yourself, "Nobody makes me buy anything. I do only what I want to do."

I hate to tell you this, but you were psychologically manipulated. And the biggest part of the manipulation was that the advertisers made you believe that your decision to spend large sums of money for gifts was made by you, not by them. This way, you won't accuse them of manipulating your behavior. However, brainwashing and manipulating you is exactly what they did.

Here's how advertisers played with your mind. On the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas hit you with a bang. Stores played hour after hour of Christmas carols. Newspapers, television, restaurants, radio and every conceivable enterprise overwhelmed you with the "Christmas spirit." Pictures of Santa Claus, the King in the Manger, loving couples in front of a warm fireplace, lovely families in front of the Christmas tree, and

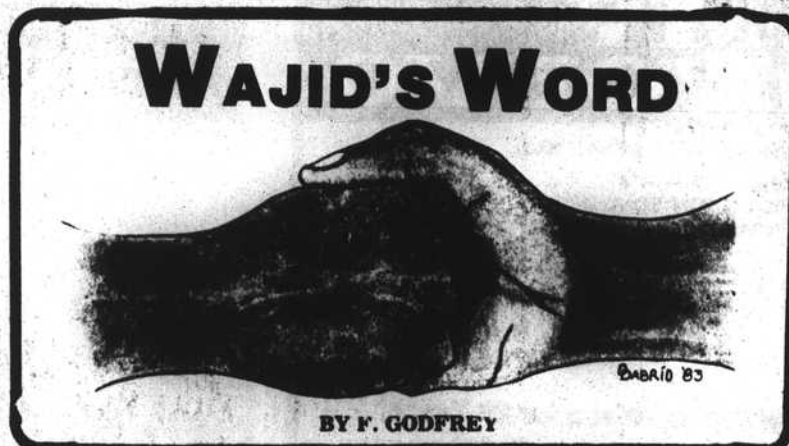
happy kids riding open sleighs on snow-covered hills. This, combined with happy (or sad) Christmas music, won your mind, your heart, and your money.

You, like millions of other Americans, purchased millions of dollars worth of gifts that few people could afford in this slow economy. But you did it out of a deep love, and out of a need to remove guilt, loneliness and sadness.

Did you like that new tape recorder? You sure did, after seeing it advertised over and over again. Were you sad and sentimental? You sure were, after listening to four solid weeks of Christmas music. Did you feel guilty about that argument that you had with your family (girlfriend, boyfriend, husband/wife, boss)? You sure did, after hearing so many loving songs over and over again. You removed your guilt, and the store owners became wealthy as a direct result of your guilt and sentimentality.

In effect, they played games with your mind and emotions. They made you feel sentimental. You bought a gift from them because of this great sentimentality. They made tremendous profits. You thought that you did all of this because you wanted to, but they made you want to.

Now, suddenly, the "Christmas spirit" is gone, on the very day after Christmas, and you are again lonely and depressed. But don't worry, they will be back to get your mind again on Valentine's Day and Easter.



BY F. GODFREY

In 1985, shortly after the death of my mother, I found taped to the side of her refrigerator, some powerful lessons for living which I have attempted to follow as closely as possible as I pass through this life. I offer them to you for your consideration and possible use. I hope that you will share them with your friends and families and will make every attempt to reflect upon them from time to time.

1. Just for today I will try to live through this day only, and not set far-reaching goals to try to overcome all my problems at once. I know I can do something for 12 hours that would appall me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

2. Just for today I will try to be happy. Abraham Lincoln said, "Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." He was right. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. I will chase them out of my mind and replace them with happy thoughts.

3. Just for today I will adjust myself to what is. I will face reality. I will try to change those things which I can change, and accept those things I cannot change.

4. Just for today I will try to improve my mind. I will not be a mental loafer. I will force myself to read something that requires effort, thought and concentration.

5. Just for today I will exercise my soul in three ways: I will do a good deed for somebody—without letting them know it (if they find out about it, it won't count). I

will do at least two things that I should do, but have been putting off. I will not show anyone that my feelings are hurt; they may be hurt, but today I will not show it.

6. Just for today I will be agreeable. I will look as well as I can, dress becomingly, talk softly, act courteously, and speak ill of no one. Just for today I'll not try to improve anybody except myself.

7. Just for today, I will have a program. I may not follow it exactly, but I will have it, thereby saving myself from two pests: hurry and indecision.

8. Just for today I will have a quiet half-hour to relax alone. During this time I will reflect on my behavior and will try to get a better perspective on my life.

9. Just for today I will be unafraid. I will gather the courage to do what is right and take the responsibility for my own actions. I will expect nothing from the world, but I will realize that as I give to the world, the world will give to me.

I hope that these words will affect you as they have affected me. I firmly believe that we do create our own realities and all too often they are not in our own best interests. As we begin our journey through 1991 it becomes ever more important that each of us begins to create realities which are not only positive from our own perspectives, but also positive from the perspective of those who come in contact with us on a daily basis. May this new year and the rest of your life be filled with joy, love, peace and happiness.



### 1990's best selling toys

1. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
2. Barbie
3. World Wrestling Federation Figures
4. New Kids on the Block
5. Game Boy, Nintendo
6. My Pretty Ballerina
7. Super Mario Bros. 3, Nintendo
8. Batman
9. G.I. Joe
10. Scattergories

SOURCE: Playthings magazine.

KRTN Infographics

## BIBLE THOUGHT

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. In whose eyes a vile person is condemned; but he honoreth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

Psalms 15

# TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL

**WHY PRESIDENT BUSH WILL SELF-DESTRUCT**  
The Department of Education's Michael Williams' uncalled-for attack on the availability of scholarship money for black and Hispanic youths has backfired.

President George Bush's presidency, I predict, will never recover from Williams' mean-spirited directive to shut off college scholarship aid designated for black college students.

A firestorm was raised against the ruling by such diverse critics as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, conservatives, liberals, education leaders, White House officials, and of course, most blacks.

Bush told Williams, a Negro right-wing zealot, to clean up the mess he and his White House and Department of Education "reverse discrimination" white cohorts had created. The revised copy of this tortured retreat turned out to be as bad as the original assault on black people.

At a press conference, Williams bristled at charges that he was a Negro "lackey" being manipulated by racists. He did what he did, he added, because he believes that financial aid designated for blacks is illegal because it discriminates against whites.

But it's okay to use private money to discriminate against whites, his confusion explained. And although he believes the present system of giving aid to blacks harms whites, he has no idea how many blacks are depriving whites of scholarship money.

Yet he feels there is an urgent need to protect whites from this unknown monster of money designated to help blacks attend college. There is not enough space to itemize Williams' legal and logical inconsistencies.

However, some insight can be gained into the psyche of

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BROWN

## A DIFFERENT VOICE

BY DOROTHY SHAW-THOMPSON

KWANZAA: A WAY OF LIVING

In 1968 Dr. Maulana Karenga, now a college professor in California, conceived an African-American holiday as an affirmation of the culture and purpose of African people. Kwanzaa, which means "first," is taken from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which means "first fruits." The holiday comes out of the tradition of those in Africa who cultivate and harvest crops and who extend to nature "thanksgiving" at designated times of harvest. It is celebrated here in America from Dec. 26-Jan. 1 through focusing daily on principles from the Nguza Saba or Seven Principles.

These seven principles are: "Umoja" (Unity), to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race; "Kujichagulia" (Self-Determination), to define ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves, instead of being defined, named, created for and spoken for by others; "Ujima" (Collective Work and Responsibility), to build and maintain our community together and to make our sisters' and brothers' problems our problems, and to solve them together; "Ujamaa" (Cooperative Economics), to build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together; "Nia" (Purpose), to make as our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness; "Imani" (Faith), to believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

There are those among us who celebrate Kwanzaa in their everyday lifestyle and of course there are those who have never heard of it. Unfortunately, there are those who having heard cannot conceive of how these principles can be applied in their everyday life. Unfortunately, though we hurry as mankind to a 21st century, there are those among us who continue to be so self-serving and self-hating that to embrace anything African confuses their image of themselves to the point that Africa leaves a bad taste in

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## OTHER VIEWPOINTS

BY DANIEL A. YOUNG, SR.

It's sad and somewhat ironic that the day that the United Nations has set as the date for Saddam Hussein to be out of Kuwait is also the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Whether that day will be a day of military confrontation with Hussein, only God and our civilian leaders, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and military leader, Gen. Colin Powell, respectively, know for sure.

It's also ironic, because Colin Powell was earlier selected to lead the King Day parade in Atlanta. He declined the invitation with the blessing of many black leaders who felt Powell's presence at the King Day activity as our nation's military commander was not in keeping with the teachings and the philosophy espoused by Dr. King. In earlier speeches, King had said, "The U.S. government is the greatest purveyor of violence in the world..."

Whether King has rightly predicted the U.S. willingness to engage in violence, for example, the total casualties for World War I, 320,518; World War II, 1,070,245; Korean War, 157,530 and in Vietnam, 211,438, is, of course, left to the reader and open to speculation.

While three leaders of our nation have held somewhat similar hopes for our nation, only one of those leaders has had those hopes actualized to this date.

Lincoln's hope for a United States have been fulfilled; gut the dream held by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. have not. There are but a handful of Americans who remember the devastation of Pearl Harbor, but since that December day in 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "I know that I speak for the mass of the American people when I say that we reject the 'turtle policy' and will continue increasing the policy of carrying the war to the enemy in distant lands and distant waters—as far as possible from our own home grounds."

America today is far different than it was in the '40s. Our confidence in our leaders appears shaken, many question our president's commitment to civil rights, many question our military leaders for being outspoken to the extent that they appear undermining the nation's

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