

# EDITORIALS

## An Afro-Centric Approach

The Afrocentric concept is on the move in America as people seek liberation and knowledge of strategies that must be undergirded by educational institutions controlled by blacks.

Black universities and colleges must answer the latest call for Afrocentricity as a challenge of change to be both black and raise the excellence that is a characteristic of the black intellectual tradition to its proper place in the curriculum so that it achieves and appropriate relationship to the Eurocentric aspects of the curriculum.

The new framework must move beyond the crisis-driven responses that have produced the new Afro-American studies requirements without sufficient institutional supports. And if this new model is focused on "the necessity of African-American control over our environment," then the black intellectual tradition provides a much-needed context for the elements of Afro-American education.

What should a university think about Afrocentric education?

One way to answer this question would be to say that in many courses, African-American facul-

ty members are able to bring out the Afrocentric aspect, even though that is not their basic purpose. Certainly, in an Afrocentric university, this is desirable, as Prof. Molefi K. Asante has noted in his discussion of the African university.

"If the symbols are African but the content of the curriculum remains European, the motifs [of Afrocentricity] are only at the superficial level. They must become substantive through a radical change in content. Certainly what was sociology, anthropology, economics, etc., for white Rhodesians cannot remain so for Zimbabweans of any color. This has been a resounding lesson for many societies seeking to accommodate new social and political realities."

Thus, the new institutional framework should be a school, or college, or at the very least, a Center for African or African Diaspora studies with university-wide scope and responsibilities.

If such a unit is developed, one could challenge whether or not a university believes in the integrity of its own history and culture and the necessity to teach it, to protect it and cultivate it.

## For The Money

Regardless of your political point of view, religious beliefs, or personal station in life, in all probability you will agree: black America's economic situation is a matter of great concern.

Many point to the advances made over the past 25 years or so and would have one believe that in a democratic society, there will always be the haves and the have-nots. Furthermore, many believe that if we leave matters to the government or to the "other" people, everything will be all right tomorrow.

If you happen to believe any of the above or a combination thereof, this is not for you. However, if you think that African-Americans need to be about the business of economic development, then let's seek solutions.

Some African-Americans see little need to read the barrage of private and government reports detailing the dismal economic and physical health of blacks. A look in the refrigerator or at the bank book provides a stark reminder.

Yet, even in the midst of this economic milieu, black America has an opportunity to enhance its economic standing by selectively using its more than \$200 billion annual purchasing power. For years we have heard that we should do more to patronize black businesses that hire and promote black workers; that reinvest in the community through educational, cultural and developmental programs. However, for the most part, that advice has been like pouring from the empty into the void.

Part of the problem is to expect all black people to respond or

behave in a certain way, although it would be in their best interest. When things don't happen, the idea is usually dropped.

Another part of the problem has been the systematic racism that African-Americans have had to endure. Most have felt that pain. We know from whence it comes. Now it is time to move to another plateau, a higher level of self-preservation, of cooperation.

The question which confronts us today is not who will we support and vote for in 1992. The question is how do we effectively mobilize the purchasing power of the community for the economic advancement of our people.

We must display the importance of withholding economic support from the businesses and individuals who don't do any business with us. The reality of the matter is the lack of economic parity as long as we keep giving others 90 percent of our money.

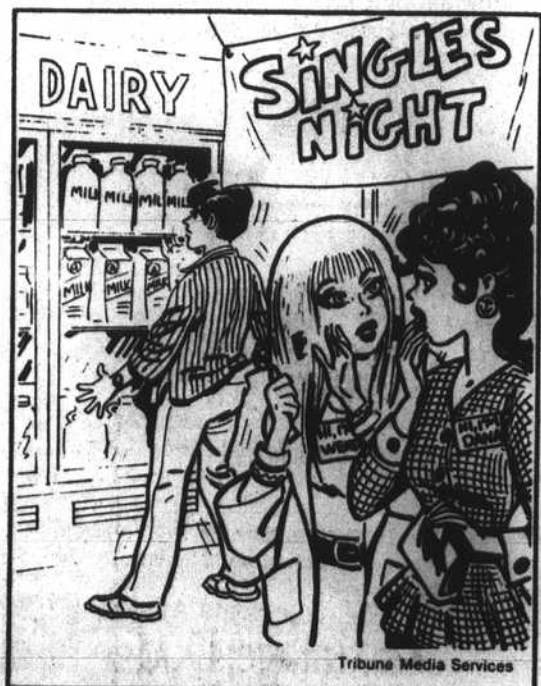
What do we do? Organize, unite to make a concerted effort to spend our money more wisely.

Only when we collectively use our enormous clout at grocery stores, drug stores, gas stations, dry cleaners, florists, black-owned social and entertainment establishments, etc., will we achieve economic parity and advance politically.

In addition, our businesses must be helped to realize they are deserving of business outside the black community as well. Whites and blacks will patronize a black-owned firm if it is clean, in a good location, if the prices are competitive, and if they provide courteous service with a smile and a thank-you every now and then.

ON SALE TODAY

By Carol Sherman



"Stay away from him. He just tried to buy a fifth of milk."

## Letters To The Editor

I recently obtained a copy of THE CAROLINIAN and noticed a new forum, "Mind's Eye."

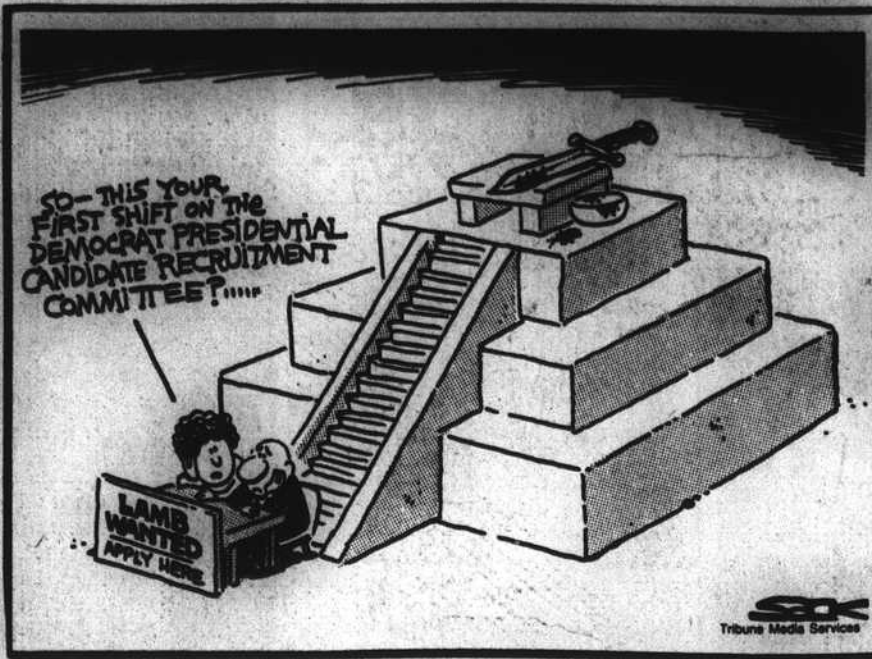
Your efforts to provide a forum for your readers to raise questions regarding our social environment in addition to your editorial page gives your readers an opportunity to espouse their position with some authority.

Blacks, whites, rich, and poor, liberals and conservatives, the community needs to have the means necessary to voice a concern, raise a question, provide a solution in depth.

Your April 4, 1991 edition of "Mind's Eye" by Agatha Carroo is an interesting and innovative viewpoint, as well as refreshing and thought-provoking.

She makes several remarkable points. I support her statement: "Unless the problem is manifested outside the environment of the victim, it is largely ignored by the system."

D.A. Young Raleigh



## NNPA FEATURE

# COPING

by

Dr. Charles W. Faulkner



### BRAINWASHED BY ASTROLOGY

Dear Dr. Faulkner:

Many of my friends believe in astrology and even fortune telling. I don't see anything wrong with it. Do you?

Mr. P Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Mr. P:

Astrology, fortune telling and other similar phenomena are okay, if the believer realizes that they are similar to fairy tales and should have no influence on their behavior. The problem, of course, is that people who believe in them tend to give these phenomena some control over their lives. Some people argue that they read the daily astrological information in their newspapers, but do not use it as the basis for the decisions that they make.

If you say that you believe in something, by definition, you are saying that it influences your thinking. Anything that influences your thinking, necessarily influences your behavior. A person who regularly reads the astrological information in the newspapers is influenced, to some degree, by the unscientific forecasts.

Practically everyone has heard about Santa Claus, but no informed person actually believes in his existence, even though you see Santa Claus in department stores every Christmas. Young children believe Santa Claus to be a real person. They were not born with the idea, but were brainwashed with it by adults who should know better.

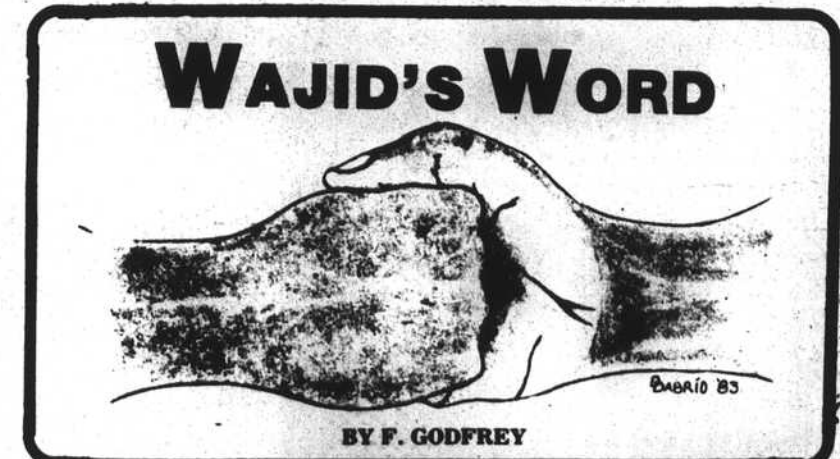
They key word here, again, is belief. Many adults believe in phenomena that have no more solid scientific support than does Santa Claus. Adults were brainwashed by their parents, too, when they were children. Now as adults, parents depend on these myths to provide them with guidance

in their lives. Many of the myths have become the "parents" of believers. This relegates the believers to the status of "children."

The negative feature of myths is that they stop the adult from growing up by making him/her rely on instruments other than their own brains for solutions to problems and for information about how to live. In some instances, a trickster can open an office and profess to have the mystical ability to see into the future and influence world events. This impostor might have thousands of troubled people coming to the office and paying huge sums of money for advice. These innocent victims have been misguided and, in turn, will misguide their children.

There are many "Santa Clauses" in our lives. Here are a few. Astrology, extrasensory perception (ESP), mind-reading, palmistry, Easster, heaven/hell (religious myths), superstition, visitors from outer space, our own "inferiority," most of the Bible (biblical scholars, after five years of intense research, have stated that Christ made only 30 percent of the statements attributed to Him in the Bible. The remainder were created by others). MOST of what you believe is strictly mythological, with little or no scientific support. It is little more than fairy tales.

Here is what you can do to determine if what you believe is myth or fact: (1) Find out what the scientific community thinks about your ideas; (2) Obtain copies (free, from the library) of scientific tests that support or refute your ideas; (3) Find out why you really believe these ideas to be true (do you have a psychological need to accept them?); (4) Find out if your friends who believe these ideas to be true have strong scientific data that support them, or simply have a strong emotional need to accept them.



Here we go again! The British prime minister is presenting a proposal to the United Nations seeking its approval of a plan which would monitor the development of military power by smaller countries to ensure that there will be no more Iraqs!

You probably read in the news today that the United States Air Force just decided on what companies would be issued contracts to build the latest weapon of destruction to the tune of \$68 billion in U.S. taxpayer dollars. This new bomber will replace the F-15s in the U.S. arsenal.

Once again we see a vivid example of European arrogance and superiority. It is all right for the United States to continue to build up its already devastating capabilities, but smaller countries have no right to do so. Is this yet another stage of the "New World Order?" Who is a threat to America? Russia?

White millions are homeless, hungry and dying from a lack of adequate health care right here in the land of the free, the government elects to spend \$68 billion on more weapons? When will the American people wake up? When will we begin to fully participate in the democratic process and force the politicians to respond to the numerous and varied social ills found in this country?

Who gives Great Britain and the United States the right to decide what another country can or cannot do? You will notice, however, that the so-called superpowers never mention countries like North Korea, Vietnam, or China when they mention their monitoring system. As I suggested before, they carefully choose whom to pick on. These countries will quickly tell the

U.S. and the rest of them just what to go!

The real reason why this proposal is being presented to this puppet organization (the United Nations) is to ensure that these smaller countries will not be able to defend themselves if they elect not to respond in accordance with the new world order. I have suggested before that every country has the right to defend itself against those who might demonstrate acts of aggression toward them. Just as the United States and other so-called powers have the right to enhance their military capabilities, so do other countries.

What was done to Iraq was merely to put other such countries on notice, that what happened to Iraq can and will happen to them if they do not play the game according to the rules established by the Europeans. Failure to do so is punishable by death and the virtual destruction of your country. This is the new world order.

All people of color must never forget how they are perceived by the European and how most of our civilizations have been virtually destroyed over the years of European domination and oppression. Just ask the native American and the African for example.

The fact of the matter is that if these so-called world powers did not have their weapons, they would be powerless. Greatness should not be measured by the amount of power one is able to exert over another, but rather on how much good one is able to do to assist others. Just as a parent cannot demand respect from a child through fear, abuse and intimidation, the world's powers will never be respected merely for being able to annihilate a people who do not respond when they pull their strings. Peace!

## BIBLE THOUGHT

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that are ordained of God. Whoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Romans 13:1-4

# TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL

THE NEWLY-LEFT-OUT DEMOCRATS

You might wonder what is happening in the world. Eastern Europe is breaking up into ethnic, racial and cultural enclaves.

The Soviet Union has splintered into an ethnic disunion, resembling Lebanon and Iraq's Sunni, Shiite and Kurd factions.

They are all beginning to resemble the Democratic Party in this country. Last year, I wrote that the outside-the-White House party had splintered into a white wing and a black wing, headed by Jesse Jackson.

Recent events have splintered those splinter groups into even smaller (or different) factions.

The Democratic National Committee is the traditional authority of the party. The black wing is an ally and partner to that white-controlled faction, although Ron Brown is its chairman.

Having been scared away by a massive defection of white voters (especially white men) and policies shaped to please every group with a pocketful of votes, the Southern, moderate and conservative white heavyweights started the Democratic Leadership Conference.

With only 29 percent of Americans calling themselves Democrats, the "Southern-White-Boy Caucus," as its critics derisively call it, saw the marketing opportunities elsewhere.

Next month in Cleveland at a national convention of Democrats, these self-styled "mainstream" leaders such as Sen. Sam Nunn and Sen. Charles Robb, who just got bounced from the Senate Budget Committee for insisting that other Democrats stop hiding extra spending, will appeal to the white majority.

The agenda of this "new generation of Democrats" will offer a "new choice to Americans." The delegates from 25 states will endorse an opposition to quotas in civil-rights laws, support for a limit on federal spending (no more social programs for blacks) and a hawkish Republican-sounding plank to use force abroad.

In effect, the Democratic Party's heavyweights have adopted a Republican agenda to get back into the White House.

Where does this leave Jesse Jackson's scorned left wing of taxing the middle class to spend more for groups that have voter bases and the traditional white wing of the Democratic Party that has inherited the legacy of "tradi-

(See TONY BROWN, P. 9)

# MIND'S EYE

by Agatha E. Carroo

### VIOLENCE

Violence continues to rise in our nation and in our local communities. It is best understood on the three levels proposed by H.A. Bulhan: interpersonal, institutional and structural.

Statistics depicting interpersonal violence are alarming. New York City reported a record number of murders for 1990. The National Center for Health recently revealed an astonishing increase of gun homicides for teens between the ages of 15 and 19. The figure rose from 1,022 in 1984 to 1,641 in 1988.

For African-American males 15 to 19, the homicide rate was more than 11 times higher than whites in the same age bracket. Their homicide rate climbed from 418 in 1984 to 955 in 1988.

Locally, 1990 was designated the bloodiest year on record in the city of Raleigh. Of the 26 people slain, 17 were black males; 23 were acquaintances and most murders occurred in the predominantly black Southeast quarter of the city.

Interpersonal violence involves direct action and is restricted to place and time. It is the direct result of the cumulative effects of unemployment, everyday abuses, and frustration which is turned against oneself and one's own people.

Strategies for preventing interpersonal violence must be community-based as police departments tend to take a hands-off policy. A statement by Chief Heineman in the Dec. 10, 1990 issue of the News and Observer reflects this position: "I would be deeply concerned if we had victims who were unknown to their killers—that makes everybody vulnerable. But this really tells me that there is very little we can do to prevent it."

Communities which feel helpless in the wake of rampant drug abuse, homicides and lawlessness must regain control and institute means of eliminating disruptive forms of behavior.

First, there needs to be a reclamation of sons by absent fathers and a concomitant disarming of our young men. The police department must thwart the sale of illegal guns, the new preferred black market business in African-American communities.

Families and community leaders must organize and use public demonstrations to bring pressure on drug dealers who saturate residential areas with dope and intimidate the residents. Courageous African-American men in Detroit and Philadelphia have been successful in employing these strategies.

On an interpersonal level, schools, churches and families must teach impulse control and respect for human life. New values and common civilities must be inculcated in our youth and adults.

Neighborhood watch programs should be revitalized where neighbors look out for each other's welfare.

Cultural and educational programs that affirm a strong self-identity and cultural identity should be inaugurated in the schools, churches, recreational centers and at home. Rites of Passage programs, proposed by Nathan Hare, Jawanza Kunjufu and others, designed to bring the African-American boy to manhood, are needed to teach responsibility and the true meaning of strength.

The African-American community is also beset with institutional and structural violence. That perpetrated by

(See MIND'S EYE, P. 9)