

EDITORIALS

Face In A Crowd?

Years and years ago, African-Americans were not a face in the crowd. We were legislated against mingling in the crowds in public events. We could not drink from the same water fountain or use the same restroom.

Now, in 1992, we can be seen in the crowds. We can use the same restroom and drink from the same water fountain as Caucasians and that's about all.

Where are we going in 1992, shortly to enter 1993? If we look around ourselves and assess what is taking place, we may not even be a face in the crowd.

However, if we are a face in the crowd, we better speak up

for ourselves and our people. We had better insist on equity. We had better deal with inequities on the spot. We had better come together for the good of ourselves and our children.

Are we just a face in the crowd? Many people would enjoy seeing us maintain such a position. But if we do, we will disappear just as quickly as we appeared.

African-Americans today need to be more than just "a face in the crowd." We need to be heard and we need to be responsible to our genuine and necessary requests.

Parents Are The Best Hope

BY DR. WILBERT J. LEMELLE
Guest Editorial

More hands-on participation earlier by parents and guardians in helping to socialize and educate their children may be the untried efforts desperately needed to spark higher skills achievements in the nation's inner-city schools.

Meaningful parent involvement presupposes a conviction that schooling from pre-K through the 12th grade is aimed at enabling the student to read, write, speak, compute and master a core set of academic subjects that will prepare him or her to go on a chosen field of postsecondary education or undertake a job paying a decent wage.

Clearly, a large percentage of parents of inner-city school children do not share this vision of education nor are they familiar enough with the range of complex issues, from basic curriculum and teacher attitudes to school finance, which affect the teaching and learning that occur in a classroom.

The question that has to be addressed is how they can prepare themselves for the kind of involvement they must undertake on behalf of their children.

One approach might be

through the establishment of Neighborhood Education Councils. Such councils would be created in connection with several schools in a district. Parents would focus their attention on evaluating the schooling of their children through the examination of eight key issues related to effective teaching, learning, and preparation for study or work after the completion of secondary school. They are:

1. Preschool Education
2. The Elementary School Curriculum
3. The Secondary School Curriculum
4. Apprenticeship
5. Science, Technology and Language in the Curriculum
6. School Finance
7. Counseling and Guidance
8. Choosing a College and Securing Funding for Post-Secondary Education and Training

These are the key issues and basic questions with which parents of inner city and poor schools must be concerned and come forward to protect their offspring from the harm of non-performing schools.

Dr. LeMelle is president of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, and chairman of the National Citizens Commission for African-American Education.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I take issue with Cash Michaels' statement, in your June 30 edition, that "Clinton Clashes with Blacks, Loses Support" over the Clinton-Jesse Jackson-Sister Souljah flap. If Governor Clinton is going to lose black support, it shouldn't be over this issue. Of course, his motives were political in making his comments at the Rainbow Coalition convention, but the fact remains that this young lady needed to be chastised for making such an irresponsible suggestion as "taking a week to kill white people."

Indeed, Rev. Jackson should have felt embarrassed, because he, and other black leaders, should have been the first to talk to Sister Souljah—and to Ice-T or anyone else spouting such violent rhetoric—about the wrongness in what they are saying. You can't make these inflammatory statements and then try to explain them away as a "mental

exercise" or as "poetic license."

Violent rhetoric against police seems popular these days, but we must remember that they are our only line of defense against the criminals out here, black or whatever. When we find something wrong with them—as in Los Angeles, for instance—we need to try and fix that rather than talking about getting rid of them.

I know that Mr. Michaels works hard for community involvement and improvement but I don't think his article puts the blame in the right place this time, which I think is with Rev. Jackson and other black leaders for failing to use their influence to get these young people to consider the consequences of their apparently violent attitudes.

Very truly yours,
Joseph Mitchell
Raleigh



NNPA FEATURE

COPING

by

Dr. Charles W. Faulkner



HE KICKED MY DOOR DOWN!

Dear Dr. Faulkner:
Last year, I gave my phone number to a man I met, who I thought was gentle and quiet like I am. We went to the movies together several times, but we are just friends. Two weeks ago, I saw a different side of him and now I am afraid of him. My sister was visiting me at my apartment one night, when my male friend knocked on the door. He had not told me that he was going to visit and I was not prepared to entertain him, so I did not open the door. While the door was closed, I told him to call me the next day because my sister was visiting me and I could not entertain him on this particular night. He screamed that I had a man in my apartment and said that I had better let him in. I refused to do so and he kicked my door down and came in without my permission. When he discovered that only my sister was in the apartment with me, he became very apologetic and asked me to forgive him. I forgave him, but I am afraid of him and want to get him out of my life. I don't want to take him to court, but what should I do? I'm afraid of him.

with emotional problems, take such aggressive, violent action as he. Chances are that he has done this sort of thing before and is likely to do it again. Maybe to you. Maybe next time, you might get hurt.

Frequently, people such as yourself refuse to press charges, out of compassion for the intrusive individual. He then becomes contrite and tells you that he was out of his mind and will never do such a thing again. But two weeks from now, he becomes even bolder and carries out a similar kind of behavior. This time he threatens you with bodily harm. So you forgive him again after he tells you how sorry he was. A month later, he actually attacks you and you could wind up in the hospital.

It is unwise to forgive a person who has destroyed your property, invaded your privacy and embarrassed you. All of this is due to jealousy, and he isn't even married to you. You can be sure that this will happen again. You said that he seemed to be gentle and quiet when you first met him, but it seems obvious that this is a troubled man who is like a walking time bomb that is ready to explode in violence at any time.

This kind of behavior represents a personality characteristic. Impulsive violence is his way of getting what he wants, even if what he wants doesn't belong to him. He probably has a history of this kind of behavior. It's unlikely that you are his first victim. Just suppose that you did have a male visitor when he kicked your door down. He might have hurt both you and your guest. Now is the time for you to use the law to get him out of your life for good.

Signed,
Ms. C.
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Ms. C.:

First, I suggest that you get an attorney. I do not have enough specific information about your situation to give you anything other than the following general advice.

File a charge of breaking and entering against him, and follow it through to the end. Few people, other than those

IN PERSPECTIVE

BY ROBERT A. KING

ANY BOARD GAMES IN YOUR ATTIC? MAY BE WORTH MONEY

It's surprising how a neighborhood paper like this gets wide circulation. People carry them on buses and trains and leave them. The next passenger picks it up and finds something like this to read that interests him. I get mail from some second-hand readers.

Almost everybody has heard of Monopoly, the board game, even if you never played. You fight with the other players to buy a whole business block, foreclose on tenants, become millionaires, go broke or go to jail. With luck you become a monopolist.

"The Landlord's Game," designed and patented in 1902 by Lizzie Magie Phillips, was her effort to teach the evils of land ownership. But she couldn't sell many of her homemade linoleum square games. She gave up, didn't renew her patent after 17 years.

Around 1933 a "pirate" found one of Lizzie's games, made a few changes, sold it to Parker Brothers claiming to be the inventor. They changed the name to Monopoly, sold and made millions. Their game soft-pedaled land ownership as the worst monopoly, that land rent takes ever-increasing shares of earnings of capital and labor.

Another man marketed an "Anti-Monopoly Game" with government as the hero fighting big business (at taxpayers' expense). Parker sued the new enterpriser and won, but his lawyer brought the case to appeals court. He produced the Landlord's Game and more: starting from 1880 were: Finance, Fortune, Inflation, Monopolist, Mariner's Compass, Real Estate, Ten-up and Game of Business. The appellate judge overturned the earlier verdict. Anti-Monopoly didn't have to pay Parker anything. Parker's patent was based on fraud.

Patrice McFarland found a linoleum Landlord's Game in a flea market and was greatly impressed the way the

"game" operates. It was 1989 or 1990. She asked around, learned that Lizzie Phillips died in the 1940s, perhaps not penniless but robbed of her invention and that the pirate got the royalties and the glory. Pat wants Lizzie to get belated recognition. She is still researching, bought several of the games listed above; if any reader finds a game board in the attic that your grandpa may have played, or was it a previous owner who left it behind, phone or write Pat McFarland, Box 1090, Averill Park, N.Y. 12018, or phone collect (518) 674-8390. She intends to soon write her complete story, and re-publish the Landlord's Game on a new patent.

During May, a Chicago columnist ran two articles on Monopoly giving credit for the invention to the pirate whose name I won't use. He deserves no praise. Pat—and I, too—want Lizzie honored at last.

OFF THE WALL

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GOSSIP
SEEMS TO
TRAVEL
FASTER
OVER THE
SOUR-GRAPE
VINE

BIBLE THOUGHT

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. Psalms 27:4-5

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL

THE NEWEST SELF-HELP PLAN

In March of 1991, I received a letter from a woman who was responding to an editorial in the New Pittsburgh Courier about a speech I made, in which I proposed the Buy Freedom 900 Network, the first phone self-help network.

This 52-year-old mother of six from Sacramento, Calif. lived on a Social Security disability grant. Two of her daughters have children and are on public assistance.

"I am not asking for a hand-out, but a helping hand," Maxine Wilcox said in her letter. "I want to get beyond the fish-for-a-day routine, but to be able to fish for myself."

She explained that 12 banks and the Small Business Administration had turned her down. "Credit problem," she said.

If you're black, you suspect a little "race" problem, also. That's why I advocate putting your money where you can borrow it—in a black-owned bank or financial institution.

In mostly-black Washington, D.C., blacks have their money mostly in a white bank, but the majority of the loans made to these blacks come from the two black-owned lending institutions.

The solution seems obvious: put your money where you can borrow it. That's why Italian-Americans started the Bank of America.

That's one institutional solution to getting loans; another is an informal-cultural mechanism, utilized by various ethnic groups.

The Koreans call it a "Sol," the Jamaicans say "Partner;" Guyanese name it "Box" and many black West Indians call it a "Su-Su."

Black Americans have no such device; so I created the Buy Freedom 900 Network Loan Guarantee Program. It works on the same principle as those described above.

(See TONY BROWN, P. 18)



BROWN



MIND'S EYE

by Agatha E. Carroo

ELECTION '92: THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Choosing between the lesser of two evils occurs occasionally for white voters, but for African-Americans this is a commonplace occurrence in national elections. In the election of 1992, both blacks and whites will seemingly be faced with such a dilemma, the choice between the lesser of three evils. Chances are that the incumbent will be favored if the prevailing wisdom reflects the modified adage that it is better to choose "an evil" that you know rather than one you don't know.

With such a backdrop, the African-American community seems peculiarly affected. We are now witnessing the attempted prostitution of our bloc vote by some of our well-known leaders and the lecherous courtship by each of the three evils. Ross Perot has recently conducted clandestine meetings with community members of South Central Los Angeles, including gang members, while Bush has invited black leaders from all over the country to meet in his Oval Office. The invitation to this "dance" to North Carolina's black speaker of the House, Dan Blue, was quickly rescinded when he was hastily ushered out of a side door, to avoid any prospects of embarrassment belatedly anticipated by Bush's inept men.

Clinton was invited to the Rainbow Coalition "Cotillion" and complained of the presence of other invited guests, such as Sister Souljah. He apparently didn't take the time to read the guest list before he came. His art of courtship among African-American rappers is as ineffective as his wooing of the MTV crowd, an obvious generation gap. Yet, the dance goes on.

Under these circumstances, as some black leaders suggest, is the proverbial party over? Certainly not. African-Americans still have several options. One strategy is to vote for one of the candidates. Bush received a mandate in 1988 without significant support from African-Americans and has largely ignored our interests in the last four years, placing the black vote out of his reach. In this three-man race in '92, our support could prove invaluable to him.

Ross Perot has yet to ask us for a dance as he cautiously tests the political waters. It's unlikely that he will master the dance steps before November.

Bill Clinton has asked for several dances, stepped on our toes and now is ashamed to be seen with us in public; he fears his chances to go to the prom with white constituents will be jeopardized.

African-Americans may be well advised to sit out the presidential election and let the "slugfest" between the three evils commence. Thus, we avoid tipping the scales for either one of them.

Our time might be best served concentrating on national and state congressional elections and important local elections throughout the country. In addition, political caucuses and meetings should be devoted to developing and reviving agendas and plans of action for the next four years for state and local black communities. It is time for African-Americans to identify models of social, political and economic change that will facilitate our long-range goals and to develop a real national consensus that a majority of our community will support.

We must stop the dance, play some different music and become wedded to those who promote positive change in our communities. We must save our dances for them. When that occurs, only the "tried and true" will even bother to ask us for a dance and the prostitution of our vote will not be possible.



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