



by
LAWRENCE ALBERT

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK GREED IS AN UGLY WAY OF LIFE

An editor must wear many masks and don many outfits if he is to fulfill his role.

In this particular case, pardon me, while I don my cloak and get behind my pulpit--I have a sermon.

What is going to happen to the young people of our community? They do not have any examples to follow, or anyone to believe in, except maybe Superfly, which cannot be called a paragon of virtue.

But he does point out one sickness, which if not curtailed, will consume and destroy everything that a human being should treasure. It is called the love of money.

Superfly's philosophy, which has engulfed so many young and old alike, is to get all the money you can, no matter how.

Indeed money is important. It is not, however, a cure-all. It must be looked on as the tool it is. Tools make our lives so much easier in many cases, and they can be frustrating, as we find out so often when the power company's computer overcharge us.

This money-tool has become dangerous--it is our religion, and we feel immoral, and less human if we do not have a lot of it.

We need to pause and re-evaluate our lives and determine just what is important.

This Superflyish attitude is not limited to our community. It seems to be the trend of the whole world--oil companies bribing political officials, our leaders giving favors in return for a pay-off.

Black people have always wanted to be accepted into the mainstream of the American society. Well, Superfly showed what it means to be a true American--one who will destroy his brothers and sisters to make his life easier.

That is no philosophy for a person to pattern his life after because in the end we will become wild animals, where the only law will be the survival of the fittest.

This is where parents, educators, newspapers, writers come into the picture. Parents must start giving their children strong ideals and patterns to live by. Educators must re-enforce them in schools. Newspapers must support them by fighting all that would erode them and writers must create characters to portray them.



Just the FACTS

Black people have been the object of dangerous rumors and innuendoes every since they have been in the United States.

A local group, hiding behind the curtain of anonymity, has begun to circulate a letter, which in so many words calls Blacks uncivilized.

It reads, "Blacks have been led to believe that they can cover themselves with the White peoples blood and money in order to live like a civilized people."

One definition of civilized is for a people to develop out of a primitive state. To do this they do not worship an idol; they respect their neighbor and work for the betterment of all mankind.

When was the last time a Black person killed a U.S. president . . . or bombed a church with little children inside . . . or barred a group of people from their churches?

The letter adds, "It is a known fact that Blacks believe in Black and vicious supremacy by force of numbers and not by common sense. It is also a fact that 88 percent of crime in America is the result of Black criminal activities and allegations."

Who believes in supremacy? Whites have held on to their power and wealth in the United States by the ballot and the bullet. They have excluded Blacks from the polls by any means possible, even resorting to shooting them down if they insisted on voting.

This letter would not even be worth mentioning if not for the fact that it points out how a lot of White people feel in this country about Blacks; and these feelings are not just limited to the little people, either.

Although the Voting Rights Act was recently extended for 10 years, it met some strong opposition in both the House and Senate. But this is just a small example of things to come if something is not done fast.

Unemployment and economic woes set over this country like a dark cloud, waiting to let its rain of discord, hatred and division.

Also fewer and fewer people are compassionate. Black people have made the little progress they have in this country because of compassionate and empathetic White People. Without them Black people have had it.

End of Vietnam line

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

The end of the American presence in Vietnam was a humiliating scene of helicopters flying Americans and refugees out of the country while the masses of South Vietnamese expressed their feelings of "good riddance" by sacking our embassy.

Had we not been captives of an overreaching desire to be the world's policeman the war might have ended a dozen years ago, when the neutralist forces in the South were winning popular support. We have to face the sad fact that the war that ravaged that small nation continued only because of American support, arms shipments and combat troops.

As devastating as the war was to the Vietnamese, it caused irreparable damage to ourselves as well. Just look at some of the results of that misguided adventure:

- : 56,000 Americans died and over 300,000 were wounded, a disproportionate number of them, black.

- : Estimates of the direct and indirect costs of the war range up to \$400 billion or more than enough on an annual basis to have wiped out American poverty starting back in 1961, and still have most of it left over.

- : Our country's international prestige was heavily damaged by its persistence in squandering its arms and resources in a civil war of no vital strategic importance to us.

- : A prime victim of the war was the Second Reconstruction -- the reforms aimed at extending social and economic progress to black people. Once Washington realized it could not afford both guns and butter it chose guns, escalating the Vietnam adventure and calling a halt to domestic programs.

- : Many economists trace the current Depression to the economic imbalances caused by the expensive, unproductive war in Vietnam.

- : The war divided the country, diverted our energies and weakened national self-confidence.

Already we see the beginnings of a national debate over "who lost Vietnam?" as if it was ours to hold or to lose. Even those who call for national reconciliation and for putting the whole dismal thing behind us don't seem to realize the need to admit past mistakes and understand why they were made, so that they'll never be made again.

The President was asking Congress for a billion dol-
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