



## Education Is Power

By Thomas E. Wilson,  
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Many non-academic factors in life affect the academic performance of a child in school. The way that he perceives the political and environmental climate may determine, to a great extent, his feeling of security as an individual within and without the classroom. Therefore it is logical that security is a factor that enhances learning.

The Bicentennial festivities have brought about a new awareness of what children would like their country to be. It has brought about an awareness of standards laid down by the founding fathers as related to the actual performance of present day citizens and political leaders.

During our summer vacation our thirteen year old daughter, Mary Lisa, wrote an essay on "What I Want America to Be." This writer would like to share it with the readers of this column. Here it is in part:

I want America to be a place where people will know the true meaning of brotherhood; a place where my children and my grandchildren can grow up free of violence and where there is no discrimination of any kind.

I want America to be a place that people will be proud to talk and to learn about.

I want my children and grandchildren to grow up knowing the true meaning of what life is all about. I want our country to be a place where people can get along, and honestly love one another; where people would not have to cheat, steal, and be dishonest with their friends, family and especially their neighbors.

I want America to have a government that is honest, and a president that would really help the whole world, not just be on one side and against the other.

I want America to be a place where people do not criticize each other or each person's religion, sex, and especially their color. I want America to be a place where there are no prejudices of any kind. Where a red, yellow, brown, black and white child can come together, love, hold hands and play without the fear of their color rubbing off or the parents calling them away from everyone and saying "You can't play with them, they are not like us, or they are not as good as we are."

I want America to be a more aware country, especially when it comes to politics and presidential elections. Also I think they should be more aware of the diseases that strike America and work toward a cure for them, such as cancer, heart disease, etc.

I want America to be a beautiful place where children can run and play in clean, neat parks, swim in lakes that aren't polluted, be able to go outside and play in clean fresh air without having to go out in the country somewhere. I want America to be a place where one may walk home or anywhere else alone and not be afraid to do so. I want America to be a place where children as well as teen-agers will use their wisdom, education and strength on something that is worthwhile and will help us in the future. We as Black Americans should be proud to use our talents, our brains and other God-given faculties, and not be afraid of what our friends will have to say. We have to worry about what we want and what we feel and not about what others think. I wonder why we call each other "Brothers and Sisters," and do not always stick together and do the things that will advance us in America, namely, get all of the education that we can.

Finally, I want America to be a place where we all can help solve each other's problems.

On reading the above, it is obvious to this writer that much can be accomplished to bring about the kind of America that this teen-ager wants through education.



## Benjamin L. Hooks

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### Blacks in The Presidential Convention

It was heartening to me, as I know it must have been to scores of thousands, perhaps millions, of other black and white Americans, to see the proud and dramatic part blacks played in the political Presidential convention recently held in New York.

Hatch Act constraints do not permit me to indulge in partisan politics. But I think in commenting on the event as I have before and as I am continuing to do this week, I am talking about a phenomenon that transcends partisan politics and reaches into a realm of pure beauty, grace and poetic justice.

For the soulful, powerful and constructive appearances of Coleman Young, Mayor of Detroit; Tom Bradley, Mayor of Los Angeles; Reps. Ron Dellums, John Conyers, and yes, Andrew Young; and finally Barbara Jordan and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr., breathed a new life into that proceeding.

It was Ms. Jordan who woke them up with her stirring keynote address, and Rev. Martin King, Sr., who sent them on their way with a moving benediction and a nostalgic rendering of the Civil Rights song theme, "We Shall Overcome." Hardly a dry eye was left in the place when it was over.

I suggested that television and radio should now feature more black anchor men and women on news programs; that significant stations in cities that have few blacks, or stations which program for largely white audiences, should not hesitate to hire blacks in meaningful roles.

For the recent political convention activities showed that black appearances transcended race, and so will blacks if placed in positions of responsibility with those stations that are not particularly programmed to a black ethnicity. This has always been so, but no one wanted to admit it in ruling white circles.

When Dr. George Washington Carver worked with the peanut and produced so many wonder-

The National Black United Fund has filed a law suit against the Chairman of the U.S. Civil Service Commission, based on his denial of their request to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign; this campaign was initially established to limit the number of individual solicitations made by charitable organizations to federal employees.

The Combined Federal Campaign's primary governing document is the "Manual on Fund-Raising Within the Federal Services," which creates an advisory council of four members, with the presidents of the American Red Cross and the United Way mandated as members, charged with making recommendations to the chairman concerning eligibility of all organizations who wish to be included.

Since these two major organizations receive approximately 80 percent of the Campaign funds, it would appear that their presence on the board is an inherent conflict of interest.

The National Black United Fund has been determined a "public charity" by the Internal Revenue Service; it is a non-profit, tax exempt organization supported solely by contributions from the general public.

Yet, the chairman of the U.S. Civil Service Commission has denied its application to join the Combined Federal Campaign, claiming the National Black United Fund was not national in scope and did not have reasonable administrative costs.

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ful and useful byproducts from these results were for everyone. When Dr. Charles Drew, after long painstaking scientific endeavor, discovered how to extract blood plasma and store it for longevity, the end product was that millions of lives were saved in World War II, not just black lives.

When Dr. Percy Julian, a renowned black chemist, made significant discoveries in synthetics, these were not for the benefit of just blacks, but everyone. Booker T. Washington's refining of an educational system ("The Tuskegee Experiment") tailored to the needs of down-trodden blacks, became a model for the training of underprivileged people of all races in many other lands, as well as in other parts of the U.S.

The late Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., working as chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, is acknowledge (even by some of his most vocal detractors) to have pushed through legislation of astonishing volume and breadth, that redounded to the benefit of all Americans -- not just blacks.

Too often, those in power in the broadcast media in the past have attempted to relegate blacks to clownish roles or to those of sports or entertainment.

But now we see some changes. And it seems to me that the convention demonstrated there is a willingness and a readiness now to treat blacks differently. Even if the broadcasting industry does not want to be a leader in giving a fuller role to black input, it can safely be a follower. We hope now that in all segments of American life - whether in a bankers', medical, lawyers' or a legion convention - that the leaders of those groups will recognize they have black constituents. If they fail to consciously recognize the depth and complexity this entails, overall positive goals simply can not be fully realized.

When I say these groups should consciously include and take note of blacks, I am not unaware that this leaves me open to charges that "Blacks were consciously chosen because they were black."

Well, let us admit that. Let us also admit that for more than 300 years, blacks were consciously excluded from any meaningful participation in the body politic because they were black. So if we are going to eradicate past mistakes and move forward, we will have to be as deliberate about including people in as we were in including them out.

Ms. Jordan woke them up and Rev. King, Sr., sent them on their way. May television (and the broadcast media) never be the same again.

### National Black United Fund

The chairman's action has arbitrarily barred the National Black United Fund from soliciting funds from federal employees.

True, the Black United Fund does not have offices in every city in the United States; however, this fledgling organization already has offices or affiliates in many cities across the nation, primarily those with significant black population, such as Boston, Detroit, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and Chicago.

It is obvious that this organization is here to stay, offering hope to those who have been shunted aside by the more traditional agencies.

It is our feeling that the chairman of the U.S. Civil Service Commission has taken an unconstitutional step by denying to the National Black United Fund access to the Combined Federal Campaign.

The National Black United Fund will suffer substantially if it is not allowed to take part in the coming fall CFC drive, being excluded from on-job solicitation of federal employees for at least one year, and it has taken the only recourse available, that of filing a class action law suit.

The time has come for the national black community to take positive action against the U.S. Civil Service Commission, which allows the American Red Cross and the United Way to have advantages not available to the National Black United Fund, which represents the needs and desires of black people.