

Carl Rowan

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well-educated, "high-class" Americans who are resorting to embezzlement, fraud, prostitution, writing bad checks and various other

"white-collar" crimes. In Washington's suburban Prince George's County, police say the embezzlement case load has grown 300 percent in one year. Check fraud cases jumped from 22 in

sentencing more white-collar criminals to prison and imposing stiffer fines.

Twenty years from now a new flock of economists will speak of 1980 as "the

February 1979 to 86 in February 1980.

The Star quoted a Prince George's official as saying of his county that, "There's more money lost through white-collar crimes than all other crimes combined."

Terrible. But just another STATISTIC.

The New York Times reported recently what apparently is a national trend: Federal judges are

year President Carter tried to drown double-

digit inflation in a contrived recession." And a bunch of aging Americans, meeting with their parole officers, will say: "Yeah, 1980. That was the year that economic desperation made me the ex-con I am today."

Even ex-cons know that old recessions never die; they just put a lot of people away.

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Jackie Robinson

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move easily into business, many others are so used to high salaries, intense competition, bizarre hours and clubhouse camaraderie that they have trouble with the real world.

The lifestyle of a professional athlete does not easily translate into an office-worker's salary, arriving for work at 9 a.m., facing the mysteries of a computer and being courteous to strangers on the telephone. (It should be added that baseball's publicity became more efficient when it hired more bright, young people out of college.) Professional sports are a big business; they need good staff.

"We have very high hopes," Rachel Robinson says. "We believe sports management is a viable avenue of employment. We will support people who want to enter this field.

"Our goals are not just to get you educated, but to help you gain jobs, to

counsel you. Jackie Robinson believed that education was the avenue to a dignified life. It is not enough to be talented and have opportunities. You must also understand why things are happening."

Rachel Robinson caught the attention of the young people at St. John's, who would never see Jackie Robinson's burning eyes or hear the passion in his voice. Later she said the foundation had dispersed 29 college scholarships worth \$10,000 each.

"We try to find money in the corporate world," Rachel Robinson says with a smile. "Everybody I meet tells me how much they loved to watch Jack play. Of course, they quickly assume their corporate stance when money is discussed. But Jack helps."

This writer can envision the following scenario: In a few years, a former Jackie Robinson Foundation student out of St. John's — a black, a woman — works her way up with a major league baseball team, through her skills in marketing or personnel or whatever. She is privy to discussion

about the next manager for that team. The choice is between one of those familiar white faces or a black hero like Willie Stargell or Joe Morgan, who has not yet had a chance. One of the executives says "the time is not right" for a black manager, but the graduate of the Jackie Robinson Foundation dances down her own third-base line and asks the question: Why not?

-Reprinted from SPORTS OF THE TIMES written by George Vecsey, New York Times Service.

Vernon Jordan

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people from poor families and many minorities lose out, even though they might otherwise have done well in the school or the job.

Once we recognize that testing is, at best, a screening method of questionable value, we can de-emphasize the reliance placed on testing and break the link with supposed merit.

Merit should mean good performance — in the school or on the job. It shouldn't be confused with test results that wrongly purport to predict future good performance.

Human beings are remarkably diverse and have extraordinary inner resources that can be developed through training and experience. To base judgments on test scores is to reduce humans to mechanical objects.

Testing is coming under heavy fire from a variety of sources. Minorities have often condemned the cultural bias and overreliance on test results. Recently a group of researchers led by Ralph Nader blasted college entrance exams. And IQ tests have been proved useless except as a means of steering minority youngsters onto slow school tracks.

The testing syndrome is one of the last refuges of the opponents to affirmative action, so long as the myth persists that standardized tests accurately predict future performance, and alternative evaluative methods are not explored, minorities and poor people will be denied opportunities.

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