

Point of View

Editorial

The ancient Romans had a god named Janus. He was considered the god of doors and gates and, because a person symbolically passes through a door when he enters something new, Janus became the god of the beginning of things.

The most significant fact about this god, however, is that he was depicted as having two faces, one looking forward and the other looking backward. This seems especially appropriate in terms of the beginning of a new year, for it is a time to look back in retrospect over the past year, to assess where we have been and what we have accomplished. It is also a time to look forward to the new year that lies ahead, to make plans and set goals for ourselves.

Shakespeare put it another way, when he wrote, "What is past is prologue." Certainly, what has happened in the past has great bearing on the present and the future.

What did we learn from it? What did we accomplish? What did we do, of which we can be proud? And most of all, what and how did we give of ourselves to others and to our community?

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ATLANTA CHILDREN VULNERABLE WITH BLACK LIFESTYLES

"Black lifestyle makes children vulnerable," said Fred Crawford, director of Emory University's Center For Research and Social Change, through a recent Associated Press article about the Atlanta murders and disappearances of 17 black children.

"We talk about vulnerability in the black kids, but it ... has been a necessity, a pattern for a long time," Crawford continued. "These kids are different from white people in that they frequently have to do more things by themselves.

"They are out more, sometimes working or running errands, and their parents don't have cars to carry them around," he said.

"I think it is probably true that these children are more independent kids who operate without much adult supervision," said Anna Grant, head of the sociology department of Morehouse College.

"It is really tragic for poor families with overcrowded households. The fact that children could go out and play helped to ease the physical crowding in the homes," she said.

MAN WITH A PURPOSE

WHITNEY YOUNG IS STILL MISSED

By Vernon Jordan

I recently attended a special ceremony held by the U.S. Postal Service to launch a commemorative stamp in honor of Whitney M. Young, Jr.

It was a moving occasion. Whitney died ten years ago, March 11. But he is still very much a part of the consciousness of black Americans and of all who strive to make ours a better society.

At a time of national withdrawal from the civil rights goals he fought for, Whitney Young is sorely missed. His was a voice of strength and reason, just the voice so desperately needed when other voices, voices of irrational racism are so loud.

A master persuader, Whitney unlocked doors that had been slammed shut against black people for years. He got key corporate & foundation executives interested in backing civil rights long before it

became fashionable.

Without capturing headlines he used his intelligence, his charm, his integrity, and his high moral ideals to inspire others. Whitney was directly respon-



Vernon Jordan

sible for getting thousands of trained black people into jobs that had been traditionally reserved for white males.

He developed close friendships with key political leaders — the Kennedy brothers, Lyndon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, Nelson Rockefeller, and many,

many others. More important, he used that friendship to enlist their backing for the social programs that evolved into the War on Poverty.

It is bracing to realize how many ideas that still hold so much hope for so many people originated with Whitney Young. It was Whitney who came up with the idea for a

streaming down the faces of the thousands of black people who lined the route his funeral caravan took through Harlem a decade ago.

Some of those people barely knew what he had done in their behalf; many had never heard of the Urban League or knew of its programs

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. is president of the National Urban League.

Domestic Marshall Plan, an idea which, had it been fully implemented back in 1963 when he first spoke of it, might have spared our nation so much misery and hardship in the years that followed.

But Whitney Young, for all his ease in the corridors of power with the movers and shakers of our society, was most at home with the common man. I vividly remember the tears

that helped make their lives a bit better. But Whitney's humanity and graceful style of leadership touched a chord in them and his loss was felt deeply.

One of my favorite pictures of Whitney was taken on routine trip he made to a Head Start program in South Carolina. In the photo, he kneels to be at eye-level with the kids, who crowd around him. Their

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To Keep Legacy Alive

Randolph Memorial Fund Started

Norman Hill, President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, has announced the establishment of an A. Philip Randolph Memorial Fund. According to Hill, the fund will serve to "keep alive the legacy of Mr. Randolph, and to ensure that the organization which bears his name is able to successfully sustain and expand its work in the struggle for social justice."

The Randolph Memorial Fund will seek support for Randolph Institute activities in the areas of black voter participation, community affairs, and trade union involvement. The Fund will solicit both individual and organizational support from sponsors who will be awarded Certificates of Participation in return for their financial contributions.

Fundraising activity will focus initially on generating support from the thousands of locals

of international unions, whose members actively participate in the Randolph Institute.

Establishment of the Memorial Fund was officially announced April 15, 1981, on what would have been A. Philip Randolph's birthday. "We can think of no more appropriate commemoration of Mr. Randolph's birthday than the establishment of a fund which will continue to promote increased black participation in the labor

movement," Hill stated.

The A. Philip Randolph Institute, is composed of approximately 18,000 trade unionists organized in over 150 affiliates in 36 states and the District of Columbia. The Institute carries on a trade union intern program which trains blacks to assume leadership positions in the labor movement, publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, organizes leadership seminars, See FUND, Page 5

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