

Point of View

Editorial

Don't Write Off Black Colleges

The continuing cry is: "Don't write off our black colleges. They might need a little help here and there, but the dreams and ideas that founded these institutions are still alive, still fighting and not just a matter of simple economics.

The recent court decision in North Carolina have certainly assured everyone that the black colleges are very much a needed institution and an important link in our society.

The startling revelation is that it's a simple matter of economics. Declining enrollment, inflation, state and federal funding cutbacks all

predict certain extinction for our black colleges.

A recent Department of Education ruling threatening two black colleges with suspension of all federal money due to a lack of white student enrollment may well be the proverbial straw that breaks the whooping crane's back. It's a simple matter of economics.

Our black colleges came from a creative process based on culture, heritage and tradition. Black colleges have a great deal of further exploration, change and growth that must be accomplished.

Don't write off the black colleges. The work will be done...and now.

SOCIAL CHANGE IN POLAND

By Bayard Rustin

Recently I returned from Poland where I was invited to lecture by a regional section of Solidarity, the independent trade union movement.

What was most striking about that country was the sense of openness and frankness which was everywhere evident. Even people whom I did not know (cab drivers and waiters, for example) spoke openly and frankly about the problems their society faces. Criticism was openly voiced, and the bulk of that criticism was directed at the Polish government and at the Soviet Union.

Among Poles there is, of course, the sober realization that their country faces serious economic problems and there is the awareness of the threat of Soviet invasion. Yet there is also a spirit of quiet op-

timism among the people. Above all there is the absence of fear.

Poles are aware that they are implementing a wide-ranging social transformation of their society and they are going about it an orderly



Bayard Rustin

fashion. The effects of this social transformation are no less than revolutionary.

The driving force behind the move to democratize that totalitarian country is

the 10-million strong Solidarity trade union movement. Solidarity is guided by a profound respect for the principle of disciplined non-violence. Indeed, throughout the ten months of labor unrest there has not been a single act of violence committed by the Solidarity movement. Despite countless provocations, Solidarity's responsible

man Lech Walesa indicated to me, the union does not wish to assume primary responsibility for Poland's economic affairs. The union would prefer to maintain the traditional separation between management and labor. Solidarity's attitude toward economic matters is perhaps best summarized in one of the union's mottoes:

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leadership has succeeded in developing a movement that is restrained and disciplined. Moreover, it is a movement that is united by four guiding principles: Christianity, democracy, socialism and equality.
As Solidarity Chair-

"Nothing about us without us."
Solidarity's activities clearly are not limited to those of trade unions as we know them in the United States. As Walesa told me, "Only one-fifth of what we do is of a trade union See CHANGE, Page 12

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



From the red hills of Georgia to the sage brush slopes of Nevada, his mission was to tackle injustice wherever he found it. As a disciple of Martin Luther King, non-violence was a tool in his arsenal, but self defense was a protector of life. He never shuddered before any man and what he had to say was said without a tremor in his voice. He refused to allow the establishment the luxury of outreasoning him and thereby give credence to its feelings of superiority.

The above is a description of Rev. Albert Dunn.

It has been said that what powerful people cannot control, they will try to destroy. We are now witnessing the destructive forces of the establishment being marshalled against Albert Dunn. But so far, Dunn has proven to be indestructible.

Approximately one year ago, I sat in Judge Harry Claiborne's court

and heard him berate Albert Dunn, calling him a "crook" while sentencing him to three years in the federal prison after he had been found guilty by an all white jury of conspiracy to counterfeit United States currency.

The evidence presented against Dunn which led to his conviction was so thin that any minister who befriended any person and loaned that person a "hot plate" which was subsequently used for a criminal purpose, could have been found guilty. But as fate would have it, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed.
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To Be Equal BUDGET CHOPPING TIME

By Vernon Jordan

Chopping budgets should not mean chopping people's needs and hopes. But that is what the Administration's budget proposals amount to.

The heavy slashes in social welfare programs, combined with escalating military costs and big tax cuts for the affluent will have the result of making the poor poorer and pushing others into poverty.

Even if the Administration's premise that it is necessary to reduce government spending is correct there are better ways to do it than targeting poor people to bear the full burdens.

Inflationary consumer credit, for example, is fueled by tax deductions that go to the affluent. Eliminating that tax break would enable the government to restore planned cuts in life-line programs for the poor — food stamps, Medicaid,

and public service jobs. Tax deductions for mortgage interest payments have been a sacred cow for too long.



Vernon Jordan

If such deductions were limited to what an average American family can expect to pay, then the government could almost double subsidized housing for the poor.

There is no reason, in a time of both widespread poverty and austerity, to subsidize second homes or housing that can only be afforded by the wealthy. But that is exactly what current tax policies do.

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Voting Rights Under Attack

By Norman Hill

A bill to extend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 has been introduced in the Senate by Sen Charles Mathias and in the House of Representatives by Rep. Peter Rodino.

Ordinarily an extension of what has been an effective in-

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strument in enhancing minority voter participation would be regarded as a safe bet for passage. Yet a number of Southern arch-conservatives, headed

by Strom Thurmond and bolstered by conservative gains in the 1980 election, are out to prevent passage of the Mathias and Rodino legislation which seeks to extend the life of the Voting Rights Act beyond 1982.

There is no question that the Voting Rights Act has played a crucial role in assuring due process for blacks and other minorities in the electoral process. As a consequence of the Voting Rights Act there have been dramatic increases in minority voter registration and voting. Since 1965, the number of blacks registered in the South has doubled. This increased participation has resulted in pressure on

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Starting next week, watch for the Las Vegas SENTINEL's new feature: EBONY'S GALLERY OF FAME.