

Point of View

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mrs. Brown:

Black History Month is almost upon us and we have celebrated Dr. Martin L. King's birthday, but there is still a lot of prejudice among our race and others. An incident happened to my nephew last week and I felt his pain. I put it down on paper and gave it to him. As you read my prose, you will understand why I say there is still prejudice among our own. We will never be "one people" if we cannot accept the many colors that God has given our race whether it comes through the seeds of the past or through interracial marriages. We will always be a rainbow race, from the fairest white to ebony, and we should be very proud of this. Other races have claimed our hairstyles, music and dance. This is something no other race can claim. This is OURS.

I hope you will publish this in the Sentinel-Voice for Black History Month. Maybe people will read it and realize that we as a people still have a long way to go when we are not able to accept our own. Also, maybe it will help the

The Black - Labor Agenda for 1990

by Norman Hill

The beginning of a new year is a good time for us at the A. Philip Randolph Institute to rededicate ourselves to working to advance the black-labor agenda for racial equality and economic and social justice.

There are other reasons for renewing and strengthening our commitment now. One is the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, which reminds us that we still have a long way to go before achieving his dream of a society without racism. Another reason is that this is the start of the Randolph Institute's 25th year, which makes us think about the legacy of struggle for minorities and workers that

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children to realize that we are all of the BLACK Race no matter what the color.

Paula C. Warren

Editor's Note: Paula Warren's prose piece is featured on page 15.

POLITICAL POINTS

By

Assemblyman

Wendell P. Williams

Black History Month An Insult To Dr. Woodson

Sixty-three years ago, one year after Dr. Carter G. Woodson launched "Negro History Week," he made the following comment about the importance of Negro History Week: "We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro IN history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice. There should be no indulgence in undue eulogy of the Negro. The case of the Negro is well-taken care of when it is shown how he has influenced the development of civilization."

Yes, in 1926 when Dr. Woodson started what was called "Negro History Week," he clearly stated that this was only to be a start to begin to observe and celebrate the accomplishments of African-Americans throughout the entire year. It's shameful that 64 years later, we're still doing the same thing that was done over five decades ago.

On one hand, I applaud the efforts of college African-American associations, public school teachers, civil rights organizations, churches and many others to offer their communities some much neglected information about African-American history.

On the other hand, however, I am frustrated and clearly insulted by the efforts to reduce the rich and long standing history of African people into a one month period of emphasis. The year's shortest month at that.

I think it is important here to say that I fully understand the reason for Dr. Woodson's institution of "Negro History Week." So I have no problem with Dr. Woodson or his philosophy. I do have a problem with our lack of commitment to Woodson's philosophy. Moreover, if you



only observe the accomplishments of African-Americans during a particular short time span, you'll miss the true essence of the works of those studied. Take Dr. Carter G. Woodson, for example. Usually during the month of February, the extent of his acknowledgement is that he was an educator, historian and the "Father of Negro History Week." The grave mistake that we have been making is that we are emphasizing African-American History instead of African-Americans IN history and our contributions to ALL of history. You see, we must not only observe the career of Philadelphia quarterback Randall Cunningham from the aspect of African-American quarterbacks in "Black" history, but more importantly we should observe the career of Randall and its development of the history of the game of professional football.

People naturally and consistently celebrate their history. It is an integral part of their educational system, their socialization, their culture, even their religion. The idea of taking a week or month to reflect on their history would be considered absurd. Imagine the response of Europeans to the idea of a "European-American History Month." Their history is throughout the entire European-American Educational System, the holidays, the statues, the symbols and every component of European-American society and so should ours be.

The almost total omission of African-American History from every component of society and culture makes such an effort for a month's celebration a minimal opportunity to bring these events to the consciousness of the American people, regardless of national origin.

Truly, Dr. Woodson, in

To Be Equal

TRAGEDY IN WASHINGTON

By John E. Jacob

The arrest of Washington, D.C. mayor Marion Barry on drug charges is a personal and national tragedy that raises important issues about political leadership, drugs, and law enforcement in our nation.



John E. Jacob

At one level, Mayor Barry's downfall is a poignant personal tragedy. He is a popular leader whose long career was marked by contributions to social progress. He was brought down by a weakness that has become all too common in our nation.

It is a very lucky American family that can claim no direct impact from drugs. No

founding "Negro History Week," did not intend for us in 1990 to be dealing with the roles of African-Americans in the same fashion as we did back in 1926. Surely we must and can do better.

Points in History: 19 years ago on Feb. 9th - Leroy Satchel Paige elected to baseball's Hall of Fame. 24 years ago on Feb. 10th - Andrew Brimmer became the first African-American to serve on the Federal Reserve Board.

Point of View: - "When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him not to stand here or yonder. He will find his "proper place" and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit." -Dr. Carter G. Woodson

matter how wealthy or powerful, virtually all of us are touched by the drug plague -- either directly, as Mayor Barry was; by the involvement of family members and friends; or through the deterioration of neighborhood life caused by widespread drug dealing and drug abuse.

Drugs were something the majority of Americans chose

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to ignore as a problem of inner cities and the so-called underclass, or as the plaything of a deviant subculture of the privileged.

But today, drugs are endemic and their toll on our society has spread to the point where virtually all of us -- of whatever color or status -- are touched by the epidemic of drugs.

Sympathy for the plight of Mayor Barry and others who become victims of drugs cannot, however, obscure the essential point that drug use is illegal and cannot be tolerated.

And while the Mayor was able to immediately check into a clinic to receive the treatment he needs to overcome his problem, this is not an option available to most drug abusers.

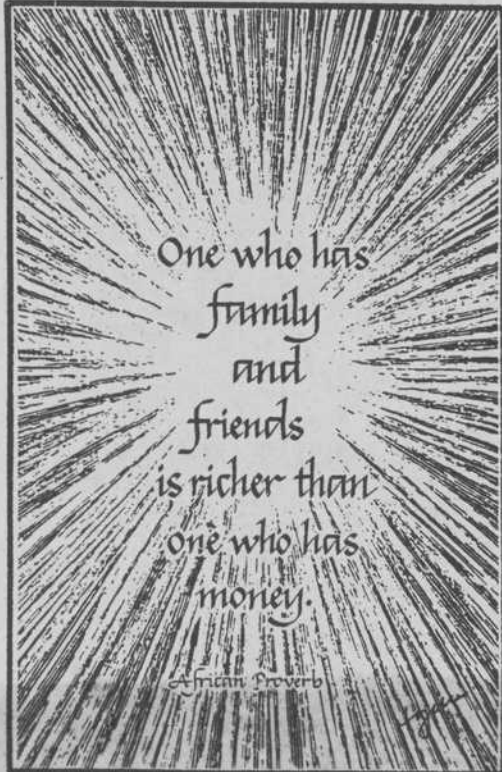
The bulk of those in need of treatment are too poor to afford anything but public drug treatment clinics, and for all the noise about a "war on drugs," treatment facilities are in short supply, underfunded and understaffed. They serve barely a fraction of those who want help in kicking the drug habit.

Another aspect of the tragedy in Washington that must be confronted is the widespread feeling among many African-Americans that the Mayor was the victim of a conspiracy to "get" Black political leaders, especially those who are outspoken and aggressive.

That feeling was reinforced

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Real Wealth ~



One who has
family
and
friends
is richer than
one who has
money.

African Proverb

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