EDITORIALS

John J. Oliver, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

Frances M. Draper
President

Exporting violence

For the past 10 or more years, the Los Angeles area has been wracked with senseless, useless gang violence. The activities of these wayward, lost and unfocused youth has placed a blight on that excellent city.

It was with a sense of horror, followed by a sense of satisfaction we noted recent police activities which placed a damper on some of the leaders of these gangs as they attempt to export their crime and drug activities to other parts of the nation.

Recently, police arrested more than 160 members of two of Los Angeles' most notorious gangs. The arrests covered an 11-state area and was the combined effort of local police, the U.S. military, and federal agents.

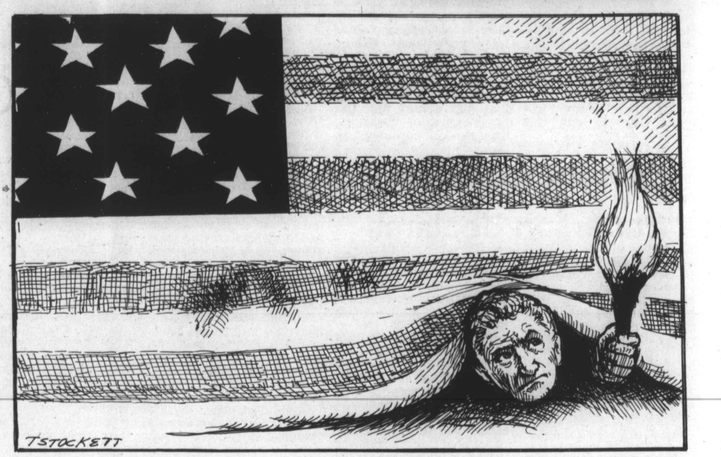
In the arrests, officials seized firearms, drugs and cash. Apparently, these gang members, who belong to the Crips and Bloods, are attempting to export their drug dealings to other parts of the nation outside of their home-base of Los Angeles. This must be stopped.

Parts of Los Angeles are battlefields so by all means we must keep this cancer of drugs and violence in this form, contained.

Along with other sites in California, arrests were made in Louisiana, Arizona, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon and Washington state.

Officials said members of these two gangs have staked out, a large portion of the nation's cocaine trafficking has been identified in 32 states and 69 cities outside of California. This is alarming.

A lot more needs to be done, but those in charge are aware of the situation. We cheer their efforts and will monitor their progress in this war against crime and drugs.



Gracious winners

Everyone loves a winner, so the saying goes. However, the recent to, do a rowdy group of Detroit Piston fans staged makes us wonder.

Eight were killed in the violence which erupted after the mighty Pistons captured their second consecutive NBA title. This year, the hapless losers were the Portland Trailblazers. Along with the eight dead, Detroit area hospitals reported treating more than 100 for a variety of injuries.

Does this strike you as the behavior of gracious winners? It seems more like Detroit is a city full of hot head losers. Cars were overturned, fires started, windows broken and general mayhem was presented to the nation and possibly to the world. It is a shame a small group of rowdies can blacken a city's eye and diminish the accomplishments of a group of championship athletes.

We wish we could write it off as a freak occurrence, but we cannot. A similar incident happened in 1984 when baseball's Detroit Tigers captured the World Series title. Again it was death, injuries, looting, fires and general hooliganism.

Detroit's venerable Mayor Coleman Hawkins spoke up to express disappointment at this turn of events but not surprised. It is a sad indictment of some of Motor City residents.

Detroit is like any other urban centers in the United States of America today. It is beset with a variety of woes and illness and the means to repair them not readily at hand.

Such accomplishments as winning national sports titles helps a city's self image and can galvanize its residents into tackling other problems with the gusto and dedication needed to accomplish a difficult job. What this group of hooligans have done is tarnish such feats and bring shame and dishonor onto the city.

The old cliche has it—'it is not how you win or lose but how you play the game! In this instance, Detroit won but lost too just because some never learned how to win graciously.

There is nothing wrong with spirited, joyful celebration. According to one Detroit police official, "literally hundreds of thousands of people were raucously celebrating but not committing any crimes while they were doing it." We salute those fun loving citizens of Detroit and despair over the few troublemakers.

Unfortunately we have no solutions to prevent future such incidents. It would be impossible to outlaw such spontaneous outbursts of joy and spirit at the winning of a title.

One observer commented such scenes have long been common in Europe and Latin America following victories in the World Cup soccer series. We in the United States, however, are unused to such violence associated with our sporting events and we do not like it one bit.

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication. Write

Baltimore Afro-American
628 N. Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Parren J. **Mitchell**
Former U.S. Rep.

Kennedy vs. Hatch

Senator Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) has introduced the Civil Rights Protection Act of 1990. The legislation is designed to undo the damages inflicted on civil rights by a series of recent Supreme Court decisions.

Some of these decisions weakened challenges to discriminatory on plaintiffs. In the latter case, the Court overturned a 1971 decision in the Griggs v. Duke Power Company case, which held that employees could show that a job requirement was discriminatory if it had an adverse impact on minorities and women.

In the 1989 case, Wards Cove v. Antonio, the present court simply reversed the law, which had been the key anti-discrimination protection on the books.

The Kennedy bill (S. 2166) is a good bill but it fails to address the critical issue of affirmative action for minority businesses which was placed in serious jeopardy when the Supreme Court held that the City of Richmond's minority business law was unconstitutional.

Now, Senator Orrin Hatch (R. Utah) has introduced his civil rights bill which, though similar to the Kennedy bill in many respects, leaves the burden of proof of discrimination on the plaintiff and offers no meaningful remedies to victims of sexual, religious or ethnic discrimination.

Both bills are before the Senate Labor and Human Resource Committee for action.

Meanwhile, those infamous court decisions continue to roil the civil rights climate in the nation, and , as a result, legal challenges to employment affirmative action programs continue to increase.

In the State of California, alone, three law suits are pending against municipal affirmative action programs:

"San Francisco Police Dep't. White male plaintiffs charge SFPD's affirmative action policy prevents their promotions.

Oakland Fire Dep't. Hispanic and White males seek to overturn the department's affirmative action program.

San Francisco Unified School District. White men and women say SFUSD's affirmative action program costs them jobs and tenure."

In handing down these political/judicial decisions, the Court has not only wounded minorities, but equally as important, it set the stage for the exacerbation of tensions between minorities and minorities, and women and minorities.

Such tensions were already in place partly because contracting officers in both the public and private sectors have maladministered affirmative action programs, especially those related to minority business, by giving a disproportionate share of the benefits to Hispanics in some areas; to Asians in some areas; and to women in some area.

By way of illustration, in one state, the 10• minority business program administered by the Department of Transportation was so poorly implemented that women got 5 percent; Hispanics and others got 3 percent; and Blacks got only 2 percent of the 10 percent MBE set-aside.

In addition, the Court's decisions could have an extremely negative impact on our Black youth who may well ask, "Why do you expect me to go on to college?

Why do you expect me to have high aspirations when this country is putting back into place the discrimination which will deny me a job; the discrimination that will deny me a promotion on the job; and the discrimination which can cause me to lose my job.?"

It just seems incredible that all the long years of struggle it took to get civil rights and affimative action may well have been wasted unless we curb the present Court's judicial activism.

It seems so unfair that when race relations in America had improved, the old enemies—racism and discrimination—are on the rise again, and are being encouraged by invidious Supreme Court decisions.

The enactment of the Kennedy bill into law will be a quantum step in getting America back on track. We must organize and mobilize with all our strengths and resources to secure passage of the Civil Rights Protection Act of 1990.

DO THE WRITE THING

Voters urged to check record

Dear AFRO:

We are in the midst of an election year for Congressman, and our Congressman, Kweisi Mfume, is already on the campaign trail in peak form. He has been on a whirlwind tour around the District, working with other incumbents to stay in office.

As easy as it might be to accept everything that Mr. Mfume says that he has done for the District, I choose to make my own assessment based upon his record in Congress and the reality of living here in Baltimore.

The record indicates Kweisi Mfume may not be able to obtain lesiglative plums for this District, but he certainly has the ability to reap benefits for himself.

During his three and a half years in office, as Baltimore has suffered continued losses of federal funds, Mr. Mfume has voted for pay raises that have lifted his salary from $69,500 to $125,000, he has collected an additional $30,000 in speaking fees and has become adept at using Congressional free mailings to increase his visibility.

Mr. Mfume has also learned the art of protecting his interests. He and others in Congress were successful in killing a bill that would have transferred $125 million from the Congressional free mail program to programs that would help children who are born with either drug addictions or drug - related impairments.

Mr. Mfume recently voted in favor of increasing the free mail fund by $44 million. Fortunately, there was enough responsible Congressmen to kill that proposal.

It appears Mr. Mfume has forgotten whom he was sent to Washington to represent, but that's my opinion. I encourage all citizens to check the record before you vote. (MVDFC)

Michael V. Dobson, Co - founder
Coalition For Political Accountability.

Giant program a success

Dear AFRO:

On behalf of Giant Food, we wish to thank the community for their tremendous support of our recently concluded "Apples for the Students" program.

Giant presented approximately $7 million worth of computer equipment including 5,637 computers and printers, 1,400 disk drives and 5,200 pieces of software to area public, private and parochial schools.

We thank parents, students and teachers for becoming involved in the program. We also wish to express our appreciation to the many local businesses that chose to "adopt" schools in their neighborhood and save blue register receipt tapes to donate to those schools.

We hope that our business will develop their own partnership programs to assist schools. The future of our young people is at stake. Let's all pitch in to make tomorrow brighter for our youth.

Barry F. Scher

The Afro-American
MEMBER
The Audit Bureau
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COMMENTARY & OPINIONS

Ron **Daniels**
Vantage Point

KKK and S&L bandits

A few weeks ago David Duke, the Klansman turned State Legislator from Louisiana, was successful in getting a bill passed which in effect banned affirmative action programs in the State of Louisana.

Meanwhile in Missouri City, Texas, that great American protector of White American rights, the Ku Klux Klan, was preparing to mount a series of marches and demonstrations to protest the alleged rape of a White woman by a Black man.

But while David Duke and the KKK are laboring to protect White rights from a perceived enemy called Black people, poor people, working people and the struggling middle class of all races and nationalities is being raped by White in key positions of political and economic power.

The Savings and Loan scandal is a case in point. While the David Dukes, Archie Bunkers, "Joe Sixpacks" and the KKK of America have been directing their anger at Black people, White millionaires, politicians and regulators have been involved in the biggest rip-off in U.S. history.

More than 300 billion dollars has been squandered in the S & L scandal through fraud, theft and waste. The American people including Joe Sixpack will have to pay for the "S & L Bailout".

When interest is factored in, the American people will be stuck with a 900 billion to 1 trillion dollar tab to be paid out of tax dollars over the next 30 years. Why isn't the KKK angry about that? Why isn't the KKK organizing to march on the S & L bandits?

Poor and working people, African Americans, other minorities and yes millions of White people will have to disproportionately bear the burden for the callous mismanagement, calculated deception and the outright thievery of rich White folks and their political cohorts and allies.

The fact of the matter is the rich pay very little in taxes, so the little people will be the ones who are forced to pay the bill.

Ronald Reagan, the erstwhile hero of the rightwing, the conservatives, and Joe Sixpack, is principally responsible for creating the atmosphere which encouragesthe HUD scandal, and the monstrous S & L rip-off. Reagan's policy of deregulation and lax enforcement of regulations was intended to enhance the riches of the wealthy.

Joe Sixpack got a big dose of red, white and blue, love of country and patriotism and the notion that those lazy, shiftless, pushy/uppity Blacks are what's dragging America down. The rich people exploited the Reagan era to make more cash! Jesse Jackson characterized the Reagan policies as "reverse robinhood", robbing the poor to give to the rich.

While Joe Sixpack was saluting the flag and keeping his eyes and anger focused on Black people, a whole lot of wealthy White people had their hands in the till further enriching themselves.

The S & L rip-off will stymy the development of huge numbers of poor and working people for a considerably period of time. According to data cited in Newsweek Magazine (5/21/90), the enormity of the S & L scandal can best be illustra ɜd in terms of what 250-300 billion dollars could purchase:

"...EDUCATION - fully fund every existing government program from preschool through college - for the next four years; HEALTH CARE - provide universal insurance and long term care for the elderly and disabled for nearly four years... INFRASTRUCTURE - overhaul the nation's water system, repair all bridges and money left to start fixing highways."

The tax dollars spent on the S & L Bailout will also mean deferring allocations that could have been spent for education, housing, the environment and other social and economic programs.

The net effect of the S & L scandal on poor and working people is the loss of jobs, economic advancement and other opportunities for social uplift. Much of the tension which is behind the current outburst of overt racism and racial violence is rooted in the intense competition for jobs and other kinds of opportunities.

The S & L scandal is contributing to a combustion situation because rich White folks have squandered resources that could have been utilized to generate jobs and expand opportunities for social and economic advancement.

That's why I want David Duke, Joe Sixpack and the KKK to take to the streets for a cause that could really make a difference. The KKK should lead a "March on Washington" to protest the rip-off of the American people by the S & L bandits.

The KKK needs to take aim at some real enemies for a change.

Walter E. **Williams**
Minority Viewpoint

The big lie

Mrs. Lillian Shaw's five children threw a surprise party for her 79th birthday. But it was more than just a birthday party; it was also a reunion of a hundred, or so, parents and children who lived in my old neighborhood during the '40s and '50s. Most of us hadn't seen each other in 35 years.

Let's talk about my old neighborhood—North Philadelphia's Richard Allen Homes, a housing project for poor people. It's run down and crime - invested. Any day of the week there are shootings, assaults, and burglaries. Residents survive on public welfare.

Many of its young adults and teenagers are school drop-outs, caught up in pregnancies and drug trafficking. Youngsters who might under different circumstances do better, have little or no chance for a better life; neighborhood schools are rotten to the core.

That's Richard Allen today. Yesterday's Richard Allen must be denied and concealed by today's politicians, civil rights activists, and poverty experts who use racism and poverty to explain the plight of many Blacks. Let's talk about yesterday's Richard Allen and my childhood playmates.

First of all, the girls, at the reunion bore the title Mrs. The guys had jobs. James Thomas, aka "Hipp," has 21 years with the Philadelphia Transportation Authority; Max Williams, no relation, has 20-some years with the Philadelphia Board of Education; Leonard Shaw, my best childhood buddy, and his two brothers own the prosperous Subway Liquors in Washington, D.C. Similar success stories can be told of other ex-schoolmates.

I asked several of my childhood friends: Did you know of any kid who couldn't read or fill out a job application? Nobody. Most everyone, except my sister and I, lived in two-parent families. My sister and I were "latch key" kids, but no sweat, latch key had not yet become an excuse. Mom's rules were, "Come in from school, get a snack, do your homework, and don't leave the house."

None of us could remember an instance of a kid using foul language in addressing, or within earshot of, a parent, teacher, or any adult. None of us, even the incorrigible kid, would ever have thought of hitting, much less murdering, a teacher. That would have been like tempting the wrath of God.

My old friends and I also recalled that it was safe enough to walk the street after dark, or even sleep outside in the small yards on hot humid nights.

People could safely hang laundry to dry in the clothes yard, often overnight. Many people left their doors unlocked. On Saturday mornings, kids swept the hallways, steps, and sidewalks in preparation for Sundays, when we had to suffer the pain of "dignified" behavior which meant no loud games, running, or shouting.

Experts tell us that discrimination and poverty explain today's Richard Allen and similar slums around the nation. But these experts don't bother to explain why there was a greater family stability, greater literacy among Blacks, and greater civility in Black neighborhoods at a time when there was far more racial discrimination and poverty and fewer opportunities.

Back in the '40s and '50s, Blacks were poor in the pocket book, but there was a richness in spirit and morality that has suffered a dramatic setback. Somewhere along the line we stopped holding people accountable for their behavior and began assigning blame to society.

If you beat up the teacher, get pregnant, or burglarize a store, it isn't your fault; it's blamed on a heritage of slavery, racism, and poverty. The hopeful sign is: More and more Blacks are questioning the big lie and demanding a rebirth of the strong character which carried us through slavery and Reconstruction to civil rights.

Dr. Ramona H. **Edelin**
On The Cultural Offensive

Our fathers

African man, the father of all humanity, has been the prototype of genius, nobility and masculine prowess on this planet. He has defined the concepts, "humane" and "civilized." He has erected the structures necessary to human development and evolution, "family" and "the state."

He established on Earth the realities of self preservation with dignity; of peace with prosperity; of trade, barter and egalitarianism. Millennia before the emergence of the other great races, African man had built monuments that are still wonders of the world, to his Creator, to his family, and to his race. This year it is very important we consider the roles of our men in the African American cultural offensive.

Our fathers have cleared the jungles and forests; settled their families and extended families into well - organized villages rather than nomadic bands; invented tools and machines and domesticated wild and imported animals for agricultural and technological purposes.

Our fathers have studied themselves as spiritual, physical, intellectual and emotional beings, and have affirmed kingship as the embodiment of wisdom, respect for all life, integrity, great skill and goodness — not as brute strength, greed and megalomania, which they explicitly rejected as intolerable qualities in the good man, deserving of banishment from the village unit.

Our fathers have studied nature, the land, seas, and heavens, becoming healers, providers through agricultural and aquatic bounty, astronomers and astrologers, and conservers of the Creator's abundance and supply.

Our fathers have protected themselves and their families and group without being belligerent and bloodthirsty; have supported whole nations and continents without being stingy and avaricious; have knelt alone with God in order to study and personify the fullest meanings of self - sufficiency, self - worth and self - respect.

When, between 1630 and 1830, the European man decided he needed the African man's strength, will power, knowledge and labor to secure his place in the New World and built the wealth upon which his presumption of security and his power would be based, suddenly the grandeur and magnifience of the African man were threats which had to be eliminated.

When the European man learned through irrefutable experience that the genes of the African man would always dominate his and those of every other group, that threat became one which had to be absolutely contained and subjugated, or exterminated.

The essentially adversarial relationship between European man and African man is still, today, so fundamentally entrenched and pervasive that it affects, influences and seeks to determine every aspect of African American life — personal, social, political and economic.

In this last decade of the 20th Century, as we prepare to cross the threshold into the new millennium, the attainment of perfect and unlimited equality of the African man with all other men on this planet, is a challenge we must meet. Let us hear well the words of W.E.B. Du Bois:

This, the American Black man knows: his fight here is a fight to the finish. Either he dies or wins. If he wins it will be no subterfuge or evasion of amalgamation. He will enter modern civilization here in America a Black man on terms of perfect and unlimited equality with any

White man, or he will enter not at all. Either extermination root and branch, or absolute equality. There can be no compromise. This is the last great battle of the West. (Black Reconstruction, P. 703.)

Even in these times of trial, murder, disenfranchisement, unemployment, incarceration, villification, apartheid, and continued segregation from capital, we love and stand by you. Together, we shall meet all the challenges that face our families, and prevail.

Do the WRITE thing

Don't cuss us — write us. We are interested in knowing exactly what you think about the AFRO. In 200 words or less, tell us your likes, dislikes and personal opinion. Send your comments to:

Do The Write Thing
P.O. Box 13402
Baltimore, MD, 21203-3402

CONG. GUS HAWKINS:

Volunteer citizens

Earlier this year I was pleased to introduce legislation to promote voluntary national service. The bill, H.R. 4330, The National Service Act, addresses the needs K-12 school children and channels the desires of American college students to improve their communities through activities that provide loan deferment or loan forgiveness.

This legislation authorizes the creation of the American Conservation Corps (ACC) and establishes the Youth Service Corps (YSC).

As we enter the last decade of this century, a consensus has emerged on the need for a governmental role in promoting and coordinating efforts to address social problems through community service. H.R. 4330 authorizes $35 million to promote "service learning," a tool which combines community service with academics and is a method by which teachers can energize themselves and their students.

The bill provides $25 million to encourage college students to tutor disadvantaed students in schools which provide Chapter I services (federal math and reading programs); to encourage those who take part in the Student Literacy Corps to tutor the illiterate parents of disadvantaged elementary school students; and, to enable institutions of higher education to train teachers and create or expand service opportunities for their students.

The bill provides $83 million for the ACC and YSC. The ACC is intended to perform such projects as conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat, rangeland, parks and recreational areas as well as urban revitalization, historical and cultural preservation, and others. The YSC would allow youngsters to perform community service in government agencies, nursing homes, day care centers, law enforcement agencies and other nonprofit organizations.

The legislation also authorizes $40 million for a series of demonstration projects intended to call attention to special social needs. For example, it authorizes a demonstration program to prompt intergenerational exchange by encouraging foster grandparents to participate in the Head Start program.

It creates a program intended to enhance service opportunities for rural youth, and one which provides construction skills training for disadvantaged youth.

In short, the legislation gives disadvantaged youth the opportunity to serve their country, their community and themselves. At a time when many Americans, particularly students, feel alienated from the system, this civic-minded youth initiative makes good sense.