

DARE: Not a Black Problem But a White Problem

By PAT PETRASKE

"The problem is not them but us" could well become a new adage for the members of the Design for Anti-Racism Education (DARE). Director Sande Vivian describes the program as an attempt to raise the level of white consciousness on the issue of racism.

DARE's premise is simple: "It is not a black problem we face in America but a white problem. Until we come to terms with this reality, we will forever try to solve the nation's 'emotional problem' by developing programs for 'them' and not deal with the real issue, 'us,'" explained "Speak Out Against Racism," the newsletter used by the various anti-racism groups in Rochester.

Sponsored by the Four Downtown Churches and the YWCA, DARE uses the seminar approach and films to sensitize whites to the racism problem. "It is away from the traditional focus on black problems, such as poverty, and toward white attitudes," Miss Vivian said.

The brainstorming session of the seminars brings a rude awakening to many of the participants who do not realize that they are racist, said Miss Vivian, who has been directing DARE since March. "People used to come out of the sessions so overwhelmed by the problem that they would withdraw. We have changed the format slightly to strengthen the aspect of strategy."

The next ten-week program is scheduled to begin Sept. 24 at the Brick Presbyterian Church. Fee for the ten-week seminars, which attract 20-30 people, is \$10.

Launching the seminar is an overview of black history which explains "how the past is with us today," the director said. Participants also adopt a role in the game simulation called "Star Power."

The DARE definition of racism is prejudice combined with power. "Only whites can be racists. Blacks and third world people (Indians, orientals etc.) can be prejudiced but they do not have the power to deny education, housing or employment," Miss Vivian explained.

The participant in the "Star Power" game learns how he would react to a situation when he had power and when he was denied it. Armed with this self-awareness of attitudes and reactions, participants are shown how ideas can be converted to actions.

"For some, just going out to buy a copy of Ebony would be a big step. Others are prepared to exert pressure on things such as church structures or to hold a



SANDE VIVIAN

seminar on a Sunday," said Miss Vivian who added that participants are also alerted to possible repercussions to their involvement. "I've had a lot of people ask me why I am such an oddball or why am I hung up on this black thing," she said.

This "hangup" has roots in a frequently poor and unstable early environment, Miss Vivian recalled. "I always felt alienated from the middle class and then became sensitive to people who are isolated. I saw the pain and suffering of my black friends and I couldn't close my eyes on them," she continued.

She has turned now to the

challenge of educating people to a new awareness and has as her imperative institutional and individual racism. Miss Vivian is exploring the structure of the YWCA itself to see whether there is a racist attitude. Racism which has become more sophisticated to get around federal laws, could be lurking in hiring practices, sources of supplies (whether the supplier is an equal opportunity employer) and in the literature which Miss Vivian believes can be white-oriented.

DARE is looking for funding money and hopes to expand its staff to three full-time workers to design and conduct seminars and other anti-racism programs.



THE CHURCH 1973 Fr. Andrew Greeley

There are many people who are willing to pontificate during this disastrous Watergate summer about what the American people need to have faith restored in their institutions.

ITT, the secret bombings of Cambodia, the Russian wheat deal, and the resultant inflation in food prices (who would have thought a Republican administration would be subsidizing food for Russia and charging the American people for it!), the San Clemente and Key Biscayne scandals, "dirty tricks," forgeries, bribes, the peculiar claim by Mr. Erlichman and his lawyer that the Fourth Amendment is invalid, the steady stream of young storm troopers before the Ervin committee, the claim of the President of the United States that he is above the law that all other Americans must obey — all these melancholy events are enough to shake peoples' confidence in any set of governmental institutions.

It would not be unreasonable, however, to bet that the food price increase (particularly since it was caused by the Russian grain deal) disturbs Americans more than all the other phenomena combined.

What we need, we are told, is a man of impeccable integrity, a man above reproach, a man as clean as a whistle. Both parties, we are informed, are almost necessarily going to have to nominate such a man in 1976 — if they can find two such near-saints anywhere in our republic.

But I disagree. The last thing the American republic is going to need in the presidency in the years ahead is a prim, self-righteous ascetic. On the contrary, what we need is someone who can make us laugh again. We've had far too many serious leaders; we now need a comic one.

One cannot deal with ITT, the IRS, the SBA, the "plumbers," the Secret Service with their tape recorders, Erlichman, Haldeman, and their ilk in any way save by laughing. The American public needs to laugh at government.

My nominee for the presidency in 1976 is Daniel P. Moynihan.

Crossword Answer

E	C	A	D	B	A	T	E			
D	R	O	N	E	A	N	I	S	E	
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His memo to the State Department about its attempt to renege on a deal with the government of India is a marvelous manifestation of how one deals with bureaucracy. "I quite understand that it might appear that we're off our rocker out here, but it comes down to a simple matter of good faith. . . . We might have tried to weasel out, but you will need another ambassador for such work. The United States of America keeps its word."

Pretty strong words in response to a priority cable with a request for a priority reply. The next paragraph of the memo is pure unadulterated Moynihan:

"I am sorry that the South Building. Once every two weeks or so I take the family down there, drop \$5 (my limit) in the stately row of silent slot machines, drink a few cold beers in the Paul Revere cocktail lounge and then dine (best Chinese cuisine in town) in the Williamsburg dining room. The place is marvelous except that we are the only people there and the waiters and the kids say it is kind of spooky."

Moynihan then goes on to say that the South Building might be turned over to the Smithsonian Institution where along with Cam Ranh Bay it might make a marvelous memorial to a certain kind of mentality, and concludes with the comment, "Let this sad ending be a lesson to the next U.S. administration, tempted by an edifice complex."

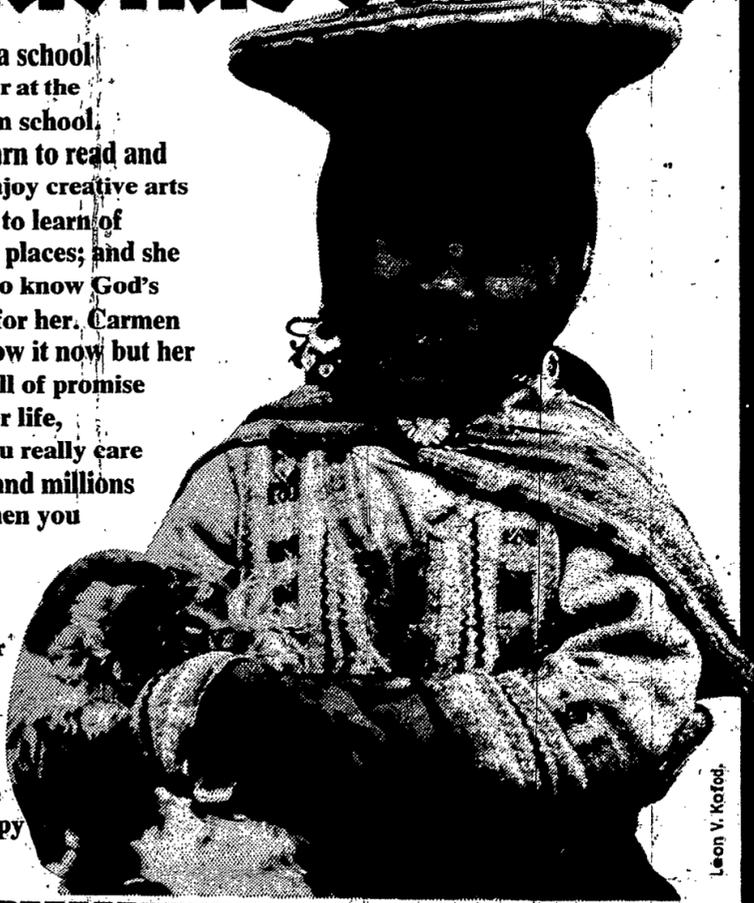
Heaven knows what kind of reaction that cable produced in the State Department bureaucracy. Still, it's the only way to deal with bureaucrats — ecclesiastical as well as governmental ones.

But the ambassador to India is not just an expert at twitting bureaucrats. As he puts it, he has been driven to that "all but final extremity" of publishing a collection of his essays, appropriately entitled Coping (Random House). The book records Moynihan's thoughts from a 1961 prediction of the collapse of the Democratic party in New York, when the Jewish reformers would drive the Catholic ethnics out, to an address to the Harvard College in 1972. There are few political thinkers and doers who would be brave enough to gather together everything they had written during that troubled 11 years. Moynihan can afford to because he has been right virtually all of the time.

If one combines Coping with the memo to the State Department, one has a solid basis for beginning a presidential campaign. Anyone who has served all the administration in the last 11 years and can still laugh at government, and at himself deserves to be President of the United States.

"Muchas Gracias"

Carmen is a school girl this year at the new mission school. She will learn to read and write; to enjoy creative arts and crafts; to learn of people and places; and she will come to know God's great love for her. Carmen doesn't know it now but her future is full of promise and a better life, because you really care about her and millions like her when you help the missions. "Many thanks" for helping to make her happy. Help make others happy today...



Leon V. Kotof

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