

OP-ED

BLACK FAMILY CENTER. . .
FROM FRONT PAGE

leave, accused CCS of making false allegations about her job performance at the center and causing divisiveness within the Black community. "The whole thing has been orchestrated," she said, adding, "This is obviously a ploy to get us (the community) fighting with each other."

The outreach person terminated along with that position in June, Pamela Idahosa, said the BFC is now there only in name. "It's so sad, it was all calculated," she said.

She said that weeks before the outreach position was terminated she was brought off the streets and put to work in an office. She said she complained to her supervisor that her job was to be in the community doing outreach. She said she achieved the personal contact goals of her community outreach job description way ahead of schedule. "They don't want to be accountable to the community and because I was out there in the community making them accountable they let me go."

Idahosa said the center, which offered youth tutoring and youth theatre, were positioning for Justice Department Weed and Seed monies. "They want that Weed and Seed money, but with the community feedback I came back with they couldn't openly support the Justice Department's plan," she said.

Acting Advisory Board Chairman, Darnell Nelson, who is also an attorney, criticized CCS for not inviting any members of the board to its annual business meeting in June and called on the Black community to give direction and support to a "unified front" in combating the "institutionalized racism at the root of the dismantling of the Black Family Center."

He said the administrators at CCS are making policy and decisions that are having a negative effect on the Black community they are supposed to be serving. He warned that the Community Advisory Board will hold those administrators accountable for any such policy

or decisions. "We can not and will not tolerate the legalized lynchings of our best administrators," he said.

Nelson, who developed a voluntary income tax service at the center, accused some of the White staff in the building of being hostile toward Black visitors. "There is a pervasive attitude of hostility to Black community people coming into the building," he said, adding, "We (at the tax service) got jerked around from one end of the building to the other."

Chair of the Cultural Diversity Committee of the Community Advisory Board, Arthelia Coverson-Morris, who professionally trains in cultural diversity at U.S. West Communications and was instrumental in acquiring donations from the company for the BFC, accused Catholic Community Services of being insensitive to the needs of the Black community. "I'm Black and I'm Catholic and I'm appalled. They are not doing anything for the African American community," she charged.

And according to 1991 records revealed at the meeting, there are approximately 13,500 African American Catholics in the Archdiocese of Seattle who, at conservative estimates, contribute \$1.5 million to the church. There is one African American priest here in the Northwest.

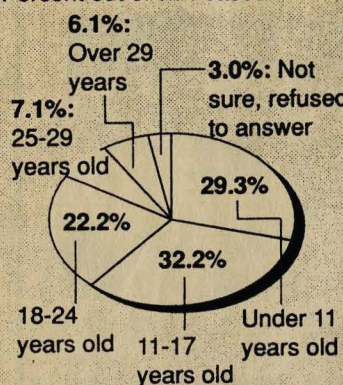
Board members at the meeting called for a mass community meeting with Archbishop Thomas Murphy to demand attention to their complaints and also to press for more racially "reflective leadership" in the church..

And according to a National Black Catholic Congress Pastoral Plan document circulated at the meeting and recommended by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, "African American Catholics (are recommended) to take a leadership role in the formation of neighborhood outreach programs within the African American community."

Most rape victims are under 18

According to a study released April 23, 12.1 million U.S. women have been raped, more than half of them before they were 18 years old. An estimated 683,000 women over 18 years were raped in 1990.

Victim's age at time of rape
Percent out of 714 cases

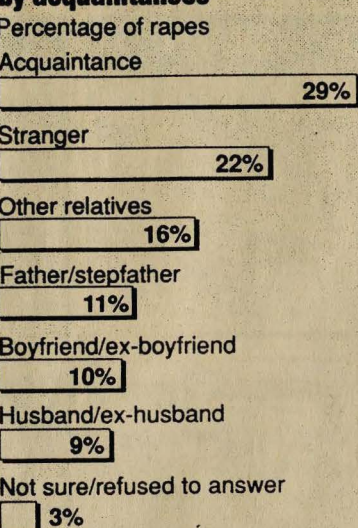


FBI, Justice Department estimates lower
Estimated number of rapes in 1990

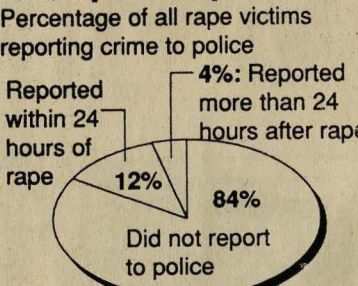
Study	Number of Rapes
National Women's Study	683,000
Justice Department	130,000
FBI Uniform Crime Report	102,560

SOURCE: National Victim Center and the Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center

Most rapes committed by acquaintances
Percentage of rapes



Most rapes not reported
Percentage of all rape victims reporting crime to police



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COPING

The Mystique Of Homosexuality

By Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

Following is an interesting letter that I recently received. My comments follow the letter.
Dear Dr. Faulkner:

I am astounded by the large number of famous show business people who are, or appear to be, homosexuals. Boy George, Prince, Liberace and Michael Jackson are just a few. The list is real, real long. These people look, act, speak and seem to want others to think that they are queer. Why is everyone so hung up on homosexuals? Can you explain it? Signed, P.K.

Dear P.K.:

There appears to be as much fascination with the mystique of homosexuality as there is with homosexuality itself. In other words, people seem excited or turned on by the uncertainty of whether a person is homosexual as they are by the fact of homosexuality. Unisex clothes (clothes that can be worn by either sex, without any alteration) seem attractive to both men and women. Record companies push the unisex style because so many people are fascinated by it.

The "hang up," to use your words, with the sexual mystique of homosexuality may well represent a psychological need hidden deeply in the subconscious. Do people who are fascinated with homosexuals? There is no easy answer. Research has shown that women know how to stimulate women, better than men do. In other words, men are not the great lovers that they want to be. Perhaps both men and women seek the capability of giving the gentle affection that characterizes women. This may indicate male unhappiness with the macho personality, since the female tends to want gentleness from her male mate.

Prince and Michael Jackson vehemently argue that they are as

masculine as any male anywhere. They say that their clothing and other seemingly homosexual characteristics are simply used as gimmicks to excite people. There is no evidence to contradict their claims about their masculinity.

There is a great deal of evidence to justify the use of these accoutrements: hair that is long and styled much like a woman's, clothes that are brightly-colored and covered with sequines, speech that is soft or high-pitched, and the use of make-up. Some fans of these stars copy these way out styles. Men push to have their appearances duplicate the styles of their stars. But their women continue to love them madly.

So it seems that men retain their masculine self-perceptions even though they may get their hair styled to look like the stars of whom some consider to be homosexual, to put it differently, the wearing of the apparel of Prince, Boy George or Michael Jackson seems to be a means of attracting females, instead of a rejection of masculinity. Their ladies seem to like them more.

People seem more and more interested, emotionally and psychologically, in a person who outwardly displays aspects of both masculinity and femininity. There is an attractive "mystery," apparently, in not knowing which quality is predominant. Sociopsychologists think that this may represent a need in all human beings to fully express themselves. Every human, male and female, has both male and female components in their make-up. It could be that the suppression of either trait is frustrating.

In any case, it is clear that the unisex style is a big, big industry. Public relations firms are taking clear advantage of the mystique of homosexuality. Interestingly, many colognes that are sold to men (and which have macho names) are made up of precisely the same ingredients that go into women's perfumes. Only the names on the labels are different.

TO BE EQUAL

Countering Lending Discrimination

By John E. Jacob

The Community Reinvestment Act was passed by Congress back in 1977 to combat the widespread practice of redlining -- financial institutions' refusal to lend within certain neighborhoods.

Starved for capital and mortgage money, those neighborhoods were marked for rapid decline. Invariably, they were predominantly Black or low income.

While the act required banks to meet community needs for mortgages, business, commercial and other loans, fifteen years of experience shows it has not achieved its intended results.

Congress needs to rewrite the Act to yield results, even if it has to require financial institutions to devote a share of their lending to capital-starved communities.

The combination of a relatively mild law and a lack of regulatory enforcement is responsible for continued discrimination in lending.

It is outrageous that African American applicants for mortgages are twice as likely as Whites to be denied a mortgage -- even when their incomes are the same.

A 14-city study reported that savings institutions in minority neighborhoods make four cents in local loans for every dollar of deposits. But institutions located in White neighborhoods lend 8 cents locally for every dollar of deposit -- twice as much.

And when the Federal Reserve examined nearly every mortgage application made in 1990, it found that high income Blacks have less of a chance to get a mortgage than low income Whites.

The Board, the prime bank regulator in the country, supervises 3,800 federally chartered banks. It's finally taking a close look at 225 banks whose minority rejections are double those for Whites.

Sometimes, there is no smoking gun to prove overt discrimination. Like others who discriminate, lenders are too

clever for that. Subtle differences in the treatment of Black and White applicants is enough for many of them.

The Federal Reserve Board investigators, for example, found an instance where an African American was turned down for a mortgage by four banks, despite a good credit and employment history. Finally, a fifth bank told him he could easily qualify if he'd pay off some of his debts with his savings. The other banks never mentioned that -- but pocketed \$1,000 in application fees.

The continuation of effective redlining in spite of the law has to be treated with severity, especially in light of the desperate need for capital in our inner cities.

Heavy penalties should be handed out to those financial institutions that have violated the existing law.

The government should deny all bank merger applications unless the banks involved prove they have complied with the law - and that proof should be in the form of a fresh investigation and not reference to past compliance grading.

The reason is clear -- banks were never held to high standards of compliance. One major bank that had an "outstanding" rating under the law actually made very few of its loans to minorities and ignored the community needs it was responsible for meeting.

And the law itself needs more teeth. Weak regulations and a soft law have not induced voluntary equal opportunity lending.

So it will be necessary to change the law to positively require that financial institutions devote a specific share of their business to minorities and to low and moderate income neighborhoods.

That share could be based on the share of a bank's assets from those communities, a share of its total assets, a share of the capital needs of its city or state, or some other formula or combination of criteria.

It seems that the only way to get the free market in capital to work for minorities and for moderate income neighborhoods is to hold financial institutions to high expectations, with incentives for compliance and harsh penalties for failure.

CHILD WATCH

Poverty, Values And Leadership

By Marian Wright Edelman

Too many political leaders today have found it easier to blame the poor for their misfortunes than to deal with the failures of our economy and the failures of leadership.

They are turning what should be a discussion of poverty and loss of opportunity into a discussion of "welfare" and "values" and "behavior."

I urge you to join me in protesting these tactics. As we know all too well, far too many children in our community live in poverty and, thus, become scapegoats in this political campaign season.

To listen to some politicians, one would think that children are poor solely because their parents and acting immorally, because their values are perverse, and because government help is somehow ruining their lives. Everything except the naked, unpleasant fact that our economy is not getting enough decent jobs at decent wages to millions of American workers.

Why are our children so poor? Because their parents don't have enough income. In the last two decades, wages for most American workers fell. They fell in part because of changes in our economy. And they fell in part because government abandoned its effort to assure that full-time working adults would have wages and benefits adequate to provide minimum support to a family.

Any other wealthy Western democracy which saw one-fourth of its preschoolers living in poverty would recognize that the quality of its future is slipping away and likely would act decisively to keep wages and income from falling. But in the United States, rising child poverty is an occasion to attack poor parents rather than figure out how to help them.

Despite what some politicians would have us believe, our nation's poor, especially the nine million poor children on welfare who get an average of \$6 a day for all their basic needs, are not the cause of our country's fiscal, economic and social problems. Who, then, is responsible. Who has caused these problems? What

has made the strong economy in the world into the limping, indebted giant we see today? Who has made our society more violent, more shortsighted, more selfish and less tolerant? Who has made our children more vulnerable and less safe than those a generation ago?

Does our nation really believe it is the mother in Mississippi who receives \$120 a month in AFDC for herself and her two children? Or should we look first to the mindless tax cutters for the rich, to be corporate execs who make millions while their workers are laid off by the thousands, to the junk bond sellers and S&L looters, to the entertainment moguls whose ware glamorize irresponsible sex and violence?

In hard times, people used to blame the rich and the powerful. Now the rich and the powerful seek to deflect blame to the poor and powerless. We mustn't allow them to succeed.

I believe deeply that we do need a restoration of solid values -- family values and social values -- if we are to save America's children and America's future.

But mending our tattered value system requires just as much from the affluent as from the poor. And it requires that our public leaders also accept moral responsibilities and recognize that there are right and wrong public values as well as private ones.

If we expect children not to solve their problems with guns and violence, then we need media and public policies that demonize rather than glamorize violence and that stop putting guns in the hands of children and adults alike. If we expect families to teach their children the value of hard work, then we need public policies that make work pay. If we expect families to teach children the importance of education, then we need first-rate, safe and exciting schools.

As the National Conference of Catholic Bishops said recently: "Government can either support or undermine families as they cope with the moral, social and economic stresses of caring for children. The undeniable fact is that our children's future is shaped both by the values of their parents and the policies of our nations."