

The Courage To Grow

Are Blacks And Whites Really Equal?

By JOSEPH W. GAULD

ARE BLACKS and whites really equal?

It's hard to write a column on a subject that has been a battlefield for 200 years. But it's time to stop fighting and have the courage to deal with the truth. I say there are definite inequalities on both sides, but blacks and whites need each other to complement their strengths.

My judgment is based upon experience. In my lifetime I have worked deeply with the potential of 5,000 kids to have confidence in what I have found: whites more developed in some intellectual areas, particularly academics; and blacks more developed in some physical and emotional areas, particularly in understanding people.

This should be clear even to the people fighting on the battleground. The "Northern Liberal," out to prove equality, is determined to show that blacks will perform exactly like whites given the opportunity. Yet with this approach, why does he make very little dent in the sub-par academic achievement of predominately black schools?

The "Southern Hardnose" insists that he knows blacks are inferior because he has lived with them. Yet, in spite of his efforts to segregate, why do blacks taken into such white homes keep becoming an integral part of their families?

I think I understand why. My family lived in Washington, D.C. in the 30's. The Depression afforded us a black maid who would become part of our family. Victoria was my favorite. Victoria may have had to ride in the back of the bus outside the home, but she drove the bus in our house. I still see her pushing my mother aside when a handyman tried to overcharge mother for yard work, saying: "Listen, Nigger, who you think you messin' with? You ain't tellin' Miz Gauld how much you get 'cause you aint done nothin' yet." That ended the discussion. The handyman meekly accepted the money Victoria decided to give him (one black may call another "nigger", but my brother Tom got mad at Victoria once and learned the hard way its a no-no for whites.)

Later, when Victoria's sister, Stella, came for help, unwed and pregnant for the second time, Victoria refused. Mother took Stella in over Vic-



toria's objections: "Miz Gauld, that gal ain't never gonna learn if she don't pay. Ah can't stop you, but I ain't liftin' a finger to help."

The baby came sooner than expected, but Victoria remained true to her words. Mother and the cab driver ended up delivering the baby in the cab on the way to the hospital.

AS I GREW older, I realized Victoria fit into our family because she was often the most emotionally mature person in the house.

So before we worry about why blacks don't seem to hold their own in intellectual fields like science and medicine, we have cause to consider the domination of the black in fields of expression like music and sports. Before we assume that the world measures the greatness of the American society by its scientific developments, let us remember that some universal American legends have names like Jessie Owens and Louie Armstrong.

Recently a "rhubarb" was caused by studies that the black "I.Q." is inferior to white. Beyond the fact that experience taught me "I.Q." only partially deals with true intelligence, why should the black man have the same "I.Q." as a white? Was the kind of intelligence man needed to cope with Africa for the past 2,000 years the same needed by our white ancestors in Europe? Satchell Paige may not have the "I.Q." required to be a professor or an engineer, but he managed with the following philosophy, to pitch baseball better and about 30 years longer than any white man:

"Avoid fried meats which angry up the blood.

"If your stomach disputes you, lie down and pacify it with cool thoughts.

"Keep the juices flowing by jangling around gently as you move.

"Go very light on the vices, such as carrying on in society — the social ramble ain't restful.

"Avoid running at all times.

"And don't look back. Something might be gainin' on you."

That flunks for "I.Q.", but passes for "soul." Maybe a Satchell Einstein could not only have put a man on the moon, but could also have anticipated the problems that led to pollution as well!

JUMBLE — that scrambled word game

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