

American blacks want good health, family life

The Jan. 14 edition of "Jet" magazine contained the findings of a recent poll, conducted by the Data Black Public Opinion Polls, Inc., which addressed the issue of "What Blacks Really Want in the United States." The findings of the poll can be interpreted in a variety of ways. One such way will be reflected in the contents of this article.

want to have evidence that blacks seek the "good life" as do others born in this country. For instance, 86 percent of those in the poll said it would be better if blacks and whites lived together in the same community, while only 7 percent said they should live in separate communities.

It seems to me, if these responses are close to being indicative of the "black viewpoint" on what people of color in this country want, it is no wonder unemployment is sky-high, black-on-black crime is increasing and we remain confined in the ghettos of this nation's urban intrastates. After all, if we believe that it would be better for blacks and whites to live together in the same communities — then it would seem that there would be more of us confronting the subjective and material conditions that prevent this from taking place.

It would seem to me, for instance, that if 35 percent of blacks see good health as one of the most important elements of the good life, we would develop and expand upon programs that would address the infant mortality rate. In North Omaha, for example, the infant mortality rate is

31.9 per 1,000 births; for white Omahans' it is only 13.9 per 1,000 births.

If good health is one of our priorities, it is important that we do something about those mechanisms which impede having good health. This means that we should see to it that the clinics and offices, which address our health needs, remain inside of our communities rather than on the fringe of them.

This means that we need to lower the physician-to-patient ratio among blacks by providing early childhood education and direction so that black youth will seek out and take an interest in the medical profession. In many cases, what must be done for us must first be done by us.

In regard to the 20 percent who talked about a "good family life," this is not a wish endemic to black people; everyone wishes to have a good family life. The only problem is, we have to consider the conditions that lead to certain kinds of consciousness that shape conduct, which is inevitably anti-family.

For instance, we would look at the nuclear family system objectively and truly assess whether

it is going to meet our needs. The extended family structure certainly offers viable alternatives to a chronically poor people, and we would do well to begin assessing whether or not the concept of "mama, daddy and the kids" is as productive or progressive as we have been lead to believe.

Furthermore, if people are concerned about the family, then they should be concerned about it for everybody, and that includes those locked behind bars. To talk of the family system without taking into consideration the total institutions which limit, restrict and confine men and women — the prisons and military being two — is like swinging at someone in the dark when ain't nobody there but you.

The poll brought out many interesting points, some of which I have shared with you in this short article. However, one thing is certain: Black people want what everybody else born in America wants, and whether you are an integrationist, a separatist, a Christian or a Muslim, it all boils down to first of all being accepted as a human being. Without human rights, civil rights are of little use.



Matthew Stelly

The most popular answer, according to this poll, was "good health" (35 percent of the respondents). It was followed by "good family life" (24 percent), "peace of mind" (20 percent), "a good job" (6 percent), "wealth" (3 percent) and "having a good time" (0.4 percent).

The poll, based on the responses of some 1,200 blacks interviewed from all educational levels and economic backgrounds, is important if we

Senators should rearrange chamber furniture

Many senators are so impatient for the rectification of the world's ills that they have not taken time to notice that the Senate itself needs some attention. However, Dan Quayle has noticed, and has some proposals, to which I add this one: Rearrange the furniture on the Senate floor.



George Will

Quayle is in the fifth year of what will be, if God is willing and Indiana is wise, many terms in the Senate. A lissome young Republican of 37, he looks 27, and during his 1980 campaign he was accused — yes, accused — of looking unfairly like Robert Redford. (When will the Federal Election Commission issue regulations to correct the unfairness of candidates not looking equally splendid?)

Quayle has a number of ideas to improve two things: the conduct of business on the Senate floor, and the committee system in which most Senate

business is done. He would reform the rules governing the Senate floor to make it more difficult — it is now simple — for one member to bring the Senate to a standstill by dilatory devices (frivolous amendments, filibusters, etc.). And he would reduce the size of committees and the number of subcommittees.

If the Senate is to be what it is pleased to be called — "world's greatest deliberative body" — it must be disposed to, and able to, deliberate. But deliberation takes time, and a certain rhythm of institutional life. Deliberative senators cannot live like dray horses in harness, driven by staff from one hearing to another. But for 30 years the number of senators has remained constant, as has the number of hours in the day. Neither number is apt to change soon. The number of committees and especially subcommittees has grown rapidly as senators have sought new opportunities to hire staff and make news.

When Jim Buckley left the Senate after one term representing New York (1971-76), he said the work load had

doubled during his six years. One reason the load is so heavy is the proliferation of subcommittees. That has multiplied the burdens of the executive branch. When William Ruckelshaus first served as head of the Environmental Protection Agency 15 years ago, he had to report to 15 committees and subcommittees. When he returned to that job in 1983, the number was 44.

Quayle's ideas are sound, but not sufficient. The Senate should rearrange its desks and chairs, for Churchillian reasons.

When a German bomb destroyed the House of Commons, the chamber could have been rebuilt along various lines. But Churchill insisted that its traditional physical features be reproduced because they sustain particular political principles.

He wanted the chamber to be oblong, with benches on two sides, facing each other, rather than with individual seats arranged in a semicircle. And he was adamant that the chamber be only big enough to seat about two-thirds of the

members. He warned against "semicircular assemblies with buildings that give to every member not only a seat to sit in, but often a desk to write at, with a lid to bang" — a description of the U.S. Senate.

Churchill believed that the oblong shape was "a very potent factor in our political life" because it buttresses the rule of two durable and disciplined parties. Semicircular assemblies, he said, encourage loose assemblages of lesser groups in constantly shifting coalitions of weak principles. He said the semicircular assembly encourages "the group system" because it does nothing to encourage party identification, party discipline and clarity of principle. He said a strong two-party system, and a government capable of vigorous action, is nurtured by an oblong chamber. The physical fact of confrontation concentrates minds on the reality of two competing blocs, and the act of voting with the other side becomes more momentous.

Churchill thought a legislative chamber should be so small that it can

not contain all its members without overcrowding. Otherwise almost all debates will be conducted in the dispiriting, trivializing atmosphere of an almost empty chamber. He thought good legislative rhetoric should be conversational, not haranguing, and the conversational style requires a small space. Furthermore, on great occasions crowding gives a sense of urgency.

It will be said that Americans should not want the Senate to sit in a smaller chamber (with, say, 50 chairs — 25 to a side) because party cohesion and conversational, cut-and-thrust rhetoric are not important to American goals. But perhaps they should be. And Churchill's theory — call it architectural determinism, or the Seating Arrangement Theory of History — is easier to ridicule than refute.

© 1985, Washington Post Writers Group

FREE GLOVES

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY

Bring in this ad for a free pair of leather-faced work gloves (\$3.00 retail value) when you join our Rental Club (no membership fee). Rental Club card entitles you to 10% discounts on all rentals at your U-Haul Center. Find us in the white pages.




SPECIAL OFFER TO INTRODUCE YOU TO RENT N' SAVE™ EQUIPMENT





More for your money
at your **U-HAUL** Center

SWEET TALK



When words cannot express what's in your heart, say it with "cokies." Giant personalized cookies from Cookies 'N Cream. With advance notice, we'll bake and decorate one to your specifications. We'll even deliver it free of charge.* "Cokies" from Cookies 'N Cream. Think of them as a delicious alternative to the greeting card.

COOKIES 'N Cream

Le Metro Food Court Lower Level Atrium
12th & N St. 476-2022

*Limited delivery area.

NASSAU \$374
NASSAU PARADISE 4 Days 1st Day Airfare \$499
4 days ISLAND Bermuda \$499
214 315 St Thomas \$549
ARUBA JAMAICA Barbados \$437
\$544 379 Above Incl. RT & Hotel

GO! SAVE! AT ABC!
CARIB. LOVE BOAT \$674
Call Card • 5 Day Cruise From KC!
CHARGE !!! 8 Days NCL \$619 Fr. Mth.
Big CRUISE DISCOUNTS • All Lines To \$1,400 off
\$5.50 in Lower Cabin. 1 wk. R.C. \$788-8
Biggest Summer Discounts Call ABC 221-0100

HAWAII \$364
AIR ONLY Call
RT Fr. KC 200 Fr. 1st
\$364 ABC 221-0100
Call for details

EUROPE TOUR BARGAINS
2 wks. air travel \$899
EUROPE from \$899
3 wks. \$148 (Sep to 1985)
CANARY IS. \$749
SPAIN 1 wk.
RUSSIA or 1984
PRA BUDA 1 wk. \$699
Monte Carlo 1 wk. \$699

MAUI 1 wk. \$649
Call 414 2 Wk. \$884

Puerto Vallarta 4 Days Fr. KC \$364
Call for details

RIO \$419
1 Wk. Air Hotel
Central Call Room
All South America
Call 414 2 Wk. \$884

FRANKFURT \$417
1 Wk. Air Hotel
Munich Paris Prague
Call Room
Call 414 2 Wk. \$884

LONDON \$429
1 Wk. Air Hotel
London 1 wk. \$29
London 1 wk. \$29
London 2 wks. \$188
Call 414 2 Wk. \$884

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT BARGAINS RT From KC
Brussels \$59 C. hagen \$65 Oporto/Boulogne \$639
Rome \$79 Athens \$649 B. Aires/Santiago \$820
Miami \$68/Palermo \$819 Lima \$639/Coracas \$499
Madrid/Lisbon \$539 S. Juan \$394/Hon. \$449
Guaymas/Los Angeles \$529 San Jose/Panama \$369
Paris \$649/Dublin \$549 Manila \$899/Singapore \$960
Am. den. \$419/Rose \$699 H. Kong \$929/B. Rab. \$1090
Oslo \$619 S.holm \$659 Tokyo/Taipei \$894
Zurich \$599/Wassau \$739 S. Jose \$1099/Peking \$1160
Piquette B. post \$774 Sydney/Auckland \$1029
Tel. Aviv/Cairo \$754 Around The World \$1949
Athens/Dallas \$939 Delhi/Bombay \$1290

Discount land Flts. to above • Individual Group
Berjans to All World Destinations Call Card

NKI DISCOUNTS Call Jean at ABC
Call 414 2 Wk. \$884
Call 414 2 Wk. \$884

HONEYMOON Call Donna at ABC For Great Ideas • Savings

VEGETARIAN 3 Days
RC Air Hotel \$184
AIR (1 Wk.)
Call 414 2 Wk. \$884

ATLANTIC CITY 3 Day Pkg \$329-299
Call 414 2 Wk. \$884

CIRCUS CITY Pkg \$209 • RENO • \$225
Eastern (incl. \$194) • \$214 • Tahoe Pkg \$259

MOTORCOACH Savings Touch • Call Vicki
St. Citron • Air Passes/Tickets/Tours Discounts!

EUROPE Summer '85 All Brochures 15% Off! Jan 31

New Orleans Mardi Gras Flts. Discounts at ABC

IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC Call (816)
Green Cards • Work Permits • Appeals 421-1630 (24 hrs.)

More Prices Per Person Double Occup. Gully to Change
FULL SERVICE GROUP DEPT. Local, USA, Int'l
Conventions • Incentives • Sports • Fairs • Religious • School • Club
FREE TRIP FOR GROUP DISCOUNTS Call Frances

ALLAN BELL CHARTERS
(816) 221-0100 (24 Hrs.)
310 Armour Rd. N. K.C. Mo. 64118
Call USA TOLL FREE 1-800-821-2228 or 1-800-Call-ABC

Continental Agency Assured • Free Parking • Complimentary
• This is the only agency in Kansas City to offer you a free
• Free Travel Insurance • Complimentary • Complimentary • Complimentary

FASTEST BEST BROCHURES Call ABC 440 & SAVE!