

NATIONAL NEWS UPDATE

Black And White Women With Infants Are More Likely To Be In Labor Force

The proportions of Black and White women aged 18 to 44 with newborn children who were in the labor force were substantially higher in 1987 than in 1976, according to the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

About half of all Black and White women with infants were in the labor force (employed or looking for work) in 1987. In 1976, the proportions were 43 percent for Black women and 29 percent for White women.

The fertility rate among Black women aged 18 to 44 was 83 births per 1,000 women last year compared with 69 births per 1,000 White women. Black women aged 18 to 24 had a considerably higher fertility rate than did their White counterparts, while the rate for White women aged 25 to 29 exceeded that for Black women.

Among women aged 30 and over no statistical differences in the rates were found between both races.

Fifty-five percent of births to Black women are to those not married at the time of the survey, about four times the proportion for White women.

As in all surveys, the data in this report are subject to sampling variability and response errors.

Copies of **Fertility of American Women: June 1987**, Series P-20, No. 427, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The attached charts show labor force participation rates of Black and White women with infants in 1987 and 1976 and fertility rates by age in 1987.

The Employment Situation

WASHINGTON—The Black unemployment rate for May 1988 was 12.4 percent, a drop of about one percent from the May 1987 rate of 13.5 percent, the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reports.

The 12.4 percent rate for Blacks compares to a May 1988 general population civilian unemployment rate of 5.6 percent.

For Black men, the May, 1988 unemployment rate was 10.8 percent, down from 12.2 percent in May 1987.

Black women also showed a drop in unemployment from a year ago, from 11.6 percent in 1987 to 10.6 percent in May, 1988.

Teenage unemployment for Blacks was 34.8 percent, down from 37.3 percent in May 1987. For teenage Black men, the May 1988 rate was 33.3 percent and for teenage women, 36.6 percent.

Payroll employment, as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments, rose by 210,000 in May. In contrast, total civilian employment, as estimated through the monthly survey of households, showed a drop of 520,000 following a 600,000 increase in April. Recent over-the-month movements in the household employment series have been somewhat erratic.

Larry Lundy Promoted By Pizza Hut, Inc.

WICHITA, KS—Larry Lundy has been promoted to vice president of restaurant development for Pizza Hut, Inc. In his new position, Lundy will be responsible for all real estate, construction and property management programs in support of the company's traditional, delivery and new concept unit development goals.

Formerly vice president and controller for Pizza Hut, Lundy came to Pizza Hut in July 1983 as controller. His promotion recognizes the numerous and considerable contributions he has made to the company over the past five years.



Larry Lundy

Prior to his employment by Pizza Hut, Lundy directed the internal auditing function of ARA Services, Inc., and before that served five years with the public accounting firms of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Alexander Grant & Company. Additionally, Lundy gained real estate and acquisitions experience while at ARA.

PORTLAND OBSERVER

"The Eyes and Ears of the Community" 288-0033

"Quote Of The Week"



James Brown
"I love my wife ...(?)"

Rasheedah Sabreen Ali Promoted To Director

Ms. Rasheedah Sabreen Ali was recently named Director, Corporate Communications, Apache Division, of the Southwest Gas Corporation in Tucson, Ariz. Promoted from the post of Assistant Director, Ms. Ali is the corporate spokesperson for the organization and she administers all communications functions for



Ms. Rasheedah Sabreen Ali

the Tucson division. A native New Yorker, Ms. Ali attended Hunter College in New York following graduation from Julia Richmond High School. She subsequently took a bachelors degree in journalism at the University of Arizona. She is active with several civil rights and professional organizations and serves as a member of the Mayor's task force on housing. Ms. Ali is married and has four children.

Blacks Promote Art & Culture In Urban Centers

A new breed of well-educated, experienced arts administrators now head art and cultural agencies in many of the nation's largest cities, reports the July EBONY.

Commanding budgets ranging from \$1 million to \$100 million, these professionals are working to stimulate renewed interest in the arts and culture, while providing much-needed support for local artists and arts organizations.

Executive director of the Chicago Council on Fine Arts since her 1983 appointment by the late Mayor Harold Washington, Madeline Murphy Rabb oversees a budget of \$4 million. An established artist in her own right, Mrs. Rabb says, "Clearly, one of the most crucial responsibilities of local arts agencies is to be a leader and a catalyst in the democratization of the arts."

Other cultural bosses featured in the July issue are Mary Schmidt Campbell, commissioner of cultural affairs, New York City; Oliver Franklin, deputy city representative for arts and culture, Philadelphia; Barbara Robinson Nicholson, executive director, Commission on Arts and Humanities, Washington, D.C.; Shahida Mausi, director, Detroit Council of the Arts and Harriet Sanford, director, Bureau of Cultural Affairs, Atlanta.

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Saluting ...



Carrie Saxon Perry
Mayor of Hartford, Conn.

Lt. General Colin L. Powell: First Black National Security Adviser



Lt. General Colin L. Powell

Lt. General Colin L. Powell, 51, America's national security adviser, has emerged as one of the most powerful Black men ever to serve the U.S. government, reports the July EBONY.

While his appointment is viewed as a milestone achievement for Black Americans, the three-star general says he just feels "privileged to be the first Black person to hold this senior White House position."

Powell rose from modest beginnings in the South Bronx of New York, to chart a long and distinguished military career. After starting with the Army ROTC, Powell then served two tours of duty in Vietnam, where he was decorated with the Legion of

Merit award, and the Purple Heart.

As one of only a few Black appointees in the Reagan administration, Powell's influence and expertise have made him a key participant in the planning of superpower Summit meetings, as well as the shaping and execution of U.S. foreign policy.

"Considered the product of a 'family of achievers,' Powell relates that there are no shortcuts to excellence. 'There are no secrets to success,' he says. 'Don't waste time looking for them. Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty to those for whom you work and persistence. You must be ready for opportunity when it comes,' he adds.

Looking Beyond: The Jackson Campaign

by Norman Hill

It is now patently clear that, barring some unforeseen circumstance, Jesse Jackson will not be the Democratic nominee for president in 1988. Now, some are expressing the fear that perhaps a significant segment of Jackson supporters—dispirited or embittered by their candidate's defeat—will stay home during the November elections.

I, for one, do not share this view, but it does merit comment. For millions of Black Americans and others, Jackson's gallant campaign was a harbinger of hope and progress during this election year. But while his apparent failure to gain the nomination may be demoralizing to some, Jackson's candidacy has had a profound impact on the American political landscape. He has proved that a Black person can be a viable candidate for the highest office in the land. He has raised important social and economic issues that cannot be ignored by either party. His campaign has inspired millions to take part, perhaps for the first time, in the electoral process. His social and economic message broadened his support beyond the Black community to include a wide spectrum of American society. And even in defeat, he will be a factor to be reckoned with when the Democrats draw up their strategy for November.

The end of Jackson's run for the White House must not mark the end of the efforts of Black Americans to help shape this nation's policy agenda. There is too much at stake in 1988 for any Black Americans to walk away from the political process.

Despite rosy economic statistics, security and prosperity still elude millions of Americans, especially Blacks. Real after-tax family income has fallen over the past 10 years for all but the top 20 percent of the population. The rich-poor gap is at its widest in 40 years. Rising rents and deep cuts in federal housing subsidies since 1981 have made decent, affordable housing little more than a dream for many families. Thirty-five million Americans are without health insurance and 20 percent of American children grow up in poverty. The figures for Blacks are substantially higher. In addition, the problems of decay-

search. The Black underclass continues to be mired in poverty and isolation, and the number of working poor is growing at an alarming rate. Moreover, the last eight years have seen attempts by the Administration to weaken existing civil rights laws and regulations.

These chronic problems will only be solved when a politically engaged and active citizenry demands a social, economic and political agenda which addresses these issues. In recent years, the growing power of the Black vote and political activism have forced politicians to seriously consider



Jesse Jackson speaking at Martin Luther King Elementary School.

ing public schools, racial polarization, and crime- and drug-ridden neighborhoods are all too familiar. Intractable problems continue to threaten social foundations and the economy: huge trade and budget deficits; a declining productive base and lagging competitiveness; the erosion of infrastructure, education, and the concerns of the Black com-

munity, particularly in areas where the Black vote could provide the margin of victory.

Most political analysts predict that the November election will be closely contested. Hence, the Black vote can play a pivotal role in the election of the next president of the United States. And

Norman Hill is President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

1988 McDonald's Black History Makers Of Tomorrow—National Winners

