

Letters to the Editor

Marion Barry: a true disappointment.

To the Editor:

On February 15, 1990, the three term incumbent mayor of our nation's capital was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of perjury and drug possession. Despite having been caught red handed as the result of a sting operation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and arrested January 18, 1990 for drug possession, Barry plans to plead not guilty. According to the February 19 issue of *USA Today*, some of the residents of the District of Columbia think Barry has been "targeted by the white establishment", and Barry, in the same article claims that "prosecutors and the media are out to get him".

I wanted to give the man the benefit of the doubt. After all, he must have been doing something right to have been elected mayor for three straight terms. However, the more I learned the more and more disturbed I became with Mayor Marion Barry. According to different issues of the *Washington Post* throughout 1989, Barry proposed a budget which reduced housing and social programs, he went to Atlantic City for an Afro-American mayors' meeting in the midst of budget problems, he tried to close down a private motel where homeless people had lived for the past six years, and he had long been suspected of being an adulterer and drug user by his constituents.

Perhaps Barry was "targeted by the white establishment" (he has been an Afro-American male for the past 53 years). If he was a "target", it should have come as no surprise to him, and he should have made sure his record was spotless so there would be no way for anyone to "get him." His actions were shameful and harmful, not only because they let down so many Afro-Americans nation wide, but because they undermined the anti-drug effort in D.C., the murder capitol of the nation and the seat of our government.

It appears that despite rising high in the ranks Barry still allowed himself to be defeated by the same chains that enslave and kill so many young Afro-Americans everyday despite his supposed "Operation Fight Back" program launched against drugs in 1988. In my opinion Barry has turned out to be a genuine hypocrite—a true disappointment.

--Maria Burgos

Happy Birthday, Dr. King

To the Editor:

Happy Birthday, Dr. King. It's 1990 and our state is officially celebrating your birthday for the first time. Most of us are very proud of your holiday. However, there were a few who fought against a holiday honoring you and your movement for social justice. It is very sad to say, Dr. King, but racism remains a blight on our nation.

When you were marching on our nation's capitol you spoke of a dream. Many people shared that dream with you. Your dream has still not been realized. Today the oppression of black people is much more subtle, but equally powerful. Black people continue to struggle for economic and political equality. Justice is yet to be reached.

Dr. King, I am afraid. Afraid that people have lost sight of your dream for America—an America where we think first of "the least of these." I am afraid that people are infatuated with what they can do for themselves, and rarely considers what they can do for others.

I hope your holiday will remind us that one person can change our world. I also want people to recommit themselves to your dream of social, economic, and political justice for all people without regard to race. In addition, it is my greatest desire that people will begin to ask themselves what they can do for those who are shackled by the bonds of poverty and homelessness.

We have come a long way, Dr. King, but we still have a long way to go before your dream becomes a reality. Thank you for being a "drum major for justice," and encouraging each of us to follow our drum major instinct, too.

Sincerely,
Gene Davis

"Where's The Beef"

To the Editor:

This fine election season has really brought a tear to my eye. I'd like to say that it's because of all of the hard working candidates and the true work ethic that they have all exemplified, but I think that the tear is probably a result of all the dirt that they've kicked up. The only candidates who've yet to take a ride down the mudslide are John Lomax and Mike Strickland (although Martin's violations were somewhat minimal).

PEACE CORPS SERVICE: A Good Career Move



Sign up for an interview with a Peace Corps recruiter at Hanes Hall for interviews to be held March 27-29 from 9 am until 4:30 pm. If you have any questions, a recruiter will be at the Student Center, Main Floor from 9 am until 3 pm, March 27-29. Come see a film about Peace Corps, March 28th starting at 6:30 pm in Hanes Hall, room 209.

Who the hell are we going to look to for leadership? Mark Bibbs, whose motivations are questionable enough, not to mention that he works in close association with the Antichrist (Gene Davis), Bill Hildebolt, whose concern for the black community can be traced back a couple of months and whose campaign violations are numerous, John Lomax, the white-guy-in-a-sweater- that we've seen so much of, or Mike Strickland, whose intelligence is questionable and who wants to place a spitting cherub in the center of the pit. The fact is there is no one in the race who completely represents what I imagine in a student body president. Either my standards are too high, or the quality of my choice is too low. You can vote for the guy who is most adept at hiding obvious, excessive campaign expenditures or you can vote for the guy whose masculine voice and whose quasi-bowl haircut are sure to make those darned administrators think twice before messing with him. I have, however, developed a sure fire method of wading through the political quagmire and making the right choice. Truth to one's self is crucial. It is a well known fact that intoxication intends to ease inhibitions. To best follow your gut instincts, grab a few brews, (or Private Stocks if such is the case), get completely hammered and vote for your next SBP. If your man wins, great. If not, you will be too damn hungover to really care. So take my advice, the aspirin are on me.

Despairingly,
Joseph Hiram Holt III



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The opinions expressed in Letters To The Editor do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Black Ink staff.

All letters should be typed, double spaced and include your name, major and a phone number where you can be reached. Black Ink reserves the right to edit all letters.

All letters are welcome. Please drop yours by the Black Ink office in suite 108 of the Carolina Union.