

In This Election, What Will The Black Vote Do?



by

Dennis C. Schatzman

It's no use having the ball in your own court if you're not going to shoot it. The upcoming U.S. Senate race involving Harvey Gantt and the dreaded incumbent, Jesse Helms, should be enough motivation to inspire every Black voter to step up to the free-throw line come this November 6.

Need I say More? Yes, I think I'd better.

Every year, columnists, activists, elected officials and ministers talk themselves hoarse trying to urge people to come out and vote. Their arguments are very sound; their reasoning is always solid. Without fail, the vast majority of us dutifully nod our heads in agreement, like junkies telling loved ones they'll not take another "hit" on the pipe, and then go right out on election day and "forget" or refuse to vote.

That kind of amnesia cost Andrew Young a serious shot at Georgia's governor's chair earlier this year. Countless other important races have slipped through the fingers of qualified and well-meaning candidates because we didn't vote in our communities.

Having looked at the downside of this disturbing phenomena, let's look at the bright side. What happens when we do get out and vote like we have good sense?

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For one thing, you get someone like Douglas Wilder. The 56-year old Virginia governor won by the closeness of a whisker on a flea's cheek. Had just 6,000 Black people forgotten or refused to vote last November, we would not be talking about Gov. Wilder as a potential presidential candidate today, but rather, as a former Lt. Governor "who gave it the good 'ol college try."

Looking at it another way, when you vote you don't get David Duke. Louisiana, the capital of the political bizarre, came close to sending the part-time Klansman and full-time racist demagogue to the U.S. Senate. Riding on the race-baiting, code-word horse released every election season from the Republican Party stable, Duke came right to the point during his candidacy. Instead of dropping

subtle hints like "Willie Horton", Duke told the electorate, and national audiences like "Face the Nation", that Blacks are habitual criminals and welfare cheats.

Having said all that, I again say that the ball is in our court. Somehow, I don't think that's enough.

There is no question in any sane person's mind that Gantt, the moderate former mayor of Charlotte is a better candidate to represent the Tarheel State. Jesse Helms is an anachronism, a creature from a bygone era. Even his top aides are out of touch with modern times.

I remember the time when I sold an NAACP membership to Jack Hawke, the Republican state chairman. Carter Wrenn, Helms' right hand man, chewed Hawke out publicly for committing such an unpardonable sin. As the state field director for the NAACP at the time, I wrote Wrenn and asked him for a meeting to discuss our "differences and our mutual concerns." Thanks, but no thanks, Wrenn wrote back. He said he didn't meet with "people" like me.

If Helms and his political advisors don't want to associated with people like me, then I think he's talking about you, too. What do you think?

Better yet, don't tell me what you think. Show me and the nation what you think on November 6. We'll get the message when they report the results on the 11:00 news.

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Fall Outlook From Cir Wm's Menswear

The look this season for the businessman is a wide array of six-button peaked lapel suits. More tailored with soft shoulders, accented by a tab-collar or long-point shirt, played up with richly-patterned tie and cap-toed leather on suede shoes. This adds a European look for business.

So says, Tim Jessup, manager of **Cir Wm's Menswear** that caters to a corporate clientele. According to Mr. Jessup, menswear attire is something subtle but jazzy. Pin-stripes are favored this year and ties bring a vogue look for business.

After the success of LaShanda's Boutique, the Millner family recognized that their popularity with career women could only mean that men also are in search of a store that caters to their special needs. So they opened up **Cir Wm's** (pronounced as Sir Williams), formerly known as Cruiser's located in Centre Stage Shopping Center on Jonestown Rd. The Millner Enterprise is very excited about the menswear attire and believe in personal service.

Special luxuries that you'll find are layaways, private office shows, alterations, and "special ordering". You can find name brands such as: Geoffrey Beene, John Alexander, Bugatti, Pierre Cardin and special European lines for the Big and Tall Man.

Cir Wm's has introduced an exciting Formal wear Line, offering rentals and sales on Tuxedos and discounts for wedding parties.

Cir Wm's is "strettament personale" and has a complete line of menswear for the businessman whose looking for better quality work and leisure clothes.